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DEVELOPMENT



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Nine-year-old girl in new Ebola case dies

KAMPALA

UGANDA has confirmed an Ebola case after a nine-year-old girl who tested positive on Thursday was rushed to hospital and died later.

The Ministry of Health said the patient was identified during screening as she tried to cross the border on Wednesday.

"The child and her mother entered the country through Mpondwe main border post to seek medical care in Bwera, Kasese District," the statement said.

"The child was identified at the point of entry by the screening team with the following symptoms: high fever, body weakness, rash and unexplained mouth bleeding. She was subsequently isolated and taken to Bwera Hospital Ebola Treatment Unit where she is currently being managed," it elaborated.

Her blood sample tested positive for the Ebola virus at the Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI).

"Since the child was identified at the point of entry, there are no contacts in Uganda," Dr Joyce Moriku, the State Minister for Health



Her blood sample tested positive for the Ebola virus at the Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI).

in charge of Primary Health Care, said in the statement.

The case is the second case to be reported in Uganda after an outbreak in June which claimed two people who had travelled from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The haemorrhagic disease has killed at least 1,800 in a year-long outbreak in the DRC.

Early this month, scientists announced the confirmation of the most effective ebola drug after decades of efforts to find its cure.

"From now on, we will no longer say that Ebola is incurable," said Prof Jean-Jacques Muyembe, Director General of the National Institute for Biomedical Research of the DRC which oversaw the trial. "These advances will help save thousands of lives."

The trials which began in November last year involved four drugs but two emerged the most effective. All Ebola treatment units will now use the two monoclonal antibody drugs, he said.

More than 90 per cent of infected people can survive if treated early with the two most effective drugs.

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Ex-presidents to advise, lobby on the governing of resources



Gas Company Tanzania Ltd (GASCO) workers move to connect gas for domestic use to 85 houses in Dar es Salaam's Mikocheni suburb, including those previously lined up as minister's residences, as found earlier this week. The firm is a subsidiary of the state-owned Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation. Photo: John Badi

Opening the forum on Thursday, President John Magufuli pointed out why Africa remains poor despite being the wealthiest continent in terms of natural resources, chief being poor systems of governance.

By Henry Mwangonde

Retired heads of states and government will now serve as advisors to sitting leaders in their countries and ambassadors in international fora on natural resource governance, the African Leadership Forum has resolved.

The forum which ended in Dar es Salaam yesterday cited the ex-leaders' vast experience while in office as the reason for assigning them roles which involve lobbying in international platforms to help Africa benefit from its resources.



The president stated that African governments happen to believe that wealth is money, and are busy mobilizing the same from developed countries instead of focusing on turning natural resources into wealth

Speaking at a press conference at the closure of the forum, African Wildlife Foundation Chief Executive Officer Kaddu Sebunya said the meeting was aimed at getting knowledge from senior statesmen because in past years only the technical views were taken into account.

"We are talking about experienced leaders who have learned great lessons on how our natural resources can be managed. We believe they will provide great advice on what should be done," he asserted.

Other recommendation made at the conference include the use of various continental platforms such as the African Union (AU), the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) to emphasize the region's stance on how natural resources should be governed.

"African countries have for a long time been registering differing voices at the international arena on how natural resources ought to be governed. We believe this is the best time for the continent to have a common

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CSOs root for inclusion in SADC, EAC activities

By Henry Mwangonde

CIVIL society organizations in the country are set to establish a programme to facilitate their active participation in development matters at the regional level, chiefly in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and the East African Community (EAC).

Under the Foundation for Civil Societies (FCS) and the Tanzania Association for Non-Governmental Organizations (TANGO), the CSOs have embarked on training for their



Former Controller and Auditor General Ludovick Utuh said the meeting was aimed at discussing how CSOs can be fully engaged so as to enhance people's development.

members to widen their understanding of how regional bodies operate and how they can participate.

"Civil societies represent the voice of the people and by so doing we want to ensure that our people on the ground are well represented. We believe this is the best time because Tanzania has assumed the SADC chairmanship," said Ngunga Tepani, the TANGO managing director.

He said there are various issues that are

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Japan awards TRA CEO for zeal, promoting economic relations

By Guardian Reporter

THE Commissioner General of the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) Dr Edwin Mhede and a university don have become the first Tanzanians to be awarded by Japan in its commendation



The statement highlighted that he has been nodded for his immense contribution in promotion of economic relations between Japan and Tanzania

that appreciates outstanding achievements in promoting friendship between the economic giant and other countries.

A statement released yesterday by the Embassy of Japan said

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Nine-year-old girl in new Ebola case dies

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The announcement came after two people cured of Ebola using the experimental drugs were released from a treatment centre in Goma, eastern DRC, and reunited with their families.

The US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), which co-sponsored the trial, said the results are "very good news" for the fight against Ebola.

The drugs, named REGN-EB3 and mAb114, work by attacking the Ebola virus with antibodies, neutralising its impact on human cells.

They are the "first drugs that, in a scientifically sound study, have clearly shown a significant diminution in mortality" for Ebola patients, said Dr Anthony Fauci, director of NIAID.

Japan awards TRA CEO for promoting economic relations

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that the TRA CEO has been honoured with the Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation in relation to his work with Japan's Kaizen programme which strives to achieve improvement of working practices and personal efficiency.

The statement highlighted that he has been nodded for his immense contribution in promotion of economic relations between Japan and Tanzania.

Dr Mhede receives the honour alongside Osaka University of Foreign Studies (Present Osaka University) professor, Dr Ahmed Mohamed Said.

Dr Mhede who was appointed to his current position by President John Magufuli in June completed his Master's degree at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Japan in 2010 under scholarship from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Foundation for Advanced Studies on International Development, Japan.

He then returned and immediately initiated a Kaizen Project for strengthening product quality and productivity improvement in manufacturing enterprises. He became the first head of the Tanzania Kaizen Unit under the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

"Indeed, during his tenure, Dr Mhede made great efforts to promote

Kaizen in Tanzania. After that, he won the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan scholarship and completed his Ph.D. in 2018 under the guidance of Prof Tetsushi Sonobe, a leading researcher on Kaizen. Based on his academic studies and experiences in Japan, Dr Mhede significantly contributed (and continues) to promote economic relations between Japan and Tanzania," the statement elaborated.

The awarding ceremony for Dr Mhede will be hosted by Japanese Ambassador Shinichi Goto on Monday at his Kenyatta Drive residence in Dar es Salaam while the awarding ceremony for Dr Said will be held at a later date.

This year, the commendations will be awarded to 206 individuals and 63 groups whereby 31 individuals and eight groups reside in Japan while 175 individuals and 55 groups reside overseas.

The Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendations are awarded to individuals and groups with outstanding achievements in international fields, in order to acknowledge their contributions to the promotion of friendship between Japan and other countries and areas, it said.

The commendations also aim at promoting understanding and support of the Japanese public for activities of the recipients, the statement added.



Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan shares a light moment yesterday with former President Benjamin Mkapa and former South African President Thabo Mbeki on the sidelines of the just-ended Sixth African Leadership Forum 2019 held in Dar es Salaam. Photo: VPO

CSOs root for inclusion in SADC, EAC activities

FROM PAGE 1

going on at the regional level and Tanzanian CSOs have been lagging behind in recent years in relation to participation in regional economic blocs. This situation arose from a lack of understanding on the way the regional bodies operate.

Former Controller and Auditor General Ludovick Utouh said the meeting was

aimed at discussing how CSOs can be fully engaged so as to enhance people's development.

He said there is need for civil societies to understand how regional economic blocs operate hence find a better way of how to chip in and participate more elaborately in their various activities on the ground.

"CSOs can play an important role in enhancing transparency and good

governance by contributing to increased public debate on issues surrounding the formulation and implementation of government budgets. They also assist in supporting greater transparency in the use of public revenues," the former CAG remarked.

Tanzania assumed the bloc's chairmanship at the 39th SADC summit held on August 17 and 18 in Dar es Salaam.

The chairmanship rotates on a yearly basis. The summit was also accompanied by an Industrialization Week, with conferences and exhibition the week before the summit.

In his capacity as chairman, President John Magufuli has been tasked with promoting peace, security and development in the region.



It's a farewell parade at Ukonga Prison Officers College in Dar es Salaam yesterday for Prisons commissioners Gideon Nkana (L) and Augustine Mboje (R) - saluting on board the vehicle, who have just retired from service. Photo: Tanzania Prisons.

UN Security Council shoots down Kenya's bid to put Al-Shabaab under international sanctions

NEW YORK

Six UN Security Council members on Wednesday blocked a move to include Somali jihadist group Al-Shabaab on a list of organizations such as Al-Qaeda that are under international sanctions, diplomatic sources said.

Several NGOs and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs recently stepped in to oppose the classification, which would have effectively kept humanitarian aid away from millions of Somalis living in Al-Shabaab-controlled areas.

Germany, Belgium, Poland, France, Kuwait and the United States were the

six countries whose votes blocked the implementation of the new sanctions. Kenya, on the other hand, has pushed for tightening sanctions against Al-Shabaab since late last year, and especially since an attack by the group at a Nairobi hotel in January left 21 people dead.

The country had wanted an amendment to UN Resolution 1267, which sanctions Al-Qaeda, the Islamic State group and their affiliates.

A large portion of the population in Somalia relies on international aid after three decades of conflict and economic ruin.

Critics of the defeated sanctions have said including Al-Shabaab in the Resolution 1267 designations would have effectively criminalized UN and other assistance to people in Somalia who depend on it.

And Somalia recently told the Security Council that taking actions that could interrupt aid would "play into the Shabaab's narrative and self-image as a de-facto government in areas where state reach is limited."

Meanwhile, Uganda Air has launched its maiden flight to Mogadishu as it resumed operations after 20 years.

According to Uganda's transport ministry, the airline has lined up four Bombardier Aircrafts and placed two orders for air buses expected next year for the commercial flight business.

Prime Minister Ruhakana Rugunda, who represented President Yoweri Museveni, described the moment as joyous and historic given that the carrier had earlier collapsed in 2001.

"Each year, Ugandans were donating 450 million U.S. dollars to other countries through foreign travel. Besides, there was a lot of inconvenience to travelling Ugandans by

not having direct flights and even being charged discriminatively air fares," Museveni said in his speech read by Rugunda.

"Uganda plays a critical role in the geopolitical and economic stability of East Africa as a region and as a nation, we are strategically placed to serve our neighbors," Museveni said.

"There has never been a better time to commence commercial operations than now when passenger traffic is growing given the increasing demand for Uganda tourism, business opportunities and a peaceful environment created by the NRM Gov-

ernment," he said.

The NRM (National Resistance Movement) is the ruling political party in Uganda.

The country in April received two new CRJ900 Bombardier aircraft, with two more expected next month. The country also expects two airbuses in 2020. The airline will first fly to seven destinations in the region and these include Nairobi (Kenya), Mogadishu (Somalia), Juba (South Sudan) and Dar es Salaam (Tanzania); and then to Mombasa (Kenya), Kilimanjaro (Tanzania) and Bujumbura (Burundi).

AGENCIES

Ex-presidents to advise, lobby on the governing of resources

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voice and through these leaders we will have the influence to make countries adopt the recommendations," he specified.

Opening the forum on Thursday, President John Magufuli pointed out why Africa remains poor despite being the wealthiest continent in terms of natural resources, chief being poor systems of governance.

The president stated that African governments happen to believe that wealth is money, and are busy mobilizing the same from developed countries instead of focusing on turning natural resources into wealth.

President Magufuli focused on the meaning of liberation as to protect Africa's resources so that they help to turn the lives of the people for the better.

Former president Benjamin Mkapa said that to achieve vibrant economic growth and sustainable development there is need to put in place sustainable land management as proposed by United Nations agencies.

Sustainable land management involves placing a holistic approach to achieving productive and health ecosystems by integrating economic and social values. This calls for synergies between various stakeholders including land users and others, he declared.

The event which was televised live was attended by, among others, former presidents Jakaya Kikwete, South Africa's Thabo Mbeki and Nigeria's Olusegun Obasanjo.

Kabendera sick, needs attention, says his lawyer

By Guardian Reporter

THE lawyer defending freelance journalist Erick Kabendera in his economic sabotage case yesterday told the Kisutu Resident Magistrate's court that his client is sick and needs immediate medical attention.

Advocate Jebra Kambole told Resident Magistrate Janeth Mtega that the suspect is suffering from unknown illness whose symptoms include body weakness, difficulties in breathing collapsing periodically.

He said the journalist has been unwell in his remand prison cell since Wednesday last week and his condition had not improved as of yesterday.

"I pray that the court orders the Tanzania Prison to take Kabendera to a government hospital, preferably the Muhimbili National Hospital for medical examination and treatment," the lawyer said.

Earlier, state attorney Wankyo Simon told the court that investigation into the case that came for mention was not yet complete.

Kambole appealed to the prosecution to speed up investigation because the suspect faces charges that are not bailable.

"I personally went to see him; he is so weak he cannot walk and he faints and loses consciousness," Kambole told the court.

But Wankyo asked the court not to entertain the request, arguing that prisons have their own system of treating detainees and prisoners therefore they need not to be told how to handle the matter.

"It is not proper for this court to direct the prison to take the patient to hospital without evidence that he cannot get medical care at the prison. The charges he faces will be heard and determined by the High Court, so this court has no powers to make such requested orders," the prosecution lawyer said.

On Monday last week, the freelance journalist who was arrested on July 29 appeared in court but the hearing of his case could not commence after the prosecution claimed that investigations were yet to be completed.

Kabendera faces charges of money laundering, tax evasion and involvement in organized crime.

According to the prosecution, on diverse dates between



National Assembly protocol officials welcome visiting Lesotho National Assembly Speaker Enoch Motanyane (R) after he flew into Zanzibar's Abeid Amani Karume International Airport on Thursday evening to attend the week-long 50th Commonwealth Parliamentary Assembly Africa Region meeting which opened yesterday. Photo courtesy of National Assembly

January 2015 and July 2019 in Dar es Salaam, and with other persons, the accused knowingly facilitated a criminal racket.

The state further claims that the accused (in the second offence) failed to pay taxes amounting to 173.247mn/- that was payable

to the Tanzania Revenue Authority.

In the third and final count, the journalist is accused of obtaining 173.247mn/- while

knowing that the said money was the proceeds of crime, namely tax evasion and involvement in organized crime.

PM calls for support to address impact of refugees, climate change

By Guardian Correspondent

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has urged the international community to support projects designed by Tanzania for environment protection following degradation caused by climate change and refugees in various areas of the country.

The PM made the call at the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) that ended yesterday in Yokohama city in Japan.

The PM said: the projects such as

technology exchanges across borders and early warning systems for the prevention of various emergencies would help to improve the environment that has been destroyed by refugees and asylum seekers.

"The presence of refugees and asylum seekers affects the environment security and the economy of the country, therefore we request you to partner with us on various projects for improving environment," PM requested.

He added that for many years Tanzania has been hosting refugees from neighboring countries fleeing from political and ethnic conflicts, as up August 1, this year Tanzania is saving

about 305,983 refugees.

Similarly, the Prime Minister added that Tanzania has also plays a major role in peace, stability and conflict resolution in Africa and involving in peace keeping in a number of African countries.

The Prime Minister said the summit ended successfully with the heads of State agreeing to implement the Yokohama declaration aimed at revolutionizing Africa by strengthening security, education, science and technology and promoting the private sector.

"Tanzania would be fully prepared to implement the resolutions reached at the summit

which are of great benefit to African countries", the PM told the summit.

He explained that, the resolutions reached which are affected all key sectors including health, education, infrastructure development, science and technology and peace and security, aimed at economic recovery in Africa through cooperation with the Japanese government.

The Premier said, the TICAD meeting discussed many important issues including security, education, science and technology as well as how to run their countries through development projects such as infrastructure construction.

"The meeting is a useful to Tanzania as it stands as a catalyst toward the national effort to become middle economy by 2025", Majaliwa said.

The Prime Minister added that Japan has allocated a lot of money to help African countries through loan and other opportunities.

He added that Tanzania would be well-organized as well as developing good project proposals for them to get such fund.

The PM said, since Africa countries have endowed with sufficient natural resources and raw materials for economic growth, they have to strengthen relations with the private sector.

Uganda Airlines launches daily Dar-Entebbe route

By Correspondent James Kandoya

UGANDA Airlines yesterday launched Dar es Salaam-Entebbe direct route to take place every day with its flights to Zanzibar and Kilimanjaro scheduled to start next month.

Speaking at the ceremony at Terminal III of Julius Nyerere International Airport in Dar es Salaam, the carrier's commercial director Jennifer Bamaturaki said that the new route will be a stimulant to business activities in the two countries.

The launch follows recent revival of the company which came after nearly 20 years of grounding due to operation challenges.

Bamaturaki said that by flying Uganda Airlines, a the customer will save time and traveling cost adding that most of the airlines in the region connect route to and from Entebbe.

"We are coming not as competitor but as partner with other airlines including the Tanzanian flag carrier airline-ATCL. We are starting discussions with our counterpart on flight code sharing," she said.

She said the new route will have multiplier effects to the business community in the two countries adding that there will be more trade flowing to and from her country.

The manager said with its airline CRJ, it was ready enter into competition in the region saying it had scheduled route, flexible and reliable. More farther flung places will follow, such as Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Ghana, South Africa, and Rwanda are expected to be added from September.

For his part, the Uganda High Commissioner to Tanzania, Richard Kaboneko said the new route will stimulate economic opportuni-

ties to business communities in the two member states.

He said about 300 business communities from Uganda will benefit from it when coming to attend the business forum in Tanzania next month. Kaboneko added the forum was meant to strengthening business environment by eliminating challenges hindering them to achieve the goal.

"Our two presidents, John Magufuli of Tanzania and Yoweri Museveni are expected to chair the business communities. It is our hope that our airline will be most reliable means of transport," he said.

According to him, the new route will contribute to drop in prices of airfare tickets charged when flying to and from Entebbe, saying with U S \$ 286, passengers can buy return ticket.

The envoy said Ugandan airline for last time landed in Tanzania in

2001, almost twenty years back.

Ugandan Airline Tanzania's Manager Lucy Ismail said the airline resumes with more strategy to serve more countries in the Africa sky to revamp its glory.

On Tuesday it was reported that after a delay to flights that lasted nearly 20 years, Uganda Airlines has once again taken to the skies above Africa.

Commercial services resumed on Tuesday with a flight from Entebbe to Nairobi in neighboring Kenya that the airline hoped will usher in a profitable new era for the formerly debt-ridden brand.

Uganda Airlines said its fleet of twin-engined Bombardier CRJ-900 regional jet airliners will soon connect to destinations including Dar-es-Salaam in Tanzania, Mogadishu in Somalia and Juba in South Sudan.



Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister William Lukuvi addresses residents of Mayomboni village in Mkinga District, Tanga Region, yesterday. He announced the government's decision to revoke the ownership of three Mkomazi Plantations Co. Ltd. Farms. Photo courtesy of Lands ministry

IN LOVING MEMORY

In loving memory most Precious Mum



Eliachi Morgan Manyanga-31/08/2014

If Roses grow in heaven, Lord picks a bunch for us
Place them in our Mother's arms,
And tell her they are from us.
Tell her we love and miss her
And when she turns to smile,
Place a kiss upon her cheek and hold her for a while,
Because remembering her is easy,
We do it everyday, but there's an ache within our heart
Because we miss her more each day.
Remembered by your children Hannelove, Lizzelotho,
harison and Kelvin, grand children, Brother, Sister and Friends.

Continue to Rest in Peace Mum
Missing You Always

Firebrand teachers' union leader ousted

NAIROBI

EMBATTLED Kenya National Union of teachers (Knut) Secretary-General Wilson Sossion has finally been removed despite obtaining a court order stopping his ouster.

In press briefing yesterday, Knut national chairman Wickliffe Omucheyi announced that the union's National Executive Council (NEC) met on Thursday and unanimously agreed to replace Sossion.

They replaced him with his deputy, Hesbon Otieno in an acting capacity.

Omucheyi said the meeting was occasioned after the top leadership learnt that Sossion was making decisions without consulting with other members.

"We have not had a good relationship with Teachers Service Commission, the Ministry of Education and the government," he said.

Otieno accused Sossion of undermining the powers of the TSC Chief Executive Officer Nancy Macharia, chairperson Lydia Nzomo, Education Cabinet Secretary George Magoha and President Uhuru Kenyatta.

"We cannot have a leader who always fights the government, we want to have a cordial relationship with the government," said Otieno who announced that the Knut offices will be opened on September 3.

Omucheyi said their Thursday meeting was not against any court orders.

"The meeting we held yesterday (Thursday) was different from the one called off by the former secretary-general" he said.

They also accused Sossion of opposing the competency-based Curriculum against the other Knut official's decision.

Otieno claimed that Sossion started working as a lone ranger in April last year and efforts to stop him had failed.



We have not had a good relationship with Teachers Service Commission, the Ministry of Education and the government,



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa in talks with UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi on the sidelines of the Yokohama August 28-30 Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TCAD7). Photo: PMO

African philanthropist calls on Japan to further empower African entrepreneurs

TOKYO

IN an impassioned keynote speech delivered before global leaders at the 7th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) in Yokohama, African investor and philanthropist Tony O. Elumelu has challenged the government of Japan to invest 5 per cent of its \$50 billion commitment to Africa in empowering African entrepreneurs.

"At TICAD 2016 in Kenya, Japan pledged \$30 billion for Africa. This year you have generously increased this to \$50 billion. If we invested just 5 per cent in Africa's new generation of entrepreneurs, following my Foundation's robust,

proven model of getting capital directly to those best placed to catalyse growth and create real impact, we could touch 500,000 lives across the 54 African countries," said Elumelu.

He said the investment would help broaden markets, facilitate job creation, improve income per capita, and lay the key foundation for political and economic stability.

Elumelu's statement captured his vision of a relationship between Japan and Africa that prioritises economic and shared prosperity.

He outlined the three key pillars of a bold and transformative structure: investment in infrastructure,

partnership with the African private sector, and investment in Africa's youth.

The investor called upon Japan to learn from the example of the Tony Elumelu Foundation, which champions empowering African entrepreneurs, as the most sustainable means of accelerating the development of Africa.

In just five years, the foundation has assisted over 7,500 African entrepreneurs across every African country with seed capital, capacity building, mentorship and networking opportunities through its \$100 million Entrepreneurship Programme.

Elumelu's advice carried the

weight of his track record of business success: founding Africa's global bank, United Bank for Africa (UBA), which has grown its presence to 20 African countries, as well as in the UK, France, and the US.

There is also Heirs Holdings, Africa's private investment company which actively invests in key sectors of the continent's economy and controls millions of dollars in its investment portfolio. Together, they employ over 30,000 people and transform the communities they operate in.

"Africa is one of the world's viable destinations for investment. Our huge population of

nearly 1.3 billion people creates one of the most attractive markets anywhere in the world," said Elumelu, querying: "The world is paying close attention to Africa, but is Japan at the centre of this conversation or is it on the sidelines?"

Elumelu's philosophy has become increasingly popular in Africa, where he is acknowledged as the pioneer of a private-sector-led approach to accelerating development.

He repeated the message at the Generation Unlimited breakfast meeting with Rwandan President Paul Kagame and UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore, with its focus on

job creation in Africa, where he emphasized the role the African youth plays in this narrative.

South African president and TICAD7 Co-Chair Cyril Ramaphosa corroborated Elumelu's stance, saying: "If you want really good returns, as Tony Elumelu said, come to Africa. Africa presents risk-adjusted returns and is a market in which investments are flowing at a hundred billion dollars - that is the new profile of Africa that is being presented to the world."

UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner praised Tony Elumelu's Private-Sector led approach to development in Africa, saying: "I want to refer to my dear friend

and colleague Tony Elumelu because he alluded to the vital role that business can also play in investing in the future of the youth. These are the kinds of partnerships that will drive business and development agenda to very different heights in the future."

Speaking on the potential of the African continent, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said: "In Africa, some countries have joined top nations in the ranking on the ease of doing business. The scale of the market continues to expand. We can envision a day when the entire continent of Africa becomes an enormous economic zone."



Women should have access to the full range of modern contraceptive methods so they can make informed choices relating to their sexual and reproductive health

WHO revises guidance on hormonal contraceptive use for women at high HIV risk

By Kenneth Simbaya

THE World Health Organization (WHO) has revised its guidance on contraceptive use to reflect new evidence that women at high risk of HIV can use any form of reversible contraception, including progestogen-only injectables, implants and intrauterine devices (IUDs), without an increased risk of HIV infection.

However, as these contraceptive methods do not protect against HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), the guideline emphasizes that correct and consistent use of condoms should be used where there is a risk of STIs, including HIV. WHO also recommends considering

offering pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in settings where the incidence of HIV is above 3 per cent, as appropriate.

The updated WHO guideline follows a thorough review of the latest scientific evidence. It emphasizes that women should have access to the full range of modern contraceptive methods so they can make informed choices around contraceptive choice and their sexual health.

"Evidence shows that a woman's risk of HIV should not restrict her contraceptive choice," said Dr Peter Salama, Executive Director, Universal Health Coverage/Life Course at WHO. "All women should have access to a wide range of options for contraception as

well as to HIV prevention and to treatment if needed."

The updated recommendations to the WHO guideline, Medical eligibility criteria for contraceptive use, stem from a review of the latest evidence conducted by the independent Guideline Development Group convened to inform WHO. This Group assessed all of the evidence on hormonal contraception and risk of HIV acquisition published since the previous review published in 2016, along with a systematic review of all published evidence on copper-bearing IUDs and HIV risk.

The global recommendations have particular bearing for sub-Saharan Africa, which has the highest rates of HIV

transmission but also some of the biggest challenges in ensuring women have access to a full range of contraceptive options. Currently a quarter of women aged 15-49 in Africa (24%), who want to delay or prevent having children, have limited access to modern contraception. This is the highest unmet need across all WHO regions.

The new evidence is largely based on the results of the Evidence for Contraceptive Options and HIV Outcomes (or ECHO trial) - a randomized clinical trial that showed no statistically significant differences among women using intra-muscular depot medroxyprogesterone acetate (DMPA-IM),

copper IUDs, or levonorgestrel (LNG) implants. This new high-quality evidence supersedes the low to low-moderate quality evidence from observational studies that had been previously available to inform WHO's guidance.

The ECHO study - which was conducted across communities expected to have high levels of HIV prevalence in Eswatini, Kenya, South Africa and Zambia - also revealed concerning high levels of HIV acquisition and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) among women seeking contraceptive services, particularly younger women, irrespective of which of the three contraceptive methods they used.

Uganda oil deal hangs in balance over tax dispute

KAMPALA

THE development of Uganda's oil resources has been thrown into confusion after one of the three energy companies involved gave up on a plan to sell its stake to Chinese and French partners.

The Irish company, Tullow, which originally discovered the oil, has tried to sell most of its stake to state-owned Chinese firm CNOOC and French oil giant Total, but the deal collapsed after the companies failed to secure an agreement on tax relief from Uganda's Revenue Authority.

Tullow discovered proven reserves of more than a billion barrels of oil around Lake Albert in 2006, but the resources have yet to be developed.

Uganda wanted bigger companies involved and by 2012 CNOOC was a partner in the project, alongside Total.

Tullow, which has developed significant offshore reserves in Ghana and has just started pumping oil in Kenya, decided to sell most of its one third stake in Uganda's oil to the French and Chinese companies.

But the failure to agree on any tax due by CNOOC and Total has forced the sale to be shelved.

It's not known if Tullow will try to find a different buyer and it's uncertain if it means yet another delay to Uganda finally exporting oil, 13 years after it was first discovered.

Total has said it's still open to exercising its rights to buy Tullow Oil's share of the Ugandan project. The project also known as the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), is under construction and intended to transport crude oil from Uganda's oil fields to the Port of Tanga.

Meanwhile the government says any future sale must abide by the law covering tax payments.

This comes even as some issues remain unresolved on the Uganda-Tanzani crude oil pipeline.

During the January 25 meeting in Kampala, the officials are said to have agreed on most of the issues under the agreements, but arbitration, revenue sharing and taxes were deferred to a later meeting.

They agreed on registration of local companies, security of the pipeline, immigration, national content, insurance of the project, environmental obligations, investor duties, relevant standards and procedures, construction and operation of the project, as well as the required stability clauses.

The Permanent Secretary in Uganda's Ministry of Energy Robert Kasande said that the contentious issues will be discussed on February 7 in Tanzania.

Although the officials describe the negotiations as successful since they reached harmonised positions on most issues, arbitration, which is a significant component in a trade agreement, remains unresolved.

"We did not conclude discussions on the question of arbitration. The important issue is, where should it be? We have pushed it forward for further discussions," Kasande said.



It's not known if Tullow will try to find a different buyer and it's uncertain if it means yet another delay to Uganda



Specialists Yona Gandye (2nd-R) and Khuzeima Khanbai (3rd-R) perform pacemaker placement surgery on a 101-year-old patient at Dar es Salaam's Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute yesterday. Photo courtesy of JKCI

Swedish firm to spur technological development among local start-ups

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

THE Swedish based technology company has launched initiatives in the country with the aim of improving the level of innovation by encouraging local companies to develop competitive science projects that meet international standards.

The initiatives under the Seed Space Company involves competition of a number of local companies based in technology by assessing their projects in terms of significance and effectiveness to society, and that which qualifies for international standards.

Regional partnership manager for Seed Space Company Maryam Mgonja made the statement recently in Dar es Salaam during the event to search for company in the country with best technology solution that meets international standards.

She said that through the competition, the company that will emerge the best among others will get opportunity to participate in the coming Africa competition scheduled to take place in December this year at Johannesburg South Africa, but also they will participate in next World technology competition to be held in Switzerland on April next year.

"Therefore what we do is to look for local companies with the best project and we support them with skills on how to improve and enlarge the scope of their projects and to be able to deliver best services to society," she said.

The manager added that the competition which is now marking the fifth year, has so far support a lot of people through their companies that has so far managed to pro-

vide best solutions to several challenges that exists in the society.

"We have establish that, a lot of companies has best ideas that specifically focuses on address a particular problem, but they need to be trained to get skills that will help them to provide best solutions that meets international standards, because most of investors are looking for local companies that are able to grow steadily and win the global market," she explained.

"Our mission is to impact to people's live in emerging market through technology and entrepreneurship, with particular focus on the sustainable development goals of the United Nations (UN). We also connects stakeholders, companies from scratch with public and private partners and invest in high growth startups within these ecosystems.

According to Mgonja, one winner is selected to represent in the selected countries and is also invited to attend one of the five regional summits, that recruits all locals winners of each region to network with regional investors, mentors and cooperates.

For his part, chief business officer for MIC Tanzania Plc Pavan Ramdhani said the telecom company has decided to support the initiative to look for innovative ways of improving the lives of young people in the country and to make business easier.

He said the conditions for establishing the micro business is always tough as it requires innovation, therefore we have decided to establish our own innovative lab that will strengthen capability of true innovators in the country.

Pope's visit sparks spending debate in Mozambique

MAPUTO

MOZAMBIQUE'S government expects to spend about USD325, 000 on preparations for Pope Francis' visit next week, state radio reported yesterday, but not everybody is happy.

"There is a basic budget but it is being adjusted, considering that when things like this are being done, there are occasional situations which need to be dealt with," Foreign Minister Jose Pacheco told Radio Mozambique, justifying the sum.

Some residents of the capital, Maputo, told the BBC that the money should be

spent on improvements to the city regardless of whether somebody important is visiting.

"This is stupid! Why wait for the Pope's visit to make our city beautiful? This is what Maputo should always look like," resident Bernicia Cotela says.

"It's like applying cosmetics to your body before bathing. Why paint a good picture of something which is not the reality?"

Others, like Afonso Silveira, think the price tag is justified because "ensuring the security of the Pope is something that requires a lot of investment... including

the roads, the cathedral and the stadiums".

"But I am also of the opinion that cleanliness, security and the renovation of the city should be a permanent task for all of us, including the government," he adds.

It was reported earlier in the week that the Pope had rejected a plan to stay in an expensive hotel during his three-day visit.

According to Bishop António Juliasso Ferreira Sandramo, the pontiff wanted very simple accommodation and vetoed the first choice sent by the planning team to the Vatican.

The papal entourage will reportedly

be made up of about 50 members and is expected to stay at Hotel Africa, in the capital, Maputo - which gets a 3.5 rating on some travel sites.

This will be the second papal visit to the southern African nation - John Paul II came 31 years ago.

It has also been announced that the sale of alcohol and food has been banned around the vicinity of Maputo's Zimpeto National Stadium on the day the Pope celebrates mass there.

The pontiff then leaves for Madagascar to continue the second leg of his southern Africa tour.

Japan, AfDB announce US\$3.5bn in support of Africa's private sector development

Yokohama

THE African Development Bank and Japan have announced a joint target of US\$3.5 billion under the fourth phase of the Enhanced Private Sector Assistance for Africa initiative (EPSA4).

They made the announcement yesterday at the August 28-30 Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 7).

Both the bank and Japan have set a target of \$1.75 billion each,

from 2020-2022, to enhance EPSA4 to spur private-sector-led sustainable and inclusive growth in Africa.

"Building on the successful achievements so far, Japan and the bank have decided to upgrade EPSA in both quality and quantity to meet financial needs for infrastructure development as well as for the private sector development in Africa," said Japan's State Minister of Finance, Keisuke Suzuki.

He was speaking at the EPSA4 launch - held here and attended

by government officials and a high-level delegation from the bank as well as business community representatives.

"I wish that the new EPSA initiative will lead to business and investment promotion as well as job creation in Africa," he noted.

Electricity, transportation and health will be key priorities under EPSA4, with projects and programmes for the three key priorities expected to be formulated and implemented in line with the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure In-

vestment and G20 Shared Understanding on the Importance of UHC (Universal Health Coverage) Financing in Developing Countries.

African countries will also be provided with support to improve and create conducive business environments to attract private investments.

"Today marks another day to celebrate the strong and impactful partnership between Japan and the African Development Bank. The African Development Bank and the Japan International

Cooperation Agency (JICA) are long-term partners for promoting the development of Africa. EPSA helps to deliver much needed to support the private sector," AfDB President Dr Akinwumi Adesina said at the event.

EPSA1 (2005-2011) saw Japan set the target of providing \$1 billion in loans and \$2 billion under the second phase (2012-2016). Under the ongoing EPSA3 (2017-2019), Japan and the bank are cooperating closely to provide the targeted joint amount of \$3 billion.

The bank and JICA under Accelerated Co-Financing Facility for Africa (ACFA) have co-financed 25 projects to improve key transportation and electricity transmission networks.

"Under EPSA4, JICA and the African Development Bank will provide co-financing of \$3.5 billion. This is a significant increase over EPSA-3," Dr Adesina said. He added: "Increase is what we need to meet the needs of Africa. Increase is what we need to raise the level of our ambitions for Africa. Increase is

what we need to build upon the solid foundations of co-financing over the last 13 years, and deliver even greater and more impactful development results in the years ahead."

"Now, let us arise with renewed vigour. Let us deliver even greater impacts for African countries through EPSA 4," he noted.

ACFA is a three-component sovereign co-financing arrangement between the AfDB and JICA under which the latter lends to borrowers under this scheme on concessional terms.



Students wait for transport at the Mbagala Rangi-Tatu commuter bus stand in suburban Dar es Salaam yesterday morning. Some conductors and drivers are fond of denying students transport, particularly during rush hours, citing the likelihood of losing income. But the practice is illegal. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Four suspects die in fire exchange with police

By Guardian Reporter

FOUR suspected gangsters have died recently in confrontation with police in Dar es Salaam, it was revealed yesterday.

Dar es Salaam Special Police Zone Commander Lazaro Mambosasa told reporter in the city yesterday that one of the four died while undergoing treatment at the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) where he was sent for treatment.

He added that the suspected criminals were killed in different robbery incidents that occurred in various parts of the city.

The Commander explained that in the first incident, the suspect, Elia Kituli (55), a resident of Kivule in Ilala district was arrested after he was running from the robbery incident earlier last month at Kitunda area in Ilala district.

Commander Mambosasa said during that incident two robbers were killed and found with two pistols.

"Kituli was arrested with one rifle numbered MK3-90893 with three bullets inside and

various equipments stolen different locations," he said.

Mambosasa added that the suspect was also found with two Ipad (Apple and Samsung), eight smart phones named Infix, Samsung, Nokia, Huawei, Techno and I phone. Commander Mambosasa explained the suspect was suddenly got sick while under police interrogation, he was taken to Muhimbili hospital and later died.

In another incident occurred last week in Pugu, Commander Mambosasa said three robbers were killed, found with two shotguns and a pistol.

He said the police have also arrested Omary Athuman (39), Mkuranga resident who was wanted by police for being involved in armed robbery incidents.

Mambosasa said, Athuman confessed to being involved in various incidents and has been sentenced to 30 years in prison and has since released for appeal and joined another robbery gang.

"In an interview, he admitted to collaborating with three colleagues who planned to

gether to attack the M-Pesa shop at Pugu.

He claimed that while police arrived in Pugu area were laying a trap to arrest the suspects suddenly the robbers fired at the soldiers and responded to it and wounded three of them named Omary Athuman, Fullsaba and Babu Shobo who later died at Muhimbili Hospital.

He said the robbery suspects were found with two shotguns with other weapons.

Commander Mambosasa claimed the Shotgun found was stolen April this year, and the robbery case was opened at Ukonga police station by Alarms Security protection company.

He claimed the weapon was used to rob 6m/- with five mobile phones from a businessman Justine Chaula at Gongo la Mboti.

In another incident, commander Mambosasa said the three leaders accused of organising illegal demonstration to demanding the release of an Air Tanzania aircraft that had been impounded in South Africa, have been released on bail. The investigation into the incident is still going on.

Drunk census official in Kenya urinates in family's living room

MURANG'A

A census enumerator was arrested after he showed up intoxicated at a resident's house in Muranga County.

The official turned up at a local's house in Mukuyu on Thursday night staggering and disorderly. In the full glare of the family, which included children, he removed his trousers and started urinating in the living room.

Distress call

The enumerator did not have census gadgets at the time of the incident.

Muranga East police boss Alex Musyia said the owner of the house, who is a Nyumba Kumi official, made a distress call and neighbours alerted the police, who arrested the drunk man.

"The census official was taken to Murang'a Hospital where he was stabilised," the police boss said.

After he sobered up, the census official was interrogated and he led detectives to his girlfriend's house where the census gadgets were found.

"We are verifying whether the gadgets have been tampered with," Mr Musyia said.

The police boss said the official turned up at the house of the Nyumba Kumi official who was supposed to accompany him for the census activities.

Musyia said the enumerator, Samuel Ndirangu, will be charged in court on Friday.

Experts warn that alcohol use and harmful drinking can have a number of adverse impacts on workplaces. These include lower workplace productivity due to short-term absenteeism and a lower quality and quantity of work due to poor decision making and disruption to operations and co-workers covering for alcohol-affected employees.

The depressant can slow down the messages to and from the brain and body. Alcohol can affect problem solving skills, judgment, concentration, reaction times and coordination. Alcohol can have negative consequences on fitness for work and individual health and well-being in the short-term and in the long-term.

With every drink, the risk of inappropriate behaviour and accidents and/or injury increase for the person drinking and others around them

“These include lower workplace productivity due to short-term absenteeism and a lower quality and quantity of work due to poor decision making”



Ramadhan Mwinyi (L), Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Foreign Affairs, East Africa, Regional and International Cooperation, and Saudi Arabian Ambassador Mohamed Almalik (R) carry conjoined twin babies at Julius Nyerere International Airport in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The babies had just jetted back home after undergoing separation surgery in Saudi Arabia. With them is their mother, Joneshia Jovitus. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

African philanthropist calls on Japan to further empower African entrepreneurs

TOKYO

IN an impassioned keynote speech delivered before global leaders at the 7th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) in Yokohama, African investor and philanthropist Tony O. Elumelu has challenged the government of Japan to invest 5 per cent of its \$50billion commitment to Africa in empowering African entrepreneurs.

"At TICAD 2016 in Kenya, Japan pledged \$30billion for Africa. This year you have generously increased this to \$50 billion. If we invested just 5 per cent in Africa's new generation of entrepreneurs, following my Foundation's robust, proven

model of getting capital directly to those best placed to catalyse growth and create real impact, we could touch 500,000 lives across the 54 African countries," said Elumelu.

He said the investment would help broaden markets, facilitate job creation, improve income per capita, and lay the key foundation for political and economic stability.

Elumelu's statement captured his vision of a relationship between Japan and Africa that prioritises economic and shared prosperity.

He outlined the three key pillars of a bold and transformative structure: investment in infrastructure, partnership with the African private sector, and in-

vestment in Africa's youth.

The investor called upon Japan to learn from the example of the Tony Elumelu Foundation, which champions empowering African entrepreneurs, as the most sustainable means of accelerating the development of Africa.

In just five years, the foundation has assisted over 7,500 African entrepreneurs across every African country with seed capital, capacity building, mentorship and networking opportunities through its \$100 million Entrepreneurship Programme.

Elumelu's advice carried the weight of his track record of business success: founding Africa's global bank, United Bank

for Africa (UBA), which has grown its presence to 20 African countries, as well as in the UK, France, and the US.

There is also Heirs Holdings, Africa's private investment company which actively invests in key sectors of the continent's economy and controls millions of dollars in its investment portfolio. Together, they employ over 30,000 people and transform the communities they operate in.

"Africa is one of the world's viable destinations for investment. Our huge population of nearly 1.3 billion people creates one of the most attractive markets anywhere in the world," said Elumelu, querying: "The world is paying close

attention to Africa, but is Japan at the centre of this conversation or is it on the sidelines?"

Elumelu's philosophy has become increasingly popular in Africa, where he is acknowledged as the pioneer of a private-sector-led approach to accelerating development.

He repeated the message at the Generation Unlimited breakfast meeting with Rwandan President Paul Kagame and UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore, with its focus on job creation in Africa, where he emphasized the role the African youth plays in this narrative.

South African president and TICAD7 Co-Chair Cyril Ramaphosa corroborated

Elumelu's stance, saying: "If you want really good returns, as Tony Elumelu said, come to Africa. Africa presents risk-adjusted returns and is a market in which investments are flowing at a hundred billion dollars - that is the new profile of Africa that is being presented to the world."

UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner praised Tony Elumelu's Private-Sector led approach to development in Africa, saying: "I want to refer to my dear friend and colleague Tony Elumelu because he alluded to the vital role that business can also play in investing in the future of the youth. These are the kinds of partnerships that will drive business and develop-

ment agenda to very different heights in the future."

Speaking on the potential of the African continent, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said: "In Africa, some countries have joined top nations in the ranking on the ease of doing business. The scale of the market continues to expand. We can envision a day when the entire continent of Africa becomes an enormous economic zone."

Organised by the Japanese government, TICAD is a three-yearly forum for advancing Africa's development through people, technology and innovation. It brings together government, business leaders, companies and other stakeholders.

Uganda oil deal hangs in the balance over tax row

KAMPALA

THE development of Uganda's oil resources has been thrown into confusion after one of the three energy companies involved gave up on a plan to sell its stake to Chinese and French partners.

The Irish company, Tullow, which originally discovered the oil, has tried to sell most of its stake to state-owned Chinese firm CNOOC and French oil giant Total, but the deal collapsed after the companies failed to secure an agreement on tax relief from Uganda's Revenue Authority.

Tullow discovered proven reserves of more than a billion barrels of oil around Lake Albert in 2006, but the resources have yet to be developed.

Uganda wanted bigger companies involved and by 2012 CNOOC was a partner in the project, alongside Total.

Tullow, which has developed significant offshore reserves in Ghana and has just started pumping oil in Kenya, decided to sell most of its one third stake in Uganda's oil to the French and Chinese companies.

But the failure to agree on any tax due by CNOOC and Total has forced the sale to be shelved.

It's not known if Tullow will try to find a different buyer and it's uncertain if it means yet another delay to Uganda finally exporting oil, 13 years after it was first discovered.

Total has said it's still open to exercising its rights to buy Tullow Oil's share of the Ugandan

project. The project also known as the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), is under construction and intended to transport crude oil from Uganda's oil fields to the Port of Tanga.

Meanwhile the government says any future sale must abide by the law covering tax payments.

This comes even as some issues remain unresolved on the Uganda-Tanzani crude oil pipeline.

During the January 25 meeting in Kampala, the officials are said to have agreed on most of the issues under the agreements, but arbitration, revenue sharing and taxes were deferred to a later meeting.

They agreed on registration of local companies, security of the pipeline, immigration, national content, insurance of the project, environmental obligations, investor duties, relevant standards and procedures, construction and operation of the project, as well as the required stability clauses.

The Permanent Secretary in Uganda's Ministry of Energy Robert Kasande said that the contentious issues will be discussed on February 7 in Tanzania.

Although the officials describe the negotiations as successful since they reached harmonised positions on most issues, arbitration, which is a significant component in a trade agreement, remains unresolved.

"We did not conclude discussions on the question of arbitration. The important issue is, where should it be? We have pushed it forward for further discussions," Kasande said.



BUSINESS AS ALWAYS: Spices on sale near the Mkunguni Street/Bonde Street intersection in Dar es Salaam's sprawling Kariakoo market zone yesterday. Photo: John Badi

KIGALI

RESIDENTS of a slum near a sought-after area of Rwanda's capital have been told they must leave their homes by November and move into apartments that have been built on an estate on the outskirts of the city.

Pudence Rubingisa, Kigali's mayor, said the decision had been taken because the slum

was built on marshland considered a "high-risk zone".

But residents are angry and say their land is being sold to a foreign investor without their consent. They said they were not consulted about moving to the estate and they would prefer to receive proper compensation for their land, which is worth a lot of money as it neighbours the upmarket suburb of Nyaruta-

Slum anger in Rwanda over forced removal

rama. "Our land and properties are expensive, they did not want to pay us all so they are building houses to move us in by force," one of the residents said.

Many people in the slum also make money from renting out rooms in their houses, which they will not be able to do in

apartment blocks that are far from the city centre.

"They are taking us into small room apartments - an unfamiliar lifestyle to us, with no land and without our consent. They should pay us and let us be free," another resident said.

Rwanda's law on the expro-

priation of land promises "fair compensation in monetary form or in any other form mutually agreed upon by the expropriator and the person to

Over 1,000 families are living in the Bannyahe slum. The government seeks to make Kigali slum free based on a master

plan to replace unplanned settlements with high-end housing projects, commercial developments and green spaces.

The residents of Bannyahe slum oppose a plan by Kigali City authorities to compensate them with alternative housing instead of with money as was the case in

the relocation of Kimicanga and lower Kiyovu slum residents five years ago.

Kigali City authorities say they resolved to provide alternative housing for current and future

However, as the approach draws mixed reactions from disgruntled families, there are concerns that this could hamper future plans to relocate residents of other slums.

Islamic finance is taking shape

By Asrat Seyoum

MERKATO, once proclaimed to be the single largest open-market place in Africa, seemed to be evolving overtime. In the past decade alone, Merkato has undergone a significant level of transformation.

For one, a better part of this old market establishment can no more be called an open market with new high-rise buildings housing most of the shops and storage facilities, these days. And together with that, a number of new coffee shops and other service giving entities are now popping up in Merkato targeting the tens and hundreds of thousands that rumble through the market every day.

Nevertheless, Merkato is still the nerve center of Ethiopia's trade and commerce activities. They say, easily, goods and services worth millions of birr changes hands every day. Arguably, Merkato could also be unparalleled in the country in terms of the volume of transaction it handles in a single business day. The bulk of the daily transaction in Merkato is also not based on formal contractual interactions and standard bank payment mechanisms.

In fact, Merkato might as well be the single largest market place in Ethiopia in terms of the volume of cash-based transacting activities. Although notorious for its street-smarts and illusive traders and businessmen, Merkato is also a place where huge amounts of financial dealings are made solely based on trust and social networks.

Yes, this aspect of Merkato is definitely another constant in the rapidly shifting business environment of this Italian-era market place. Every day, a staggering amount of short term business-to-business loans and financing decisions are made in Merkato; and most of it is truly based on trust and social networks, posing a serious challenge to tax administration and trade regulation. Some of the traditional, social saving-credit collectives aka *equbes* are said to be as large as hard-to-come-by bank financing facilities (credits). However, such non-conventional business interactions are not always a matter of choice for those involved (business people).

In fact, Muslim members of the business community are and had been severely underserved by the nation's financial industry. For there are no financing instruments that can cater to the needs of the Muslim community both in Merkato and the rest of Ethiopia, resorting to informal financing mechanisms is indeed no surprise. The conventional banking sector is one of the major players in the Ethiopian financial system to have failed

this significant portion of the business community.

A service as simple as opening a checking account or access saving or loan instruments was difficult for Muslim members of the business community for the entire banking industry in Ethiopia and was limited to offering a conventional interest-based banking products to clients; whereas interest and other speculative financial instruments are basically in contradiction with the basic Islamic laws and principles. This, in turn, had massive consequences to the business environment as it distorts the level playing-field and eventually the market. On the other hand, the banking sector, as a lucrative investment area, also stayed closed-off to Muslim investors.

This however, seemed to be changing in 2011 with the enactment of the nation's first interest-free banking directive by the National Bank of Ethiopia. The directive that authorized the business of interest free banking in Ethiopia was highly shrouded with controversy back when it was enacted.

The months leading to the enactment of the directive saw the emergence of the first financial institution in Ethiopia that seeks to operate on the basis of an interest-free banking scheme which is also consistent with the Islamic principles: Zenzem bank.

Although still under formation, Zenzem dominated debate platforms, discussing the importance of an Islamic financial institution in Ethiopia and how it operates. However, it was a short-lived party to say the least. Soon, the most anticipated national bank directive sealed the fate of the first interest-free bank in Ethiopia. Yes, it was not to be. The directive only authorizes interest-free banking window in the setup of a conventional banking system and not a full-fledged Islamic bank.

The news hit the bank (under formation) and it's pledged shareholders pretty hard. Accordingly, the existing private and state-owned banking institutions were not quick to the capitalize on the window that opened up by the directive; not until Oromia International Bank, which was only 5 years into the banking business at the time, took the step to pioneer the first interest-free banking window in Ethiopia, in October 2013. Including the state-owned Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE) a number of banks from the local finance sector followed suit.

And exactly six years later, the once frustrated Zenzem returned to the finance scene. But this time around with two more potential full-fledged Islamic banks namely Zad and Hijra. The three have officially started selling shares while un officially at least two



Boniface Mahenge (L), manager of Mkombzi Commercial Bank's Kariakoo branch in Dar es Salaam, looks on as Fatuma Rashid (C) signs a form to open a Joint Account with the bank yesterday. This was shortly after the bank donated 1m/- to her husband, Salim Rashid, who is undergoing cancer treatment. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

more banks are said to be in the pipeline to take part in the interest-free banking game. This will bring the total number of new entrants to five.

Taking a step back, the whole concept of an Islamic financial institution is said to be a relatively newer phenomenon in the global financial order. The first banking establishment solely based on Islamic principles appears on the global scene as late as 1963 in the form of the Mit-Ghamr Islamic Saving Bank of Egypt. Although not a banking institution in its fullest sense, a year earlier in 1962, the Malaysian government has initiated the establishment of the "Lembaga Tabung Haji" the first pilgrim's fund management company to assist Malaysian religious travelers to save money while making beneficial investments of their funds in the process.

Although not exactly an Islamic bank, the Fund gave rise to the first Malaysian interest-free bank and later in the mid-70s to other Islamic banks in middle east and North Africa namely the Dubai Islamic bank, the Faisal Islamic Bank in Egypt and Sudan and Kuwait Finance House.

Islamic law scholars and Shari'ah experts allude that the emergence of an Islamic financial system is important since Islam by its very nature is a religious framework that encompasses all aspects of the life of the observant. This is where financial instruments that are completely consistent with the Islamic belief and principles become a necessity.

According to an IMF working paper on Islamic finance published in 2015, Islam does not endorse every human wish, and it prohibits on moral grounds activities related to tobacco and other drugs, alcohol, pork products, gambling involving money and non-money assets (maysir), speculation, pornography, and armaments and destructive weapons. Hence, it argues that Islamic finance is generally governed by three principles: equity, participation

and ownership.

"Scholars generally invoke the principle of equity as the rationale for the prohibition of predetermined payments (riba) [charged interest], with a view to protecting the weaker contracting party in a financial transaction," the paper reads. This goes with the other two principles of participation (where reward (profit) is linked with risk taking and real and productive activities) and ownership (underscoring the sanctity of property right and ownership) to fully form the principle behind Islamic financing.

These very principles set Islamic banking apart from the conventional one, according to Jamal Muzeyin, Banking business professional and organizer/promoter of Zenzem bank.

"To truly understand what sets Islamic (interest-free) banking institutions apart from conventional banking," Jamal says, "first we need to clearly define what banking services really mean in this modern business environment."

"Banking services can really be summarized in three broad categories, according to Jamal, which are payment facilitation; service charge and fee based services like Letter of credit, foreign exchange trade, money transfer and the like; and the third and last one which has to do with mobilizing deposits and channeling funds to borrowers.

"With regard to the first two services, both the Islamic and conventional banking systems are the same; but the departure point is with channeling funds," he explains. Interest-free banking is truly different from the conventional banking system first and for most by not charging interest both on deposits and funds advanced to borrowers.

True to form, interest and other speculative financial instruments together with prohibited (haram) businesses like alcohol, cigarettes, adult entertainment, products related with pork and the like are

completely excluded from the Islamic finance system. "This makes Islamic banking different from a conventional one, but it is not the only one," Jamal told The Reporter via a phone interview.

In fact, according to scholars. Financing in the context of Islamic banking has two attributes which cannot be found in a conventional banking scheme; The first one is the fact that it is asset-based (instead of cash advances, Islamic banks heavily rely on actual asset financing on behalf of the borrower). While the other is a risk distributing characteristic that financing products offered by the Islamic banking industry have.

"Uniquely, the Islamic banking or the products offered under Islamic principles share the risk that is faced by borrowers. Not only the banks but depositors and account holders also share overall risk that comes with financing a certain ventures," Jamal says. "If you ask me, this could be by far the most risk mitigating scheme among the range of financial products offered in the market; and from a macroeconomic stand point this ensures the overall stability of the banking and the financial system," he argued.

"On the other hand, these two attributes make Islamic banks different in a sense that the banks can play a role of a commodity trader (buying and selling goods and services) and a business partner, Jamal illustrated further, adding "And this is something that could not be found in a conventional banking system."

With regard to project financing under the Islamic financing scheme there appears to be two possible contractual arrangements between the bank and its clients. According to the scholars, it could either be "profit and loss sharing arrangement (Musharakah) or 'profit sharing and loss-bearing arrangement' (Mudarabah).

Government to crack down on reckless pharmacies

By Correspondent Devota Mwachang'a

THE government has warned privately-owned pharmacies against selling antibiotics and a medicine used for treating pregnant women with complications, Misoprostol, to people without doctor's prescription, hence contributing to increase of drugs misuse.

Deputy Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Dr Faustine Ndungulile said the government will soon conduct inspections to identify the illegal sellers of medicine and appropriate measures will be taken against them.

Ndungulile issued the statement before members of the Parliamentary Committee of Budget from House of Representatives of Zanzibar who visited offices of the Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices (TMDA) in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

"There are many drugs that have more than one function, for antibiotics and others which have been given to people without doctor's prescription, have been proven to cause harm to users, for instance the Misoprostol drug is misused in abortion rather than its proper use to supplement the mother's labour pain and to help her not to bleed

much after delivery," he said.

According to the Minister for Health, the medicine can cause side effects to users even death, many pregnant women die while trying to end pregnancies.

He said: "The government responsibility is to protect people's health, so we control the use of such drugs by taking appropriate action by eliminating the ineffectiveness and by putting in place a better system of administering medicines, ensuring that they are provided at hospitals and not in private pharmacies this include other pain-killer medicines like Pethidine".

He explained that the Misoprostol drug will be regulated starting with its admission, distribution and use in the hospital based environment on which patient should be given to and to what level; also to remove them from the emergency kit bag of pregnant women where they were included with other materials such as cotton, gloves, razor.

The minister has cleared doubts among the public about the presence of ineffective drugs, because TMDA has quality laboratories and is the first in Africa. Pre-distribution drugs are certified by the authority, by close monitoring sub-standard ones are removed from

the market.

TMDA Director of Laboratories Services Danstan Hipolite has explained that despite the success and achievement of drug regulation, after the change in responsibilities TMDA is facing the challenge of developing new drug, pharmaceutical and pharmaceutical legislation to meet current regulatory requirements and, among other things, improve operational issues of the authority, the offenses and penalties mentioned in the laws are all outdated.

Chairman of the Budget Parliamentary Committee of the House of Representatives from the House of Representatives Zanzibar, Mohamed Said Dimwa thanked the government through TMDA for giving them the opportunity to learn from TMDA.

"We have had the opportunity to learn through the work of TMDA and we've learnt a lot. We will use the education to strengthen our ZMDA unit to find solutions to various issues, although there is already an agreement (MoU) between the two authorities, we would advise the government to allocate enough budget to make ours fulfill its mission, since many things are imported to the country there is a need of having immediate measurements to take..." said Dimwa.



Simanjiro district commissioner Zephania Chaula speaks at a meeting with development stakeholders in the district on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Africa needs to stem the tide of rising malnutrition, obesity

HEALTH, as defined by the World Health Organisation is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. This definition has been subject to controversy, as it may have limited value for implementation.

Health may be defined as the ability to adapt and manage physical, mental and social challenges throughout life.

In 1948, in a radical departure from previous definitions, the World Health Organization proposed a definition that aimed higher: linking health to well-being, in terms of "physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease and infirmity".

Although this definition was welcomed by some as being innovative, it was also criticized as being vague, excessively broad and not construed as measurable.

For a long time, it was set aside as an impractical ideal and most discussions of health returned to the practicality of the biomedical model.

Health ministers from 47 African countries met recently in Congo Brazzaville for the 69th session of the World Health Organization (WHO) regional committee for Africa.

The regional committee is the WHO decision-making body in the region, convening once a year to discuss and endorse regional policies, activities and financial plans to improve people's health.

More than 400 participants, including WHO Director-General Tedros Ghebreyesus, WHO Regional Director for Africa Dr Matshidiso Moeti, ministers of health from the 47 member states, senior health ministry officials, representatives of UN agencies, civil society, bilateral and multilateral organizations and

other development partners, are expected to attend this annual flagship event.

The five-day health promotion meeting, which kicked off recently is meant to raise awareness on the importance of physical exercise.

The report on the implementation of the Transformation Agenda - the reform programme of the WHO Secretariat in the African Region was presented by Dr Moeti, the regional director.

The report highlighted successes achieved and challenges faced by WHO as it supports countries to improve health and well-being across the region.

With each of the 47 countries in the region facing health security threats that exact an enormous human and economic toll, there is need for a new strategy that draws on lessons learned and takes into consideration contemporary evidence and innovations to facilitate the achievement of universal health coverage and Sustainable Development Goal.

This new strategy which had been endorsed will improve early detection and reporting of priority diseases and outbreaks, leading to an effective response and thus strengthening countries' capacity for public health emergency preparedness and response at all levels.

Changing lifestyles, prevailing food production processes and marketing practices have led to an increasing consumption of inexpensive processed foods of low nutritional quality with high energy, fat and salt content.

This has contributed to an increase in the number of undernourished people in sub-Saharan Africa, from 181 million in 2010 to almost 222 million in 2016.

The strategy provides guidance to countries to stem the tide of rising malnutrition, obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases by 2025.

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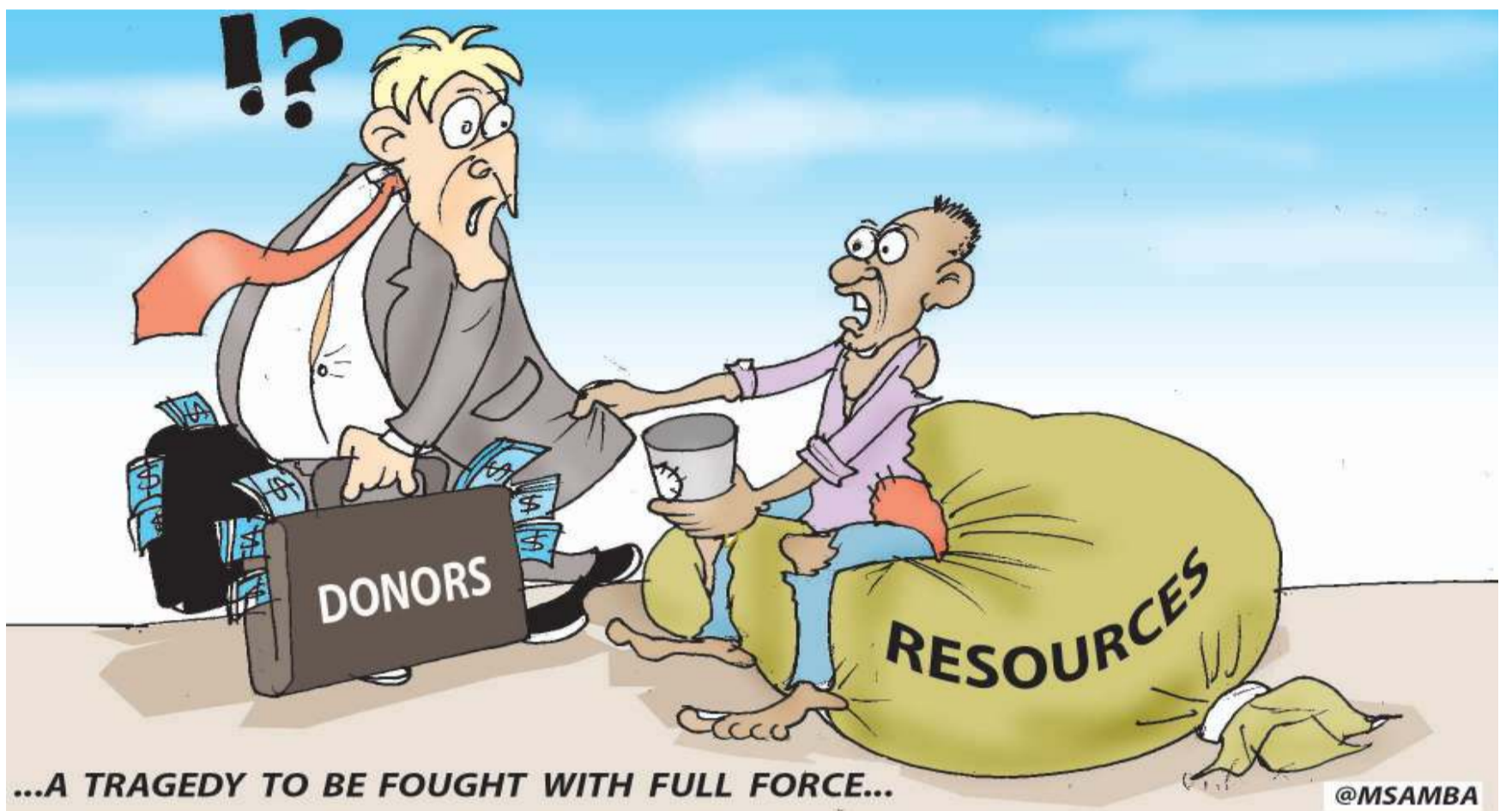
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The world's getting all the messier: Time to plan for a new global order

By Antwi-Danso

WHERE we reproduce here, the Preamble of the United Nations Organizations, as set in 1945 and invite you to juxtapose these lofty ideals to happenings on the global scene today to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, and to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples.

Accordingly, our respective Governments, through representatives assembled in the city of San Francisco, who have exhibited their full powers found to be in good and due form, have agreed to the present Charter of the United Nations and do hereby establish an international organization to be known as the United Nations.

The preambulatory phrase "In Larger Freedom" became the title of a UN reform proposal by the seventh Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, but which was dead at birth as it was rejected outright.

In which ways are we today saving 'succeeding generations from the scourge of war' when we sponsor war (Iraq, Libya, Yemen, Syria, Afghanistan and elsewhere)? How are we reaffirming 'faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person', when we delight in causing pain and death to innocent civilians in areas mentioned above and in others, whose economies we destroy with delight (Venezuela, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, etc)



through war and sanctions? Have we established 'conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained' as we wantonly despise international organizations and/or regimes (like the International Criminal Court -ICC, the Kyoto and Paris Climate Protocols, UNESCO, and the INF Treaty)?

In which ways are we promoting 'social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom'? Is it through the numerous economic sanctions against perceived enemy governments and/or states and the inception of trade wars?

In San Francisco, we set ourselves these aims, none of which is being achieved now. But we also set ourselves some means or ends for achieving the aims. In which ways are we trying to 'practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours'?

Is it through the unbridled geopolitics that are ongoing? One of the ends we promised ourselves was to 'unite our strength to maintain international peace and security'.

Is this unfolding as we support rival forces in the wars in Syria, Yemen etc? What have we made 'to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall

not be used, save in the common interest'? Was it a common interest in Iraq 2003, Libya 2011, and Syria since 2011?

How far are we in our resolve 'to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples', when we constantly want to destroy others' economies and bring their governments down? (Check Venezuela, China, Palestine, Russia, North Korea, Syria, etc, all of whom have sanctions hanging on their necks).

True the global post-War (1945) architecture seems incapable of withstanding the shocks of contemporary realities. While the said architecture was extremely state-centric and the Cold War exacerbated its weaknesses, there was enough hope and goodwill after the end of the Cold War. It was the misdiagnosis that followed the demise of the Cold War that has brought more chaos and made the world messier than the pre-1945 era.

The big powers, especially the United States of America, seem to be pursuing a zero-sum transactional approach to international politics. The post-Cold War triumphalist behaviour of the US and the West has proven to be a mirage.

It has rather engendered resurgence in Russia, Chinese assertiveness, and rogue behaviour from countries like Turkey, India, Pakistan, and North Korea. The so-called American Ex-

ceptionalism is serving to undermine its ability to serve as both a player and referee in global politics.

The US, therefore, has become as much a symptom of the fraying international order as an agent exacerbating it. As other countries try to compete (China, especially) the trend will be one of a decline in America's relative power and influence, and a more competitive landscape for regional and global leadership. This seems to be the order already and explains the messy nature of global political economy today.

It is about time the world sat up. Time to rethink a New World Order. Let us look at Art. 108 and 109 (Chapter XIII) of the UN Charter and do something before we plunge the world into another catastrophe.

Article 108

Amendments to the present Charter shall come into force for all Members of the United Nations when they have been adopted by a vote of two thirds of the members of the General Assembly and ratified in accordance with their respective constitutional processes by two thirds of the Members of the United Nations, including all the permanent members of the Security Council.

Article 109

A General Conference of the Members of the United Nations for the purpose of reviewing the present Charter may be held at a date and place to be fixed by a two-thirds vote of the members of the General Assembly and by a vote of any nine members of the Security Council. Each Member of the United Nations shall have one vote in the conference.

Any alteration of the present Charter recommended by a two-thirds vote of the conference shall take effect when ratified in accordance with their respective constitutional processes by two thirds of the Members of the United Nations including all the permanent members of the Security Council.

If such a conference has not been held before the tenth annual session of the General Assembly following the coming into force of the present Charter, the proposal to call such a conference shall be placed on the agenda of that session of the General Assembly, and the conference shall be held if so decided by a majority vote of the members of the General Assembly and by a vote of any seven members of the Security Council.

New tomato variety: Farmers now exposed to better crop husbandry

GROWING tomatoes is often the impetus for starting a vegetable garden, and every tomato lover dreams of growing the ultimate tomato: firm but juicy, sweet but tangy, aromatic, and blemish free. Perfection.

Unfortunately, there are few vegetables that are prone to more problems than tomatoes. The trick to growing great-tasting tomatoes is to choose the best varieties, start the plants off right, and control problems before they happen.

The tomato is the edible, often red, berry of the plant *Solanum lycopersicum*, commonly known as a tomato plant. The species originated in western South America and Central America. The Nahuatl (Aztec language) word *tomatl* gave rise to the Spanish word *tomate*, from which the English word *tomato* derived. Its domestication and use as a cultivated food may have originated with the indigenous peoples of Mexico.

The Aztecs used tomatoes in their cooking at the time of the Spanish conquest of the Aztec Empire, and after the Spanish encountered the tomato for the first time after their contact with the Aztecs, they brought the plant to Europe. From there, the tomato was introduced to other parts of the European-colonised world during the 16th century.

Tomatoes are a significant source of umami flavour. The tomato is consumed in diverse ways, raw or cooked, in many dishes, sauces, salads, and drinks. While tomatoes are fruits—botanically classified as berries—they are commonly used as a vegetable ingredient or side dish.

Numerous varieties of the tomato plant are widely grown in temperate climates across the world, with greenhouses allowing for the production of tomatoes throughout all seasons of the year.

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

The fruits of the *Seminis Tomato Ansal* are not only intolerant to bacterial wilt but firm, lasting up to three weeks after harvest. The hybrid variety produces five to eight fruits per cluster.

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

Bacterial wilt is a soil and water-borne disease caused by bacteria. This disease can survive for up to 40 years in water. This explains its high incidence where river and lake waters are heavily relied on for irrigation by tomato farmers.

It is a great seed variety that will save the farmer huge costs in pesticides in fighting the disease.

African farmers are now exposed to good crop husbandry. They ought also to trained on the use of yellow and blue traps to catch white flies and thrips (black-winged insects that suck plant sap).

The white flies are harmful to the tomato plants as they suck the sap from the plant, drying it up in the process.

Farmers wishing to engage in tomato farming should go for the new variety which will have solved half the problem encountered by tomato farmers of wilt, according to the report.

Levels of income inequality indeed do play big role in stagnation of economic growth

By Muharram Macatta

INEQUALITIES in no income dimensions (such as assets, education, health and access to public services and the labour market) are also high across SSA, particularly between regions and with stark differences between men and women.

Levels of income inequality could be partially responsible for poor economic growth. In other words, low incomes reduce access to services and goods that can be used to increase earning power and generate national wealth.

Indeed, it is found in a range of other conflict-affected regions of SSA (for example, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Chad, Somalia, Sudan).

It is also found to a lesser degree in states where conflict is more low level, such as Swaziland and Zimbabwe, where rights are not protected and services are not provided (education, health, agriculture extension, for example) and people have reduced capacity to improve their lives.

As we have seen, poverty is multi-dimensional and not just related to material deprivation; a person's vulnerability, sense of powerlessness, low capacities, limited livelihood opportunities and other constraints to lifting themselves out of poverty.

They are in part a result of weak state institutions and governance that result in poorly designed and implemented policies, weak formal institutions and rule of law, inadequate service delivery, and to other practices that undermine the creation of an enabling environment.

The abuse of public office for private gain is the norm in such states. This is manifest in a number of different ways. Certainly bribery and kickbacks for public procurement and for escaping taxes and customs charges are common.

The embezzlement of government funds, and the sale or misuse of government property is seen frequently. For instance, civil servants will establish small supply companies simply to provide goods at inflated prices to the ministries where they work.

On a larger scale, public licenses are



doled out to political favourites so they can monopolize telecommunications networks or IT services. Such practices slow the development of public services (mobile phone networks, for instance) and raise their costs.

Privatization of state companies in the last two decades or so has benefited insiders everywhere, sometimes at the expense of more equitable growth.

Today the act of stealing government funds and handing out some to favourites is not necessarily viewed as corrupt or illicit. Not surprisingly, then, corruption appears to be more prevalent in countries with poorly functioning formal institutions and weakly integrated accountability mechanisms.

That is to say, where traditional 'informal' ways of thinking and behaving remain more vibrant and where rational-legal institutions are not yet embedded.

When corrupt behaviour becomes predatory - such as it did under Frederick Chiluba in Zambia, when millions of dollars were diverted to the President and his associates - it affects economic growth, the delivery of services, and poverty-reduction.

Corruption with impunity at that level begets corrupt practices throughout the civil service and society. In other words, in many African states the process of nation-building is incomplete.

Moreover, legal-rational state institutions are weak in countries where they compete with vibrant informal

institutions or where they are deliberately emasculated to serve a political or economic agenda.

There are in fact few political or economic incentives for the elites to relinquish control to formal state structures and institutions, and this in turn stalls economic development.

Most Africans live rurally. Many know little of the world outside their villages, except what they hear on the radio. Getting to schools, clinics, towns and the capital city is difficult due to poor roads and transport links and without firm bridges.

In many countries people living in one region have little contact with, or knowledge of those living in other areas. Taken together this creates a society that prioritizes local connections (family and clan, tribal, religious, regional) rather than a shared national identity.

It is also difficult for them to relate to the problems of those hundreds of miles away, or if they do, to organize for change. This is what is meant when analysts speak about African civil society being 'weak'.

The citizenry's voice is rarely heard, it has few locally based but nationally influential organizations, and it cannot hold the distant, relatively powerful central government to account.

Donors support NGOs, most of which are based in the capital city and run by people living there. They may have linkages in the rural areas, but rarely do local-level communities set NGO agendas or decide how to spend their funds.

Finally, as noted before, rural people still relate to local 'notables' and patrons as they have for generations, and may not actively seek alternative ways of accessing goods or

services. In much of SSA they certainly cannot depend on the state to deliver them.

This situation impacts on poverty in several ways. First, governments are often suspicious of NGOs, which may be run by politicians-in-waiting.

The regime will see them as political opponents rather than voices for the people - in fact, governments will question their legitimacy, saying they have won the people's votes and therefore speak for them, and NGOs have not.

NGOs (including faith-based groups trade unions, community-based organizations) that deliver services are left alone or even encouraged by the state, while those advocating radical changes aimed at altering the conditions leading to poverty, may be the most threatening to the state and therefore dealt with.

This has happened across Africa, from Swaziland to Ethiopia. Secondly, conditions make it difficult for people to organize and fund their own campaigns - many are illiterate, without modern communications, isolated, and without organizational skills.

Media are key to holding leaders to account for their policies everywhere, but in many African states the press and broadcasters are owned by politicians, funded by ruling parties, or government-controlled.

Even where they are not, the print media tends to be biased towards its readership - urban, literate and often middle class, and have little to say about the government's failure to address inequality or poverty.

Finally, many states have enough men under arms - youth groups, paramilitary organizations, police or army - to control real dissent arising in towns or villages. Generally, then, in SSA there is a correlation between civil society weakness and poverty.

A human rights approach to poverty reduction expresses the needs and interests of the poor in terms of their rights. Central to poverty-reduction policies and processes are the values of empowerment, participation and accountability.

Many Poverty Reduction Strategies adopted in Africa already have features that reflect international human rights norms. Further, the introduction of social safety nets reflects people's rights to a reasonable standard of living, food, housing, health protection, education and social security.

Anti-poverty strategies that demand transparent budgetary and other governmental processes are consistent with the right to information, while the insistence those strategies are 'country owned' corresponds with

the right of peoples to self determination.

A human rights approach places the voices and experiences of the poor at the heart of policy and programming. It makes the poor active participants in the development process, rather than passive recipients, and as such accords them dignity and status that is otherwise denied them.

Resource endowments - such as oil, gas, coltan, diamonds, hardwoods - can become a 'curse' in the face of the political incentives and policy failures they generate.

Indeed, 'policy failure [is] the prime cause of the underperformance of the resource abundant countries'. As these resources are commonly owned by the state, the government decides the extraction level, timeframe and expenditure of the rents.

It is easy to see that some governments would wish to benefit economically and politically from the resource as quickly as possible, which leads to over-extraction and short-term policy-making.

Furthermore, the wealth these resources produce for the state heightens political competition, and the ruling party may well be driven to use resource rents to maintain and expand its influence.

Offering public-sector contracts and employment is one of the key patronage mechanisms available in such states, and there is evidence that resource-rich countries with stagnant economies have an over expanded state.

For instance, in copper-rich Zambia, between "1966 and 1980 the average yearly growth rate in public sector employment was 7.2 percent, while private employment on average contracted by 6.2 percent each year."

On the other hand, Botswana's success in managing its diamond wealth has been attributed to its 'good governance' and in particular its stable institutions.

In particular, voice and accountability, government effectiveness, market-friendly policies and regulatory framework and effective anti-corruption measures have had the most impact.

It impresses every one of us that Botswana held free and fair elections, and has relatively stable political processes. Civil society plays an active role in monitoring resource extraction and rent expenditure.

Botswana has competent civil servants, disciplined resource management and high quality public services. It has a self-disciplined "Sustainable Budget Index" whereby mineral resources are supposed to finance "investment expenditure" on health, education and development.

Donald Trump's antics overshadow Africa's G7 summit presence



Meanwhile the Tokyo International Conference on Africa's Development was probably more productive for the continent. File photo

BY PETER FABRICIUS

ONE could surely be forgiven for questioning the continuing value to Africa of its partnership with the sort of Group of Seven (G7) club of the world's richest nations that was manifest at its 2019 summit.

In the eyes of the global media, at least, the recently concluded event in the glamorous French seaside resort of Biarritz was dominated by the boorishness of United States President Donald Trump. He did his best to wreck this year's summit as he did last year's in Canada, with his disruptive behaviour and rampant egoism.

This was epitomised by his skipping a critical discussion on climate change, biodiversity and the oceans with the excuse that he had scheduled meetings with the heads of Germany and India. Both German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi were however at the climate change meeting.

He also told outrageous fibs about how China was eager to resume talks with the US to end their trade war which is jeopardising the

global economy. Beijing denied this.

Trump also quite deliberately grated the other G7 leaders by persistently insisting that his chum Vladimir Putin should be invited to return to the G7 - to make it the G8 once again. Russia was evicted from the G8 in 2014 - thus returning it to its original G7 format - after Putin invaded and annexed Crimea from Ukraine.

South Africa's Cyril Ramaphosa, Rwanda's Paul Kagame and Egypt's Abdel Fattah el-Sisi were invited as the African Union (AU) troika, plus Senegal's Macky Sall as New Partnership for Africa's Development (Nepad) head, Burkina Faso's Roch Marc Christian Kaboré as head of the G5 Sahel, and AU Commission chair Moussa Faki Mahamat.

But their relative invisibility to global media became obvious when an Associated Press White House correspondent tweeted a photograph of host President Emmanuel Macron, India's Modi, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Ramaphosa in a huddle and tagged the three other leaders by name but labelled Ramaphosa as 'unidentified leader'.

As a result largely of the friction between

Trump and the rest, the G7 didn't put out its usual comprehensive communiqué at the end of the gathering, instead issuing only a 'declaration' that covered the main points at a sufficient level of abstraction to mask the many differences.

Macron deserves praise for nonetheless managing bull-in-a-China-shop Trump quite adroitly, without too much multilateral crockery being destroyed. He even managed to smuggle Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif into Biarritz to try to get Trump to agree to meet Iranian President Hassan Rouhani in a bid to resolve their nuclear standoff.

The G7's interest in Africa has waxed and waned over the past two decades and has certainly been stronger than it is now. But Macron also managed to herd the cats well enough to produce a reasonable statement on Africa welcoming a 'reinvigorated' partnership - mainly to eradicate poverty, realise full education, provide good-quality health-care and increase access to clean water. It was not immediately clear what 'reinvigorated' meant beyond the name.

The most concrete part was a G7 package totalling \$251 million supporting the African Development Bank's Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa initiative. The G7 leaders also fully backed the United Nations and AU's plans to set up an inter-Libyan conference to try to end that country's protracted civil war.

Canada and Japan joined the Sahel Alliance fighting violent extremists, which means all G7 members are now on board, an important victory for France and Germany, which are struggling to win greater support as the jihadist threat spreads south into West Africa from the original G5 Sahel countries.

The G7 leaders reiterated their willingness to continue developing entrepreneurship and private sector youth employment in Africa, and committed themselves to help bridge the digital divide and promote digital transformation in Africa. They vowed to support efforts to improve the business environment in Africa and to back the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA).

The G7 leaders also committed themselves to creating a fairer international tax system

which would benefit Africa, which loses tens of billions of dollars a year through dodgy tax manoeuvres by multinationals.

Ramaphosa thanked the G7 for its efforts to reorient its relationship with Africa to tackle the continent's many challenges and stressed the critical importance of the AfCFTA in achieving this.

By contrast the seventh Tokyo International Conference on Africa's Development (TICAD), which began immediately after the G7 summit, with over 20 African presidents present, was a far more sober gathering, without Trump's antics. And possibly more productive for Africa.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe kicked off the summit by announcing that his government would increase trade and investment insurance to cover 100% of transactions, in an effort to boost Japanese private sector investment in Africa - a major aim of Japan's engagement with the continent. The theme of the summit is about increasing innovation and private investment to boost Africa's development.

Sall, as current chair of Nepad - which has just been given a new task to implement Africa's development projects - told the summit that its vital objective was to help increase the continent's industrialisation so as to decrease its dependence on the export of raw materials.

As so often before, China was the elephant in the room of both summits, as far as engagements with Africa were concerned. The G7 African Partnership and TICAD are both in a sense the Western counterparts to China's more dramatic involvement in Africa.

Neither even aspires to match the volume of Beijing's roughly \$20 billion a year investment in the continent, mainly in infrastructure. Instead the G7 and TICAD presume to offer more targeted, qualitative rather than quantitative support to Africa. It's a tough marketing exercise especially in a world with an attention span that seldom extends beyond the billion-dollar headlines. And it gets even tougher when those headlines are hijacked by Trumpian antics.

South Africa, for one, is evidently seeing beyond those headlines. The China-focused administration of previous president Jacob Zuma neglected Japan to the point of simply ignoring an invitation to host TICAD6, which then went to Kenya, Japanese diplomats say.

Desperate for investment from wherever he can get it to rescue South Africa's ailing economy, Ramaphosa, by contrast, is leaving no corner of the globe untapped.

Peter Fabricius, ISS Consultant

Morality should drive Europe's new migration policies with Africa

BY MATTHEW HERBERT AND CLARE PROFOUS

FAR fewer Europeans than before regard migration as among the most pressing priorities faced by the European Union (EU). This is despite Africa - and specifically countering migration from Africa to Europe - having become a key focus of the EU's foreign policy over recent years.

The change in public attitudes creates an opportunity for the EU's new leadership to review its approach towards migration, forge a more collaborative partnership with the African Union (AU) and member states, and ensure that the bloc's approach to migration doesn't undermine its morality and soft power.

The EU's focus on migration stems mostly from its migrant influx over the past five years, when more than two million migrants and asylum seekers were apprehended by EU or member state border authorities. Most - 80% - arrived between 2014 and 2016 via Turkey. Migration moved from a peripheral policy concern to one which 58% of Europeans in a 2015 poll rated as the most important issue facing the region.

Despite recent declines in apprehensions of irregular migrants and asylum seekers, populist political parties throughout the EU continue to fan citizens' concerns on migration and use them for political gain. Under pressure from these parties the EU adopted a series of policies meant to stem irregular migration. Arrivals from Turkey were largely curtailed through a controversial deal between the EU and Turkey in 2016.

Following this, the EU focused on addressing irregular migration from and through Africa. This included missions and aid to halt migrant embarkations on boats from North Africa, mainly Libya, stymie transit through the Sahara, and dissuade departures from migrants' countries of origin. Several European countries also pursued a policy of returning apprehended migrants - voluntarily or not - home.

Some of these policies - notably efforts to halt embarkations from Libya - have achieved some of their goals. And the number of migrants apprehended in the central and western Mediterranean has



dropped since 2016.

But the fundamental factor driving migration from African states to the EU is that there are better economic opportunities for African youth in Europe than at home. This could be exacerbated in the coming years by a range of factors, from the economic impact of climate change to the projected decline in working-age populations in many European states. So this drop in irregular migration from Africa to the EU could be a temporary trend. But it does give policymakers breathing space.

As arrival numbers have fallen, the issue has slowly ebbed in popular concern. Only 34% of Europeans in one recent poll ranked migration as among the EU's most important policy issues, though it continues to outrank issues such as climate change and terrorism.

Changing public attitudes coupled with the arrival of a new EU leadership team should prompt new thinking about the bloc's relationship with Africa

Now is the time for real dialogue between the EU and the continent on security and migration. File photo

and its approach to migration. This rethink must focus both on the EU's foreign policy and on morality.

The partnership between the EU and the AU has centred on developing and implementing programmes designed to stymie the movement of irregular migrants to the EU. Development aid, such as the EU Trust Fund for Africa, is conditioned on countries' willingness to cooperate on control efforts.

Talks on the issue have been ongoing for years. However these have rarely succeeded in advancing collaborative solutions, and have instead resulted in often prescriptive approaches reflecting European goals. Such approaches squander the opportunity to build a collaborative consensus between the two continents on the issue.

An open, collaborative, and consensus-focused dialogue be-

tween the EU and member states and the AU and its states is necessary to forge migration policies that work for both continents. Any new strategy should be equitable for the social and political needs and economic demands of states in both Europe and Africa.

A rethought and collaborative migration strategy should also focus on morality. It is here that the EU's approach over the past five years has been most deficient. The EU's strength is its soft power, rooted in its moral authority as a polity that doesn't mirror the foreign policy approaches of other global powers such as the United States, Russia or China.

It is a strength rooted in the bloc's claims that 'Europe cannot stand by while lives are being lost' and 'should continue to be a safe haven for those fleeing persecution'.

However its approach on irregu-

lar migration from Africa belies this. Programmes to counter migration through Libya have resulted in migrants being detained in overcrowded, unsafe detention centres, menaced with 'torture, rape, malnutrition and the spread of diseases'. One recent airstrike on a detention facility killed 40 migrants.

In the Mediterranean, European NGOs have been actively discouraged from carrying out rescue missions or blocked from disembarking those they've rescued. Aimed at deterrence, these policies have magnified the danger faced by irregular migrants and undermined European claims to moral authority.

The newly elected and re-elected EU Parliament and leadership must decide on their approach for the next five years. The bloc should create opportunities for genuine policy collaboration with

the AU and its member states, one rooted in consensus and reflecting the concerns of both sides.

A new strategy should also be rooted in morality, via short-term policies that limit the risk to migrants through sea rescues and better asylum practices, and long-term solutions including ending EU deterrence policies and enhancing opportunities for regular and routine legal migration and travel between the continents.

Reframing the EU's migration strategy to be more moral is not just necessary from a soft-power perspective - it will also allow for a better and more durable relationship to be built with the AU and member states.

Dr Matthew Herbert, Senior Research Consultant, ISS and Clare Profous, Volunteer Intern, ISS Pretoria

The Arctic: Earth's last frontier

STOCKHOLM / ROME

THE last frontier for utilizing and maybe even exhausting Earth's natural resources is opening up in the Arctic and some of the world's wealthiest nations are trying to secure their piece of the cake. Some act openly, others are more secretive - recently one of the competitors entered the game in a remarkably unwieldy manner.

Lysekil is a picturesque town by Skagerak, a strait between Sweden, Denmark and Norway, opening up to the North Sea. For many years its main income came from salted herring and train oil, while it during the 19th century developed into a popular spa and bathing resort. Most Swedes know Lysekil as the birthplace of Kalle's Caviar a popular sandwich spread of creamed smoked roe produced by Abba Seafood, a brand that provided the name for a Swedish pop group of world renown.

Many Swedes were astonished when Gunter Gao Jingde, chairman of a Hong Kong private investment company, Sunbase International (Holdings) Ltd., gave the city council of Lysekil an offer they did not refuse. Sunbase was established in 1991 and is active in property investment, transport, infrastructure and technology. It was in late November 2017 that Sunbase's long-running and secretive negotiations with members of Lysekil's city council were revealed. At this tiny community of 7,500 inhabitants Gunter Gao Jingde's representatives proposed the construction of Scandinavia's largest port. Town officials accepted the offer without any public consultation. Under Swedish law, the power to approve such projects is entirely in the hands of the local municipalities and cannot be challenged from above. Lysekil's city council was tempted by a generous offer that did not only include an expansion of the town harbour, making it deep enough to receive huge vessels from all over the world. On top of that, Sunbase promised to expand the road net and railway system reaching



Lysekil, bridging the nearby fjord of Gullmarn and invest in schools, hospitals and care for the elderly.

It was a reportage aired on Swedish national radio that alerted the people of Lysekil. Several of them declared that their elected representatives had taken them for a ride. The chairman of the City Council vented his anger over these "exaggerated protests". After all, he and his colleagues had negotiated a deal with a foreign, private firm promising a bright future for Lysekil and he pointed out that VOLVO, the Swedish prestigious car manufacture in neighbouring Gothenburg, was a subsidiary of the Chinese motor company Geely. However, local protests became even more vociferous when it was revealed that Gao Jingde was not only a member of the small-circle Election Committee which selects the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administration Region Government of the People's Republic of China and since 1993 also a member of the Chinese People's Political Advisory Conference a legislative advisory body of

the People's Republic of China. Furthermore, Sunbase is closely connected with the Chinese military establishment, among other things it owns the 18 Hong Kong land areas occupied by military installations and Gao Jingde has personally financed the publication of various books about China's military forces.

Local opponents to the sale of Lysekil's harbour became particularly upset when they could not be provided with any concrete guarantees that the planned port would not serve any Chinese military interests. Petitions signed by a long list of opponents to the Chinese deal was submitted to Lysekil's city council and while facing negative publicity and local anger Sunbase finally called off the entire venture. I

Why would China be interested in purchasing a port from a small, Swedish town and turn it into a huge state-of-the-art seaport structure? Most commenta-

tors agree that the initiative was probably related to the Chinese Government's global strategy of infrastructure development and worldwide investment - The Belt and Road Initiative. The Lysekil port would become one link in what has been referred to as the Polar Silk Road, which through Chinese controlled ports and industrial hubs would be connected with a Pan-Asian Silk Road. From a transport point of view such an Arctic thoroughfare makes sense since sailing a container ship from China to northern Europe via the Arctic Sea north of Russia would shorten the alternative journey time via the Suez canal by 10 days.

However, this is probably not the only reason for China's interest in the Arctic realms. Climate change and global warming are currently opening up access to Arctic riches, wetting the appetite of nations bordering the Arctic sea, and not only them - China

has demonstrated a great interest in the untapped resources that have laid frozen and inaccessible in the distant north. The Arctic conceals huge deposits of minerals as well as an estimated 13 percent of the world's oil reserves and 30 percent of the natural gas reserves.

Into this sensitive web of delicate, diplomatic maneuvers and carefully constructed plans for future exploitation of the Arctic U.S. President Donald J. Trump now has entered like an elephant in a porcelain shop, or as the Danish Newspaper Berlingske described his appearance - a clown stumbling into a circus ring. While the Danes were preparing for a state visit of the American President he suddenly offered to buy Greenland from them, declaring:

Essentially it's a large real estate deal. A lot of things can be done. Ownership of Greenland is hurting Denmark very badly because they're losing almost \$700 million a year carrying it. 2

The Danish Government was flabbergasted, the Royal Court scandalized and the Greenlanders horrified, one of them, Else Mathiesen told local media:

You can't just buy an island or a people. This sounds like something from the era of slavery and colonial power. 3

The Danish Prime Minister stated:

Greenland is not Danish for sale. Greenland is not Danish. Greenland belongs to Greenland. I strongly hope that this is not meant seriously. 4

An undeterred Trump replicated:

Denmark essentially owns it [Greenland]. We're very good allies with Denmark, we protect Denmark like we protect large portions of the world. So the concept came up and I said "Certainly I'd be strategically

interested,"and we'd be interested, but we'll talk to them a little bit." It's not No1 on the burner, I can tell you that. 5

After the debacle a deeply hurt Trump canceled his visit to Denmark, declaring:

I thought the prime minister's statement that it was an absurd idea was nasty.

It was not a nice way of doing it. She could have just said, "No, we'd rather not do it." She's not talking to me, she's talking to the United States of America. They can't say: "How absurd." 6

Trump's ungainly behaviour has ripped open a sensitive scare. Greenland was until 1953 a Danish colony. In 1979, the Danish government granted home rule to the vast territory and in 2008 agreed to allow Kalaallit Nunaat, as it is called in Inuit, to gradually assume responsibility for policing, jurisdiction, mining and border control, while the Danish government retains its control of foreign affairs and defense. However, an increasing confidence fuelled by prospects of controlling the vast natural resources of the Arctic Sea make many of Greenland's 55,000 inhabitants, the majority of them Inuit, favouring full independence from Denmark and Trump's lack of diplomatic skills and ignorance of people's rights have reignited the debate.

Like during the late 19th century's "scramble for Africa", world powers are now in for a race to control riches that actually belong to others. A competition incited by greed and recklessness that may prove harmful to indigenous peoples, the environment and even world peace, in particular if stakeholders express dated opinions and behave with the blatant brutality of the current U.S. President.

Meet Elisabeth Nyirakaragire, first Rwandan doctor treating gorillas

By Julius Bizimungu

A TRIP to the Volcanoes National Park with Elisabeth Nyirakaragire is yet another long but quite gratifying trekking experience.

As we brace the morning cold weather, she sparks a conversation of what exactly we were going to embark on.

Shortly, we set off together with a team of ranger trackers, walk through a thick steep jungle surrounded by twittering voices of birds and muffled crackling sounds of tree species.

Some of the trackers are holding machetes, helping to clear the way for Nyirakaragire as we follow her journey into the park where she is set to meet each gorilla.

This particular gorilla group is called Umubano, loosely translated as friendship. The group is made up of 13 mountain gorillas.

The conversation that Nyirakaragire had earlier sparked was giving us a sneak peek into the journey of evaluating the health conditions of each individual gorilla in the group we were visiting.

"This exercise is called gorilla health monitoring. We basically conduct routine health checks of the gorillas," she tells me as we start embarking on a journey through the jungle.

Equipped with a set of tools - a camera, a notebook and a pen, she leads the way.

After about 20 minutes into the jungle, the first gorilla, Ntakibazo, one of the dominant male silverbacks in the group, is seen feeding on trees.

Nyirakaragire pauses and gets closer, observes carefully, takes couple of pictures with her camera and jots down some notes.

We ask her what she was specifically observing from Ntakibazo. Her response was prompt. There was a set of parameters that she was looking at that show whether a gorilla is healthy or not.

"Ntakibazo is busy taking breakfast, which means its feeding ability is good. His belly has

come larger and it doesn't bear any grave physical problem like injury," she tells me as I majestically observe the gorilla feeding.

We continue the trip and as we admire the beauty of the diverse habitat of these endangered mountain gorillas, a group of three members of Umubano family are seen from a distance separately munching from large tall trees.

Nyirakaragire spends sometime observing the gorillas the same way she did with Ntakibazo. The fact that the three gorillas were able to climb trees was another sign that they were in good shape, she says.

"When they are sick, they cannot be able to climb and feed on tall trees," she says.

After nearly 40 minutes, we meet Ijabo, a six-year old gorilla, also called a juvenile.

He, too, was busy feeding on leaves, despite having a physical disability on one of his legs which he developed during the second day of his birth.

After more than an hour, checking on every individual in the group and looking at all the parameters - feeding ability, playing, napping and body conditions like injuries and skin hair, she concludes that they are all healthy.

The journey

Nyirakaragire has been doing this job for 32 years now, making her the first and the oldest veterinarian in Rwanda. Today, she is 56 years old, fit, passionate and determined to spend the next few years taking care of the mountain gorillas.

"The first time I entered the park as a veterinary assistant was not easy. I was with field trackers and it was during the rainy season. When I went back I told my supervisor that I was not going back," she narrates.

When she told the supervisor how hard the job was, Nyirakaragire was encouraged to keep going by her supervisor who also promised her that it was within a few days before she familiarized with



gorillas. At that time she had finished monitoring Group 13, now Agashya Group.

But as she continued observing the friendly behavior of gorillas, the mother of three was able to fall in love with the primates.

The vet was hired by the Office of Rwanda Tourism and National Parks (ORTPN) as a veterinary assistant, working alongside the very first Gorilla Doctor, Dr. James Foster.

ORTPN is one of the seven public institutions that were merged in 2008 to form Rwanda Development Board.

Dr. Foster taught her about gorilla diseases and behavior, and how the manifestation and

exhibition of illness differs between wild and domestic animals.

When Nyirakaragire began her job in 1987, the mountain gorilla population of the Virunga Massif was estimated to include only 240 individuals, with 4 habituated tourist groups.

Today, there are an estimated 1000 gorillas in the Virunga Massif with 12 habituated tourist groups.

This population increase is particularly significant in that mountain gorillas are the only great ape species increasing in number.

Clearly, Nyirakaragire is a proud vet, the fact that she has contributed to the survival and the

growth of the mountain gorillas, whose status has recently changed from being "critically endangered" to just "endangered" species.

"I am very happy to see the population of the gorillas increasing through our veterinary interventions. I am happy to contribute to gorilla conservation and nature in general," she notes.

This journey, however, did not come easy as she had to persevere through the civil unrest of the 1990s when most of the park staff worked for a long time without pay, and a time when poaching activities were at its highest level.

Eradicating poverty: Lessons for South Africa from Lula's Brazil

By Oscar Van Heerden

BRAZILIAN case studies are important for South Africa because we have such similar socio-economic conditions - whatever works here surely can be implemented there and vice versa.

In my continuous pursuit of wanting to find lasting solutions to the socio-economic challenges faced by South Africa, I came across an international relations scholar with a penchant for international political economy, Giorgio Romano Schutte. He is an interesting academic at the University of ABC in Santo André, Brazil.

Like him, I like to look at Brazilian case studies because we have such similar socio-economic conditions and whatever

works here surely can be implemented there and vice versa. For instance, when Lula da Silva's Workers' Party won the general elections in 2002 and Lula was elected president of Brazil, the economy was extremely concentrated.

Over the next eight years under his leadership, he set out to achieve two critical things. First, to eradicate extreme poverty, and second, to reduce inequality in his country. It is often said South Africa has the highest inequality in the world, with Brazil a close second. And though it is common sense that jobs must be created, the starting point for Lula was fighting poverty and inequality.

For the Workers' Party, eradicating extreme poverty meant that all families living on less

than \$35 per household should be uplifted. Hence, the party introduced the "Bolsa Familia" policy, a form of social welfare for families - a family allowance. Schutte tells us that for any radical plan to work, three basic elements must be adhered to: there has to be consensus around such a plan; then there must be an appropriate policy framework for the execution of the plan; and finally, there has to be the required money and/or resources to facilitate the plan.

Without consensus, policy and money, any such ambitious plans will not see the light of day. Lula set out to find consensus from all the relevant stakeholders in his country. Who could disagree with a fight against extreme poverty? No one did. The fight against inequality was

more complex. This is because the fight against inequality begins to create cohesion. In other words, social inclusion cannot only be a fight against poverty but also against inequality.

Lula did, however, throughout this period, indicate to the upper-middle classes that their privileges would not be tampered with, for the time being. For instance, while the Workers' Party of Brazil felt private medical insurance should be eradicated, they weren't going to do it just yet. Perhaps we can learn a lesson here with regards to our own NHI implementation.

When we look at our situation here in Mzansi, we too have a broad consensus that the socio-economic ills and injustices of the past must be corrected. What we don't have consensus

around is the "how?" part. How should we correct these past injustices?

There remains no consensus around the land question and private property rights. There is continuous pushback on policies such as affirmative action in the workplace. We have our own form of "Bolsa Familia" in the form of child grants, but some people still say it creates dependency and encourages child-birth (which has been proven false).

In short, we as South Africans seem incapable of reaching consensus on critical plans to redress the past. Brazil tried to get consensus by organising consensus-building conferences at regional, municipal and national levels and engaging with the people on the ground.

Perhaps this is something the president could undertake here. Schutte says the Brazilian media was not supportive of such a radical plan. Initially, they said the plan would not work because the government was incapable of implementing it, and it would give rise to more corruption. When the plan worked, the media said it created laziness: in other words, charity makes people lazy.

The people don't want to work anymore, they said.

Then, when jobs were created, people started buying food and clothes and had more disposable income.

We too have progressive policies to eradicate poverty and inequality. We have free basic primary healthcare, free basic water and electricity for the in-

digent, a social welfare system (one of the most extensive in the world) providing for the elderly, foster care, disability grants, child grants, war veteran's grants and the school feeding system.

These policies go hand in hand with a fight against tax evasion. There is still much we have to do in our country to get things right, but the fight continues. We can only learn from the best practices around the world.

So, you can imagine my surprise to learn that Giorgio Romano Schutte will be gracing our shores on 4 September 2019, invited by the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (Mistra) and hosted by the University of Johannesburg. The intriguing topic is "The age of unreason and ignominy - can we judge the people's judgement?"

African entrepreneurs urged to work for competitive edge

By Jean Marie Takouleu

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

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

"African entrepreneurs should build teams in order to benefit from different innovative ideas from across the continent.

This will help them to access international markets," Pau said while giving an update on the Africa Netpreneur Prize Initiative (ANPI) that is spearheaded by the Jack Ma Foundation.

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



African universities battle to attract post-doctoral researchers. Here's why

By Thomas Kariuki

POSTDOCTORAL training is vital for new PhD graduates. This is a period of "apprenticeship" for a newly-minted researcher to hone their skills in a research environment. It typically follows completion of the doctoral degree. Depending on the scientific field and other factors, training can last a year or two and beyond.

This apprenticeship provides young postdocs with critical experience and helps to develop the skills they need to become seasoned research leaders. Yet, very few African universities offer postdoctoral training, primarily due to a lack of mentorship. There are simply not always enough senior, qualified faculty staff - those with PhDs - who can provide the necessary support.

And even if they are able to get postdoctoral places

at African institutions, young early career researchers from the continent face four main challenges.

First, they lack access to resources at their home institutions. Second, they haven't been properly trained in grant writing, an essential skill for accessing competitive funding for their research. Third, they lack mentors or supervisors. And finally, post-doctoral positions tend to be poorly paid.

Postdoctoral training is a critical element of building Africa's population of researchers. The continent needs to develop its capacity for globally competitive postdoctoral training, as this is essential to promoting scientific and research excellence and leadership.

These globally competitive scientists are key to transforming universities into research hubs equipped with skilled staff to mentor the next gen-

eration of well-trained scientists to feed ongoing knowledge-based African economies.

This level of talent can only be recruited and retained with sustained funding and infrastructure. For this to happen, African governments must commit to investing more in research and development.

Lack of access to resources is a big problem for postdoctoral researchers. Quality science happens in an environment where researchers have state-of-the-art infrastructure and receive good administrative support. This allows them to focus on their research. So it's imperative for postdocs to be located in accomplished scientists' laboratories in established and well-resourced universities.

But African universities tend to lack good research infrastructure. This means that PhD graduates can't get the sort of postdoctoral training they need.

Incarcerated women tell NGO they are desperate for support

By Unathi Mahlati and Prince Nare

CONDITIONS for women in prisons neglected during Women's Month, says health and human rights organisation

"Please help us!" This plea from an incarcerated woman - said to me and my colleague at Just Detention International-South Africa (JDI-SA) during a Women's Month event at a facility in Limpopo on 23 August - summarises the sense of desperation among incarcerated women we have spoken with.

So it was disappointing that this Women's Month passed with hardly a word about the plight of women who are in our prisons. Roughly 4,300 women are currently in South African prisons - a small fraction of the overall prison population. (In fact, while the rate of incarceration for women is growing globally, in South Africa it has remained stable.)

Yet women's prisons in South Africa are plagued by appalling conditions, including sexual violence and poor medical care. While this is also true of men's facilities, there are specific problems faced by incarcerated women - and these problems are consistently overlooked.

In government policy reform initiatives, women's prisons are relegated to footnotes. Disappointingly, prisoner advocacy initiatives led by civil society also fail to adequately address women behind bars - and this August has been no different.

Earlier this year, in an effort to gain a deeper understanding of incarcerated women's needs, JDI-SA - a health and human rights organisation that seeks

to end sexual violence in all places of detention - held discussions and trauma-informed art workshops with over 30 women in Gauteng and the Western Cape.

These discussions provided a window into the women's daily experiences of incarceration and their health and safety concerns, including lack of basic hygiene and adequate nutrition, limited sexual and reproductive health products, and psychosocial support services.

This Women's Month, JDI-SA continued the conversations in Limpopo, and the women expressed similar sentiments - highlighting that the issues are systemic.

The dire shortage of health care services puts incarcerated women and their children - some born behind bars - in harm's way.

"I don't want to die here, because I have grandchildren outside, but I don't think I am going to make it," said an elderly inmate in Gauteng, holding back tears.

Another inmate said, "You do not know the meaning of fear unless you've been abused." She had endured intimate partner violence prior to incarceration and she said it had directly resulted in her incarceration.

Most incarcerated women have endured prior trauma from sexual victimisation and intimate partner violence. A 2005 study by Sadiyya Haffeeje, Lisa Vetten and Mike Greyling of hundreds of women and girls in three Gauteng prisons found that roughly two thirds had suffered domestic violence; one third had been sexually assaulted prior to incarceration.

Rising seas threaten Egypt's fabled port city of Alexandria

ALEXANDRIA

EGYPT'S coastal city of Alexandria, which has survived invasions, fires and earthquakes since it was founded by Alexander the Great more than 2,000 years ago, now faces a new menace in the form of climate change.

Rising sea levels threaten to inundate poorer neighborhoods and archaeological sites, prompting authorities to erect concrete barriers out at sea to break the tide. A severe storm in 2015 flooded large parts of the city, causing at least six deaths and the collapse of some two dozen homes, exposing weaknesses in the local infrastructure.

Alexandria, the country's second city, is surrounded on three sides by the Mediterranean Sea and backs up to a lake, making it uniquely susceptible to the rise in sea levels caused by global warming and the melting of the polar ice caps.

Back in the late 1940s and 1950s, it was a haven for writers and artists that drew both Egypt's well-heeled and foreign tourists for its beauty and charm. Today, more than 60 kilometers of waterfront make it a prime summer destination for Egyptians, but many of its most famous beaches already show signs of erosion.

The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has warned that global sea levels could rise by 0.28 to 0.98 meters (1-3 feet) by 2100, with "serious implications for coastal cities, deltas and low-lying states."

Experts acknowledge that regional variations in sea level rise and its effects are still not well understood. But in Alexandria, a port city home to more than 5 million people and 40% of Egypt's industrial capacity, there are already signs of change.

Egypt's Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation says the sea level rose by an average of 1.8 millimeters annually until 1993. Over the following two decades that rose to 2.1 millimeters a year, and since 2012 it has reached as high as 3.2 millimeters per year, enough to threaten building foundations.



This Aug 10, 2019 photo, shows Stanley Beach in Alexandria, Egypt, at the same site of a 1933 photograph, foreground. (AP)

The land on which Alexandria is built, along with the surrounding Nile Delta, is sinking at roughly the same rate, due in part to upstream dams that prevent the replenishment of silt and to natural gas extraction. That is expected to exacerbate the effects of the rise in sea level, with potentially catastrophic consequences.

A 2018 study predicted that up to 734 square kilometers of the Nile Delta could be inundated by 2050 and 2,660 square kilometers by the end of the century, affecting 5.7 million people.

Residents living in low-lying areas are already coping with the consequences. A 52-year-old resident of the Shatby neighborhood, who goes by Abu Randa, said he has repaired his three-story home twice since the 2015 floods.

"We know it is risky. We know that the entire area will be underwater, but we have no alternative," he said.

In the el-Max neighborhood, hundreds of people were forced to leave their homes after severe flooding in 2015. The Housing Ministry built nine

apartment blocks to house them after declaring the area unsafe.

Sayed Khalil, a 67-year-old fisherman from the neighborhood, said the homes have flooded with seawater every winter in recent years, from both the nearby shore and a canal running through the area.

"It is hard to imagine that el-Max will be here in a few decades," said Khalil. "All these houses might vanish. The area you see now will be an underwater museum."

Authorities installed sea defenses to protect the neighborhood, which is home to an oil refinery, a cement plant and tanneries, but residents say it hasn't made much of a difference.

"Every year the waves are much stronger than the previous year," Abdel-Nabi el-Sayad, a 39-year-old fisherman, said. "We did not see any improvement. They just forced people to leave."

The city's antiquities sites – those that survived its tumultuous history – are also under threat.

The Pharos Lighthouse, once among the tallest man-made structures and one of the seven wonders of

the ancient world, was toppled by an earthquake in the 14th century. The famed Alexandria Library burned to the ground when Julius Caesar set fire to an enemy fleet in 48 BC.

But the citadel of Qaitbay, a medieval fortress built on the ruins of the lighthouse at the end of a narrow peninsula jutting into the sea, still looms over the city's sprawling central harbor, just across from the modern Library of Alexandria, a research center inaugurated in 2002.

Ashour Abdel-Karim, head of Egyptian General Authority for Shores Protection, said the citadel is especially vulnerable. He said the increasingly powerful waves and currents had pushed into the foundations, forcing authorities to install a long line of concrete sea barriers visible from the built-up downtown waterfront, known as the Corniche.

The Egyptian government, which has been struggling to rebuild the economy after the unrest following the 2011 Arab Spring, has allocated more than US\$120 million for the barriers and other protective measures along the shore, Abdel-Karim said.

"Without such barriers, parts of the Corniche and buildings close to the shore would be damaged," at an estimated cost of nearly US\$25 billion, he said.

Inland sites are also at risk, including Kom el-Shouqafa, catacombs dating back to the 2nd century AD with architectural stylings inspired by ancient Egypt. It and other sites flooded in 2015.

Prophet Daniel Street downtown is considered one of the world's oldest, and today runs past a mosque, a synagogue and St Mark's Church, the seat of the Coptic Christian patriarchate.

Mohammed Mahrous, who works for a bookstore on the street, remembers when the shop was closed for a week after the 2015 flood.

"We are aware that this street, which survived for hundreds of years, could be underwater in the coming years, in our lifetime," he said. "Every year the waves are stronger than in the previous one. The winter is harsher and the summer is more sweltering."



James Kinyangi, Coordinator of climate and development Africa special Fund at the African Development Bank

African countries need to resolutely act on climate change agreements

ADDIS ABABA

AFRICAN countries have been urged to translate the agreement on climate change into concrete actions to safeguard development gains and address the needs of the poorest and the most vulnerable groups on the continent.

This came on Wednesday at the 8th edition of the Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA VIII), a special session in preparation for African inputs to the Climate Action Summit by the UN Secretary-General scheduled to take place on Sept. 23.

The conference, which is taking place at the AU headquarters in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa, looks at the progress with the Paris Agreement as a reality for Africa, and also in terms of sharing lessons to inform the UN Secretary General's Climate Action Summit.

The gathering assesses the status of the climate response, both globally and within Africa, and take stock of the different commitments and actions that African countries and different constituencies are taking to tackle climate change, with a focus on the six thematic and three focus areas of the Climate Action Summit.

Speaking at the opening of the conference James Kinyangi, Coordinator of climate and development Africa special Fund at the African Development Bank (AfDB) said Africans must be at the center of the solution and create an opportunity for the continent to be able to take care of its own problems.

Stating that the threats of climate change to the progress of economic prosperity in Africa looms ever larger, Kinyangi said the prevalence of climate related disasters have already affected 180 million across Africa, costing the continent a loss and damages of estimated at over 22 billion U.S. dollars and still counting.

"You are all aware that 53 African countries have committed to Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), identifying the need for an estimated 3.5 to 4 trillion U.S. dollars of investment by 2030," he said.

This presents an opportunity for the Bank to contribute to policies and actions that mobilize the financial resources needed to support long-term investments in resilience and Africa's transition to low carbon development, he added.

The three-day conference, from 28 to 30 Aug, is being held under the theme, "Stepping up climate action for a resilient Africa: a race we can and must win" in line with the theme of the summit, and it was jointly convened by

AU, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and the AfDB, in collaboration with Ethiopia and the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance.

In her opening remarks, Aida Opoku-Mensah, Chief of Staff at UNECA, noted that the Climate Action Summit's call to urgent and concerted global action to fight climate change is a last wake-up call to all countries to raise their game and step up climate action for multiple social, economic and environmental wins.

"We have the solutions to climate change and only need the political will to make it happen, then the intriguing question that immediately arise is why is the political will so lukewarm, and what should African countries do?" Aida said.

African countries are indeed doing so much to tackle climate change. All African countries have signed the Paris Agreement and fifty of them have already ratified with ambitious nationally determined contributions to climate actions (NDCs).

The NDCs, that include both mitigation and adaptation actions, require close to USD 3 trillion of conditional and unconditional financing to implement," she said.

She stated that the UNECA and its partners remain committed to supporting African countries to tackle climate change and turn the challenge it poses into opportunities for low-carbon resilient and inclusive development.

The AU Director for Rural Economy and Agriculture Godfrey Bahigwa, on his part reiterated that the AU Commission remains strongly committed to the global fight against climate change with the record of 50 member states that have ratified the Paris Agreement.

Fifty of our 55 member states have already ratified the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, as a sign of political commitment from our leaders in fighting climate change.

Through its committee of Africa Heads of states and governments on climate change, AU continues to provide political leadership and strategic guidance on the continent's engagement on climate issues, according to the Director.

Stating that the AU Commission is also working hard to mobilize resources and partnerships to support AU member states to domesticate and implement their national determined contributions, the Director expressed AU's interest to establish a continental reporting mechanism that will show progress that Africa is making in the implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Xinhua

'Let's walk the talk to defeat climate change'

ADDIS ABABA

AFRICAN leaders have been asked to walk the talk, and lead from the front, in order to build resilience and adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change on the continent.

This was the message conveyed by several speakers at the ongoing eighth Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA) conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

"Our first urgent action is to build the Resilience and Adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change for the most vulnerable communities across Africa," said Dr James Kinyangi, the Chief Climate Policy Officer at the African Development Bank (AfDB), as he articulated commitments by the Bank on tackling climate change.

"The time is now, to translate the (2015 Paris) agreement into concrete action, to safeguard development gains and address the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable," he told the CCDA forum which brings together policy makers, civil society, youth, private sector, academia and development partners every year to discuss climate emerging issues and to review progress ahead of the UN-FCCC Conference of Parties (COP).

"We must challenge our leaders to walk the talk, and lead from the front in the spirit of the UN Secretary General, who recently pointed out that beautiful speeches are not enough to reach the goals of the Paris Agreement," said Mithika Mwenda, the Secretary General for the Pan Africa Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) an umbrella organization of over 1000 Africa environment and climate civil society groups.

So far, 53 African countries have committed to Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to slow down the impact of climate change, identifying the need for an estimated USD 3.5 - 4 trillion of investment by 2030.

According to Kinyangi, these com-

mitments present an opportunity for the AfDB to contribute to policies and actions that mobilise the financial resources needed to support long-term investments in resilience and Africa's transition to low carbon development.

In a recently published interview, AfDB President Akinwumi Adesina said: "Africa cannot adapt to climate change through words. It can only adapt to climate change through resources."

"Africa has been shortchanged in terms of climate change because the continent accounts for only 4 percent of greenhouse gas emissions but it suffers disproportionately from the negative impacts," he declared.

He said AfDB is leading an effort to create an African Financial Alliance for climate, which will bring together financial institutions, stock exchanges, and central banks in Africa, to develop an endogenous financing model that would support Africa to adapt to climate change without depending on anybody else outside the continent.

Early this year, tropical cyclones, Idai and Kenneth ripped through five African countries - Mozambique, Malawi, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and the Comoros both within a period of one month.

Kenneth is on record as the strongest storm ever to make landfall, while Idai, is the worst ever storm in terms of loss and damages to hit the African continent, where more than 1,000 lives were lost with damage of property worth 1 billion US dollars.

"In Sudan, we have just won a democratic struggle, but we are faced by another catastrophic ecological crisis of monumental proportion, which, last week alone, killed at least 62 people and destroyed 37,000 homes," said Nisreen Eslaim, a climate activist from Sudan, referring to floods that recently swept through the city of Khartoum.

Since the threat of floods, droughts



Floods in Kenya's Turkana County, Lodwar town. Credit: Isaiah Esiptu/IPS

and heatwaves will be amplified with increasing climate variability, experts believe that the best response strategy is one that improves the resilience of economies, infrastructure, ecosystems and societies to climate variability and change.

"As much as we are trying to respond to climate related calamities, we need longer-term action for disaster risk management. Hence, a reason why we must do whatever it takes to implement the Paris Agreement," Kinyangi told IPS.

To support African countries adapt to climate change, AfDB has committed to ensuring that at least 40 percent of its project approvals are tagged as climate finance by 2020, with equal proportions for adaptation and mitigation. The bank also seeks to mainstream climate change and green growth initiatives into all investments by next year.

"As much as we will be mobilizing significantly, more new and additional climate finance, to Africa by 2020, we will keep pushing the rich coun-

tries to deliver on the pledged 100 billion dollars each year," said Kinyangi.

"As we know, our leaders' focus is slowly but surely turning to other issues dominating international diplomatic interactions such as Iran/US tiff, Brexit, Terrorism and the emerging extreme right-wing movements, which constitute a risk of increased climate scepticism," said Mwenda.

"Our only hope is unity of purpose, and the purpose which brings us here in Addis Ababa - to contribute to a process which will shape the future of humanity and health of the planet," added the PACJA boss.

According to Ambassador Josefa Sacko, the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture at the Africa Union Commission, there is need for increased ambition in the fight against climate change.

"Without ambitious and urgent global commitments to tackle climate change, the ability of most African countries to attain the Sustainable Development Goals and the ideals of Africa's Agenda 2063 remain elusive,"

BUSINESS

CONCERN

Botswana's delicate balancing act after lifting ban on hunting

GABORONE

Just after driving out of the gates of Kasane International Airport, which is less than 1km from the unfenced Chobe National Park, a group of international journalists came across the most unexpected thing - a leopard on the prowl. This was just a few hundred metres from the nearest buildings where people were, which is part of Kasane.

It was a pleasing sight for tourists, but not a good one for residents of Kasane who must always be on the alert, especially when they are walking at night - something that is highly discouraged. The real tourists' experience started early in the morning with a game drive through Chobe. It culminated in the sight of a beautiful sunrise, with birds singing various tunes from trees - marking a brand-new day in the wild.

After three hours of driving, the group went back to the hotel, having seen elephants and two seemingly exhausted lions slowly sauntering past a herd of impalas that appeared ready to flee if the beasts pounced on them. Later the same day, it was time for a boat cruise on the majestic Chobe River. Surprisingly, the water level of this part along Kasane was still satisfactorily high, compared with the northern parts of the park.

A boat full of tourists got very close to the elephants, buffaloes, hippos and other animals which had descended on the river for a drink. Then there was the other side of elephant activity that many of us had never seen before - two elephants going into the river. At some point, their bodies were completely submerged in the water. Later only the trunks could be seen as they got closer to the nearby Sedudu Island.

One of the elephants later walked past the Botswana flag flying on the island - as if it was claiming ownership of the greener part. This is just part of the African safari experience offered by Botswana in the Chobe, Central Kgalagadi and Okavango Delta, among other areas.

Wildlife neighbours

About 60km from Kasane, north of the park and west of the Ngoma border post into Namibia, there are several villages - including Muchenje, Mabele, Kachikau and Kavimbi. Transit Road cuts through Mabele into the parched skyline of the Chobe River. It serves as the fenceless border between Botswana and Namibia.

The road also takes you past the zebras and cows, through mealie fields whose fences have been destroyed by elephants that regularly invade and destroy the crops. Here you are likely to be stopped by caring villagers.

They warn visitors not to get too close to the distressed-looking hippos couching or resting in mud puddles which are closest to the much-needed water in this part of the village. Earlier this year, City Press reported that elephants were attacking villagers in the same area.

Locals faced daily invasions of their fields by the animals. People were attacked and some had been killed by the elephants in areas close to the national parks. The government news agency reported this week that, last Sunday in Maun, a 48-year-old man was killed by an elephant, while two of his relatives managed to escape.

A week earlier, a 28-year-old man was trampled to death by an elephant while on duty at a lodge in Muchenje village. While the wildlife is hugely appreciated for its economic benefits for the communities in these areas, the people are desperate to see animals kept away from them.

"I would be unemployed if it wasn't for our abundant wildlife and I do not support culling or any killing of animals, but I would rather have

them fenced in. "Animals are precious and are not really meant to share space with human beings and, unless something is done, more lives will be lost," said a safari tour guide in Kasane.

A hotel employee reiterated this. "There is drought in the park, and this is good for a safari experience because animals are easily found close to water sources, but [it is] bad for communities nearby as competition for resources escalates. Elephants go into communities to seek food and water, and nothing stops them from doing it because there are no fences," she said.

A small-scale farmer, Chibeya Longwani, said he was finally getting some sleep. He said he had recently purchased a solar-powered single electric line which runs along the fence next to his field.

"Elephants get electrocuted when they come into contact with it. Before this we had tried everything - beating drums, putting all sorts of metal sheets and other things on the fence to make a noise and scare elephants away, but they got used to all of it," Longwani said.

"We then started mixing chilli with elephant dung, added a little bit of charcoal, mixed it with used oil and burnt it at night. "The elephants moved away when the smoke hit their nostrils. "But then, elephants are clever - they would walk further and invade the crops from a different direction of the wind," he said.

"I think dogs have also become friends with elephants as they would not bark any more to alert me when they saw them at night.

"We really appreciate the jobs created by the wildlife sector but it would save lives if fences were built, boreholes drilled inside the park and a lot more done just to keep the wild animals inside the parks, where they belong."

Longwani's elderly father, Christopher, said things never used to be like this, that it had been rare for people to be attacked by elephants in the past. "We grew up around here and because of hunting, elephants played away from human beings, knowing they could be killed, but then hunting was banned," the father said. "Now they are driven out of the bush by the drought, and into our villages."

Politics of elephants
Botswana is believed to have the highest population of elephants in the world. The country has a herd of about 130 000 against its carrying capacity of about 50 000 elephants. Former president Ian Khama, a wildlife enthusiast, had banned hunting during his tenure but the ban was recently lifted by the government of his successor, Mokgweetsi Masisi. Khama has openly criticised Masisi for allowing hunting again.

Before the decision to lift the ban was implemented, one of the options considered was the culling of elephants and canning their meat as pet food. However, this week Botswana's deputy president, Slumber Tsogwane, in a Facebook post, assured the country of the "government's commitment to resolve the ongoing human-wildlife conflict."

Tsogwane said the lifting of the hunting ban, which permits controlled hunting, would help control wildlife populations and benefit communities by making them both safe and profitable. He said it was the desire of government to see communities safe and empowered.

Tsogwane heard from the community of Rakops about how "villagers were constantly being attacked by elephants and the situation was worsening." And elephants destroyed a fence at a local school. "Residents also complained about the harassment of leopards that attack livestock and people," the Facebook post said.

TRAVEL

Visa-Free Zanzibar: Tshidi learns to pole-pole

By Tshidi Madia, Johannesburg

Being a young professional in Gauteng, your personality can't help but be moulded by the demands of the rat race that comes with living in South Africa's economic hub.

So when an opportunity comes to check out, it's very difficult - but possible - as I soon found out by the laid-back island life that is Zanzibar. My trip was a short one following a manic election period in South Africa.

I boarded a Mango flight, which took around 3 hours to land in Zanzibar and returned just days after that on the airline's very first commercial trip to Lanseria airport. I think the first thing one takes in upon landing is the humidity, high temperatures along with just how tropical the island feels, this is even before the expected sights of white sandy beaches and the ocean.

To quickly focus on what everyday life on the island looks like, the people are poor; it's clear in how they dress, in the under developed roads, the state of their towns and homes as well as that of some of the buildings pointed out by tour guides as schools. Yet, there is something about their way of life, maybe it's their movement or polite approach towards one another and tourists that forces one to forget about the madness of Jozi. For me it was just fascinating to take in the lush greenery juxtaposed against what the Zanzibari see as bustling communities with numerous barbershops and clothing stores along some of the routes.

Interestingly enough it has the feel of some of South Africa's villages during the 1990's, with hints of urban life, oozing a little bit of "cool," a sign that it's not a country completely closed off from the modern way of life.

We were booked into a 5-star



Tshidi Madia at Fred Mercury's house.

resort; the Diamonds La Gemma Est, situated along Nungwi road and overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. While this is in absolute contrast with some parts of Zanzibar, it is a welcome sight. Part of the magic here was just how well situated the hotel is, every room has a majestic view of the ocean, incredible sunsets and most important, the purest blue ocean and white sandy beaches are a mere short walk from the rooms.

The hotel staffers, like everyone else I encountered were extremely polite, this, along with the humid air and views served as constant reminders that I was far from home. Even more so due to the constant Swahili exchanges of greetings such as "Mambo," "Karibu Sana," "Jambo" and "Asante Sana," which means thank you and is also one tourists are generally quick to learn, along with "Rafiki, which means friend" and the ever-popular Disney Lion King refrain of "Hakuna Matata," meaning there is no trouble.

In spite of these, the island takes on a very homely feel, very relaxed as the people have adopted a "pole" way of

life and tourists feel secure, I was very impressed hearing locals comment on how crime was not a concerning issue for them because it was not a frequent occurrence. As an outsider I have to comment on how while very poor, the island looks very clean, even where you can see abject poverty, one can't help but be impressed by how lush and beautiful it looks, and again that crystal blue water, where you can see right to the surface, not a piece of plastic or bottle in sight.

This the interior Minister Mahmoud Kombo denied during a brief interview with journalists, explaining that they have had challenges with litter, hence a decision to ban the use of plastic. I think the only time I encountered an actual plastic bag was at the airport as I was making my way back home.

The Zanzibari also take great pride in sharing stories of the island's history and their way of life, that almost every engagement with a local feels like a lesson of sorts, where I was constantly left in awe of their simple way of life.

While Zanzibar is absolutely breath-taking, it's not the place to go to for a wild night on the

town or to let your hair down, the islanders take the idea of a "slow approach" to life seriously. I had some urging me to not try too many things in one go as I would not be able to fully experience or enjoy each activity, this speaks to eating and walking, or shopping while you are racing against time.

Beyond lazing about at the beach or attempting to snorkel, the island has the famous Stonetown tours, which draw a lot of tourists because of the late iconic Queen frontman Freddy Mercury, who was born in Zanzibar.

Before getting to Mercury's home, our group touring the area started off at a spice market, lots of traders here not only battling to sell their spices but very keen to share the Zanzibar's use of spices, for instance they told me as a woman the best purchase for me there would be nutmeg and men should buy ginger as they both serve as aphrodisiacs for the different sexes. I remember buying many different coffee blends and looking for their tasty rice grains, (they have the best rice I have ever tasted).

The tour, which easily takes up to 2 hours or the whole day depending on how much time one spends at the different stops celebrates the strange function of this ancient town, which some have converted into living space.

There are also great stories behind the island's beautiful hand carved doors, massive wooden doors with intricate artwork are part of the story of the island, with most of them dating to the slave era.

The old Anglican cathedral, for me was a difficult stop, it once served as a slave market and the island has taken care to retain and display as many details of that era as possible. It is also interesting that in Zanzibar has gone on to become a mix of Muslims and Christians, who carry no grudges or pain from their past and the role some in the Arab community

previously played during the slave era, with some including the tourism and information minister saying the Zanzibari were more interesting in forging ahead and growing their nation from that perspective.

While I spotted people selling chicken in the market area of Stonetown, it is the fish market that is popular, where fresh fish straight from the ocean is processed and sold there. Fish is incredibly central to their way of life, one evening I had a seven-course meal and everything except the dessert had a sea food element.

Going back to an earlier comment I made on the Mercury house, which I was so excited about, only to find the whole experience of visiting his home underwhelming. This, the home of the great lead of rock and roll band Queen had not been honoured nearly enough; it's merely a door and a few pictures of him along some of the windows. I wondered what I expected since I felt so let down, only to realise part of the reason was, based on what the minister had to say a night before I went to explore Stonetown.

Khombo almost took the silent diplomacy route, South Africa's Thabo Mbeki, then president applied to Zimbabwe when its former President Robert Mugabe was clamping down on his people's freedom and their economy had completely collapsed.

Even mentioning Mercury's name felt like a difficult mission for the minister. I can only assume the silence and quiet approach is linked to what Mercury has represented as a proudly gay man and how he died.

Leaving Zanzibar, I quickly realised I miss the think humid air, I miss the incredibly friendly people of the island and its most important lesson, "Pole Sana" slowly slowly... as I fight to keep the Zanzibari spirit within me as I dive back into manic Gauteng in South Africa.



Clients listen to fitness instructors at Dojo Wellness Club in Karen.

CREATIVITY

New gym brings the outdoors in

NAIROBI

Dojo is a Japanese word for a place to find your way. It is also where a person goes to practice martial arts, judo and meditation. It is also where 33-year-old Stella Deane and her partner Stuart Herd got their tagline for their gym in Nairobi's Karen area.

Six weeks ago, they opened Dojo, a lifestyle and wellness club that "helps one find their way to wellness." They have employed 12 coaches, five yoga teachers and an additional 15 workers.

"Stuart and I wanted a space where people can create a

happy and healthy lifestyle, and enjoy themselves at the same time. We wanted people to have a choice of working out indoors or outdoors at any time of the day. This club has five separate workout areas; the outside, callisthenics, combat, yoga and endurance," she says.

The outside is for natural, primal and parkour movement that all go back to how the body naturally moves. It may sound basic, but many people currently have forgotten how to move properly. These exercises incorporate a lot of mobility.

There is the fundamental class, which is for beginners, an

advanced one and for children as well. The gym is aesthetically built to allow one to move through the environment in different ways like jumping, swinging, hopping and running.

They also offer the high interval training, also known as the classic HIT, battle ropes, sledges and tyres while incorporating the obstacle movement. The indoor functional area, which includes callisthenics, combat, yoga and endurance, has a modern and natural feel to it.

"We have utilised a lot of glass so as to be able to bring the outdoors into the studio,"

she says. Callisthenics is a retro style of exercise that has been around for hundreds of years. It has less chances of injury and a much more natural style of workout.

It is built on body weight exercises and suspension training, meaning one relies on their own body for toning and muscle building. The combat area is for boxing exercises and martial arts. The free-weights are found here too.

"The last thing we want is people to stare at screens after a long day of work. We are not confined to anything digital. It also brings in the community and social aspect, where clients

get to meet new workout partners instead of wearing earphones and being on a treadmill the entire time," she says.

The mobility class includes Pilates, yoga and dance classes. The endurance room is where professional trainers who were part of the Kenya Riders teach indoor cycling. "The energy is amazing when all the classes are filled. It is inspiring for people to see others doing different types of workouts," Stella says. Aside from the training, Dojo has a smoothie bar, with mostly organic and natural foods. "A lot of the greens come from our garden. It's all vegan and sugar free," she says.

TREND

Keroche boss has always had beer, woes brewing in one pot

NAIROBI

For years, Tabitha Karanja's name has been associated with success in the entrepreneurship arena. Hers is a story of taking the risk and holding her own in a world dominated by multinational companies. Mrs Karanja built a business empire – Keroche Industries – which has been a major player for over 12 years in Kenya's drinks industry.

She was awarded the Moran of the Burning Spear (MBS) commendation by former president Mwai Kibaki for her efforts in the liquor industry, ranked the second woman to watch in 2013 by Ventures Africa Magazine, rated among the top 10 iconic women in Africa, won Global Inspirational Women Leadership award, admitted to 100 Global Women Leaders Hall of Fame, among others. Yet she has admitted time and time again, that her journey has not been easy citing gender stereotypes, refusal by banks to grant her loans and political interference.

Just last week the business mogul was arrested at her company in Naivasha after Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) Noordin Haji declared that she had not paid taxes amounting to Sh14 billion to the Kenya Revenue Authority. The chief executive has vehemently denied the claims and said the company, which has been in the market for close to 13 years, has been one of Kenya's largest taxpayers.

"From June 2015 to June 2019, our total turnover of Sh18.5 billion yielded a tax



Keroche Breweries chief executive officer Tabitha Karanja, speaks during the listing of Deacons Kenya limited at the bourse.

remittance of Sh7.2 billion. Basically, 40 percent of what Keroche produces goes to tax," she said in a newspaper advertisement. The advertisement declared that the company owns a 1.1 million hectolitre, state of the art brewing facility valued at Sh8.5 billion that employs 850 people directly and thousands others indirectly.

Mrs Karanja told CNN Business: "People thought it was not possible to break the monopoly of the existing company that was there, because it has been there for 80 years," Mrs

Karanja was born near Kijabe, in Central Kenya. After completing her studies at Bahati Girls Secondary School, she was employed in the Ministry of Tourism as an accounting clerk.

She later married Joseph Karanja who owned a hardware store in Naivasha town. They both ventured into the wine business and later decided to abandon the hardware shop and focus their energies and resources to the wine business.

By 1997, the couple was already making fortified wine affordable

to the lower class. The business blossomed until ten years later when the government enacted heavy taxes on locally made wines. The product that their company was making was priced out of the market. In a past interview, Ms Karanja admitted that the closure affected her but she rose from the ashes and armed with determination, she ventured into ready-to-drink gin and vodka.

A year later, she tried her hand at beer-making, launching Summit Lager as the first product by the company. Five years later, her factory

began expansion plans to increase beer production by ten percent to produce 600,000 bottles daily. In 2003, more than ten Keroche Industries depots in Central Kenya were raided by the provincial administration in a crackdown on alcohol-producing companies.

In a newspaper opinion piece, Mrs Karanja said although the crackdown initially attracted public goodwill, the ensuing confusion resulted in the destruction of legitimate businesses, property and loss of trust in government agencies to govern with a measure of regularity and predictability. She, however, advised the government to regulate the alcohol industry because "it has been in a mess."

"The benefits of regulation cannot be over-emphasized. It will enhance provision of quality products, level the playing field for all businesses, create more professional jobs, support innovation and remit more revenue to the government. We must do this to restore order and discipline in the industry and be respected worldwide," she wrote. Even after the raid, the brewer continued to churn out new products for the Kenyan market.

Early this month, Mrs Karanja introduced KB Lager, whose introductory price stands at Sh120 per bottle. The product adds to a list that includes Summit lager, Summit Malt, Valley Wines, Sauvignon Blanc, Pinotage, Chenin Blanc, Crescent Whisky, Crescent Gin, Crescent Vodka and Viena Ice.

Mrs Karanja is also the brain behind Keroche Foundation, whose role ranges from mentorship and guidance of young entrepreneurs. Mrs Karanja and her husband are currently out on a Sh10 million and Sh2 million bail respectively after pleading not guilty to charges of tax evasion. Their case will be mentioned on September 2 and a pre-trial hearing set for September 24.

WARNING

Nigeria's surging food prices may rise even faster on ban of dollars

LAGOS

Nigeria's plan to spend less on food by restricting access to dollars for importers could have the opposite effect by threatening food supplies and pushing up prices.

President Muhammadu Buhari ordered the central bank on August 13 to stop dollar supply for food imports, saying food security has been achieved and agricultural production has increased. That came after Governor Godwin Emefiele said in July the central bank plans to cut off dairy importers' access to foreign exchange in a bid to bolster domestic milk output.

The food price index in Africa's largest oil producer has risen almost 80% since the start of 2015, pushing inflation above the central bank's target and putting pressure on households' finances in a country where about 60% of consumption spending goes to food.

"Many of us are agitated by this food import ban," said Abofede Ogunbemi, who sells imported rice, wheat and other food items in Nigeria's capital, Abuja. "Food will become scarce and very expensive."

The central bank already restricts access to dollars for the import of 40 kinds of items from cement to soap. In June, the Lagos-based Punch newspaper reported that Buhari instructed the central bank to blacklist companies or individuals caught illegally importing palm oil or other prohibited goods, such as poultry.

Nigeria spent about \$1 billion importing food and live animals in the three months to March, according to the statistics agency. Domestic food-supply chains have been disrupted by a decade-long Islamist insurgency in the northeast region. Clashes between herdsmen and farmers have also decimated communities, destroyed crops, killed cattle and forced producers to flee to protective camps in Nigeria's northern and central regions.

"Many families have abandoned their farms and the crops on them have either been stolen, destroyed by war or abandoned," said Henry Kam Kah, a senior history lecturer at the University of Beau in the Southwest region of Cameroon.

Food smuggling

Still, Buhari and Emefiele insist Nigeria can produce all the food it needs, and the dollar ban will help with that. That's even as large quantities of rice and other goods are being smuggled into the country, according to the president.

The restriction is "certainly counterproductive," said Nonso Obikili, director of the Abuja-based Turgot Centre for Economic Policy Research. "Nigeria currently does not grow many of the key food products we consume and such a restriction will likely have the dual effect of higher food prices and increased smuggling."

The United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization last year said Nigeria is one of 37 countries in need of external food assistance. "We can't produce enough food," said Suleiman Adulaziz, a wheat grower in Born state in the northern region. "Banning food imports without supporting farmers and creating an enabling environment to produce food on a large scale is condemning Nigerians to hunger."

JOINT VENTURE

Rwanda, Germany in partnership to promote wine industry

KIGALI

Rwanda and the Rhineland-Palatinate have committed to promoting cooperation in agriculture mainly in technology-driven farming, and sustainable winegrowing – the cultivation and harvesting of grapes, officials have said.

The development will be achieved thanks to the joint Letter of Intent on deepening cooperation in the field of agriculture between Rwanda and the German State of Rhineland-Palatinate. It was signed in Kigali on Wednesday by the Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Dr. Gerardine Mukeshimana and the Minister of Economic Affairs, Transport, Agriculture and Viticulture of the Rhineland Palatinate, Dr. Volker Wissing.

In addition, the two countries seek to enhance cooperative management, as well as enable visits between Rwandan and Rhineland-Palatinate cooperatives in a bid to help them learn from each other. According to officials, both sides strive to work together more closely in the development of suitable technologies and know-how transfer to farmers to increase farm productivity.

Minister Mukeshimana, commended the new move observing that Rwanda will learn a lot from the Rhineland Palatinate since they are highly



Gerardine Mukeshimana, Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources in Rwanda, and Volker Wissing, Minister of Economic Affairs, Transport, Agriculture and Viticulture of the Rhineland Palatinate, shake hands after signing the agreement in Kigali on Wednesday.

experienced in smart farming, winegrowing, and cooperative management. She said that the grapes were a high-value crop that Rwandans generally do not grow and only a few people such as Sina Gérard, the owner of Enterprise Urwibutso, an agro-processing firm in Rulindo District, and Theogene

Ntampaka, a farmer in Huye District have been growing the crop.

"Rwandans eat grapes and drink wines, but almost all of them are imported. We realize that the market is available and Rwandans like them. There are trials that were carried out and showed that the crop can grow here," Mukeshimana

said.

"Many young people in Rwanda Youth in Agribusiness Forum are venturing into winemaking; so it's important that we start thinking about how we provide them with what is needed for winemaking," Mukeshimana said.

Minister Wissing said they have a lot of experience

that can be shared with Rwandans to develop the country's agriculture sector. "The most important thing is to bring people together, connect your authorities but also connect the scientific sector and then identify concrete projects. After that, we shall look at how to finance viable projects," he said.

Viticulture - winegrowing aspect

In winegrowing, the proposed areas of collaboration include conducting comprehensive feasibility studies, to identify and characterize suitable geographical regions and sites for grapevine cultivation in Rwanda; analyze and eventually propose a cultivation scheme including suitable grape varieties.

Other activities are to ascertain domestic and international markets for wine, table grapes, grape juice, and dried grapes produced in Rwanda, and to identify possible further obstacles and, to develop approaches to overcome these hindrances.

Smart farming

Regarding smart agriculture, Wissing said, they will support in capacity building and data management for precision agriculture, especially in climate services for agriculture. This component will include identifying and sharing effective tools and methods to communicate digitization opportunities to farmers, especially in small and medium-sized farms.

Finally, it will support MINAGRI projects on a Smart Agricultural Information System (SAIS) and other technologies, such as blockchain, which integrate agricultural data management and analysis in one unit.

PATIENCE

Refugee wins lottery jackpot, but keeps it a secret for 10 months

EDMONTON

A Vietnamese refugee who played the same lottery numbers since resettling in Canada 36 years ago won a Can\$60 million jackpot, but kept it secret for 10 months. Bon Truong, 55, finally claimed his prize on Wednesday in Edmonton, Alberta.

"I started to think about what this win would mean for my family," he told a press conference. "I realized it's going to change a lot of things and I wanted to make sure we were all ready and prepared for those changes." So he signed his name and phone number on the ticket and put it in a safe.

Truong told reporters he now planned to use his win-

nings to pay off his mortgage, take a family vacation and then continue working as a gardener. He also quipped that he did not intend to reveal his newfound fortune to his children because he wanted them to still work hard. "Coming here with nothing, nothing, after the Vietnam war, he worked," his niece Mina Truong said. "That's all they did, work, save money to buy a house ... have a better life for their children, play the lottery, and finally after 30 years it pays off. You're just really happy for them." Truong purchased the ticket at a local casino, picking a number combination of important dates and family birthdays.

ADORABLE

London's delightfully tacky cycle rickshaws lately stirring up debate

LONDON

There's a row of colourful cycle rickshaws parked on the pavement. Some are festooned with fur, a few gaudily glittering with tacked-on tinsel and tassels, while others are jarringly bare or make do with a simple splash of colour in a vain attempt to stand out among a visual assault of inharmonious shapes and hues. One of them almost manages it, thanks to a classical four-seater carriage in either an Asian or Ottoman style - they're frankly interchangeable in this scenario.

But where is this veritable feast of Instagrammable street exotica? The centre of Delhi? Or the backstreets of Bangkok? Nope. We're in the West End of London. On Oxford Street, actually, right in front of Selfridges department store.

Cycle rickshaws, also known as bike taxis or pedicabs, have been operating in central London for more than 15 years. In the last few years or so, they have evolved from being basic tricycles with extra seating to rolling works of questionable art akin to Filipino jeepneys (but not quite that impressive), complete with glowing or flickering lights and music systems that will put your Maybach to shame when it comes to vehicle wattage.

It turns out that a large proportion of paying passengers are Arab visitors to the British capital. That is why you see many of the pedicabs flying flags from the region, decorated with Arabic inscriptions and blaring Middle Eastern music. All of this seems incongruous in a city some would have you believe is under siege by the demons of terrorism and race hate.

There are estimated to



The designs of London's bike taxis go from outrageously gaudy to bare and functional.

be up to 1,400 bike taxis in the city, according to Transport for London, but contrary to what many tourists believe, they are not licensed or regulated - which means they can be dangerous (police data shows 67 personal injury collisions, six resulting in serious injury, over the

past 13 years).

They are legal, however, thanks to a quirk in the law, and operate as "Stage Carriers" as per the Metropolitan Public Carriage Act of 1869. And while the mayor's office does concede that "many tourists do opt to use them as they are a great way to see Central

London", Mayor Sadiq Khan has asked the government to regulate pedicabs.

For now, anyone can buy and run one. They can cost anywhere between £500 for used examples to £8,000 for new, electrically assisted versions. Driver Sultan Selim, 38,

is on his sixth bike taxi, which he bought about five months ago. Customising it and adding an electric drive motor and a stereo system saw his investment rise to about £7,000.

He earns as much as £1,000 a week during the summer season - although that can drop to as low as £200 or even less during the cold winter. The Turkish former electrical engineer has been doing this for nearly nine years. He's a big guy with a big personality and is usually found near Bond Street station. He says he loves this job because "I'm the boss of myself."

Selim is the sort of rickshaw driver you want, as he loves to entertain his passengers. "I ask them what kind of music they like," he says. "Do they want a love song or dance music? If dance, then I will dance all the way, and they do, too. They are happy, I'm happy and I love it!" Melihcan Vuraler, 26, also from Turkey, is more pragmatic. "What do I like about this job? The money."

Unsurprisingly, he's a bit of an entrepreneur and owns three pedicabs, two of which he rents out. His own is lined with thick red fur and has a disco ball in the back. "That's the only thing that was there before," he says.

"I customised all the rest of it and even widened the seat by 30cm." His bright red rickshaw is very popular and unlike his compatriot, Vuraler earns well even in winter. "It's the best time for me because of the Christmas lights and Winter Wonderland in Hyde Park."

But how much does - or should - a ride cost? A TFL spokesman says there have "been reports of passengers, often tourists, being charged exorbitantly high fares. A number of these incidents have made media headlines and videos have been posted online." Steve McNamara, general secretary of the Licensed Taxi Drivers' Association, is harsher with his words: "These rip-off rickshaws do London a disservice, fleecing tourists and causing traffic chaos."

PROGRESS

From aviation to aluminium, working Emirati women are proving their mettle

ABU DHABI

As the UAE marks Emirati Women's Day, female business leaders say they are able to thrive in notoriously male-dominated industries, defying stereotypes and striving to balance traditional roles with career building.

Emirati women are making their mark in the private sector, earning top roles in fields ranging from finance to aerospace manufacturing. This is thanks to the government's Emiratisation plan, a shift away from perceptions of the public sector being more rewarding and a national plan for gender balance in the workplace.

However, local women believe they have more to offer companies beyond meeting their Emiratisation quota. "I feel we've come a long way as Emirati women in the UAE," Mariam Al Qubaisi, sustainability manager at Etihad Airways, told The National. "Some organisations, like some sort of corporate social responsibility, meet government requirements and tick the box, but in Etihad it's different. They hire people worthy of the role; it's not just meeting a quota."

Women in the UAE make up 70 per cent of the country's university graduates, 46.6 per cent of the workforce and 10 per cent of private sector companies' leadership, according to statistics from the Ministry of Finance. The UAE ranked highest in terms of gender equality among Arabian Gulf countries, according to the 2018 UN Human Development Report. There were significant increases in the

number of women in the workforce and more women than men continuing higher education.

Women currently fill more than half the positions in government entities, compared with 2 per cent in 1975. The UAE's Central Bank said women are playing increasingly important roles in the workforce and specifically the financial sector as they take leadership roles in banks and start their own businesses.

"Emirati women are helping to build a better and brighter future for the country," said Mubarak Al Mansoori, governor of the Central Bank of the UAE. They are "breaking down the barriers of what it means to be a strong and influential Emirati woman in today's working world", he said.

The Central Bank employs more than 130 Emirati women, 18 of whom occupy managerial positions while three are in senior leadership roles. Emirati women account for about 75.3 per cent of UAE citizens working in the financial sector, according to the Central Bank. This is almost 20 per cent higher than the average number of Emirati women who work in the public sector. Local female investors are also active in the UAE capital markets, making up 51 per cent of all Emirati investors on the Abu Dhabi stock exchange.

In the energy sector, Abu Dhabi National Oil Company recently appointed its first two Emirati female chief executives. "Gender balance is a business case," said Tayba Al Hashemi, chief execu-

tive of Al Yasat Petroleum, a subsidiary of Adnoc. "Many studies show that companies with more balanced percentages of women achieve the best performance and financial results."

Working Emirati women said the future of the workplace in the UAE can accommodate them better with more flexible work practices as they try to balance career ambitions with the responsibility of motherhood.

"The solutions here are two-fold - at home, in working with our families to secure support of all members in bringing up our children, and secondly through flexible working practices," Ms Al Hashemi said.

Nouf Al Obaid, an Emirati associate manager at Emirates Global Aluminium's Al Taweelah refinery, began a decade ago as a graduate trainee and now oversees an all-female team of engineers. She sees herself as evidence of the opportunities available to Emirati women in non-traditional fields.

"The dynamic life in this industry is not restricted to the office. You get to go out and mix with nationalities and get experiences. You can learn as much as you want," she said. "I don't settle for easy, I like challenges. I don't like to settle for routine jobs."

Alyazia Ali Al Kuwaiti, executive director of upstream and integrated investments of petroleum and petrochemical at Mubadala Investment Company, said the UAE has championed female empowerment through strategies of inclusion and diversity.



ITV PGM SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 31 Aug

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto wetu
10:00	Mjue Zaidi rpt
11:00	Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:45	Usafiri wako
12:30	Series rpt: Iris
13:45	Igizo rpt: Kivuko
14:15	Igizo rpt: Ahadi
14:45	Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
15:00	Igizo rpt: Kimya Milele
15:30	Igizo: Mtego rpt
16:00	Mr Tanzania
17:00	Shamsham za Pwani
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Mapishi
18:30	Igizo: Ahadi
19:00	Sanaa na wasanii
19:30	Jungu Kuu
20:00	Habari
21:00	Igizo: Kimya Milele
21:30	Kesho Leo
22:00	Kipindi maalum: Insta Moja
22:15	Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:00	Isidingo rpt
01:30	CNN International

SUNDAY 01 Sept

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto Wetu
10:00	Isidingo
11:45	Albu Yako
11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt
12:50	Bongo Movie rpt: Hazard
14:00	Tamasha la Michezo
15:00	Mwangaza
16:00	Mr Tanzania
16:45	Igizo: Ahadi
17:00	Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Mapishi
18:30	Mizengwe rpt
18:45	Matukio ya wiki
19:30	Igizo: Mtego
20:00	Habari
21:05	Biko
21:10	Mizengwe
21:30	Mjue Zaidi
22:15	Bongo Movie: Mrembo Kikojozi
00:30	Series rpt: Iris

MONDAY 02 Sept

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Isidingo
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:30	Igizo: Ahadi
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	Kimya Milele
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Jungu kuu rpt
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Mjue Zaidi

TUESDAY 03 Sept

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Isidingo
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:30	Shamsham za pwani
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	Shamsham za pwani
11:25	Igizo: Mtego
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Afya ya jamii rpt
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Uchumi na biashara
13:30	Kipindi Maalum: Tafakari rpt
13:50	Habari za saa
14:00	Series rpt: The Slingshot
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza Huru
16:30	Watoto wetu
17:00	The Base
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Korean Drama: The Great queen Seonduk
18:55	Jarida la wanawake
19:25	Kipindi Maalum: Innovex
19:30	Isidingo
20:00	Habari
21:00	Tanzania yetu
21:30	St Patrick School
21:35	Chetu ni chetu
22:15	Series: The Slingshot
23:00	Habari
23:30	The Base
00:30	CNN International

WEDNESDAY 04 Sept

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Isidingo
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:30	Hawavumi lakini wamo
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	Hawavumi lakini wamo
11:30	Usafiri wako
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco
12:55	Habari za saa

THURSDAY 05 Sept

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Isidingo
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:30	Igizo: Kivuko
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	Igizo: Kivuko
11:15	Kipindi maalum rpt: Uongozi
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Igizo: Ahadi
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Sanaa na wasanii
13:30	Tanzania yetu
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Mr Tanzania Rpt
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza Huru
16:30	Watoto Wetu
17:00	The Base
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Mapishi
18:30	Jagina
19:00	Usafiri wako
19:30	Isidingo
20:00	Habari
21:00	Kumekucha Michezo
23:00	Habari
23:30	The Base
00:30	CNN International

FRIDAY 06 Sept

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Isidingo
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu
10:30	Hawavumi lakini wamo
10:55	Habari za saa
11:00	Hawavumi lakini wamo
11:30	Usafiri wako
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera
12:30	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco
12:55	Habari za saa

SATURDAY 07 Sept

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto wetu
10:00	Mjue Zaidi rpt
11:00	Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:45	Usafiri wako
12:30	Series rpt: The Slingshot
13:45	Igizo rpt: Kivuko
14:15	Igizo rpt: Ahadi
14:45	Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
15:00	Igizo rpt: Kimya Milele
15:30	Igizo: Mtego rpt
16:00	Mr Tanzania
17:00	Shamsham za Pwani
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Mapishi
18:30	Igizo: Ahadi
19:00	Sanaa na wasanii
19:30	Jungu Kuu
20:00	Habari
21:00	Igizo: Kimya Milele
21:30	Kesho Leo
22:00	Kipindi maalum: Insta Moja
22:15	Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:00	Isidingo rpt
01:30	CNN International

SUNDAY 08 Sept

5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto Wetu
10:00	Isidingo
11:45	Albu Yako
11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt
12:50	Bongo Movie rpt: Mrembo Kikojozi
14:00	Tamasha la Michezo
15:00	Mwangaza
16:00	Mr Tanzania
16:45	Igizo: Ahadi
17:30	Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Mapishi
18:30	Mizengwe rpt
18:45	Matukio ya wiki
19:30	Igizo: Mtego
20:00	Habari
21:05	Biko
21:10	Mizengwe
21:30	Mjue Zaidi
22:15	Bongo Movie: Too Much

00:30 Series rpt: The Slingshot

CAPITAL

Sat 31 Aug

08:00	CNN International
09:00	Drive It rpt
09:30	Turning the Spotlight rpt
10:00	Culinary delight rpt
10:30	Innovation rpt
11:00	Out n'about rpt
11:30	Sports Gazette rpt
12:00	Usafiri wako rpt
12:30	Eco@Africa rpt
13:00	Business edition rpt
13:30	Korean Drama rpt: Emperor of the sea
14:30	Telenovela rpt: The land of wind
17:15	Tanzania Yetu rpt
17:45	Bundesliga kick off
18:15	Capchat rpt
19:15	Mizengwe
19:30	The Decor
20:00	Iron Chef
21:00	Out n' About
21:30	Movie: A lobster tale
23:00	Stars & Scars rpt
01:00	Al Jazeera

Sun 01 Sept

08:00	CNN International
09:00	In good shape
10:00	Capchat rpt
11:00	Sports Gazette rpt
11:30	Iron chef rpt
12:00	Jagina rpt
12:30	Bundesliga Kick Off rpt
13:00	Series rpt: Grapes of wine
15:15	Albu yako
15:30	Drive it rpt
16:00	Dakika 45 rpt
16:45	Mizengwe rpt
17:00	The Decor rpt
17:30	Meza huru
19:00	Turning the Spotlight rpt
19:30	Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights
20:00	Korean Drama rpt: Emperor of the sea
21:00	Shift
21:15	Capchat live
22:15	Series rpt: The land of wind
00:00	Al Jazeera

Mon 02 Sept

06:00	Al Jazeera
08:00	CNN International News
09:00	Al Jazeera
10:00	Kumekucha
10:30	Kumekucha Michezo
11:30	Kumekucha Kishindo
12:00	Turning the spotlight rpt
12:30	Drive it rpt
13:00	Series rpt
13:45	Series rpt: The land of wind
14:30	Usafiri wako rpt
15:00	Cookery rpt: Culinary Delight
15:30	Tanzania Yetu rpt
16:00	CNN International
17:00	Eco@Africa rpt
17:30	Meza huru
19:00	The Decor rpt
19:30	Shamba lulu
20:00	Series: Grapes of Justice
20:45	The Monday Agenda
21:30	Capital Prime News



Nouf Al Afeefi, air traffic control supervisor, at work at the Sheikh Zayed Air Navigation Centre in Abu Dhabi.

WORLD

Pakistan will respond if India attacks, says PM

ISLAMABAD

PAKISTAN'S prime minister said yesterday he had warned the international community that India could launch an attack on Pakistani-held Kashmir in an effort to divert the attention from human rights abuses in its portion of the disputed Himalayan region.

In a speech at a rally in Islamabad, Imran Khan said his country will give a "befitting response" to the government of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi if it attacked.

"Every brick will be countered with a stone," he said. "Our armed forces are ready" to respond to any such attack, he said.

Khan said any conflict between nuclear-armed Pakistan and India will not be confined to the South Asian region. "The whole world will be affected" because of it, he said, adding

that he will raise the issue when he addresses the UN General Assembly next month.

Khan said that people in Indian-administered Kashmir were living under curfew for almost four weeks since New Delhi downgraded Kashmir's autonomy on Aug 5 and imposed a security clampdown to prevent any violence.

Khan assured his government's full support to Kashmiri people and said he hoped that Indian-administered Kashmir will soon get independence.

He described Modi as a "fascist" and equated him with Adolf Hitler, saying he feared a "genocide of Muslims in Kashmir." He said Modi had played his "last card" by downgrading the special status of Kashmir.

India on Thursday said it has information that Pakistan is trying to infiltrate "terrorists" into the country. Pakistan's army spokesman Maj Gen



Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan addresses a Kashmir rally at the Prime Minister office in Islamabad, Pakistan, yesterday. AP

Ghafoor rejected the Indian claims, saying Pakistan was a responsible state and "we would be insane to allow infiltration" across the Line of Control.

Friday's rallies were held in almost all cities, towns and villages in Pakistan and Pakistani-controlled Kashmir to express solidarity with Kashmiris in the Indian-held portion.

The rallies came a day after Pakistan's military announced that it successfully test-fired a missile capable of carrying nuclear warheads up to 290 kilometers. The two neighbors have fought two of their three wars over the Himalayan region since they gained independence from British colonial rule in 1947.

They went close to the war again in February, when a suicide bombing in Indian-administered

Kashmir killed 40 paramilitary soldiers. India responded by bombing an alleged militant training camp in Pakistan. Pakistan then claimed it shot down two Indian air force planes and captured an Indian pilot who was later released.

India often accuses Pakistan of training and arming insurgent groups that have been fighting since 1989 for Kashmir's independence from India or its merger with Pakistan, a charge Islamabad denies.

Pakistan says it only provides moral and diplomatic support to these groups.

Most Kashmiris support the rebels' demand that the territory be united either under Pakistani rule or as an independent country, while also participating in civilian street protests against Indian control.

Agencies

Mexico's new drug war may be worse than old one

COATZACOALCOS

MEXICO'S drug war appears to be back – and it may be worse this time around than in the bloody years of the government's 2006-2012 offensive against drug cartels.

Back then, the worst of the violence was confined to a few cities. Now it is spread out throughout the country. Once it was not uncommon for gangs to kill adults but leave children unharmed. Now, the killing of children alongside their parents has become all too frequent.

Perhaps the most disconcerting change: Bloody cartel violence outraged Mexicans and captured international attention for the drug war, which saw 27,000 homicides during its peak in 2011.

Today, even though the number of Mexico's homicides soared to near 35,000 last year, the bloodshed seems to draw less attention and indignation.

It has all left many Mexicans wondering which way to turn.

That was evident this week in Coatzacoalcos, an oil industry city in the Gulf coast state of Veracruz where residents say gangs have been fighting over turf and extorting business owners with

threats of violence. Late on Tuesday, suspected members of the Jalisco cartel showed up at the Caballo Blanco nightclub, blocked its exits and set a fire that killed 28 people trapped inside, apparently because the owner had either refused to make extortion payments or sold drugs from another gang.

Vanessa Galindo Blas lost her common-law husband, Erick Hernandez Enriquez, to the blaze. Both were natives of Coatzacoalcos, but had been discussing moving away.

"We had talked about leaving here for somewhere safer, so our kids could have a better future," Galindo Blas said Thursday as she stretched her hands out over Erick's bare metal coffin. On it rested a photo of him wearing an "I Love Coatzacoalcos" T-shirt.

But they could never agree on a place to move, in part because violence is now a problem across much of Mexico, so no place is really safe.

From 2006 to 2012, much of the drug war killing occurred in a string of northern Mexico cities – Ciudad Juarez, Tijuana, Culiacan, Reynosa and Nuevo Laredo. "Now it is more dispersed, and that also makes it harder to control," said

Alejandro Hope, a security analyst in Mexico.

But counting down all the similarities – deadly arson attacks, bodies left piled in heaps or hung from overpasses, massacres at parties, beheading videos posted on social media – the parallels between now and then are all too clear. "It's like deja vu all over again," said Hope.

Another disturbing trend is that young children are being gunned down by killers targeting adults. The Sinaloa and Juarez cartels once prided themselves on their targeted killings, which riddled intended targets with bullets while leaving family members untouched.

Now, children are being killed with chilling frequency. In June, a young boy was killed along with his father in Sonora state. In July, a 10-year-old was killed during a robbery in Puebla state. In August, gunmen burst into a home in Ciudad Juarez and fired 123 bullets that killed three girls, aged 14, 13 and 4, along with an adult male who apparently was the real target.

Two years ago, Coatzacoalcos made headlines across Mexico when a man, his wife and three

young children were gunned down by a drug cartel. In contrast, the shooting of the three Ciudad Juarez girls drew less attention.

"It seems like we are becoming accustomed to this, to people killing children. I don't want to become accustomed to that," said Lenit Enriquez Orozco, an activist in Coatzacoalcos.

Her brother, Jonith Enriquez Orozco, has been missing since he was abducted on Sept 25, 2015. There has been no trace of him since, even though her group, the Mothers' Collective of Searchers, has hunted for traces in clandestine burial grounds across Veracruz.

Hope notes Mexico has a lamentable record in investigating and prosecuting killings – over 90 percent of crime go unpunished.

"The risk involved in killing a man, or killing his whole family, is the same," the analyst said. Under that logic, wiping out an entire family "has its advantages. It is more intimidating, it is easier to carry out, and it makes escaping easier." The relentless violence has numbed many people.

In 2010, gunmen burst into a party of high school students in Ciudad Juarez's Villas de Salvarcar

neighborhood, killing 15 in what appeared to have been a case of mistaken identity. The bloodbath provoked large, angry street protests and a visit by an apologetic President Felipe Calderon.

This year, in April, gunmen burst into a party in Minatitlan, near Coatzacoalcos, and killed 14 people. Days later, a few dozen people held a subdued peace march.

"It's politics as usual, nothing happened. This should generate generalized indignation," against cartels and government leaders alike, Hope said.

He attributes the muted response to new President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador's high approval ratings, topping 70% in some polls nine months into his term. Such ratings "tend to intimidate expressions of indignation," Hope said.

Many Mexicans also are willing to give Lopez Obrador the benefit of the doubt as even the president acknowledges that violent crime is the most serious challenge he faces. Lopez Obrador insists his go-slow policies of reducing youth unemployment will eventually solve the root causes of the problem better than declaring another frontal offensive against drug cartels.

Hurricane Dorian: Florida preps for an 'absolute monster'

MIAMI

Unsure where Hurricane Dorian is going to land over Labor Day weekend, many Florida residents faced a sense of helplessness as they prepared for what President Donald Trump said could be an "absolute monster" of a storm.

"All indications are it's going to hit very hard and it's going to be very big," Trump said in a video he tweeted Thursday evening, comparing Dorian to Hurricane Andrew, which devastated South Florida in 1992.

The National Hurricane Center said the Category 2 storm is expected to strengthen into a potentially catastrophic Category 4 with winds of 209 kph and slam into the US on Monday somewhere between the Florida Keys and southern Georgia – a 805-kilometer stretch that reflected the high degree of uncertainty this far out.

"If it makes landfall as a Category 3 or 4 hurricane, that's a big deal," said University of Miami hurricane researcher Brian McNoldy. "A lot of people are going to be affected. A lot of insurance claims."

With the storm's track still unclear, no immediate mass evacuations were ordered. Along Florida's east coast, local governments began distributing sandbags, shoppers rushed to stock up on food, plywood and other

emergency supplies at supermarkets and hardware stores, and motorists topped off their tanks and filled gasoline cans. Some fuel shortages were reported in the Cape Canaveral area.

Josefine Larrauri, a retired translator, went to a Publix supermarket in Miami only to find empty shelves in the water section.

"I feel helpless because the whole coast is threatened," she said. "What's the use of going all the way to Georgia if it can land there?"

In Vero Beach, about 225 kilometers up the coast from Miami, Lauren Harvey, 51, scoured the aisles of a nearby supermarket in search for non-perishable food items that could last her throughout the storm.

Harvey, who works in medical billing, is going through a divorce and recently moved from the Philadelphia area. She said she is not sure what to expect and is preparing to spend her very first hurricane alone.

"I just moved here, so I'm lost," she said with a blank expression on her face, after grabbing a couple of water bottles from a scantily-stocked shelf. "I don't know what I'm going to do."

Tiffany Miranda of Miami Springs waited well over 30 minutes in line at BJ's Wholesale Club in Hialeah to buy hurricane supplies. Some 50 vehicles were bumper-to-bumper, waiting to



Shoppers wait in long lines at Costco, on Thursday, in Davie, Florida, as they stock up on supplies ahead of Hurricane Dorian. (AP)

fill up at the store's 12 gas pumps.

"You never know with these hurricanes. It could be good, it could be bad. You just have to be prepared," she said.

As of yesterday morning, Dorian was centered about 420 kilometers east of the Bahamas, its winds blowing at 165 kph as it moved northwest at 19 kph.

The government of the Bahamas issued a hurricane watch for the northwestern Bahamas overnight. According to the advisory, a watch is usually issued 48 hours before tropical-storm-

force winds are anticipated.

It is expected to pick up steam as it pushes out into warm waters with favorable winds, the University of Miami's McNoldy said, adding: "Starting (Friday), it really has no obstacles left in its way."

The National Hurricane Center's projected track had the storm blowing ashore midway along the Florida peninsula, southeast of Orlando and well north of Miami or Fort Lauderdale. But because of the difficulty of predicting its course this far ahead, the "cone of uncertainty" covered nearly

the entire state.

Forecasters said coastal areas of the Southeast could get 5 to 10 inches (13 to 25 centimeters) of rain, with 15 inches (38 centimeters) in some places, triggering life-threatening flash floods.

Also imperiled were the Bahamas, with Dorian's expected track running just to the north of Great Abaco and Grand Bahama islands.

Jeff Byard, an associate administrator at the Federal Emergency Management Agency, warned that Dorian is likely to "create a lot of havoc with infrastructure, power and roads," but gave assurances FEMA is prepared to handle it, even though the Trump administration is shifting hundreds of millions of dollars from FEMA and other agencies to deal with immigration at the Mexican border.

"This is going to be a big storm. We're prepared for a big response," Byard said.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis declared a state of emergency, clearing the way to bring in more fuel and call out the National Guard if necessary, and Georgia's governor followed suit.

Royal Caribbean, Carnival and Norwegian began rerouting their cruise ships. Major airlines began allowing travelers to change their reservations without a fee.

The hurricane season typically

US's double standard way out of line

Some US politicians left no stone unturned to find a way to restrain China. Their recent activities in Hong Kong have not only exposed sheer hegemonism, but also showed the world their out-of-line double standard.

The escalating illegal violence has seriously undermined Hong Kong's social order, economy and people's life, distressing all residents who love Hong Kong and China.

However, certain US officials are still distorting the truth, calling the illegal activities "peaceful demonstrations" and claiming that the Hong Kong police repressed the protesters when they were actually enforcing the law in a restrained manner.

Nancy Pelosi, speaker of the US House of Representatives, repeatedly voiced her support of violent rioters in Hong Kong, who disabled main roads, demolished traffic lights, vandalized public property, hurled petrol bombs at police officers, committed arson, and possessed offensive weapons in Hong Kong.

In June, Pelosi called the demonstrations in Hong Kong "a beautiful sight to behold", and in August, she made statements to support the protesters, calling rioters "courageous".

Shortly after Pelosi expressed support for the radicals, black-clad and masked protestors damaged infrastructure and stores in the escalation of demonstrations in Portland, Oregon, the US.

The local police set up roadblocks on the streets and bridges and arrested at least 13 demonstrators. The US officials even considered defining the organizations involved in the conflicts as terrorist organizations.

This time, certain US politicians fell silent. They neither made irresponsible remarks about how American police officers enforced the law, nor praised violent acts as Pelosi had done.

This is a full display of double standard adopted by certain US politicians, who are accustomed to regarding violent activities taking place in their own country as true violence that must be cracked down on and that in other countries are merely a "sight".

It is not just some American politicians who played double standard. Recently, US social media Twitter and Facebook have removed a large number of accounts, claiming that these accounts spread false news about Hong Kong demonstrations, were unfavorable for the demonstrators and affected the legality of their protests.

Twitter and Facebook have exposed the US hypocrisy on free expression. Even many foreign netizens have criticized the US social media's bald-faced suppression of different opinions.

The US claims to be a country with free speech. In that case, any remark that doesn't violate the law should be protected. So which law in the US have these accounts violated? Is the so-called freedom of speech only a privilege for those who hold the same voice as the government? Are different opinions not allowed to be expressed?

It is evident that some politicians in the US applaud the Hong Kong radicals for committing illegal violence, and attack the legal governance and solemn law enforcement exercised by Hong Kong government and Hong Kong police.

Ignoring the truth and telling lies, the US politicians used double standard to pursue their own benefits. For those benefits, they exerted themselves to facilitate color revolutions and provoke riots around the world. To satisfy their greed, they twisted the facts and made slanderous remarks about other countries.

Hong Kong is a special administrative region of China. Hong Kong affairs are purely China's internal affairs. No one will be more concerned about the future of Hong Kong than the Chinese people.

The double standard held by some US politicians can only reveal their sinister intention of destabilizing Hong Kong in order to raise the wave against China.

We sincerely advise these people to stop meddling in other countries' internal affairs. History will prove that they will only end up in failure if they have a finger in every pie. It will never work to stir up "color revolution" on China's Hong Kong.

People's Daily

Agencies



US trade bullying puts global economy at risk

WASHINGTON'S recent decision to impose additional tariffs on Chinese goods further exposed its essence of a trade bully. It triggered anxiety among the international community that the global economy might be severely impacted by the tariffs.

According to Morgan Stanley analysis, if the US imposes 25% tariffs on \$300 billion worth of imports from China, would likely be enough to sink global growth below 2.5 percent.

Bernard Dewart, chairman of the Belgian-Chinese Chamber of Commerce, believes that Washington's strategy of using tariffs as a weapon will increase global trade barriers and reduce trade volume. It will also set a negative example, lead to vicious competition and eventually drag the global economy into a quagmire.

Certain people in the US have undermined multilateral trade rules, threatened the security of the global industrial chain and supply chain, triggered turbulence in international financial market, and dragged down international trade and world economic growth.

Their arbitrary practices are against the trend of economic globalization, contrary to the principle of market competition, and have significantly increased the risk of global recession.

As the world's economic pattern is becoming increasingly intertwined, any attempt to decouple economies and create confrontation through protectionist and unilateral practices is impractical, and is doomed to fail.

A tiny screw illustrates the above-

mentioned point very well. According to the New York Times, Apple Inc. recently tried to manufacture a batch of top-of-the-line computers in Texas, but ended up struggling to find enough screws.

More and more insightful people are pointing out that the immoral, irresponsible and irrational behaviors of some Americans have seriously damaged market confidence and caused chaos in the international financial market.

The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Trade Organization have repeatedly warned that if the trade war continues to develop, it will exert greater impacts on the global economy.

At the recent G7 summit, leaders of France, Germany, the UK and other countries expressed deep concerns about the US provoking economic and trade frictions. European Council President Donald Tusk said escalating trade tensions between the US and other countries risk throwing the world into recession.

In today's world, it is an irresistible historical trend that multilateralism and win-win cooperation will replace unilateralism and zero-sum game.

Some people in the US confronting this trend with outdated mentality not only harm the interests of both China and the US, but also undermine the common interests of all countries in the world and hurt the well-being of global people.

People's Daily

Scottish court rejects bid to block UK parliament suspension

HELSINKI

THE first legal challenge to prevent British Prime Minister Boris Johnson from suspending Parliament has been delayed in a Scottish court.

The Court of Session in Edinburgh refused yesterday to take immediate legal action to prevent Johnson from suspending Parliament for several weeks during part of the period ahead of the Brexit deadline on Oct 31.

Judge Raymond Doherty, however, said a full hearing on the case will be heard on Sept 6, raising the prospect that the government's move could still be blocked. He said there is no need for an immediate injunction because a "substantive" hearing on the case will be heard next week.

The decision in Scotland's highest civil court is a setback for a cross-party group of legislators seeking to broaden the period for parliamentary debate in a bid to prevent a disorderly departure by Britain from the European Union.

Two other legal cases are still in progress. One is in Northern Ireland and the other is in London. Former prime minister John Major is seeking to join the case in London already brought by activist Gina Miller.

"If granted permission to intervene, I intend to seek to assist the court from the perspective of having served in Government as a minister and prime minister, and also in Parliament for many years as a Member of the House of Commons," he said.

Major is an outspoken critic of Brexit who had vowed to intervene legally if Johnson sought to prevent parliamentary debate on the issue.



The truth behind rioters who call themselves 'the valiant' in Hong Kong

HONG KONG

THOUGH they call themselves "the valiant" without any "backstage support," plans or organization, the truth behind the rioters remains difficult to conceal.

Radical protesters have repeatedly committed violence and instigated hatred against Hong Kong police. The latest media reports provide more proof of meticulous planning, extremist views, and their salient goal to cause further chaos, fear and antagonism in Hong Kong.

A video released by the New York Times disclosed a secret warehouse and hideout for radical protesters, who have been causing tremendous mayhem in

Hong Kong for the third straight month.

The video showed a group of young people gathering in a hotel, part of an underground network of safe houses. They said protests were like playing Grand Theft Auto video games and were "fun," and they looked forward to the police taking action.

In the clip, a masked female protester said, "The next person to die could be one of us. ... Everyone has to shoulder the responsibility."

The clip also showed protesters included a group of students under the age of 18, whose parents did not know they were involved. "Some tell us they would die for this movement," a jour-

nalist narrated in the video.

One protester talked about buying masks and glasses, but in fact, the protesters have used far more offensive weapons including sling shots, laser beams and petrol bombs to attack police and innocent civilians.

Sources said 500 to 1,000 radical protesters possess a strong tendency for violence, while some are advocating more violent acts in the future, including plans to sabotage power stations in Hong Kong.

Radical protesters are relying heavily on anonymous messaging apps like Telegram for orchestrating and coordinating attacks against the police, a tactic that has been used by terrorists

to plot and carry out terror attacks in other parts of the world in recent years.

Those protesters share manuals on how to make petrol bombs and how to frame the anti-rioting law enforcement by police on online forums and social media.

The "manual on fighting," which has been widely circulated among rioters, elaborates "pre-war preparations," "personal training," "battleground response" and "information about arrests," with details on protective gear, weak points of the police and countermeasures, and how to respond before and after arrests.

"Being the valiant is a mean-

ingful make-or-break gamble for us," said the manual.

Over the past two months, nearly 900 people involved in violent incidents have been arrested.

On multiple occasions, radical protesters took down roadside railings to form barricades long before police arrived. A large number of deadly petrol bombs have been used.

Lately, HKlastword has been trending on Twitter and it is full of agitating messages and hate speech against police officers. One reads: "If we burn, you burn with us." Local online forums like lihkg.com and hkgolden.com are also full of calls for more violence this week.

One post on lihkg.com reads: "Laam-Tsao (die together) will prevail!", referring to a Cantonese slogan rioters are widely using to mobilize suicide bomber-style sentiment online and street violence in Hong Kong.

Another post on the website even taught rioters violent tactics for besieging police stations: "We should use more locks on the steel gates of police stations to prevent them from getting out. When they try to unlock the gate, we can kill them with whatever we find."

"When confronting the police, we should intensively attack their feet to prevent them from chasing us," it added.

Such instigative posts re-

mained unchecked on social media day after day, while other radicals advocated the bullying of police officers' children in schools.

Alvin Tai Kin-fai, assistant principal of the Hong Kong Chinese Christian Churches Union Logos Academy, wrote on his Facebook page that he hopes children of the policemen who "used violence" will die before they turn 7 years old, or die before 20 if they are already older than 7.

Escalating violence has become a paramount issue and actions should be taken to stop them, members of the Hong Kong public have said.

Xinhua

Kenya to host pan African summit to discuss food safety

NAIROBI

KENYA will host a Pan African summit next week to discuss new strategies geared towards strengthening food safety in the continent amid threats to human health, officials said yesterday.

Mwangi Kiunjuri, cabinet secretary in the ministry of agriculture said the government and multilateral agencies have partnered to host the Sept. 2-6 conference that aims to raise visibility of food safety in Africa.

"The issues of food safety are at the forefront of many African countries and Kenya is proud of the opportunity to host a conference to share ideas and exchange good practices to develop food standards relevant to the region," said Kiunjuri (pictured).

Kenya has partnered with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to host the Pan African meeting to discuss food safety



in the light of growing intra-regional trade.

"Delegates will be discussing the role of food safety practices, laws, regulatory frameworks and standards in securing and expanding competitiveness of regionally traded commodities," said Kiunjuri.

He said that Kenya has rallied behind continental efforts to improve food safety infrastructure amid increased cross border trade in agricultural commodities like coffee, tea, beef, sugar and fish. "Kenya continues to support development of food safety standards in Africa at a time when the continent is focused on improving consumer health," said Kiunjuri.

Peter Munya, cabinet secretary in the ministry of trade said the upcoming summit will provide a platform for African countries to deliberate on policy and financing interventions required to boost food safety.

"There is need to invest in quality infrastructure to inform assessment of compliance with the set food safety standards," said Munya, adding that investment in modern transport and storage infrastructure will boost safety of agricultural commodities traded across African borders.

The cabinet secretary said that development, adoption and harmonization of standards relating to food safety is key to hastening realization of integration agenda in Africa.

Susan Mochache, principal secretary in the ministry of health said that Kenya has developed regulations and guidelines to mitigate food safety risks that have worsened the burden of infectious diseases in the country.

Xinhua

Wave of child sex abuse lawsuits threatens Boy Scouts

TRENTON, N.J.

THE Boy Scouts of America is facing a threat from a growing wave of lawsuits over decades-old allegations of sexual abuse.

The Scouts have been sued in multiple states in recent months by purported abuse victims, including plaintiffs taking advantage of new state laws or court decisions that are now allowing suits previously barred because of the age of the allegations.

More litigation is on the way.

A lawyer representing 150 people who say they were abused as Boy Scouts is planning a suit in New Jersey when the state's new civil statute of limitations law takes effect Dec 1. New Jersey was home to the Boy Scouts' headquarters for about 25 years until 1987.

Among the plaintiffs is Greg Hunt, 62, of St Petersburg, Florida. He said he was abused during a camping trip in about 1969 in Pennsylvania, where his family lived at the time.

"It'd be nice to have the Boy Scouts account for their lack of ability to do the right thing," he said. "It would be nice for me to have the Scouts say we did wrong by you and by these other boys and by your parents."

The lawsuits raise the possibility that the Boy Scouts, one of the largest youth organizations in the US, might be starting at many millions of dollars in settlements or judgments that could lead it to declare bankruptcy, as several Roman Catholic dioceses have done amid litigation over abusive clergy.

The New Jersey suit will come on top of at least 24 that have been filed against the Scouts in New York since Aug 14, when that state opened a one-year window in which victims of child sex abuse will be able to sue over encounters outside the usual statute of limitations.

Another lawsuit was filed against the Boy Scouts this month in Philadelphia by lawyers who say they have identified hundreds of victims, after a Pennsylvania appeals court ruled that the state's statute of limitations could be set aside if a victim could prove that abuse was concealed by fraud.

Hundreds of other lawsuits filed in Guam and other states have already strained the Boy Scouts finances and have led the organization to consider bankruptcy, among other options.

"The Boy Scouts are going to have to



In this Aug 21, 2019 photo, Greg Hunt poses for a photo in St Petersburg, Florida. (AP)

come to grips with the issues of their past," said Michael Pfau, Washington state-based attorney planning the New Jersey lawsuit.

In a statement responding to the pending New Jersey suit, the Boy Scouts said it apologizes to the victims and encourages them to report abuse to law enforcement.

"We believe victims, we support them, we pay for counseling by a provider of their choice, and we encourage them to come forward," the organization said. It added that policies have also been changed to include mandatory criminal background checks. It also added a rule that at least two adult leaders must be present with children at all times during activities.

New Jersey's law, signed in May, allows child victims to sue up until they turn 55 or within seven years of their first realization that the abuse caused them harm.

The current statute of limitations is age 20 or two years after first realizing the abuse caused harm. The bill also opens up a two-year window to victims who were previously barred by the statute of limitation. It also allows victims to seek damages from institutions.

That has opened the door to lawsuits by people like Charles Wright, 75, of Salt Lake City, who said he was sexually assaulted by a "Scout commissioner" in Southern California when he was about 11. "I kept it all a secret for years. I became an alcoholic. I wanted to become a Baptist minister. Instead I became an alcoholic. I became addicted to numerous types of drugs," he said. "It's not

easy with this thought rolling through your head about what happened to you when you were a kid."

The Associated Press does not usually identify people who say they were sexually assaulted unless they give permission, as both Wright and Hunt have.

Plaintiffs' attorneys say estimating how much the Boy Scouts have paid out to date and could be liable for is hard because the organization seeks confidentiality in settlements.

Paul Mones, the plaintiff's lawyer in a 2010 case that resulted in a nearly US\$20 million judgment against the Boy Scouts, said the organization never expected to face such staggering financial liabilities because of statutes of limitations, which barred many purported victims from suing and which states are now beginning to change to help those who say they were abused.

"We are witnessing now, not just with the Boy Scouts, a major transformation (in) how victims of abuse and society view these institutions," Mones said.

The Boy Scouts also said in a statement that they're considering "all options available so we can live up to our social and moral responsibility to fairly compensate victims who suffered abuse during their time in Scouting."

If the suits in New Jersey and across the country lead the scouts to pursue bankruptcy, that would offer the organization a chance to come up with a plan to repay any plaintiffs, who would have to sign off on the plan, according to Pamela Foohey, a bankruptcy expert at the Maurer School of Law and Indiana University. Agencies



Xi to attend gathering, parade to mark 70th anniversary

BEIJING

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping will attend a grand gathering to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China on Oct 1, which will be followed by celebrations that include a grand military parade.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, will deliver an important speech at the gathering.

The parade will be larger than those marking the 50th and 60th anniversaries of the PRC's founding and the 70th anniversary of victory in the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression (1931-45) in 2015, said Major General Cai Zhijun, deputy director of the Central Military Commission's Joint Staff Department.

The Tian'anmen Square parade will debut advanced weapons and equipment, he said, adding that all equipment displayed is domestically developed and in service. It will consist of square formations of marching soldiers from different forces and types of vehicles and equipment as well as air formations.

Cai said the parade aims to highlight the command system, scale and structure, innovation and development of the country's national defense and strength of air operations after military reform and restructuring.

It will comprehensively demonstrate China's achievements in building its national defense, highlight an "open and confident" military image and manifest combat capabilities, Cai said. It will focus on displaying the capabilities of joint operations and training that have incorporated information technology and are systematic and cooperative, he said.

Cai said the parade is not aimed at any country, region or situation but is meant to show China's confidence and determination to safeguard national sovereignty and security and defend world peace and stability.

The military parade, followed by a mass pageant with themed floats, will be a grand celebration on Oct 1 attended by Party and State leaders and members of the public, said Wang Xiaohui, executive deputy head of the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee.

That evening, they will also join a gathering featuring a gala and fireworks show.

A series of other activities dedicated to the 70th anniversary will also take place in the coming weeks.

At an event in Beijing's Great Hall of People, Xi will present the Medals of the Republic, Medals of Friendship and national titles of honor to outstanding people who have made great contributions to the PRC's establishment and development.

Other activities include presenting flower baskets at the Monument to the People's Heroes on Sept 30 for Martyrs' Day and an exhibition during September showcasing major achievements over the past 70 years.

The CPC Central Committee, the State Council and the Central Military Commission will also jointly issue medals in commemoration of the 70th anniversary as part of the celebration activities.



Imelda Marcos

Documentary looks at political comeback of Imelda Marcos

VENICE, ITALY

DOCUMENTARY filmmaker Lauren Greenfield started interviewing former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos four years ago thinking that it might be a redemption story for the then 85-year-old. What she found is that Marcos was not only standing by the controversial history of her family but defending it as well.

Greenfield's documentary about Marcos, "The Kingmaker," premiered Friday at the Venice International Film Festival.

Imelda Marcos's husband, the late Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos presided over the country for 20 years and declared martial law in 1972, which ultimately resulted in his being ousted by an army-backed "people power" revolt in 1986. He died in self-exile in Hawaii in 1989 but Imelda Marcos and her children returned to the Philippines where many have been elected to political office.

"I started it attracted to Imelda Marcos because she was an iconic reference in the work I was doing on wealth," Greenfield said Friday in a press conference. She'd heard about extravagances – her 3,000 pairs of shoes and the island she turned into a wildlife sanctuary for exotic animals – but came to understand that there was another story brewing beyond the decadence.

"I was taken in with her story and her history," Greenfield said. "(But I) soon realized that the political comeback story was what I wanted to focus on."

The film chronicles Marcos' efforts to help her son Bongbong win the vice-presidency. It helped inform the title, "The Kingmaker," which she landed on a year into editing.

"It would be like (Richard) Nixon coming back and running for re-election," Greenfield said. "I was amazed that this family ... was welcomed back and into public office."

For Greenfield, known for documentaries like "The Queen of Versailles" and "Generation Wealth," it was a unique experience working with an "unreliable narrator" and she struggled with how to tell the audience that some of what Marcos was saying was incorrect. She also said he found Marcos, now 90, to be generous and kind and candid. She said Marcos has not yet seen the documentary.

"I think she is extremely confident about her story, her place in history and her legacy and that's what I wanted to hear from her," Greenfield said. "People have treated Marcos as a laughable figure. (It) reminds me of how we didn't take (Donald) Trump seriously, and I think she often has the last laugh."

"The Kingmaker" will be in theaters this fall and on Showtime in 2020.

AP

India batsman Rayudu does retirement U-turn



Ambati Rayudu

MUMBAI

INDIA batsman Ambati Rayudu has made a volte-face on his decision to retire and made himself available for Hyderabad in domestic cricket, a senior official told Reuters on Friday.

Rayudu, 33, was not picked in India's squad for the 50-over World Cup in England after being tipped as the team's top choice for a middle-order batting spot.

He was not considered as a replacement even when India lost opener Shikhar

Dhawan and Vijay Shankar to injuries, with Rishabh Pant and Mayank Agarwal called up instead, despite being named as one of the five stand-bys for the tournament.

A smarting Rayudu, who quit first-class cricket in 2018 to focus on his limited-overs career, announced last month he has retired from all forms of the game.

He has now informed the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) of his availability.

"He has withdrawn his retirement letter that he gave and said he's available to play for HCA," Ratnakar Shetty, a member of the committee in charge of the HCA administration, said.

Rayudu will be available to play the full season for Hyderabad and it was a "good" news for the team, Shetty added.

The middle-order batsman has played 55 one-day internationals for India, the last of them in March against Australia, and was part of the Chennai Super Kings franchise in the 2019 Indian

"It is great news for us. I still believe he still has five years of cricket and groom youngsters which is more important for us. Last year without him, we struggled in Ranji Trophy," HCA chief selector Noel David told Sportstar.

"Rayudu's class and experience will prove to be very handy for Hyderabad and will surely have a major positive influence on the other players as he will be playing in all the formats."

"Hopefully he carries on the good work and leads from the front and I am confident of Rayudu getting support from all quarters."

REUTERS

Gauff, 15, to take on defending champ Osaka next at US Open

NEW YORK

COCO Gauff is still not quite used to hearing her name shouted by thousands of U.S. Open spectators reveling in each booming serve, each "How did she do that?" shot and each victory by a 15-year-old American who is the youngest woman in the U.S. Open's third round since 1996.

Imagine what things might be like for what comes next: a showdown against No. 1 seed and defending champion Naomi Osaka on Saturday.

"For me," Gauff said, "it's still wild."

Proving her captivating run to Week 2 at Wimbledon was no fluke, Gauff improved to 5-1 in her nascent, two-tournament Grand Slam career by edging Timea Babos of Hungary 6-2, 4-6, 6-4 at a rollicking Louis Armstrong Stadium on Thursday night.

"This is just the beginning, I promise," Gauff told the appreciative crowd that serenaded her with "Let's go, Coco!" at the final changeover.

When play resumed, Gauff broke Babos' serve to end a second consecutive three-set win.

"I was thinking, like, maybe they feel like I'm Golden State in Game 7 or something. It's different, because you're an individual player, so it's weird, I guess. Most of the time you hear the chants, it's for a whole team, not just for, like, me," she said. "So it was pretty cool."

Not since Anna Kournikova did it 23 years ago had someone who was 15 made it this far at Flushing Meadows.

Gauff covered the court so well, tracking down shot after shot from Babos, running so fast and so fearlessly that she ended up face-down on court after falling.

She pounded serves at up to 118 mph, recording nine aces, and mixed in drop shots, passing winners and all manner of other magic to great effect.

"A 15-year-old girl with power on the serve like this – I wish I had that when I was younger," said Babos, a 26-year-old ranked 112th in singles and seeded No. 1 in doubles in New York. "If she continues like this, it's definitely a very bright future."

Another young American woman



Coco Gauff, of the United States, celebrates after defeating Timea Babos, of Hungary, during the second round of the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Thursday, Aug. 29, 2019. (AP Photo)

made some noise, too: Taylor Townsend, 23, whose pure, raw emotion came through after she delivered one last crisp forehand volley to complete her 2-6, 6-3, 7-6 (4) upset of two-time major champion Simona Halep.

Townsend, a qualifier ranked 116th, clenched her fists, raised her arms and yelled, "Yes! Yes!" before patting her heart. Moments later, Townsend's voice cracked and tears began to flow as she told fans in Arthur Ashe Stadium, "It's been a long journey. Just haven't been able to get over the hump."

Townsend pulled off the biggest victory of her up-and-down career with an entertaining, net-rushing, serve-and-volleying brand of lefty tennis against former No. 1 Halep.

"It's been a long road. A lot of haters. A lot of people who weren't sure. I mean, I've heard it for a really long time that I was never going to make it, that I wasn't going to be able to break through or do this or do that," Townsend said. "This was a huge, monumental moment. It was a very defining moment for me to realize that I belong here."

"Never played with someone coming so often to the net," Halep said. "Didn't miss much. It's unbelievable."

Gauff and Townsend provided the most attention-grabbing results on a busy Day 4 at the year's last major tournament. Osaka, who has practiced with Gauff but never faced her, moved on with a 6-2, 6-4 win over Magda Linette.

Three-time U.S. Open champion Rafael Nadal reached the third round when his opponent, Thanasi Kokkinakis, withdrew with an injured right shoulder.

Townsend now will try to get to the fourth round at a Slam for the first time. For all of the discussions about how U.S. women's tennis will do once the Williams sisters move on, the group looks to be in pretty good shape at the moment.

"Honestly, that conversation doesn't really matter to me. ... Any time that someone has one good result or two good results, they're 'The Next.' You know what I mean?" Townsend said. "It was, like, maybe I was, maybe I wasn't. I don't know. But it doesn't matter, because I'm here now."

Gauff's doubles partner, 17-year-old Caty McNally, pushed Serena Williams to three sets Wednesday. Sofia Kenin, 20, beat Williams at the French Open and is into the third round in New York.

At Roland Garros, Amanda Anisimova, 17, became the first player born in the 2000s to reach a Grand Slam semifinal. And then there are 2017 U.S. Open champion Sloane Stephens, 26, and runner-up Madison Keys, 24.

"I give all the credit to the players, because it's a healthy competition," said U.S. Fed Cup captain and head of women's tennis Kathy Rinaldi. "They're all pushing each other on and off the court. And so it's really fun to watch. But in the meantime, I think they're very supportive of one another as well."

AP



In this May 4, 2002, file photo, Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant, left, and Shaquille O'Neal celebrate after winning Game 5 of the Western Conference semifinals against the San Antonio Spurs, in Los Angeles. (AP)

Kobe: Nothing new to rivalry with Shaq

NEW YORK

more often.

KOBE Bryant downplayed talk of a reignited feud with Shaquille O'Neal, saying Thursday there is "nothing new" that has been said lately between the former teammates.

Bryant had recently said that if O'Neal had worked harder, they could have won 12 rings together with the Los Angeles Lakers. O'Neal fired back on social media that they could have won more if Bryant had passed him the ball

But Bryant said during a visit to the U.S. Open tennis tournament that the comments don't mean they are fighting again.

"I think people are making it like we're going back and forth about it, but there's nothing to go back and forth about," Bryant said. "There's nothing that has been said that hasn't been said before. It's nothing new."

They did win three titles together from 2000-02, but their fractured relationship led

the Lakers to trade O'Neal to the Miami Heat in 2004. He won a title there, and Bryant later won two more with the Lakers.

They patched up their relationship later in their careers, sharing MVP honors as Western Conference teammates in the 2009 NBA All-Star Game.

Bryant also won two gold medals playing for the U.S. Olympic team. The Americans are preparing to begin play in the Basketball World Cup with a squad that has far less star power

than the teams Bryant was on in 2008 and 2012, but he believes they have enough talent to win.

"We've got great players. I think the team gets a little chippy about it because everybody's kind of writing them off because they don't have the marquee names," Bryant said.

"But these young players that are playing on this team will be those marquee names in two or three years and they're great players in their own right. We'll be fine." AP

Van Dijk, Bronze pick up UEFA Player of the Year awards

MONACO

LIVERPOOL's Dutch Champions League-winning defender Virgil van Dijk was named UEFA's Men's Player of the Year on Thursday with England and Olympique Lyonnais defender Lucy Bronze picking up the women's award.

Van Dijk is the first defender to win the award, beating Cristiano Ronaldo of Juventus and Barcelona's Lionel Messi who have won the award, established in 2010, five times between them.

The 28-year-old Netherlands centre back has transformed Liverpool's defence since joining them from Southampton in January, 2018 for a then world record fee of 75 million pounds (\$92.08 million) for a defender with his physical presence and superb reading of the game.

Van Dijk began his career in his homeland with Groningen and moved to Scottish club Celtic before heading to the Premier League, where he helped Liverpool to runners-up spot last season as well as a Champions League triumph over Tottenham Hotspur.

"It's been a long road but that's part of my journey, it's part of who I am. I needed it like this, I'm not a player who was 18 years old and had that rise straight away. I had to work hard for every step of the way - that's part of me and I'm very happy about that," said the Dutchman.

"I'm very proud to get this trophy

and it's all credit to everyone that's helped me along the way."

Van Dijk had earlier picked up the Champions League Defender of the Season award.

Ronaldo and Messi, who have dominated the game's individual awards for the past decade, sat next to each other at the UEFA event and Ronaldo reflected on no longer being in direct competition with the Argentine in the Spanish league.

"It was a special year. I was curious because we've shared the stage here for 15 years. Of course, we have a good relationship. We have not yet had dinner but it is nice. We push each other and it's good to be part of the history of football," he said.

Bronze, the former Manchester City attacking fullback, enjoyed a successful season, winning the Champions League with Lyon and reaching the World Cup semi-final with England.

She finished ahead of club team mates Ada Hegerberg of Norway and Amandine Henry of France.

"I'm ecstatic and super humbled to have won the award up against two fantastic players who I know really well at Lyon; two great girls, great players.

"I want to say huge thanks to the Lionesses, the England team. We had a great summer and I don't think I would have won this award if it wasn't for them," she said.

REUTERS

Injury hit Real, Barca face tricky away trips

MADRID

AN injury-ravaged Real Madrid will visit Villarreal in La Liga on Sunday, looking to bounce back from last weekend's disappointing home draw with minnows Real Valladolid.

Meanwhile, Barcelona travel to newly-promoted Osasuna without their first choice front line.

Real will likely be without Eden Hazard, Brahim Diaz, Marco Asensio, Rodrygo, Isco and James Rodriguez for the trip east after the latter duo picked up muscle problems this week. Defender Raphael Varane also missed training on Thursday.

Madrid have suffered 10 injuries so far this season, more than any other team in Spain's top flight and manager Zinedine Zidane was forced to call up a number of reserve team and youth players to make up numbers during Thursday's session.

Zidane, who returned for a second spell in charge of the club in March, has asked the fans to back the squad, rather than pressuring them to perform.

"I can see the side feel more under pressure given the campaign we had last year," the Frenchman said. "I can feel it too in the Bernabeu because the fans are thinking this too.

This needs to change.

"I know it's difficult, but I ask that just like when they were behind us and we were winning things, we need the fans to get behind us now.

"It's not just this, of course. We need to play our part and we will try and do that in the next game."

Barcelona travel to Osasuna the day before with fitness concerns of their own.

Forwards Lionel Messi, Ousmane Dembele and Luis Suarez will all miss the trip to Navarre, with youngster Ansu Fati, who at 16 years and 298 days became the club's second-youngest ever debutant in La Liga last weekend, likely to be included again.

Atletico Madrid, who are one of two sides with a 100% record, host Eibar on Sunday without forward Alvaro Morata but will welcome back Diego Costa after he served an eight-match ban dating back to last season for insulting a referee.

The weekend kicks off as Sevilla, the other team to have won both games, host Celta Vigo before Real Sociedad travel to Athletic Bilbao in the Basque derby.

REUTERS

'If Pogba says he's leaving, he's leaving' - Sale

PARIS

PAUL Pogba will likely depart Manchester United but he could clash with Zinedine Zidane if he joins Real Madrid, according to the man who helped start the midfielder's career.

The World Cup winner has been consistently linked with a transfer to Los Blancos since declaring he wanted a new challenge prior to the Red Devils' pre-season commencing.

But the man who played a key role in discovering the superstar midfielder says Pogba is always likely to clash with his managers - citing the issues with Sir Alex Ferguson that saw him leave Manchester United the first time.

"If Paul has a coach with a strong personality around him, in time there will be a clash somewhere," Le Havre head of recruitment Franck Sale told Optus Sport.

"When he left for Juventus a few years ago, with Alex Ferguson that was very complicated too. Paul didn't concede because he has such a strong character. So when he says, 'I'm leaving', he's leaving.

"If tomorrow he goes to a big club like a Real Madrid, he'll still have his conflicts, even with Zizou [Zidane]."

Sale's scouts spotted Pogba playing in Paris when he was 12 years old and in a two-year period he was signed by Le Havre to continue his football development.

And he believes the Frenchman has become too comfortable at Old Trafford and that he's ready for a new challenge away from the club.

"Paul is a man who needs to be challenged. I think he is becoming too comfortable at United. It's not as demanding for him as it was a few years ago," Sale said. "I think he is ready for a new challenge, that's obvious. I can see him leaving for another big club searching for this new challenge."

Sale also revealed that Pogba displayed leadership qualities when he was a young player and that he has always been mentally strong and with the confidence to play the game his way.

"It was him who led everyone, so I'm not surprised by his strong personality today," he said.

"You could see that he was already technically skillful. He possessed a strength of character and had a self-assurance that some would call arrogance. He was someone that was sure of his fate, sure of his qualities."

(Agencies)

Arsenal, Spurs battle for bragging rights, Man Utd aim to bounce back at Southampton

LONDON

ARSENAL and Tottenham battle for North London supremacy on Sunday in an early indicator as to who will be Manchester City and Liverpool's closest challengers for the Premier League title.

City and Liverpool have already moved clear of the chasing pack with Jurgen Klopp's men boasting the only 100 percent record after three games to open a two-point lead over the champions.

Both will expect to add another three points before the international break as City host Brighton, while Liverpool travel to Burnley.

But below them the rest have plenty of room for improvement with Tottenham, Arsenal, Manchester United and Chelsea having already tasted defeat.

Arsenal were given a lesson in how far they still have to go to challenge for the title in losing 3-1 at Anfield last weekend, but the Gunners can quickly erase the memory of that defeat should they get the better of Spurs at the Emirates.

A thrilling 4-2 win over the Champions League finalists in this fixture last season was the highlight of Unai Emery's first season in charge and Arsenal have little to fear from Tottenham's start to the season.

Mauricio Pochettino believes his squad is unsettled by speculation over the futures of Christian Eriksen, Jan Vertonghen and Toby Alderweireld.

Vertonghen has been dropped for all three games so far this season, whilst Eriksen started on the bench against Aston Villa and Newcastle.

A shock 1-0 reverse to the Magpies last weekend showed Pochettino can ill afford the luxury of leaving out two of his better players, even if they seem set to leave the club at the end of the season after failing to agree new contracts.

Arsenal missed out on Champions League football to their local rivals by a point last season, but still reinforced



Harry Kane



Emerick Aubameyang

well in the transfer market.

Nicolas Pepe shone on his full debut against Liverpool last weekend and could be unleashed alongside Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Alexandre Lacazette from the start for the first time.

Should Arsenal's exciting new attacking trio click, they can lay down an early marker in the battle to be the best of the rest behind the top two.

United seek redemption at St Mary's

Manchester United's bright start to the season also came to an abrupt end in defeat at home by Crystal Palace last weekend.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's men paid for a missed penalty for the second consecutive game as Marcus Rashford hit the post after Paul Pogba's spot-kick was saved in a 1-1 draw at Wolves the week before.

However, the debate over who should be on penalty duties has masked familiar problems from

United's disastrous end to last season.

Goalkeeper David de Gea was at fault for Palace's injury-time equaliser, while Victor Lindelof and £80 million summer signing Harry Maguire were caught flat-footed for the visitor's opener.

The departure of Romelu Lukaku and Alexis Sanchez to Inter Milan has also left Solskjaer desperately short on forward options, particularly with Anthony Martial ruled out for Saturday's trip to Southampton.

Lose again and the alarm bells will already be ringing for United's season before September is out.

Barnes a threat to leaky Liverpool Liverpool looked more like their old selves against Arsenal last weekend with Mohamed Salah in supreme form.

But at the other end of the field, the European champions have not looked nearly as solid without injured goalkeeper Alisson Becker.

The Reds have yet to keep a clean

sheet in five games this season and Burnley have an in-form striker ready to pounce on any sloppiness this weekend.

Only Liverpool's Sadio Mane has scored more Premier League goals in 2019 than Ashley Barnes's 13, four of which have come in the opening three games of the season.

"We go into every game confident," said Barnes. "We are striving and want to finish in the top half."

Fixtures (kick-off 1400 GMT unless stated)

Today
Southampton v Man Utd (1130), West Ham v Norwich, Leicester v Bournemouth, Manchester City v Brighton, Newcastle v Watford, Chelsea v Sheffield United, Crystal Palace v Aston Villa, Burnley v Liverpool (1630)

Tomorrow
Everton v Wolves (1300), Arsenal v Tottenham (1530)

AFP

Goal-shy, distant Sanchez among worst Man United signings

BY ROB DAWSON, ESPN CORRESPONDENT

THE writing was on the wall for Alexis Sanchez at Manchester United in March, long before his loan to Inter was confirmed on Thursday evening.

In the aftermath of Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's appointment as permanent manager, club chiefs were privately insisting that the rug would not be pulled from under him with the sale of Paul Pogba to Real Madrid. In reply to questions about whether the French midfielder would leave, the answer was always a firm "no."

But when it came to Sanchez, the tone was very different. It was made clear even then that any decision on Sanchez's future would be left to Solskjaer. The club officials who had worked so hard to pinch the Chile international forward from under the noses of Manchester City 14 months earlier, acquiring him from Arsenal in exchange for Henrikh Mkhitaryan, had already given up.

The stats make for disastrous reading. Sanchez scored five goals in 45 games for United and just three in the Premier League over 18 months with the club. His last goal came in the FA Cup, at former club Arsenal in January. His last 90 minutes for his club came on the opening day of last season. It is slim pickings for a player being paid £391,000 a week, rising to more than £500,000 a week with associated bonuses.

The reasons why a good footballer has been so bad at Old Trafford are, as Jose Mourinho put it privately, "a mystery." At Barcelona, Sanchez averaged a goal every three games. At Arsenal, one in two. At United, it was one in every nine.

Some backroom staff put it down to a crisis of confidence not helped by a series of niggling injuries while others are of the opinion that the move was ill thought-out and, because of that, it was doomed to fail.

In the summer of 2017, Mourinho wanted Ivan Perisic to fulfill his wide forward needs and was left



Alexis Sanchez

frustrated that, after Inter Milan set the price at £48 million, the United-owning Glazer family would only sanction opening bids of £22m, £23m and £24m.

It was in stark contrast to the way United pursued Sanchez during the January transfer window having sniffed a chance to get one over on City. They made him the highest-paid player in the Premier League, a decision Mourinho grew to feel was as much down to his ability to sell shirts as anything else. Perisic

did not have the same star quality and Mourinho felt that balance on the pitch had been compromised for what United's commercial department believed was a better fit off it.

"Alexis Sanchez has set a new January signing record in terms of shirt sales, three times the previous record," executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward said in a conference call with investors. "This trade generated some interesting social media stats. It was the biggest United post on Instagram with 2 million likes and comments, the most shared United Facebook post ever, the most retweeted United post ever."

Sanchez's arrival also impacted the harmony in the dressing room. Anthony Martial had scored in three consecutive Premier League appearances before the deal with Arsenal was agreed but was then immediately cast to the side. In the final

four months of the 2017-18 season, Martial started just four league games and missed out on a place in France's victorious World Cup squad as a result.

There were problems off the pitch, too, after Sanchez's salary blew apart the wage structure. During David De Gea's contract negotiations the Spaniard questioned why he was being offered significantly lower terms despite being the club's player of the year in four out of five seasons between 2014 and 2018.

Approaching the end of his contract, Ander Herrera's demands were impacted, in part, by a realisation that Sanchez was earning upwards of £300,000 a week more. The Spanish midfielder ultimately opted to join Paris Saint-Germain when his deal with United expired.

One senior player, who is due to begin renewal talks in the coming year, has admitted privately that his agent doesn't know where

to start with negotiations because the rules on acceptable figures have been re-written.

Wherever he has played, Sanchez has never served as the life and soul of the dressing room. But toward the end of last season, he had become so distant from the rest of the squad that some of his teammates told coaching staff they were worried.

Sanchez took exception at being asked to do an interview alongside Herrera, because he felt it was because the club did not trust him to do it alone. His closest friend at United was Romelu Lukaku and Sanchez's mood plummeted further when the Belgian was sold to Inter.

A week ago, Solskjaer suggested in a news conference that Sanchez could play a key role this season, but there were already mounting concerns that the situation had reached the point of no return.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Van Dijk, Bronze pick up
UEFA Player of the Year
awards

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Harris fights for spot with fifty to delay Smith's batting comeback

LONDON

NOT even present for the tour game at Worcester, Australia's coach Justin Langer underlined the impending pointy end of this Ashes series by intently watching day one of the encounter with Derbyshire from behind the wicket, accompanying the selection chairman Trevor Hohns for long segments of play at the county ground in Derby.

What they saw, joined at various junctures by the captain Tim Paine, the resting David Warner and the former New Zealand coach John Wright, was more or less as might have been expected, save for the curious initial decision to field rather than bat first on a straw-coloured pitch.

Michael Neser claimed two wickets in as many deliveries with the brand new ball and later added a third, Mitchell Starc went wicketless for 12 overs before blasting out three Derbyshire batsmen in his 13th, two by splashing the stumps, and Peter Siddler bowled eight overs for 11 runs while accounting for the hosts' top scorer, the elegant Leus de Plooy.

Wrapping up Derbyshire's innings shortly after tea, the acting captain Usman Khawaja and the opener Marcus Harris then got comfortable against modest bowling, taking their time in the knowledge that only one of them is likely to play in the fourth Ashes Test at Old Trafford. Khawaja, as the senior player of the two, appears more certain of retaining his place, and one or two of Harris' signature airy cut shots through a gully area not overly staffed by Derbyshire did not inspire a great deal of confidence.

Nonetheless, he scored more freely of the batsmen, and in staying undefeated to the close, Harris and Khawaja ensured that Steven Smith's return to the middle following his concussion substitution at Lord's and subsequent absence from Headingley would be delayed by another day.

"He's always looking to score," Paine said of Harris. "I think if you bowl a bad ball to Harry he puts it away and I think that puts guys under pressure. He's just an attacking opening batter and he keeps the scoreboard moving, but as he's shown in Shield cricket he's got the ability to bat for a long time and score big hundreds when he gets in, we know that Harry's got Test runs in him, and when he gets set hopefully he starts well tomorrow, gets a big score and he can continue putting runs on the board like he has for the last 18 months."

"Steve Smith is going to come back in and play. So obviously someone from the last Test is going to miss out. There's no doubt about that. You have the best player in the world coming back into your line-up. I suppose this tour game is important for guys to make sure that you're keeping your name up in front of the selectors. And so far a few guys have done it, which is very pleasing. That's what we want. We want to have depth and we want our selectors to have to make difficult decisions."

In fact Smith's only involvement was a single over of ropey off-spin, including one practice delivery that sailed over the head of a startled Siddler at mid off. Neser, Starc and Siddler all bowled better than that, demonstrating what the selectors could expect should they choose any for Manchester. Paine said that Starc's bowling was steadily on the improve in terms of what the team needed him to do in English conditions.

"I think if anyone's stops trying to get better, that's a problem," Paine said. "We know what Starc can do in terms of blowing teams away. We also know that coming to England in the past that hasn't worked. So he's been working really hard on getting his length right more so than anything. I think his opening spell today was really good. I thought he bowled in very good areas."

"He bowled with good pace on a wicket that was very slow. So I thought the signs that he showed with the new ball were really good. And then, like we saw again at the end, when he can go back to what his strengths are, attack the stumps and use his short-balls, he's a handful for the tail as well."

"He's been working on his length and I think he showed some really good control in his first spell. He bowled a long spell too [seven overs and eight overs] which he doesn't do a lot when he plays for Australia. I thought he controlled pretty well and, the areas he has been trying to improve so he can be important for us in English conditions, I thought he showed today he's going really well with that." AGENCIES

Caravans face Ismaili Community test in GP Gymkhana Shield



Ismaili Community's Aaryan Premji bats against Sandy Super Strikers in this season's GP Gymkhana Shield tournament's duel played in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NIKHIL PUJARA

Guardian Reporter

THE GP Gymkhana Shield 2019 cricket competition enters into the final group stage matches, with some exciting fixtures lined up for this weekend.

All games will take place at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) cricket oval.

Last year's champions Caravans will today come up against Ismaili

Community, who have been in fine form in this year's tournament, which is sponsored by General Petroleum and Premier Refineries.

It will also be the day's only fixture, with three matches set to take place tomorrow. Caravans, with the might of their experienced players such as Kassim Nassoro, Ivan Ismail, Jitin Singh and their

inspirational skipper Sreejit Kumar, will be looking for a win over Ismaili to seal top position in the Group D.

Ismaili Community, boasting of opener, Jitendra Gariya, who is in fine form, and their talented youngsters Aahil Jasani, Aryan Premji, Arsalaan Premji and Harsheed Chohan that are led by experienced skipper, Ayzaz Jassani, will be a formidable side and for that matter the clash stands to be very exciting for the fans.

Should Caravans grab victory over Ismaili Community, the defending champions will hand the latter, currently the Group D leaders, the first loss in this competition.

On Sunday, Lions Cricket Club will be facing Gujrat Lions and the game will be about securing top honors for Group A.

Gujrat Lions have notched two wins in two games and will need a win over Lions to seal qualification for the quarterfinals.

Sunday's second match will pit Caravans against Sandy Super Strikers, with the former expected to easily coast to victory.

The day's last game will see Patel Samaj confront Jaat Blasters. Both will be playing to secure the runners up position in their group.

Ashish Nagewadia, DGC Cricket Section Captain, disclosed that all is set for an exciting weekend of cricket and invited all cricket fans from across the city to attend the matches and enjoy.

He noted the DGC Cricket Section has this year opted to hand some of organizational duties to youth members, Kartik Syal, Ashish Shah, Dhruv Pancholi, Jay Hirwania, Ansh Doshi, Aahil Jassani, Aryan Premji, Arsalaan Premji and Harsheed Chohan with a view to helping the latter gain experience.

"They have worked as a team and helped make the event a success," he disclosed.

The GP Gymkhana Shield 2019 competition is co-sponsored by SBC Tanzania, AfroTurk, I&M Bank, MGen Tanzania, ASAR Tanzania and Sayona Drinks.

Teams, which are participating in this season's GP Gymkhana Shield tournament, have been put in Groups A, B, C and D.

Young Muslims, TNCC, Lions Club and Kanbis make Group A, Group B has been made up of Union Sports Club, Jaat Blasters, Jain Sangh and Tarangini.

Karnataka Kings, Annadil Burhani, Kutchi Leva and Punjabi Kings make Group C, Group D teams include Surat Stars, Sandy Super Strikers, Ismaili Community and Caravans.

COSAFA Women U-17 Championship fixture released

PRETORIA

THE fixtures for the COSAFA Women's Under-17 Championship, which will take place in Mauritius, have been released, with the tournament set to kick-off on September 20 with a clash between East African guest nation Uganda and Zambia at the St. François Xavier Stadium in Port Louis.

The eight-team competition is the first time COSAFA is staging a

women's football event in this age-group and is a sign of the organisation's commitment to developing the women's game in the region, having also held Under-20 and senior international competitions.

The second match on the opening day will involve hosts Mauritius as they take on fellow islanders Comoros at the same venue at 15h30 (GMT+4).

South Africa, who

competed at the last FIFA Women's Under-17 World Cup in Uruguay, begin their Group B campaign a day later against the Seychelles at 15h30, while before then Botswana take on Madagascar in the other game in the pool at 12h30.

The St. François Xavier Stadium will be the primary venue for the competition, though when the final round of group games are played simultaneously, the Mauritius Football

Association Technical Centre will be used as the second venue.

Pool stage matches will be played every day between September 20-25, with three points awarded for a win and one for a draw.

The top two teams in each pool advance to the semifinals, which will both take place on September 27.

The third-place play-off will take place on

September 29 at 11h00, while later in the day will be the final at 15h00 to decide the winners of the inaugural trophy.

No nation from the COSAFA region has managed to lift the African Under-17 Championship in the past. South Africa came closest when they picked up a silver medal in 2015. Angola took home bronze in 2019.

Malawi will play host to the COSAFA Men's Under-17 Championship for the first time and become the fourth host nation overall. South Africa and Mauritius (three each) have staged the tournament the greatest number of times before, while Namibia have hosted once.

There will be two venues used for the championships, namely the Kamuzu Stadium and Mpira Stadium, which are both in Blantyre.

Mauritius were hosts of the championship for the previous three years between 2016 and 2018 and will stage the inaugural COSAFA Women's Under-17 Championship from September 20-29 this year.

There have been seven other tournaments played loosely under the banner of a regional Men's Under-17 championship. South Africa have won two of these in 1994 and 2002, Malawi claimed success in 2001.

Zimbabwe lifted the title in 2007, while Namibia were victorious in 2016,

Zambia in 2017 and Angola claimed the title last year.

Prins Tjueza from Namibia was named Golden Boot winner in last year's competition when he netted six goals, two more than Osvaldo Capemba of Angola.

South Africa have reached the greatest number of finals in this age-group with six but have only won in two of those. They were beaten 1-0 by Angola in the decider last year.

There will be eight teams entered into the 2019 COSAFA Men's Under-17 Championship, namely Angola, Comoros, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, South Africa and Zambia.

The most goals scored in a single game in last year's championship was 11 as Namibia beat Seychelles 8-3.

The 2019 COSAFA Men's Under-17 Championship starts on October 11 and runs to October 20.

The COSAFA Under-17 Championship is open to all 14 of the nations that make up the Southern African regional body.

The 2019 COSAFA Under-17 Championship features 16 matches, 12 in the first-round group stage, two semifinals, a third-place play-off and a final.

There were 69 goals scored in the 22 matches played at the 2018 COSAFA Under-17 Championship, an average of more than three per game.



JKT Tanzania fullback, Miraji Madenge (3rd L), blocks Simba SC midfielder, Hassan Dilunga, during the Vodacom Premier League clash which took place at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam mid this week. Simba won 3-1. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT MIRAJI MSALA

Flexibles by David Chikoko

