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ISSN 0856 - 5434 ISSUE No. 7807 • PRICE: Tsh 1,000, Kenya sh100

TANZANIA

SATURDAY 25 JANUARY, 2020

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Govt orders training of skinners to end 50pc damage to local skins

By Guardian Reporter, Morogoro

THE government has ordered all slaughterhouses to send their skinners for training and licencing in a bid to end destruction of 50 per cent of skins and hides due to bad skinning. Speaking here yesterday after handing over skinning licences to 161 skinners from Morogoro municipality, Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries



Tanzania has the second largest number of livestock after Ethiopia

Abdallah Ulega said the ministry will shut down all abattoirs lacking trained and licenced skinners.

He said the closure will be enforced in compliance with the Meat Industry Act of 2006 which requires all abattoirs and meat processing factories to have skilled and licenced skinners.

"Tanzania has the second largest number of livestock (after Ethiopia) but 50 per cent of our skins and hides get damaged during skinning, leading to loss of billions of shillings in wasted revenue," he explained.

To ensure that Tanzania realizes its full potential in the leather sub-sector, the government is determined to see that the country move away from the 'business as usual' mentality where skinning of animals is done by anyone who can hold a knife, he stated.

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Coronavirus checks start at vital air, sea entrepots

WHO acknowledged that the respiratory illness is an emergency in China, but said it is too early to declare it a global one



President Dr. John Pombe Magufuli witnessing the signing of nine partnership agreements between the government and Barrick Gold Corporation in a joint venture firm named Twiga minerals Corporation which the government co-owns with the Canadian mining giant at State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House.

JPM: Auction off gold concentrates

By Getrude Mbago

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday ordered the auctioning of hundreds of containers with gold concentrates that were impounded at the port of Dar es Salaam in 2017.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday after witnessing the signing of nine partnership agreements between the government and Barrick Gold Corporation, the president directed that the proceeds realized from the over 200 containers of concentrates be taken by Twiga Minerals Corporation—a joint venture firm the government co-owns



This is a very important and historical day for us, and it is not only for Tanzania but for Africa at large. I know it wasn't an easy journey but we managed to overcome. I commend all who have been engaged in this discussion, they are our nation's patriots

with the Canadian mining giant.

"This is a very important and historical day for us, and it is not only for Tanzania but for Africa at large. I know it wasn't an easy journey but we managed to overcome. I commend all who have been engaged in this discussion, they are our nation's patriots," he told the gathering.

President Magufuli assured Barrick and all other investors around the world that Tanzania is the best place for investment thus welcoming them to the country.

"We don't need to fight with investors but rather engage in discussions and

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Unplanned settlements dog 'posh' Dar City bus terminal

By Beatrice Philemon

CITY fathers are under pressure from a consulting agency, the Architects and Quantity Surveyors Registration Board (AQRB) to buy non-surveyed land surrounding the modern bus terminal project area at Mbezi Luis for it to meet the required standards.

This advice to the Dar es Salaam City Council was made when AQRB board chairman Ludigija Bulamile visited the project site on Thursday evening, where said a modern bus terminal of international standards cannot sit amidst unplanned shelters and tiny dirt roads.



Yasin Mringo, the architect in charge of the project, said that construction of the terminal has reached 60 percent

He advised city fathers to liaise with Ubungu municipality, the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) and the Tanzania Roads Agency (TANROADS) to

discuss how to acquire more land and expand infrastructure to allow big buses from up-country to enter and leave the terminal easily, and improve the image of the terminal.

"Dar es Salaam City Council should be serious on this because we want to make the terminal a role model among cities in Africa. That includes having modern infrastructure delivering best services for passengers from different regions across the country," he stated.

"Mbezi Luis is an unplanned area. The only

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By Guardian Reporter

HEALTH personnel stationed at vital entry points to the country are being trained on how to identify and care for patients with the new coronavirus which is fast-spreading around the world.

The Ministry of Health, Community Development, Elderly and Children said in a statement yesterday that because of intense business interaction between China and Tanzania, it found it necessary to prepare just in case.

Quarantine facilities have been organized at all major entry points, equipped with essentials for attending to patients of that nature, the statement said.

"The ministry is monitoring this disease at all screening centres for arrivals at airports and seaports," reads the statement

Ministerial officials were taking samples from people with symptoms associated with the disease for testing at the government laboratory.

Alert has also been sent to Regional Medical Officers and municipal councils to monitor and get prepared to deal with an outbreak if



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it occurs.

However, the statement noted that there was no need for alarm because so far no patients have been identified in Tanzania, thus people can go about their businesses as usual but be mindful of the threat.

The disease has been dubbed Wuhan coronavirus after a Chinese city where it started early in the week where it has killed at least 17 people and infected more than 600. Cases have also been reported in Thailand, Japan, South Korea and the United States.

The viral disease which has no direct cure spreads more easily from person to person than previously thought, the World Health Organization (WHO) said in a statement after a meeting in the Austrian capital of Vienna.

China has locked down 10 cities at the hub of a new coronavirus outbreak as health authorities around the world took action to prevent a global pandemic.

The lockdowns on new cities encompasses more than 20.5 million people.

WHO acknowledged that the respiratory illness is an emergency in China, but said it is too early to declare it a global one.

Health officials fear the transmission rate will accelerate as hundreds of millions of Chinese travel at home and abroad during week-long holidays for the Lunar New Year, which begins today.

WHO said coronaviruses are a family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). These viruses are transmitted between animals and people, it added.



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JPM: Auction off gold concentrates

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negotiations while cooperating with them in a win-win situation...So this spirit should continue and be sustained. I know there are ongoing discussions between the government and other companies of tanzanite and diamonds to ensure that the country benefits from its resources," Dr Magufuli affirmed.

He said that in the new contract, the government will acquire a free carried shareholding of 16 percent in each of the mines and will receive its half of the economic benefits through taxes, royalties, clearing fees and participation in all cash distribution made by the mines and Twiga.

The government will provide all supportive efforts to ensure that the new company operates smoothly, he stated.

He further urged Twiga Minerals to work closely with mining zones surrounding communities and make sure that they support them improve their lives by providing needed support in education, health, water and other areas.

Further, he reminded them on environment protection for sustainable development.

For his part, Barrick Chief Executive Officer Mark Bristow also described the dispute with Tanzania as a "long journey" which has taken close to three years.

Being a year now, we have finally completed the long journey of negotiations and agreed on nine key points that will underpin activities of Twiga Mining Corporation a joint venture between the Tanzania government and Barrick," he stated.

"Many people said your criticism will chase away investors ... But what has been done is a challenge for the mining industry and all of us to embark on something where we win together or lose together," he said.

Earlier, the government's negotiating committee chairman Prof Palamagamba Kabudi said that the new Twiga Minerals Corporation will manage Bulyanhulu, North Mara and Buzwagi mines as one among strategies to settle all disputes relating to claims of the government on mining operations formerly conducted by Acacia (T) Ltd.

The nine partnership agreements include the Framework Agreement, the Management and Administrative Services Agreement, the Twiga Shareholders Agreement and the North Mara Shareholders Agreement.

Others are the Bulyanhulu Shareholders Agreement, the Buzwagi Shareholders Agreement, the North Mara Development Agreement, the Buzwagi Development Agreement and the Bulyahulu Development Agreement.

The dispute originally involved Acacia Mining, which was bought out by Barrick last year in a \$1.2 billion transaction. The government's ban on the export of mineral concentrates occurred early 2017, accusing Acacia of tax evasion.

In March 2017, the government directed the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) to impound over 200 containers with gold concentrate (mineral sand) from Buzwagi Gold Mine (BZGM) stored at MOFED dry port at Kurasini in the city ready for export.

The move came two days after the president made an impromptu visit at the port and discovered 20 containers filled with concentrate for export, ordering a thorough investigation.



Commissioner of Police Charles Mkumbo, Head of the Criminal Intelligence Commission, has an audience with residents of Murieti in Arusha Urban District on Thursday. He was out to elicit their views on various issues, with a view to devising ways to arrest the incidence of crime in the ward. Photo: Correspondent Cynthia Mwilojezi.

Unplanned settlements dog 'posh' Dar City bus terminal

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way to raise standards of the terminal is to acquire more land and plan it so that you can attract investors to build hotels and ensure that the facility is friendly to use even at night," he declared.

City fathers should also discuss the road infrastructure that will be used by up-country buses as roads to be used by such buses are far too small and the road network there falls under TARURA. Without major expansion many large buses would be kept out, he pointed out.

He cautioned that given the

topography of the area, if left as it is it is likely to be flooded similar to Jangwani area where the main Bus Rapid Transit station is located.

Yasin Mringo, the architect in charge of the project, said that construction of the terminal has reached 60 percent.

The project worth 50.9bn/- will be completed in July to allow up-country buses provide transportation services for passengers, architect Aggrey Ndimbo noted.

He said construction of the new bus terminal will constitute a shopping mall, private car park-

ing and tunnel, bus boarding bays, passenger toilets, three circulation core roads, wide circulation corridor, three wide waiting lounges and banking services.

Other facilities include ticketing offices, administration and rentable offices, rentable space, a police post, rentable ticketing offices, parking and landscaping.

"Right now construction work of the shopping mall frame is done by almost 100 percent, the terminal building by 40 percent, the bus platform by 50 percent, private car parking by 90 percent, tunnel connecting shopping mall

and private car parking by 80 percent," he explained.

The administration building was at initial stages of construction work, he stated, specifying that upon completion, the terminal will have capacity to accommodate 216 buses per hour, 3456 buses per day and 108 buses at a time.

The private car parking will have capacity to accommodate 260 cars per hour, he said.

Elaborating on practical training, he said through this project about 12 graduates from Mbeya University of Science and

Technology (MUST) and Ardhi University have managed to get practical training.

They had an opportunity to put into practice what they have learned and become more competent in the construction industry, being knowledgeable on different issues relating to construction work, he pointed out.

The main goal was to help them cope with on-going new technologies in the construction industry and provide high quality services to clients once they are employed, the architect added.



Congestion slowly builds up on the road as traffic police officers stop and 'interview' commuter bus drivers at Sinza Mapambano in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika.

Govt orders training of skimmers to end 50pc damage to local skins

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Instead, the skill must be given the respect and weight it deserves given the role it plays in the economy. To that end, owners of slaughter houses, including municipal authorities must ensure that their skimmers are properly trained and licenced, he further noted.

Ulega said skinning

experts from the ministry have already conducted training in the Lake Zone and other training sessions are currently going on in northern zone regions of Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro.

"This training drive is meant to ensure that Tanzanian leather factories do not import raw materials. But we must first ensure that

we produce high quality skins and hides which starts with skinning," he declared.

Ulega directed the Livestock Training Agency (LITA) to start offering courses in animal skinning skills so that slaughterhouses and municipal authorities can directly send skimmers for training instead of relying on the ministry's few experts.

Speaking at the event, the ministerial director of food security and nutrition in the ministry, Gabriel Bura said apart from bad skinning that destroys 50 per cent of skins and hides, livestock keepers contribute 30 per cent of the damage to the skin through whip lash marks as well as identity marks made by fire. Diseases contribute around 25 per cent of the damage,

he elaborated.

Tanzania has the second highest number of cattle in Africa after Ethiopia with 32.5 million cattle but the leather sub-sector is facing challenges that the government and stakeholders must address for it to generate revenue as per its potential, experts affirm

Zimbabwe's Grace Mugabe stands accused of illegally acquiring land

HARARE

FORMER Zimbabwe First Lady Grace Mugabe (pictured) is among at least 132 people accused of allegedly dealing illegally in state land and recommended for prosecution.

An audit report into sales of state land in Harare, which was done by a commission of inquiry led by Supreme Court judge Tendai Uchena, recommended that former President Robert Mugabe's wife Grace should be prosecuted along with many others.

The inquiry investigated the acquisition and sale of state land in the city and other urban areas since 2005.

Other prominent figures recommended for investigation include former local government minister Ignatius Chombo, secretary in the same ministry George Mlilo, former minister Nyasha Chikwinya,

businessman and president of the Confederation of Southern African Football Associations Philip Chiyangwa and former legislator Shadreck Mashayamombe.

Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC) chairperson Loice Matanda-Moyo said Thursday that the commission had received a copy of the audit report and that investigations would start soon.

"We hope investigations will start on Monday after we have agreed on the cases that ZACC and the police will be investigating," she said.

The former First Lady is accused of grabbing stands at a farm north of the city and transferring ownership into names of her relatives without payment.

She said all stands improperly acquired by Mugabe, Chombo and some local government officials at the farm must be recovered.



'Unemployment among youth key social economic challenge'

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government has expressed willingness to collaborate with stakeholders in addressing a number of challenges facing the youth by fostering entrepreneurship and self-employment skills.

Deputy minister in the Prime Ministers' Office Labour, Youths and Employment Antony Mavunde said this on Thursday evening at the Tanzania Global Students Entrepreneurs (GSEA) awards held in Dar es Salaam.

He said the government will create conducive environment to enable stakeholders to participate and assist the youth to venture into businesses.

"I can assure you that promoting entrepreneurship among youth is promoting employment. This gives me and the government confidence that our stakeholders are concerned

and ready to collaborate with us in addressing the prevailing labour market challenges, particularly enhancing job creation," he said.

He said unemployment among youth is a key social economic challenges not only facing Tanzania but also the world and more tense in sub-Saharan Africa where its effects are alarming. He said unemployment was 7.2 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa but it increased to 72.1 per cent in 2017.

In Tanzania, unemployment rates declined from 13.4 per cent in 2006 to 11.7 per cent in 2014 and 9.7 per cent in 2018.

He said the numbers are still high and greatly affecting socio-economic development of the country especially in slowing economic growth and poverty reduction.

"The government in collaboration with stakeholders is promoting self-employment and entrepreneurship

to address unemployment among the youth. We want to accelerate the pace at which more jobs are created, he noted.

Equal Organization (EO) Tanzania Chapter and GSEA Chair, Baraka Mtunga said: "We aim to raise not only awareness but mentorship and share leadership experiences with the youth".

He said the Tanzania Global Students Entrepreneurs competition started in 2015 and officially launched by EO Tanzania chapter in 2018/19 at Buni innovation hub located at the Commission of Science and Technology (COSTECH) in Dar es Salaam.

He said in this year's competition, Moses Katala, a student from African Leadership University walked away with Im/- cash prize, a fully paid trip to Cape Town, South Africa, to network and interact with over 50 other contestants from around the world



Rights crusader Zaina Mndeme of Same District in Kilimanjaro Region elaborates on plans by a local civil society organisation to combat gender-based violence. Photo: Godfrey Mushi

Tanzania seeks to bolster honey production - official

By Guardian Correspondent,

Morogoro

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism

has said plans were afoot to increase production of honey in the country from the current 55,000 tonnes a year to 135,000 tonnes annually.

European Union (EU) has agreed to fund a major project starting later this year which will involve roll-out of modern beehives for beekeeping, and collection points in strategic honey-producing regions.

The official said Tanzanian honey has already been tested and approved for export to the EU, the United States and Asia.

The project is set to transform the honey sub-sector which currently produces just 55,000 tonnes per year, far below its potential of 135,000 tonnes.

"We hope that increased beekeeping activities in the public forests and woodlands will also help raise awareness among local people of protecting forests," he said.

The country's honey production is said to be low due to various reasons including application of traditional beekeeping methods by 95 per cent.

Daniel Pancras, assistant director of the department of forest and beekeeping in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, said Tanzania has the potential to produce up to 130,000 tonnes of honey but it only utilizes 22 per cent of production potential.

He was speaking in Morogoro yesterday during a stakeholder's meeting where they discussed implementation of a 10 year national beekeeping strategic plan to be implemented from 2020 to 2030.

According to Pancras, the country is now producing 30,393 tonnes of honey equivalent to 22 per cent and some 1,843 tonnes of bee wax (20 per cent).

"The National Beekeeping Policy 1998, states on how to conduct researches to improve beekeeping but yet only 5 per cent of beekeepers use modern beekeeping technologies. This new strategic plan-2020/2030 is expected to come up with solutions on how to improve the agriculture sub-sector", he noted.

The director informed that the draft of the ten years plan had already been submitted to the government, adding they are waiting for stakeholders comments before it is officially launched. He said Tanzania Forestry Research Institute (TAFORI) will ensure timely completion of the final document and its distribution countrywide.

Acting TAFORI director, Dr Revocatus Mushumbusi said the institution was last year tasked to supervise the beekeeping sector hence the need to come up with a strategy to improve beekeeping activities. He said they are also going through the law that established TAFORI to see how best they can incorporate beekeeping in its responsibilities.

According to the Tanzania Forest Service (TFS)

Agriculture institutions tasked to produce better quality seeds

By Guardian Reporter

AGRICULTURE Minister Japhet Hasunga has directed experts and agricultural institutions to use their expertise and available irrigation schemes to produce quality seeds.

Hasunga made the directive when addressing a meeting which brought together agricultural experts, officials from agricultural institutions and the ministry held in Dodoma on Thursday.

He said there are no reasons for farmers in Tanzania to depend on imported seeds while the country has a number of irrigation schemes as well as agricultural experts who can facilitate production of quality seeds.

"We want seeds to be produced at the irrigation schemes during the drought season. This will ensure farmers of enough seeds during the rainy season. Rain seasons should only be used to plant crops and not production of seeds", said the minister.

According to the minister, Tanzania uses 186,000 tonnes of seeds annually whereas local production of seeds stands at 71,000 tonnes only. He said more than 100,000 tonnes of the seeds are imported outside Tanzania.

He said the country's agriculture sector has been growing with the exception of some few crops which its seeds are inadequately produced. He said the crops include legumes, cashew nuts, coffee, cassava and palm oil trees.

"President John Magufuli has directed us to enhance local production of seeds through irrigation. We want farmers to use locally produced seeds and ensure its availability across the country", Hasunga noted adding the ministry has started to implement the directive through its agricultural institutions and experts.

He said Tanzania has a total of 29.4 million hectares suitable for irrigation but only 475,000 hectares have so far been utilized.

The minister warned over increased availability of fake seeds, insecticides and fertilizers in local markets, noting the sub-standard products affect production as well as contributing into farmers incurring losses.

Deputy Permanent Secretary, Prof Siza Tumbo assured the minister that all the directives will be implemented accordingly.

The Agriculture Ministry has a total of 22 agricultural institutions whose board managements and directors attended the Thursday meeting.

Tabling the agriculture ministry budget for the 2019/2020 financial year, Agriculture Minister Japhet Hasunga told the Parliament that National Irrigation Commission (NIRC) has been allocated with 37.48bn/- out of the total ministry budget of 253.85bn/-.

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

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TAHADHARI KWA UMMA

NDUGU WATANZANIA;

KAMA MNAVYOFHAMU, LAINI ZA SIMU AMBAZO HAZIJASAJILIWA KWA KUTUMIA NAMBA YA KITAMBUSHO CHA TAIFA (NIDA) NA KUTHIBITISHWA KWA ALAMA ZA VIDOLE ZILIANZA KUZIMWA TAREHE 20 JANUARI, 2020 USIKU NA ZOEZI LINAENDELEA.

HAKIKI TENA USAJILI WA LAINI ZAKO KWA KUPIGA NAMBA *106# NA UCHUKUE HATUA STAHIKI SASA.

1.0 KWA WALIOSITISHIWA HUDUMA ZA LAINI ZAO ZA SIMU KUANZIA TAREHE 20.01.2020 WANAWEZA PIA KUENDELEA NA UTARATIBU WA USAJILI KWA LENGU LA AMA KURUDISHA LAINI ZAO ZILIZOFUNGWA KAMA ZITAKUWA BADO ZIPO AU KUPATA LAINI MPYA. ZOEZI HILI NI ENDELEU.

2.0 KWA WATUMIAJI/WAOMBALI (WATANZANIA) WAPYA WA LAINI ZA SIMU WATAENDELEA KUSAJILIWA MUDA WOTE KWA KUTUMIA KITAMBULISHO CHA TAIFA NA KUHAKIKIWA KWA ALAMA ZA VIDOLE. HUDUMA HIYO NI ENDELEU PIA.

3.0 MATUMIZI SAHIHI YA VITAMBULISHO WAKATI WA USAJILI WA LAINI ZA SIMU (ZINAZOTUMIKA AMA KWA AJILI YA MAWASILIANO YA SIMU ZA SAUTI AU VIFAA VYA MAWASILIANO MENGINE) UKO KATIKA MAKUNDI YAFUATAYO:-

3.1 Sisi wa-Tanzania kitambulisho chetu ni kile cha Taifa kitolewacho na NIDA kwa vigezo vyao;

3.2 Kwa wageni wanaokaa hapa nchini chini ya miezi sita wanasajili laini za simu kwa kutumia namba za Hati zao za kusafiria na kuhakiki kwa alama za vidole;

3.3 Kwa wageni wanaokaa zaidi miezi sita wanatumia vitambulisho (Legal Resident ID) ambavyo hupewa na NIDA (Hii ni kwa mujibu wa utaratibu wa Uhamiaji na NIDA);

3.4 Kwa wanadiplomasia wanatumia Hati zao za kusafiria pamoja na vitambulisho vyao vinavyotolewa na Wizara ya Mambo ya nje; na

3.5 Kwa wakimbizi wanatumia vitambulisho vyao ambavyo hupewa na NIDA (Hii ni kwa mujibu wa utaratibu wa Uhamiaji na NIDA),

4.0 KATIKA KUJIRIDHISHA KUWA WALIOSAJILI LAINI ZAO ZA SIMU WAMETUMIA VITAMBULISHO SAHIHI, TCRA KWA KUSHIRIKIANA NA WATOA HUDUMA ITAFANYA ZOEZI LA KUHAKIKI LAINI ZOTE ZITAKAZOKUWA ZIMESAJILIWA ILI KUWAONDOA WALE WALIOSAJILI LAINI ZAO AMA KWA KUTUMIA VITAMBULISHO VYA WATU WENGINE AU KWA KUTUMIA KITAMBULISHO TOFAUTI SAMBAMBA NA KUWACHUKULIA HATUA ZA KISHERIA.

5.0 IKUMBUKWE PIA KWAMBA KUSAJILI LAINI YA SIMU KWA KUTUMIA KITAMBULISHO CHA MTU MWINGINE NI KOSA SANJARI NA KUPEWA LAINI ILIYOSAJILIWA NA MTU MWINGINE.

6.0 ONYO NA TAHADHARI ZINAENDELEA KUTOLEWA KWA MAKUNDI YOTE YALIYOORODHESHA KWENYE KIPENGELE CHA 3.0 HAPO JUU, KUTOTUMIA KITAMBULISHO KISICHOKUHU-SU WAKATI UNASAJILI LAINI ZAKO ZA SIMU (ZINAZOTUMIKA AMA KWA AJILI YA MAWASILIANO YA SIMU ZA SAUTI AU VIFAA VYA MAWASILIANO MENGINE).

**Imetolewa na Mkurugenzi Mkuu
Mamlaka ya Mawasiliano Tanzania (TCRA)
24 Januari, 2020**

AMCOS: Pay back loans

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

IKUNGI district commissioner, Edward Mpogoro has given two weeks to agricultural marketing cooperative societies (AMCOS) to repay loans secured from BioSustain Tanzania Limited.

According to the DC the farmers' cooperative societies had in total borrowed 6,351,600/- from the company for the purchase of agricultural inputs.

BioSustain Tanzania Limited works to revive cotton production with an organic value in Singida region and to provide markets for organic certified products.

Mpogoro made the directive on Thursday when speaking during the district's safety and security committee meeting held at his office.

"AMCOS leaders must ensure all the monies are repaid back to the lender since they are required to submit them to the Tanzania Cotton Board (TCB). Village and ward executive officers should collaborate with leaders of the cooperative unions to trace loan defaulters", said the district commissioner.

He said the government will take stern legal measures against loan defaulters insisting they will all be traced. He accused cotton farmers for being dishonest to the lender who had provided them with agricultural inputs during the past

farming season.

"Farmers were required to sell their harvested cotton at specific AMCOS where they had secured loans, but most of them sold cotton to other cooperative unions in order to avoid repaying their loans. Your leaders should make sure that all the debts are paid in two weeks", he noted.

BioSustain Tanzania Limited manager, Zakaria Marco said the company has paid most of the cotton farmers in the 2019/2020 season with exception of 330 who will soon be paid 18,500,000/-. He urged them to continue cultivating the crop because prices are likely to be better in the coming season-2020/2021.

"We only experienced payment challenges in the 2019/2020 season but we promise to offer better prices and pay farmers on time for this season", said Marco as he appeals to farmers to continue cultivating the crop. He said the company is determined to support cotton farmers in Singida region as well as ensuring they get all the necessary agricultural inputs.

Misughaa ward executive officer, Olvery Peter said farmers have started to repay their loans. He said sunflower farmers who secured 50m/- loan from Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank Limited (TADB) have so far repaid more than 40m/-.



Tigo head of marketing services William Mpunga briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the launch of the firm's 'Ujanja Ni' campaign, under which customers can now make calls on all mobile phone networks at a low cost. Right is acting chief commercial officer David Umoh. Photo: John Badi

One in three girls from poor households has never attended school, says UNICEF

By Guardian Reporter

A new UNICEF study launched recently shows that 1 in 3 adolescent girls from the poorest households around the world has never been to school.

Some obstacles that continue to prevent the poorest children from accessing quality education include poverty, discrimination due to gender, disability, ethnic origin or language of instruction, physical distance from schools and poor infrastructure.

According to UNICEF, exclusion at every step of education perpetuates poverty and is a

key driver of a global learning crisis.

The paper suggests for an urgent need to better finance education for the poorest children highlighting major disparities in the distribution of public education spending. Limited and unequally distributed funding results in large class sizes, poorly trained teachers, lack of education materials and poor school infrastructure. This in turn has an adverse impact on attendance, enrolment and learning.

UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore said: "Countries everywhere are failing the

world's poorest children, and in doing so, failing themselves. As long as public education spending is disproportionately skewed towards children from the richest households, the poorest will have little hope of escaping poverty, learning the skills they need to compete and succeed in today's world, and contributing to their countries' economies."

Fore added: "We are at a critical juncture. If we invest wisely and equitably in children's education, we have the best possible chance of lifting children out of poverty by empowering them with the skills they need

to access opportunities, and create new ones for themselves".

The paper finds that education for children from the richest 20 per cent of households are allocated nearly double the amount of education funding than children from the poorest 20 per cent of households.

Ten countries across Africa account for the highest disparities in education spending, with four times as much funding allocated to the richest children compared with the poorest. In Guinea and the Central African Republic - countries with some of the world's highest rates of out-of-school children - the rich-

est children benefit from nine and six times, respectively, the amount of public education funds than the poorest children.

Barbados, Denmark, Ireland, Norway and Sweden are the only countries included in the analysis that distribute education funding equally between the richest and poorest quintiles.

The paper noted that lack of resources available for the poorest children is exacerbating a crippling learning crisis, as schools fail to provide quality education for their students.

According to the World Bank,

more than half of children living in low- and middle-income countries cannot read or understand a simple story by the end of primary school

The UNICEF paper suggests for government to ensure that within domestic resources allocation, funds must be distributed so that children from the poorest 20 per cent of households benefit from at least 20 per cent of education funding.

Governments to prioritize public funding for lower levels of education - where the children from the poorest households are most represented - and gradually increase allo-

cations to higher levels when coverage is close to universal at lower levels.

Governments should provide at least one year of universal pre-primary education for every child. Pre-primary education is the foundation upon which every stage of schooling relies. Children who complete pre-primary learn better, are more likely to stay in school and contribute more to their economies and societies when they reach adulthood.

Allocating at least 10 per cent of national education budgets will help achieve universal access.



Industry and Trade minister Innocent Bashungwa speaks at a seminar the Weights and Measures Agency organised in Dodoma yesterday for members of the Parliamentary Industries, Trade and Environment Committee. Others are committee chairperson and Mvomero legislator Suleiman Ahmed Saddiq (L) and secretary Zainab Mkamba. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

UN agencies seek US \$1 billion to help 3 million people in Somalia

MOGADISHU

THE United Nations and humanitarian agencies have launched the 2020 Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), seeking 1.03 billion U.S. dollars to provide life-saving assistance and livelihood support to three million people.

The plan aims to provide food assistance monthly to 2.1 million people, support access to education for more than 300,000 children, provide health assistance to 2.5 million people, deliver safe water to more than 1.2 million people and non-food items to 1.24 million people, and address conflict-related protection concerns including the risk of gender-based violence.

According to the HRP, more than half of Somalia's population live below the poverty line, noting that huge food and nutrition gaps exist among poor agro-pastoral, marginalized and displaced communities.

Hamza Said Hamza, minister of humanitarian affairs and disaster management, expressed the government's commitment to working with all humanitarian agencies operating in the country to implement the HRP.

The HRP aims to reduce the prevalence of acute malnutrition and health needs, meet the basic needs of people across 74 districts, strengthen protection, right to safety and dignity, and enhance the capacity of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and non-IDPs to cope with significant shocks.

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

PCCB in Iringa Region recovers 365.7m/-

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in Iringa region has recovered more than 365.7m/- in a number of operations as well as monitoring of the tax system between October and December 2019.

Addressing journalists yesterday, Iringa regional PCCB chief bureau Mwelil Kilimali said as a result of its operations which

included monitoring of the tax system, the bureau discovered tax evasion amounting to 198,000,000/- by Hong Wei International Co. Ltd.

Kilimali added that 133,731,317/- was realized through surveillance of bad debtors at Savings and Credit Co-Operative Society (SACCOS) and Mufindi Community Bank

PLC (MUCOBA).

PCCB recovered 30,834,630/- from the various development projects implemented in the region and another 4,243,200/- which had been saved through management of administrative funds in Mufindi council.

He said the bureau in Iringa region has between October and December 2019 received

57 complaints from citizens. He said the queries were directed and worked out at responsible departments.

He said PCCB filed a number of court cases at various courts within the region. Most of the cases, he said, are related on corruption.

"We also engaged in provision of public education where-

by a total of 7,689 citizens were educated on corruption issues as well as functions of the anti-corruption body", said Kilimali noting the beneficiaries included 4,321 students.

He said PCCB will in between January and March 2020 continue implementing its responsibilities which include monitoring of the general elections

process.

Tanzania will conduct its general elections later this year where citizens will elect the president, Members of Parliament and Councillors.

Kilimali said: "Our role is to ensure that Tanzanians elect leaders of their choice but not through corruption during the election process".

He said they will continue to monitor implementation of development projects to ensure value for money.

According to him, the bureau is also responsible for conducting system analysis and advice officials on how to prevent corruption loopholes.

"We will enhance efforts to educate people on the adverse impacts of corruption as well as engage them in the fight against it", said Kilimali.



Muheza district commissioner Mwanasha Tumbo (L) pictured yesterday touring a centre at Mwarimba village in Misozwe ward where voter registration updating is in progress. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

'Government is committed to empower youth in agriculture'

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office responsible for Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and the Disabled, Anthony Mavunde, said the government has resolved to use agriculture to create employment to youth.

He said they are working to change people's mindset so venturing into agricultural activities shouldn't be an alternative plan but rather a strategy as it is the case with other economic sectors.

Mavunde made the statement recently in Morogoro when presenting travel documents to 12 young Tanzanian graduates from Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) and members of the Sokoine University Graduate Entrepreneurs Cooperative (SUGECO) who are going for further practical studies in United States.

The Deputy Minister noted that the government in collaboration with SUA has decided to find solutions to unemployment problems through the agriculture sector. He said the government aims at seeing 40 percent of 24.3 million Tanzanians are employed in the agriculture sector.

"We also plan to ensure that 40 percent of the country's work force engage in industrial activities by 2025. Industries are part of the agriculture value chain which also includes other sub-sectors such as livestock keeping, fishing and forestry," he said noting that by that time there will be a huge demand of agricultural raw materials in industries.

Mavunde praised authorities in Morogoro region for being supportive to SUA graduates whereas they have allocated special farming land for their practical studies.

"These graduates cultivated rice which have already been harvested and sold. I am told they have managed to get over 100m/-. We will consult regional authorities to see if they can allocate an extra land for the purpose," he noted.

Mavunde urged the youth who are going to US for further studies to be good ambassadors of their fellow youth and the nation. He advised them to concentrate with studies and avoid engaging in other unlawful acts. He called upon banks to create conducive environment for youth to secure loans while commending Equity bank for providing loans to the youth who are going to the US. He urged the bank to also give them

loan when back in the country so that they establish various agricultural projects.

SUGECO Director, Revocatus Kimaro said the youth are part of 16 young Tanzanian graduates who will be sponsored for further studies outside the country in 2020. He said the exchange programme started in the 2018/2029 academic year where 75 youth benefited.

He added that a total of 87 youth will benefit from the programme this year. "We are planning to start using the youth in our programmes since we believe the acquired knowledge and skills will add to what we already know," he said noting that difficulties in accessing bank loans is one of the main reasons for failure of many agricultural projects.

He called upon banks and financial institutions to have trust with the sector and make sure farmers access loans to expand their agricultural activities.

SUGECO was established in 2011 intending to provide support innovation and knowledge intensive entrepreneurship among Tanzanian youth. It was established as a result of bilateral development assistance with Danida that aimed at supporting the national priorities goals.

Investors in Rufiji seeking govt intervention to land title deeds

By Guardian Correspondent, Rufiji

INVESTORS in Rufiji District, Coast Region, have appealed to the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investment) Angellah Kairuki to assist them to secure title deeds for their land.

Speaking at different times when visited by the minister, the investors complained over complexity in acquiring title deeds for their land.

They also raised concerns over lack of reliable water and electricity services saying the challenges have affected production. While in Rufiji, Minister Kairuki visited a factory that deals with processing of used vehicle and motorbike batteries. Modther milk processing factory and Utunge Company where they all complained of facing difficulties to getting title deeds.

Meanwhile, the minister urged the investors to make sure they register with the Tanzania Investment Center (TIC) to benefit with a number of services including tax exemption when importing goods or raw materials from abroad.

TIC was established in 1997 by the government to be the primary agency working to coordinate, encourage, promote and facilitate investment in Tanzania and to advise the government on investment policy and related matters. Manager, at the motorbike and vehicle battery processing factory, Huatan Antony Warioba commended the government for creating an enabling investment and business environment. He said the factory uses the remains of processed batteries to make sulfate bags and carpets.

Warioba informed the minister that the factory which was established in 2017 has the capacity to process 1,300 tonnes annually.

He said the factory plans to engage in corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities whereas villagers living in Nyamwage village will be educated on environmental issues. "Our appeal to the government is to assist us to secure title deeds for our land, and to improve water and power services to enhance production at local factories," he said.

'Zanzibar is undertaking major rehabilitation of court buildings'

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR'S minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs, Khamis Juma Mwalimu, has said that the government is undertaking major rehabilitations of court buildings across the country so as to increase access to justice among the people.

Mwalimu made the remarks yesterday here during the meeting with the members of the Constitution, Legal Affairs and Good Governance committee and the ministry's management.

According to him, the rehabilitation of the buildings is ongoing in various parts of Pemba and Unguja.

"Facilities at Chake Chake court have been well renovated and it has now a new look...major rehabilitations have been conducted at the High Court building which included expanding space in the judge's rooms," he noted.

He said the construction and ongoing improvements in facilities under the Judiciary are aimed at increasing access of the services and ensuring justice is delivered in convenient time.

According to him, the rehabilitation works were also ongoing in various courts in towns and rural areas of the Indian Ocean archipelago.

The minister further said that the government plans to construct a modern court building in Tunguu, Unguja opening door to the residents to access services near them.

For her part, the committee's vice chair Bora Dhulfa Mmaka said that the construction of the High Court building in Tunguu will reduce congestion of trials.

"We commend the government of Zanzibar for embarking on various efforts to improve legal services delivery in the country...This will address various challenges as people will no longer have to travel long distances in search of legal services," she noted.

Mussa Ali, the project's engineer said that the construction of the High Court building in Tunguu was going on well but encountered a number of challenges including sand shortage.

Uganda on high alert as locusts approach border with Kenya

KAMPALA

UGANDAN Prime Minister Ruhakana Rugunda has said the country is on high alert as locusts draw close to the common border with Kenya.

All nine ministries have been instructed to work together to collectively heighten the country's preparedness to prevent or handle the invasion, said Rugunda in a statement.

The locusts have reached Kenya's Samburu and Turkana areas, which are close to Uganda's northeastern border, he said, citing relevant reports.

"This is an emergency, and all efforts and agencies must be on alert to play their role in a timely manner," Rugunda (pictured) said.

He noted that the agriculture ministry has been instructed to submit a budget to the finance ministry to make clear the resources required to



prevent the invasion.

The agriculture ministry earlier indicated that it needed a contingency fund of 1.35 million U.S. dollars to be used for aircraft fuel, pesticides and other supplies. Rugunda said the government is in touch with Kenya to seek joint efforts to contain the locusts. The prime minister urged the public to stock up food reserves as a precaution.

Experts have warned that an inva-

sion of locusts would wreak havoc by destroying crops and vegetation and cause famine.

According to the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, a very small swarm of locusts eat as much food in one day as about 35,000 people.

Uganda last experienced a major locust invasion 70 years ago, with immense damage on crops, according to the agriculture ministry.



Jumuiko la Maliasili Tanzania
Tanzania Natural Resource Forum

PROJECT COORDINATOR Terms of Reference

Position:	Project Coordinator
Deadline:	31st Jan 2020
Duty of Station:	Arusha
Reporting to:	Executive Director

Purpose of the position: To coordinate implementation of Ardihi Yetu Program II project, the project that is implemented by consortium partners in addressing climate change, and land rights. As such, these Terms of Reference (TOR) describe the background, tasks and deliverables for Project Coordinator to provide related services.

1. General Overview of the Organization

The Tanzania Natural Resource Forum is a network organization registered in 2006 as a Non-Governmental Organization, with the aim of promoting the improvement of natural resource governance to achieve more sustainable rural livelihoods and better conservation outcomes. TNRF works for improved natural resources governance by helping to bridge the gap between:

- People's local natural resource management needs and practices, and
- National natural resource management priorities, policies, laws and programs

TNRF seeks to support its members by improving communication, sharing information, promoting collaboration and strengthening collective action. TNRF has a growing membership of more than 3,800 people and organizations, supporting professional staff, and a steering committee drawn from the membership.

TNRF facilitates member-driven 'Working Groups' on key policy and practice issues that are of

direct interest to members. These working groups are very collaborative and provide an opportunity for TNRF's diverse membership to tackle concerns at a range of different levels. There are currently working groups engaged in TNRF's three main thematic areas of forestry, wildlife and rangelands. TNRF communications works at a cross cutting level, producing for example a web-site, weekly e-news, policy briefs in collaboration with partners and participatory film or radio targeted at advocacy. TNRF also successfully engages with other stakeholders in establishing round tables for CSOs, donors, international NGOs and government to discuss emerging issues related to the environment.

2. Background of the Project

The Tanzania Natural Resource Forum is implementing a Ardihi Yetu Programm II under Care International funding through Care Tanzania for four years from 2018 to 2021. The project is implemented in collaboration with other two partners, HAKIARDHI and PAIKODEO. TNRF is implementing climate change part of the project in four areas of Kiteto, Iringa rural, Simanjiro and Chembra districts. The project aims at helping community to be adaptive and resilient in climate change. TNRF is looking Project Coordinator who will have the following responsibilities:

3. Core Responsibilities

- To strengthen relationships with partners and other stakeholders through planning and implementation of AYP Plus activities
- To lead and coordinate project staff to implement project activities in all district covered by AYP Plus
- To effectively ensure that adequate climate change training is provided to both CSOs partners and to community members
- In collaboration with TNRF project coordinator to collect, analyze monitoring data and produce reports on a monthly basis for the programme.
- To work with Communications Coordinator and

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning officer to establish and maintain a learning and advocacy framework for TNRF interaction with partners and members in

- To support MEL officer to develop and maintain outcome monitoring journals; update and maintain a monitoring database.
- To prepare monthly, quarterly and annual reports for submission to the Executive Director and presentation at regular quarterly staff meetings
- To generate information on issues that come up during program implementation and use them for learning purposes as well as for dissemination
- To facilitate communities and organizations to engage and collaborate with local and central government
- To stimulate dialogue among CSOs partners by finding common ground and looking out for win-win situations
- To facilitate participation, information sharing and networking among CSOs and other stakeholders on land rights and climate change issues
- To effectively coordinate representation of small holders' farmers and pastoralists interests at local and national and regional levels
- Coordinate various researches and studies
- To manage all LBI projects and meetings at TNRF
- Any other assignments assigned by Executive Director

5. Required qualifications and experience

The coordinator will have the following broad skill-set and attributes: -

- Bachelor degree in law, natural resource management, Community/rural Development), or in any social science discipline. Advanced degree will be an added advantage.
- Skilled in the use of a range of monitoring tools to improve the strategies for achieving outcomes and for improving performance – experience in outcome monitoring or willingness to learn methodologies
- Skilled in training and participatory learning methodologies, preferably with small holder farmer and pastoral communities
- A thorough knowledge of Logical Framework Analysis and knowledge of Organizational Development Issues
- Strong research, analytical, and writing skills is required.
- Ability to work with consultants, develop Terms of References (ToR) and ensure best long-term outcomes from consultants' work
- Proven knowledge of arrangement and procedures of formal and informal institutions in small holder and pastoral communities
- Experiences not less than 5 years working with climate change related progress, Civil Society organizations, private sectors or community groups, and local government institutions in Tanzania
- Excellent English and Kiswahili (speaking and writing)
- Computer literate in Microsoft office package

6. Terms of Contract

This is a project funded position for which a full and attractive package commensurate with the nature of the position will be offered per annual basis, renewable on the basis of performance and availability of funds

How to Apply: Interested Candidates for this job are kindly requested to send their CV accompanied by a cover letter to recruitment@tnrf.org or P.O. Box 15605 Arusha, Tanzania

Women and youths are encouraged to apply.

For details visit:
<https://www.tnrf.org/en/content/project-coordinator-1>

Mpanda council approves 20.3bn/- budget for 2020/2021 financial year

By Guardian Correspondent Katavi

THE Mpanda Full Council yesterday approved a 20.3bn/- budget estimate for the municipal in the 2020/2021 financial year.

The councilors approved the budget during a meeting held at Mpanda district municipal offices that was led by Mayor, Willy Mbogo.

Presenting the budget estimates, Mpanda district economist, Waza Benjamin said the municipal plans to spend 20,360,608,500/- in the coming financial year. He said of the money, the district will spend 2,873,673,200/- on other charges (OC), salaries 14,091,126,100/- and 3,395, 809,200/- for development activities.

Benjamin explained that the municipal will collect 3.3bn/- from its various sources whereas internal revenue collections will be 1.5bn/- that will be directed on development projects. He said the municipal expects to receive 984,536,400/- from central government and 818,516,800/- from donors.

He said the budget estimates have considered the municipal's development priorities.

He however noted that they have been facing difficulties in imple-

menting development projects due to fund delays from central government as well as poor collection of revenues.

He said the government has been delaying and sometimes not providing the required amount of money resulting into municipal failure to implement projects including repairing of roads during rain seasons.

"We are planning to enhance our revenue collections to be able to finance construction projects even when funds from treasury have not been disbursed. We are also working to attract investors as well as establishing new investments," said the municipal's economist.

Mpanda Mayor, Willy Mbogo said the municipal's revenue collection trend is encouraging because it has so far collected 74 percent of the targeted amount for the 2019/2020 financial year.

According to Mbogo various measures taken by the municipal are meant to enhance revenue collection in the 2020/2021 financial year. He assured the councilors that revenue collections in the fiscal year beginning July this year will be met by 100 percent.



Azam Media managing director Tido Mhando visibly elated during the launch of an Azam TV decoder in Dar es Salaam yesterday. He is with the firm's sales director, Sabrina Ally. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Malawi opens the first drone academy in Africa

LILONGWE

SINCE 2016, Malawi has stood at the forefront of utilizing unmanned aircraft systems, also known as drones – in Africa. This year, the country took a step further by opening the African Drone and Data Academy (ADDA), the first of its kind in Africa.

ADDA was officially opened on January 13, 2020, in Lilongwe, Malawi.

"In Malawi, we strongly believe that adopting modern technologies such as drones and advanced data analysis and management techniques will help us to serve our children better," said James Chakwera, Director of Malawi's Depart-

ment of Civil Aviation.

Open to Malawians and citizens of neighboring countries, the academy will equip individuals with drone technology skills necessary for jobs using drones, particularly in humanitarian aid and disaster preparedness.

Graduates will earn certificates issued from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (based in the United States), through a partnership between ADDA and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The academy plans to educate 150 students by 2020 through a 10-week course. The first cohort has already begun training and will graduate on March 18, 2020. The cohort is comprised of 26

students, with 16 from Malawi, 10 from across Africa, and women making up over half of the class. Debora Mtambalika, a member of the first ADDA cohort, appreciated ADDA's presence in Malawi.

The academy plans to partner with Malawi University of Science and Technology for a free, 2-year master's degree in drone and data innovation by 2022 – another first in Africa.

Drones have long been recognized as an essential tool for conducting humanitarian operations in Malawi, where floods account for 48 percent of major disasters. Since 1946, the severity of flood disasters has increased, with more than 80,000 displaced in March 2019 flash floods in Malawi.

Flooding makes already poor roads inaccessible – completely cutting off affected communities, especially in remote, rural areas. Adapting innovative technology for efficient real-time monitoring and disaster response preparedness is critical.

In June 2017, the Malawi government partnered with UNICEF to launch a drone testing corridor in Malawi, also the first of its kind in Africa. They set it up to research how drones can impact humanitarian work. UNICEF chose to establish the testing drone in Malawi because unreliable infrastructure has often hindered the distribution of critical medicine to clinics in remote, rural areas.

In November 2017, a drone

called Eco Malawi delivered drugs within a 19-kilometer radius. Eco Malawi is one of five drones designed and built by 13 Malawian students at Virginia Tech University's unmanned systems lab in the USA. Before this achievement, the 13 students had limited or no experience with drone construction.

UNICEF has been using drones in Malawi to provide vaccines, blood transfusion kits, antibiotics and malaria drugs. In drone trials by UNICEF in 2016, drones were used to carry blood samples from babies in villages to clinics for HIV testing. These efforts have improved access to antiretroviral drugs to HIV+ mothers and children in remote regions. The European Union

has also supported a range of humanitarian initiatives in Malawi that feature drones as a tool for mapping, research and evacuation training related to disaster preparedness.

Drones in East Africa

Uganda has its own drone hub known as Uganda Flying Lab to provide solutions to its development and humanitarian challenges. The lab is a mapping and data analytics hub that also trains students to collect and analyze data.

Karen Asaba, an ADDA student, first developed an interest in drones while studying at the Uganda Flying Labs.

Tanzania also uses drone technology to combat malaria and map possible hotspots. Tanzania

Flying Lab (TFL) offers courses, builds local robotic skills and incubates new businesses. TFL hub is the East African Regional Flying Lab that trains the trainers of other Flying Labs. It deployed the first anti-malaria drones in November 2019.

Flying Labs operates in 14 countries in Africa including Kenya. However, Samuel Wanjohi, a film director, was quick to point out on Twitter that Kenya had banned the use of drones with a steep fine attached to it.

In Rwanda, Zipline, a drone medical delivery company, has operated since 2016. As of 2018, Zipline has supplied 35 percent of blood from national blood transfusion banks to remote clinics.



Tanzania's Ambassador to China, Mberwa Kairuki (2nd-L), exchanges greetings with Mwanza regional defence and security committee members shortly after arriving in Mwanza city yesterday to attend a conference on investment, technology and capital markets for mining stakeholders in Tanzania and several other countries. Photo: Correspondent Rose Jacob

900 Forms V and VI students educated on joining aviation sector

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

A TOTAL of 900 Form V and VI students in science subjects in three secondary schools in Tabora Region have received training for them to join the aviation sector soon after they received their university degrees in the science field.

The one-day training involved 500 students from Milambo Secondary School, 200 from Tabora Boys and 200 from Tabora Girls Secondary schools.

Speaking to reporters yesterday in Tabora soon after the training session, Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) Information Officer Bestina Magutu said the main aim of the training is to help students taking science subjects to have a wide knowledge and to grab the opportunity for studies in the aviation sector.

She said another aim is to mobilize them to prepare themselves to take up studies in various fields of the aviation sector.

An instructor from TCAA College Thamarat Salim said the aviation sector in the country is growing fast hence it is better for science subject students to grab the opportunity to enable the country reach middle income economy.

He said many courses in the aviation sector requires a student to have studied science subjects.

As student from Milambo Secondary School Ephraim Daffa said training given by TCAA to students taking science subjects has helped students understand the importance of the aviation sector for the country.

Tabora Region TCAA manager Daniel Nyimbo called upon science students to grab opportunities when they

Lack of 300m/- delays school project in Busokelo District

By Guardian Correspondent, Busokelo

LACK of 300m/- has delayed the project for the construction of Busokelo Boys Secondary School in Rungwe District, Mbeya Region that planned to receive special talent students from the district.

This was revealed mid this

week by Busokelo District Secondary Education Officer Forkward Mchami during the visit of the CCM's Regional Political Committee that inspected various development projects under implementation.

He said as of now the District council lacks funds to finish work on the project hence they

expect to use various development stakeholders for help so as for the school to be opened in January next year.

Mchami, a teacher said the school is important in the district as it is completed it will assist in the alleviation of the classrooms shortage in the district.

He called upon CCM leaders to assist the Council to mobilize development stakeholders to complete the school.

Acting District Executive Director (DED) Dr Anania Laurence said originally the school was being built from the wanchi's efforts but later it was handed over to the Council af-

ter they failed.

He said work on the school cannot be completed using the council's internal revenue because revenue collection is little and in case they do so the project will take long time to complete.

He said in the Finance Year 2019/20 the Council set aside

50m/- only for the project hence they need moiré efforts to implement the project fully.

Mbeya Region CCM Secretary Solomon Itunda said during their visit to the school project they discovered there was the problem of small revenue collection hence many projects in the district depended on sub-

sidy from the central government. In the circumstances, he said they decided to place the project in their strategies of assisting various projects.

But the Busokelo District Commissioner Julius Chalya directed the council to allocate funds from its revenues for the school project.

Ukerewe education stakeholders appeal for more female teachers

By Guardian Correspondent, Ukerewe

EDUCATION stakeholders in Ukerewe district, Mwanza region have requested the government to allocate female teachers to seven primary schools as part of efforts to control teenage pregnancies.

The stakeholders met at Kagunguri ward in the district where among other things they discussed factors contributing to declining pupils' academic performance as well as the challenge of early pregnancies that have been resulting into many girls dropping out of school.

The meeting was organised by Ukerewe district chairman, and Kagunguri ward councillor, George Nyamaha.

According to him, the district had set a target of ensuring 85 percent of primary school leavers pass their national examinations. He however said the target has not been met due to a number of reasons including early pregnancies.

"We are in need of female teachers at our seven primary schools. Their presence will help in provision of reproductive health education but also girls will more openly discuss their challenges with female tutors," he said noting that could be a step towards ending early pregnancies.

Nyamaha noted that girls need someone close to them to be able to openly share their life challenges. He mentioned the schools in need of female teachers as Busumba, Bwiro, Burubi, Kamasi, Sizu, Buruza and Kulazu primary.

He said apart from requiring female teachers, the district faces a shortage of teachers by 58 percent. The ward coun-

cil also donated a photocopy and printing machine to facilitate printing of exams.

Contributing, Kabo Village chairman, Msafiri Kanobo said most of the parents at the area have not been to school thus they don't see the importance of taking their children to school.

He informed that only two girls from the village completed primary school education last year due to various reasons including absenteeism and teenage pregnancies. He added that only two girls sat for their Form Four final examinations in 2019 as the rest got pregnant and were suspended from school.

According to him the poor learning infrastructures and long distances to and from school have also contributed into dropping academic performance for both, primary and secondary school students in the district.

Announcing results for 2019 Standard Seven Primary School Leaving Examination, National Examination Council of Tanzania (Necta) Executive Secretary, Dr Charles Msonde said at least 81.5 per cent of the pupils who sat for exams passed.

Dr Msonde said a total of 759,737 out of 933,369 have passed.

He said 395,738 of those who passed were girls, which is about 80.87 per cent whereas 363,998 were boys (77.72 per cent) showing an improvement in performance by 3.78.

He said performance in Kiswahili, English, Science and Social Studies showed improvement ranging between 1.83 and 6.86 compared to 2018. He noted that performance in Mathematics dropped by 1.05 per cent compared to the previous year.



George Mkuchika (R), Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance), bids farewell to Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance vice chairman Mohamed Hamad moments after a meeting with CHRGG commissioners in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Happiness Shayo

CHRAGG tells TLS doors are open for consultations

By Guardian Correspondent

CHAIRPERSON of the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) retired Judge Mathew Mwaimu has assured the Tanganyika Law Society (TLS) of cooperation insisting doors are open for them to seek consultations.

Judge Mwaimu offered the welcoming to TLS during his brief familiarisation tour at its offices in Dodoma on Thursday.

The visit was also aimed at creating good environment for mutual cooperation.

He told the representative of TLS President in Dodoma, Mary Munissi that CHRAGG is aware that the organisation has always been aiding society on issues of legal aid and educating them on their rights. "Our responsibilities are nearly the same, it could be better if we build mutual cooperation for the common goal of assisting ordinary citizens,"

Judge Mwaimu explained.

He added: "It is our duty to provide help and protect ordinary citizens and make sure they are always able to access justice and human rights mechanisms whenever in need."

The Retired Judge insisted that CHRAGG and TLS should combine forces and work together towards achieving its targeted goal of providing legal aid to Tanzanians.

Vice Chairperson of CHRAGG,

Mohamed Hamad said the commission has always ensured good relationship with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), adding that they have so far signed Memorandum of Understandings to work with 21 CSOs.

"We CHRAGG believe that human rights are cross-cutting that requires joint efforts to implement, CHRAGG alone cannot manage, the important thing is for us to join efforts in implementing and assisting citizens,"

added Hamad.

Representing TLS President, Mary Munissi promised to utilize the opportunity given to them by ensuring they work closely with the commission.

Advocate Isaac Mwaipopo from TLS, who is also a chairperson of Probono Chapter in Dodoma, said TLS has been stretching efforts to provide legal aid to citizens, and that grievances that are out of its jurisdictions are channeled to proper authorities.

Besides, TLS asked CHRAGG to assist them to access justice as they sometimes face difficulties in the course of executing their duties.

Advocate Mwaipopo advised CHRAGG to utilize researches prepared by TLS concerning human rights violation issues. He said TLS for so long has been working on that area and has genuine data showing dimensions of the problem in the country. He said apart from providing

legal aid, TLS implements access to justice project, noting they are also working closely with the prisons, police and Ministry of Constitution and Legal Affairs.

They are also striving to build link between paralegals and the government to ensure smooth operation whereas so far the government has started involving them on various issues relating to laws, especially during the process of formulating bills and amendment of new laws.



Education stakeholder engineer Manyasi Bundala (R) pictured on Thursday speaking at a meeting called to sensitise residents of Bulinga in Musoma Rural constituency into supporting the construction of three classrooms for a secondary school in the area. Others are Musoma Rural legislator Prof Sospeter Muhongo (C) and Bulinga councillor Mambo Japani. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

PCCB to arraign Ruangwa District hospital nurse over bribe allegations

By Guardian Correspondent, Lindi

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) will on Tuesday arraign a Senior Nurse at Ruangwa district hospital, Nasra Mandamba allegedly for soliciting a 20,000/- bribe form a patient.

PCCB Head in Lindi region, Stephen Chami made the remarks when speaking to journalists at his office at Shekhe Badi Street in Lindi municipal.

According to Chami, on October 1, 2019, the nurse asked for a 20,000/- bribe from a relative of an expectant mother who had gone at the hospital in search of medical services (delivery).

"When the patient was admitted, the nurse approached one of her relatives and re-

quested for some 20,000/- so that she can take good care of the expectant mother admitted in the labour ward," said Chami.

He noted that the patient's relative tipped PCCB official on the incident whereas they managed to arrest her. He said police are done with investigations and that her file has been taken to the director of public prosecution (DPP).

"We have completed investigations, Mandamba will be arraigned at Ruangwa district court on Tuesday this year," said Chami calling upon civil servants in the region to shun from corruption insisting stringent measures will be taken against anyone asking for or taking bribes from people seeking services at public offices.

Small-scale farmers feel left out amid boom in African fertiliser production

By Rupa Shenoy

FOR decades, fertilizer was too expensive for African farmers. It had to be imported, and transportation into the continent was expensive.

Now, though, Africa is turning a corner toward producing more of it locally. A Moroccan company has signed a nearly \$4 billion deal to build a fertilizer plant in Ethiopia. A Danish company is helping the Democratic Republic of Congo build a \$2.5 billion fertilizer plant. The African Development Bank Group helped fund a new fertilizer plant in Nigeria that's al-

ready boosting farmers' yields.

And this August in Ghana, the vice president stood proudly before the largest fertilizer plant ever built in the country. Mahamudu Bawumia said the factory was the solution Ghana's farmers had been demanding.

"This factory can meet all of Ghana's demand for fertilizer," he told a crowd that clapped enthusiastically.

African countries have some of the lowest rates of fertilizer use in the world, but efforts to change this come with some serious dilemmas. Some nutrients farmers add to the soil both

nourish crops and contribute to the climate change that's already damaging food production in Africa. Fertilizer runoff contaminates water, too. In the United States, where fertilizer use is high, managing these downsides has proved difficult.

The ultramodern facility, in the coastal town of Tema, Ghana, cost nearly \$5 million to build – and is wholly owned by Ghanaians. It's the first in a national plan to build fertilizer plants in every district of the country.

"We therefore don't have any reason to be furthermore importing more and more fer-

tilizer and wasting our foreign exchange," Bawumia said.

The wide acceptance and government support for fertilizer in Africa has been a long time coming.

"You had efforts to get fertilizer adopted in the '60s, the '70s, but it didn't become a success because the cost-benefit were not favorable at all," said Henk Breman, who was Africa director for IFDC, the International Fertilizer Development Center.

He said there was also resistance to fertilizer from some in Africa who – remembering the colonialism that dominated the continent – didn't want to

be dependent on foreign corporations. Or they preferred more natural farming because fertilizers contribute to climate change. But Breman said natural "biological" methods won't produce enough food.

"That will not feed the African population at present," he said. Adding, "Nevertheless, those who believe in biological agriculture hate me."

As African governments turn toward encouraging farmers to use fertilizer and building plants that produce it, Breman said farmers will still face challenges, because, especially in the beginning, fertilizer needs

to be applied generously and consistently to eventually make soil productive. That's a big initial expense that many African farmers with small plots can't afford.

While governments are trying to address that problem with subsidies, another problem has cropped up: As fertilizer production in Africa has increased, so have reports of it being stolen and smuggled.

"Usually [the government agriculture department] supplies us with fertilizer," said 80-year-old Okyeame Ampadu, a farmer in the interior Volta Region of Ghana. But he said he hasn't

received fertilizer from the government for two years.

Ampadu raises citrus fruit and coconuts, and now he's trying his hand with avocados because he hasn't had much luck with any crops. In a dark shed, he keeps one last burlap bag of fertilizer, leaning up against a wall, stamped with the letters N, P, K, for Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium. The bag's still mostly full; Ampadu said he's saving it for when he really needs it.

So, while public-private partnerships have built fertilizer plants across Africa – like the one that just opened in Ghana

The Guardian

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SATURDAY 25 JANUARY 2020

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Africa should aim to transform plastics recycling infrastructure

PLASTIC recycling is the process of recovering scrap or waste plastic and reprocessing the material into useful products. Since the majority of plastic is non-biodegradable, recycling is a part of global efforts to reduce plastic in the waste stream, especially the approximately 8 million metric tonnes of waste plastic that enters the Earth's ocean every year.

Plastic recycling is very important and must be taken seriously. Plastics make up a huge amount of solid waste and take centuries to break down in landfill or the ocean. Therefore, all recyclable plastics should be recycled to reduce landfill, conserve energy and conserve the environment.

Compared with lucrative recycling of metal, and similar to the low value of glass recycling, plastic polymers recycling is often more challenging because of low density and low value. There are also numerous technical hurdles to overcome when recycling plastic. Materials recovery facilities are responsible for sorting and processing plastics, but have struggled to do so economically as of 2019.

A group of international consumer goods companies operating across Africa launched the 'African Plastics Recycling Alliance' at the seventh edition of the Africa CEO Forum. The Alliance aims to transform plastics recycling infrastructure across sub-Saharan Africa.

Through the Alliance, companies will facilitate and support their local subsidiaries to engage in market-level public-private partnerships (PPPs) and industry collaborations. The Alliance will promote innovation and collaborate on technical solutions and local pilot initiatives to improve plastics collection and recycling, which in turn is expected

to create jobs and commercial activity. Companies will also engage with the investment community and policymakers to accelerate the development and financing of waste management infrastructure and systems.

The Coca Cola Company, Diageo, Nestlé and Unilever launched the Alliance. Each of these companies also has individual corporate-level commitments in line with efforts to achieve SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production).

The Coca Cola Company aims to use at least 50 per cent recycled material in its packaging by 2030 and to help collect and recycle the equivalent of every bottle or can it sells globally by 2030.

Diageo is working to ensure that 100 per cent of its plastic can be recycled or reused/composed, using plastics that allow for increased consumer recycling rates, among other actions.

Nestlé is making 100 per cent of its packaging recyclable or reusable by 2025, and is eliminating non-recyclable or hard-to-recycle plastics as part of its corporate initiatives to accelerate action to tackle plastic waste.

Unilever aims to achieve 100 per cent reusable, recyclable or compostable and 25 per cent recycled plastic content by 2035 while also reducing its packaging weight by one-third and halving waste associated with product disposal by 2020.

Diageo Africa President, John O'Keefe, highlighted Diageo's proactive approach as to "establish new, and leverage existing, multi-stakeholder partnerships which support the collection, processing, reuse and recycling of plastics and stimulate the market for recycled plastics." He described the Alliance as an important next step in efforts to "accelerate and scale-up our localized in-country recycling efforts."

SMEs are responsible for driving innovation and competition in many economic sectors

SMALL and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are non-subsidiary, independent firms which employ fewer than a given number of employees. This number varies across countries. The most frequent upper limit designating an SME is 250 employees, as in the European Union.

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) or small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs) are businesses whose personnel numbers fall below certain limits.

The abbreviation 'SME' is used by international organisations such as the World Bank, the European Union, the United Nations and the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

SMEs outnumber large companies by a wide margin and also employ many more people. For example, Australian SMEs make up 98 per cent of all Australian businesses, produce one-third of the total GDP and employ 4.7 million people. In Chile, in the commercial year 2014, 98.5 per cent of the firms were classified as SMEs.

In Tunisia, the self-employed workers alone account for about 28 per cent of the total non-farm employment and firms with fewer than 100 employees account for about 62 per cent of total employment.

In developing countries, smaller (micro) and informal firms, have a larger share than in developed countries. SMEs are also said to be responsible for driving innovation and competition in many economic sectors.

Although they create more jobs, there is also a majority of job destruction/contraction.[3]

SMEs are important for economic and social reasons, given the sectors role in employment. Due to their sizes, SME are heavily influenced by their Chief Executive Officers, a.k.a. CEOs.

The CEOs of SMEs often are the founders, owners, and manager of the SMEs.

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the East African Community (EAC) have been advised to scale up their operations in order to grow quickly and become large enterprises that will be competitive at the regional and international levels.

Rwanda's Minister for Trade and Industry, Soraya Hakuziyaremye, said that the goal for each MSME in the region should be to graduate into a bigger enterprise rather than remaining an MSME forever.

Hakuziyaremye noted that MSMEs represent more than 90 per cent of businesses in East Africa, adding that growing MSMEs would therefore be the backbone of the regional economy.

Hakuziyaremye disclosed that the long term goal of the EAC was to increase the contribution of MSMEs to Partner States' GDPs from the current 20 per cent to 50 per cent. She urged EAC Partner States' governments to do all in their powers to address challenges faced by MSMEs to enable them create employment and reduce the high poverty levels.

The Minister said that key areas of capacity building for MSMEs would be in areas such as standards, cross border trade regulations, metrology, business licensing and registration, and the elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers to Trade (NTBs).

In his remarks, Charles Waitaha, the Chief Executive Officer of the Micro and Small Enterprises Authority in Kenya, revealed that 14.4 million per cent of Kenyans draw their livelihoods from directly from MSMEs which constitute 89 per cent of businesses in Kenya.

Waitaha said that MSMEs also contribute approximately 33.3 per cent gross added value to Kenya's Gross Domestic Product.

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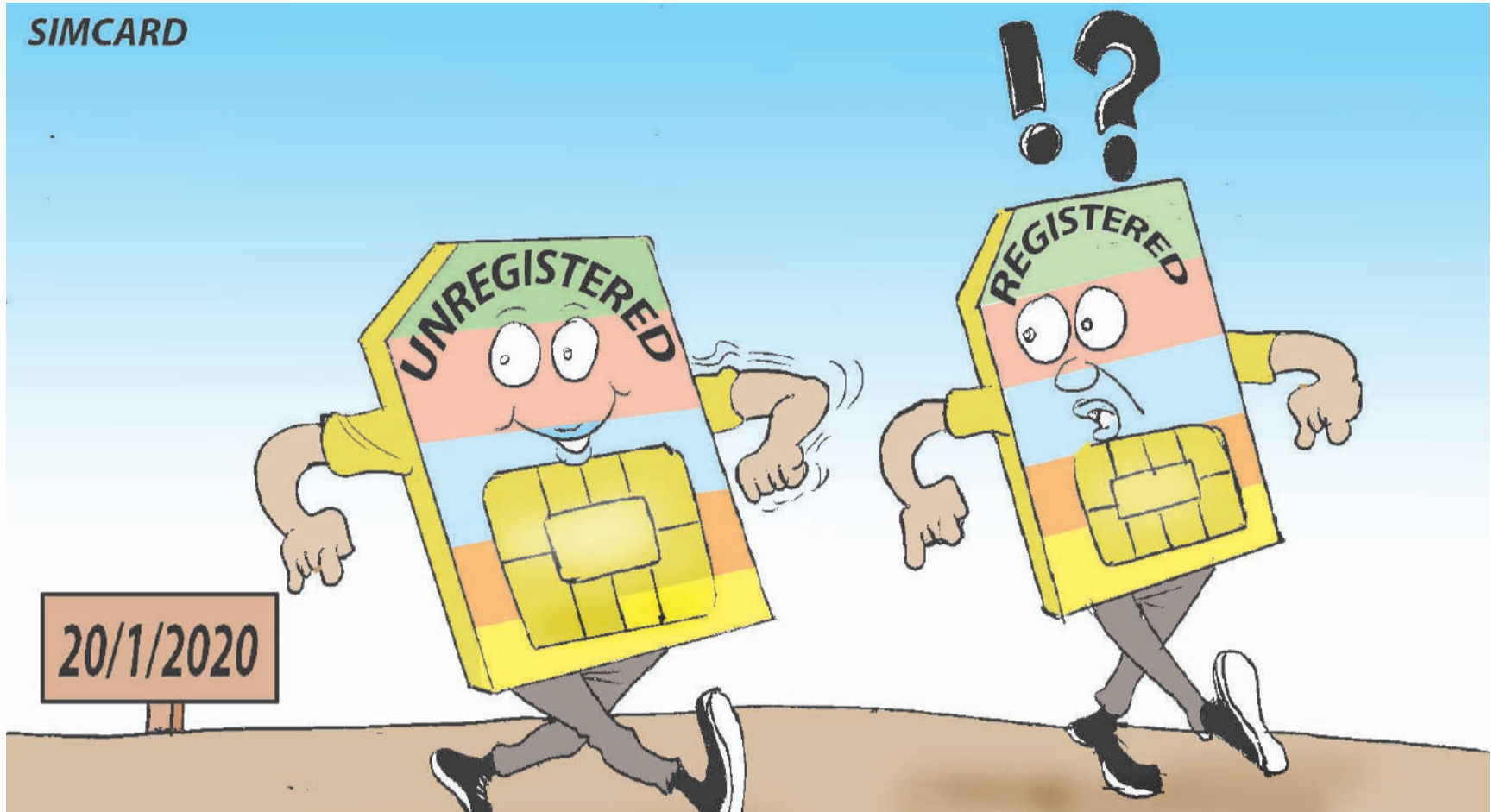
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SIMCARD



Walking the talk of stakeholder capitalism



By Richard Samans and Jane Nelson

THE role of corporate boards has never been more important, nor subject to as much scrutiny, as it is today. The technological, environmental, geopolitical, and socio-economic transformations of the past two decades are driving a re-examination of the prevailing corporate-governance model, just as they are posing fundamental challenges to many areas of public policy and governance.

In particular, these transformations are making environmental, social, governance, and data stewardship (ESG&D) considerations increasingly important to companies' financial performance and resilience. This broad change is eroding the traditional distinction between a shareholder-primacy model (which focuses on financial and operational costs and benefits) and a stakeholder-driven model (focused on environmental and social risks and opportunities).

Issues previously considered secondary for CEOs and boards - matters once handled by companies' stakeholder-relations, philanthropy, and information-technology departments - have become important determinants of firms' capacity to create and

sustain economic value. For example, climate change, water management, and other aspects of environmental stewardship are increasingly recognised as bottom-line issues in a world where technology, regulation, and other features of the operating environment can change quickly.

Similar challenges apply to the management of intangible assets - a key source of competitive advantage in the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The talent and motivation of a firm's workforce, an innovative corporate culture, individual know-how, and data all are becoming increasingly important sources of value.

Accordingly, a company's approach to people, the planet, and innovation - including how it protects and applies the value added of its data - must figure more prominently in capital-allocation decisions.

And to that end, corporate leaders need to improve their understanding of the trade-offs between longer-term investment in new capacity and capabilities and shorter-term rationalisation of existing operations and assets. Over time, more emphasis should be placed on longer-term investment.

Effective administration of ESG&D performance is equally important for risk management. Some companies and sectors

have learned the hard way that failure to pay due attention to ESG&D issues can result in the rapid deterioration of investor, employee, customer, and societal trust, potentially leading to a substantial loss of value. For example, the 2019 Cost of a Data Breach Report, sponsored by IBM Security, estimates that the global average cost of a data breach has risen by 12% since 2014, meaning that organisations can now expect to pay an average of \$3.92-million in related costs. Similarly, ForgeRock finds that more than 2.8 billion consumer data records were exposed in 342 breaches in the US in 2018 alone, costing an estimated \$654-billion.

According to research published by the environmental group Ceres, more than 60 S&P 500 companies in 2017 publicly disclosed a negative material effect on earnings stemming from weather events.

Moreover, climate-related supply-chain disruptions increased by 29% from 2012 to 2019, and in the US, there were more than 100 legal filings over climate issues as of May 2019. Globally, the number of climate regulations on the books has grown to 1,500, compared to 72 in 1997.

By the same token, the #MeToo movement has revealed the growing financial, reputational, and

operational risks facing companies that fail to address issues of workplace discrimination, sexual harassment, or misconduct. Fortune, reporting on The Conference Board's 2019 CEO Succession Practices report, notes that: "Among the 18 non-voluntary CEO departures, five oustings were related to personal conduct and #MeToo allegations. That's especially noteworthy given that only one CEO between 2013 and 2017 was fired as a result of personal conduct unrelated to performance."

Clearly, in the new environmental, social, geopolitical, and technological context of the 2020s, ESG&D issues are not only ethical or public-relations matters.

They are essential to the exercise of fiduciary duty in the disposition of corporate resources. Still, realising the full potential of stakeholder capitalism will require companies to translate its core principles into practice. That starts in the boardroom. Boards must transcend the traditional segmentation of shareholder and stakeholder considerations, exemplified by the concepts of shareholder value and corporate responsibility, by integrating them.

Integrated corporate governance is a departure from the mindset and associated practices of shareholder primacy and corporate social responsibility, both of which treat ESG&D factors as primarily non or pre-financial matters. By contrast, an integrative approach takes a holistic view of shareholder and stakeholder interests by systematically internalising ESG&D considerations into the firm's strategy, resource allocation, risk management, performance evaluation, and reporting policies and processes.

If stakeholder capitalism is to be more than an optimistic vision, this integration and internalisation must be better defined in operational terms, and such practices must be widely adopted by boards, whether their companies are publicly, privately, or state-owned.

That is what it will take to give practical effect to the principles articulated in the World Economic Forum's Davos Manifesto 2020, the US Business Roundtable's revised Statement on the Purpose of a Corporation, and a growing number of regulatory frameworks around the world, such as the revised UK Corporate Governance Code and the UK Stewardship Code 2020. That is how companies can "walk the talk" of stakeholder capitalism.

Identifying critical sectors for economic growth

By Shaeera Kalla

IN a speech given to the Business Economic Indaba recently, Shaeera Kalla called for a National Economic Recovery Plan to be centred around sustainable and shared economic value creation. She warned delegates, "if we cannot figure out how to share in our value and wealth 'creation', we will share in its destruction".

One of my New Year's resolutions is to deliberately learn something new every day. So each night

I read a chapter of a book titled Uncommon Knowledge - the Economist Explains. The most thought-provoking chapter so far asks: "Who owns what in space?"

How many of you know who owns what in space?

While we're endlessly debating our mining charter, there are governments passing legislation on mining in outer space. If there is life out there, South Africans are well qualified through the principle of lived experience to provide consulting - there's lots of money in consulting, just ask McKinsey.

And maybe in space they will even find a Mantashe mineral.

However, while South Africa might be lagging behind in economic growth, we are not lagging behind with its corollary, inequality. The past three decades of global economic growth have been unprecedented in human history, but they have also been coupled with rising inequality. Oxfam's Time to Care report states that the combined wealth of the world's 22 richest men is more than the wealth of all the women in Africa; and that the monetary value of

unpaid care work globally for women aged 15 and over is at least \$10-trillion annually - that is three times the size of the world's tech industry! South Africa must be a leader in unpaid and underpaid care work. Not fair is it?

We have pioneered inequality even at times of economic growth, and as we all know, it is dangerous being the most unequal country in the world.

My quest for new knowledge reminds me that throughout history, states have played a role by actively shaping and creating markets. The internet, for example, was created by the American military, funded by taxpayers and it was only through privatisation that Silicon Valley, also known as Surveillance Valley, was created. That is why the South African government should also be thinking about the new markets we might seed and the constitutional values of dignity and equality on which these markets must be built.

Can international community help with the rights of women during migration?

By Julia Zulver and Tara Patricia Cookson

MAYDELIS is one of many Venezuelan women who sell "tinto" - a kind of black coffee - on the roadside, and the money she earns barely covers the rent of a shared room.

There are no child care services available to her, and if she doesn't earn money, she and her daughters could have no other option but to sleep on the street and be exposed to additional forms of violence.

Maydelis' dilemma is not unique. Since 2015, over 4 million people have fled Venezuela to neighbouring countries, and the United Nations predicts that this number will rise to 6.5 million by the end of this year, surpassing the number of refugees from the Syrian crisis.

High-level government ministers, United Nations experts, policymakers, and practitioners from around the world are gathering in Ecuador this week at the Global Forum on Migration and Development to work on "upholding rights, strengthening state agency, and advancing development through partnerships and collective action".

We are asking delegates in the capital city of Quito to make pledges and commitments that uphold women's rights in the context of migration. This requires a focused look at the specific challenges that migrant women face as individuals and, as a recent UN Women report shows, as family members.

The need for such a perspective is evident in our work as researchers at Ladysmith. We are currently collecting data on gender-based violence in the context of the Venezuelan migration crisis. One of our most salient observations is that women's experiences of violence are fundamentally linked to



their gendered roles and responsibilities as mothers, daughters, caretakers and providers.

As in many other contexts of migration, Venezuelan families are now dispersed across the continent: a father in Chile, a sister in Peru, a mother and children in Colombia, and a grandmother who stayed behind in Caracas. In practice, this means that both emotional and financial support networks are stretched across borders.

As these families separate, women remain largely responsible for domestic and caring tasks, including care for the sick, elderly, children and loved ones with disabilities.

As caretakers, they face additional stresses and vulnerabilities. Many bear the burden of securing access to health care, registering children for school, and finding consistent food and safe shelter.

In Colombian cities, maternity wards are overflowing with Venezuelan women who have no access to maternal health care at home and travel to give birth across the border, often alone.

In a crisis, of course, not everyone always leaves. Elderly family members sometimes remain behind. In addition to often needing care themselves, elderly Venezuelans take care of family assets, including homes, as well as children and other family members who were prevented from leaving due to a serious illness or disability.

Elder care is often - though certainly not always - the responsibility of daughters. We have come across many women working, or searching for work, in order to send money to their elderly parents back home.

The Venezuelan refugee crisis is days away from becoming the largest in modern history; it is also the most underfunded. Four years in, the international community has only spent US\$580 million in humanitarian aid, or about US\$125 per refugee.

In comparison, US\$19.5 billion has been raised for the Syrian crisis, which works out at US\$1,500 per refugee. In November 2019 UNHCR and the International Organisation for Migration put out an appeal for an additional US\$1.35 billion for Venezuelan refugees, migrants and their host countries.

Despite herculean efforts on behalf of the Colombian state, international humanitarian agencies, faith groups, and grassroots initiatives to provide an effective response, this funding short-

fall undercuts the realisation of women and girls' human rights.

For example, we have seen in our own work that prevention and response programming around gender-based violence is deprioritised, that existing services lack effective coordination and necessary reach, and that state institutions such as maternity wards are ill-equipped for an influx of demand.

Lack of access to humanitarian support and decent work exposes women to violence during migration journeys and in host communities. For example, women are subject to sexual violence at the hands of armed groups when they pass through illegal border crossings and then struggle to access justice and adequate care.

When cash transfers and decent work are lacking, some Venezuelan migrants sell coffee, small electronics or sweets in the informal economy. Others sell their own hair for money. Still others engage in transactional sex - often in risky and dangerous circumstances - to be able to feed their children, pay for medicines and health care, pay rent and support dependent family members back home.

But just how can the international community guarantee women's rights during migration? Maydelis is but one migrant in one migratory movement. By the end of 2018, there were 70.8 million forcibly displaced people worldwide - a figure that the United Nations predicts will only grow this year - and that doesn't even include the millions more who move owing to environmental degradation and climate change.

In order to support Maydelis, her family and others who find themselves in a similar position, there are several options or possibilities. One: Ensure access to universal social protection and public services, including health, education and child care, as well as opportunities for decent work,

irrespective of legal or migratory status.

Two: Support grassroots women's organisations. Local civil society organisations and solidarity networks are sometimes women's only point of contact. But donors often impose bureaucratic and administrative constraints, including those for monitoring and evaluation, which grassroots organisations typically do not have the capacity to handle.

Three: Earmark sufficient funds for gender-based violence prevention and response. History shows that GBV occurs in every humanitarian crisis but because it is assumed to be a "private" issue and often remains hidden, it isn't prioritised.

Gender-sensitive data collection mechanisms may be important tools for generating action-oriented information and promoting accountability.

Above all else, guaranteeing women's rights in the context of migration requires political will and commitment from governments and donors.

For Maydelis, there is some hope. She managed to enrol her eldest daughter in the local public school, and she is now eligible to receive vouchers from the World Food Programme. For now, though, her exposure to violence at work, securing safe shelter for her children and the question of whether they will be able to return home remain sources of insecurity.

Dr Julia Zulver is a research fellow at the National Autonomous University of Mexico and the University of Oxford. Her work focuses on women's high-risk mobilisation in Latin America. Dr Tara Patricia Cookson is meanwhile director and co-founder of Ladysmith, a feminist research consultancy, and a research fellow at Canada's University of British Columbia. Her work focuses on women's rights and access to social protection.

Rising inequality affects more than 70 per cent of global population

NEW YORK

INEQUALITY is growing for more than 70 per cent of the global population, exacerbating the risks of divisions and hampering economic and social development. But the rise is far from inevitable and can be tackled at a national and international level, says a flagship study released by the UN on Tuesday.

The World Social Report 2020, published by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), shows that income inequality has increased in most developed countries, and some middle-income countries - including China, which has the world's fastest growing economy.

The challenges are underscored by UN chief António Guterres in the foreword, in which he states that the world is confronting "the harsh realities of a deeply unequal global landscape", in which economic woes, inequalities and job insecurity have led to mass protests in both developed and developing countries.

Income inequality has increased in most developed countries, and some middle-income countries - including China, which has the world's fastest growing economy.

"Income disparities and a lack of opportunities", he writes, "are creating a vicious cycle of inequality, frustration and discontent across generations."

'The one per cent' winners take (almost) all

The study shows that the richest one per cent of the population are the big winners in the changing global economy, increasing their share of income between 1990 and 2015, while at the other end of the scale, the bottom 40 per cent earned less than a quarter of income in all countries surveyed.

One of the consequences of inequality within societies, notes the report, is slower economic growth. In unequal societies, with wide disparities in areas such as health care and education, people are more likely to remain trapped in poverty, across several generations.

Between countries, the difference in average incomes is reducing, with



China and other Asian nations driving growth in the global economy. Nevertheless, there are still stark differences between the richest and poorest countries and regions: the average income in North America, for example, is 16 times higher than that of people in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Four global forces affecting inequality

The report looks at the impact that four powerful global forces, or megatrends, are having on inequality around the world: technological innovation, climate change, urbanization and international migration.

Whilst technological innovation can support economic growth, offering new possibilities in fields such as health care, education, communica-

tion and productivity, there is also evidence to show that it can lead to increased wage inequality, and displace workers.

Rapid advances in areas such as biology and genetics, as well as robotics and artificial intelligence, are transforming societies at pace. New technology has the potential to eliminate entire categories of jobs but, equally, may generate entirely new jobs and innovations.

For now, however, highly skilled workers are reaping the benefits of the so-called "fourth industrial revolution", whilst low-skilled and middle-skilled workers engaged in routine manual and cognitive tasks, are seeing their opportunities shrink.

Opportunities in a crisis

As the UN's 2020 report on the global economy showed last Thursday, the climate crisis is having a negative impact on quality of life, and vulnerable populations are bearing the brunt of environmental degradation and extreme weather events. Climate change, according to the World Social Report, is making the world's poorest countries even poorer, and could reverse progress made in reducing inequality among countries.

If action to tackle the climate crisis progresses as hoped, there will be job losses in carbon-intensive sectors, such as the coal industry, but the "greening" of

the global economy could result in overall net employment gains, with the creation of many new jobs worldwide.

For the first time in history, more people live in urban than rural areas, a trend that is expected to continue over the coming years. Although cities drive economic growth, they are more unequal than rural areas, with the extremely wealthy living alongside the very poor.

The scale of inequality varies widely from city to city, even within a single country: as they grow and develop, some cities have become more unequal whilst, in others, inequality has declined.

Migration a 'powerful symbol of global inequality'

The fourth megatrend, international migration, is described as both a "powerful symbol of global inequality", and "a force for equality under the right conditions".

Migration within countries, notes the report, tends to increase once countries begin to develop and industrialize, and more inhabitants of middle-income countries than low-income countries migrate abroad.

International migration is seen, generally, as benefiting both migrants, their countries of origin (as money is sent home) and their host countries.

In some cases, where migrants compete for low-skilled work, wages may be pushed down, increasing inequality but, if they offer skills that are in short supply, or take on work that others are not willing to do, they can have a positive effect on unemployment.

Harness the megatrends for a better world

Despite a clear widening of the gap between the haves and have-nots worldwide, the report points out that this situation can be reversed. Although the megatrends have the potential

to continue divisions in society, they can also, as the Secretary-General says in his foreword, "be harnessed for a more equitable and sustainable world". Both national governments and international organizations have a role to play in levelling the playing field and creating a fairer world for all.

Reducing inequality should, says the report, play a central role in policy-making. This means ensuring that the potential of new technology is used to reduce poverty and create jobs; that vulnerable people grow more resilient to the effects of climate change; cities are more inclusive; and migration takes place in a safe, orderly and regular manner.

Three strategies for making countries more egalitarian are suggested in the report: the promotion of equal access to opportunities (through, for example, universal access to education); fiscal policies that include measures for social policies, such as unemployment and disability benefits; and legislation that tackles prejudice and discrimination, whilst promoting greater participation of disadvantaged groups.

While action at a national level is crucial, the report declares that "concerted, coordinated and multilateral action" is needed to tackle major challenges affecting inequality within and among countries.

The report's authors conclude that, given the importance of international cooperation, multilateral institutions such as the UN should be strengthened and action to create a fairer world must be urgently accelerated.

The UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which provides the blueprint for a better future for people and the planet, recognizes that major challenges require internationally coordinated solutions, and contains concrete and specific targets to reduce inequality, based on income.

Agencies

Will 2020 World Economic Forum deliver on combating climate change?

AMSTERDAM

FOR the first time, the world's elites meeting this year at Davos have listed environmental issues as their top concerns about the next decade.

The WEF's annual Global Risks Report raises the alarm on increased extreme weather events, manmade environmental damage - including oil spills and contamination, major biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and failure of governments and businesses to mitigate and adapt to climate change. All resulting in loss of human and animal life, and major damage to infrastructure, with irreversible consequences for the environment.

"The political landscape is polarized, sea levels are rising and climate fires are burning. This is the year when world leaders must work with all sectors of society to repair and reinvigorate our systems of cooperation, not just for short-term benefit but for tackling our deep-rooted risks," said Borge Brende, President of the World Economic Forum.

"The political landscape is polarized, sea levels are rising and climate fires are burning. This is the year when world leaders must work with all sectors of society to repair and reinvigorate our systems of cooperation, not just for short-term benefit but for tackling our deep-rooted risks," said Borge Brende, President of the World Economic Forum.

Does this mean that after Davos 2020 businesses and governments are actually going to tackle these realities seriously and with the necessary financial investments? Seeing is believing.

Fundamental change of systems needed

If businesses and governments are serious about combating climate



change, they must increase investments in climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as in the larger development agenda (Agenda 2030). However, this alone will not be enough.

If businesses do not start fundamentally changing current financial systems, we risk gaining only short-term benefits instead of addressing the real root causes.

The current world economy still relies on fossil fuels and energy-intensive production systems. And the fossil fuel industry continues to receive large subsidies from governments and investment banks. Although investment in renewable energy is on the rise, as long as fossil fuels are subsidized we will not make a shift towards zero-carbon economies.

Many argue that not investing in fossil fuels hinders the development of low-income countries by denying them access to the same economic opportunities as high-income countries.

However, this just masks a lack of will on the part of the world's business elites who have the power and finances to pioneer a true transition. They are ignoring the fact that the economics of renewable energy have changed and there are many ways for low-income countries to leapfrog fossil fuels.

To succeed, the governments and companies at Davos should do two things:

1. Apply an integrated approach to mitigation, adaptation and development.
2. Ensure an inclusive process and equal access to benefits of climate change measures.

An integrated approach

Mitigation, adaptation and development should not be three separate work streams. As shown in this article, effective climate action requires coherence between measures. Take investing in renewable energy. It di-

rectly reduces the emissions of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

But when used to provide energy access to the most vulnerable, it also brings communities social and economic benefits that increase their resilience to climate change.

For example, access to energy provides services for small-scale farmers or community enterprises, like solar powered agricultural irrigation systems, or food processing and storage. This in turn increases their general economic and climate resilience.

Another example is access to clean cooking solutions instead of burning wood. This not only reduces air pollution and deforestation, but also improves women and children's health and frees up time for studying or income-producing activities. This in turn strengthens their position in society.

Inclusive process and equal access

On the one hand, we must invest vast resources to mitigate and adapt to global climate change; on the other, we need to tackle the deep injustices that lie at the heart of the climate crisis.

The challenge is therefore to ensure a just transition in which all communities have equal access to the benefits of measures taken to tackle climate change.

Ironically, developing countries bear the brunt of the effects of climate change created by 150 years of unfettered industrial and agricultural development in the West. So we, in the West, have a moral obligation to help finance an inclusive climate transition and achieve the SDG development agenda.

Agencies

UN predicts another cash crisis in 2020

UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres declared last week that the United Nations just "managed to survive its deepest financial crisis in a decade."

But if countries continue to default on their assessed contributions to the world body - as 47 countries did in 2019 - the UN may be heading for another liquidity crisis in 2020, he warned.

"Unless all member states pay their assessed contributions on time and in full", Guterres declared, "we risk receiving insufficient funds to implement the entire programme of work and the full budget approved for 2020."

That budget, voted by the 193-member General Assembly last month, was \$3.1 billion for 2020: an increase of approximately \$8 million on what was initially requested by Guterres.

And it also marks the first time since 1973 that the UN is adopting an annual budget instead of a two-year one.

UN Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said on January 10 the United Nations closed out 2019 with 146 out of 193 member states having paid their dues in full for the last year's budget.

Asked how another cash crunch was expected to impact on UN staffers in 2020, Patricia Nemeth, President of the United Nations Staff Union (UNSC) told IPS the General Assembly approving the budget- and individual countries paying their dues on time- are two different issues.

If member states don't pay their contributions on time, then there could indeed be another cash crisis with repercussions for UN staff - both at UN headquarters and in overseas postings, she said.

"It's not just about salaries; even the prospect of a repeat of last year's liquidity crisis is disruptive to our daily work as UN staff, as we are unable to plan in advance so as to deliver our mandate in the most efficient and cost-effective manner", said Nemeth, who is also Vice President for Conditions of Service at the 60,000-strong Coordinating Committee of International Staff Unions and Associations (CCISUA).

Currently, the total membership of the UN staff union in New York is approximately 6,400 but overall it is close to 20,000 (representing UNHQs NY staff, locally recruited staff in overseas peacekeeping missions and some of the departments that are governed by the Secretariat but their offices based outside of New York ie. United Nations Information Centres (UNIC)

Addressing the Group of 77 developing countries last week, Guterres said: "I will continue to manage our cash situation carefully, and I count on your continued support to help us avoid a deeper crisis. To this end, I hope that we could find more sustainable solutions to our cash problems."

Over the years, he pointed out, "we have spent our budgets on the assumption that we should receive sufficient cash at the start of each year to execute the entire budget smoothly during the year."

"In reality, we receive nearly half in the first three months but almost a quarter comes only at the very end of the year, leaving a very poor liquidity situation especially from July to October."

"We could manage in the cash-strapped months if we had sufficient liquidity reserves and more flexibility in managing our resources as a pool. But our regular budget liquidity reserves are insufficient and structural impediments prevent us from minimizing the impact across programmes," Guterres said.

He also said the UN's programme implementation is now increasingly being driven by the availability of cash, "which is entirely against the way we should be working."

Asked if the UN is in the process of eliminating short term and consultancy contracts - and whether teleconferencing has replaced overseas assignments- Nemeth said the UN does not eliminate temporary contracts, which are a regular component of the hiring structure.

"While the Staff Union will always advocate for job security, we do understand that the UN sometimes needs to make short-term hires to cover specific needs."

However, she said, all staff working



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

for the UN should be full-fledged employees, with a contract that guarantees the backing, resources and independence required to perform their tasks exclusively in the interest of the Organization and its mandates.

As for consultancy contracts, she said, "we welcome the General Assembly's instruction 'that the Organization should use its in-house capacity to perform core activities or to fulfill functions that are recurrent over the long term'."

On teleconferencing, she said: "We cannot say that teleconferencing has replaced overseas travel, as UN staff are often posted in a country different from their own to perform specialized assignments."

However, aside from their permanent assignments, colleagues make every effort to limit travel for meetings and discuss issues whenever possible via virtual technology.

"We are fully aware of the economic and environmental cost of our travel," said Nemeth.

Asked if regular staffers are assured of permanent stay in New York or was it mandatory for them to serve in overseas posts, Nemeth said regular staff are not assured a permanent position in New York.

All international staff, she said, are

encouraged to move geographically during their career.

"A new mobility policy is under development (under the umbrella of the staff-management committee working group) and we will have to see whether or not the proposal contains a mandatory requirement to move."

She said the Staff Union in New York does not advocate for mandatory mobility, based on the results of a survey that was conducted in 2019 among New York staff.

Staff are very interested in a mobility scheme that is voluntarily in nature and that focuses on intra-departmental moves and/ or inter-agency mobility within the UN system, Nemeth declared.

On the UN's proposed new locations, including Budapest, Nairobi, Montreal and Shenzhen, Nemeth said: "There is no decision by the Member States, as of today, concerning the Global Service Delivery Model or any potential new offices."

This will be discussed at the first resumed session of the General Assembly in the spring.

"We are following the matter closely, as it could affect the jobs of colleagues who are locally hired in the existing headquarter locations."

Agencies

Oh, this 'intriguing' marriage between Africa and the West!

By Kevin Mpapasingo

IT'S funny that, whenever top artistes in Western countries announce 'World Tours', they somehow forget to include Africa in their dates.

The continent is normally forgotten in anything that has the word 'global' in it, whether it is 'Global Economic Outlooks' done by Financial Times, the 'Global Premiere' of a Hollywood movie or even the 'global launch' of some platforms such as Spotify or Vevo.

It gets even crazier in foreign policy. Most western countries claim that they want 'strong' relationships with Africa, but their links with Africa are quite the opposite.

Most western nations call Africa an 'important partner' when it comes to trade, investments and other explorations, but when it comes to issues such as immigration, African countries become 'shithole' nations. It doesn't need a world-renowned marriage counsellor to point out the toxicity of this beautiful marriage.

It is an open secret that Africans are more likely to get their visa applications denied by western nations. The West always says Africa is the future, but it always denies 'the future' visas to their countries.

Whether it is African students, keynote speakers to 'global' conferences, AI (artificial intelligence) researchers or whatever other experts, Africans get denied visas to the West ruthlessly.

And if an African country is 'lucky', the West slams it with a travel ban, a recourse of choice the West has discovered in an attempt to save Africans from the lengthy, costly and humiliating visa application process.

I had two friends in high school who had an interesting relationship like the one between Africa and the West. They would normally spend almost the entire day together, and the boy would publicly claim that they were dating.

However, whenever you would ask the girl about her male friend she would say "he thinks he is dating me but he is only dating me in his mind. It is true he's dating me, but I am not dating him."

It sounds much like the relationship that Africa has gotten itself into with the West. Some would even question if such a relationship was consensual, but everyone would agree that it is unhealthy and wasteful.

So, Africa is only important to the West when that is to the convenience of the West! Africa should do what one does when one finds oneself in a toxic relationship: it should re-evaluate its relationship with the West.

And, NO, I do not mean that Africa should necessarily cozy up with China in an attempt to make the West overly jealous - or that the continent should sever links with the West. Africa needs to cozy up with Africa.

Last year there was a social media buzz on the need for Africa to have a plan for Africa. Every superpower in the world has a plan for Africa, but does Africa have any plans for Africa?

African nations should prioritise the creation of a united Africa. Africa has all the resources it needs to stage a dignified march to-

wards that end.

It is not a coincidence that the richest man ever to have lived is Mansa Musa - from Africa. Africans need to support, trade, train, employ and invest in each other because that era of a 'White Saviour' coming to the continent's rescue is OVER - in fact, it will always remain a mirage.

Africa should start thinking of maximising gains in its partnerships with the West. It has opened its windows and doors to the West, but the West interacts with Africa through ventilation. Untapped opportunities in agriculture, technology and informal sectors hold keys to Africa's future.

Africa should also invest in its youth, through skills, job creation and the improvement of the business climate for local entrepreneurs.

Africans need to stop looking down on one another. African governments should support its businesspeople from both the formal and informal sectors.

Africa should start thinking of investing locally in the creation of solutions for its local problems. Paying a fortune to a consulting firm based continents away while ignoring capable local firms just cannot - and will not - solve Africa's problems. Rather, we shall always witness the opposite.

I am not dismissing the significance of Africa's relations with the West. All I am calling for are improvements in, and the strengthening of, those relationships in a way that Africa will not always be the only one compromising and getting a raw deal.

Africa has an immense lot to give to the West, and vice versa, but that does not mean that Africa should always be on its knees with begging bowls and tears.

The UK has just held a 'UK-Africa Investment Summit 2020' - in London - to 'rejuvenate' its relations with Africa. I hope that this 'rejuvenated' relationship is not the same old relationship of convenience that the West has had with Africa for decades.

And, by the way, political willingness by African leaders and greed partly manifesting itself in corruption in foreign aid are among the greatest threats making it hard for Africa to rejuvenate its relations with the West.

Believe me, there will be no significant changes unless Africans make it their first priority to elect good, capable and accountable leaders and stop voting into office the usual corrupt aging uncles and auntsies.

A slightly edited version e-mailed to The Guardian by Kevin Mpapasingo, who has introduced himself as a blogger and a University of Dar es Salaam Economics graduate. Contact: kevinmpapasingo@outlook.com. He said his idea was to provide the perspective of a young African with regard to Africa's relations with the West, especially following recent reports of plans by US President Donald Trump to extend a travel ban to some African countries - including Tanzania - and the UK-Africa Investment Summit held in London earlier this week.

Projecting Africa through creativity

By Special Correspondent

OVER the past decade, African creativity, art and entertainment has witnessed significant growth and expansion, writes Oluchi Chibuzor

According to a PwC report, "Global Entertainment and Media outlook, the music and entertainment industry in African countries like Nigeria is expected to continue to expand by 2022 with a projected 21.5 per cent growth rate (CAGR), with revenue reaching \$9.9 billion.

The African entertainment industry has not only attracted the attention of the world to Africa but has helped to project some of Africa's great talents to the world. Gone are the days when Africans rely on foreign artists, designers and film makers for quality and captivating creative art, music, fashion and films.

Globally, financial institutions are constantly adjusting to appeal to the needs of the millennial generation and banks in Nigeria have also adopted this strategy.

Today, financial institutions are gradually changing their banking model to attract and retain the country's rising youth population, by creating an atmosphere that blends lifestyle, music, art, fashion, commerce, with banking.

Precisely, last month, a lot of banks in the country put together different lifestyle events to bond with their customers.

According to report by Accenture, banks are moving in the direction of identifying new micro-segments based on lifestyle, values, aspirations, and needs, and targeting them with dedicated propositions.

Today, we can say for a fact that Africa is self-sufficient in terms of entertainment and creativity. This was clearly exemplified and illustrated at the just concluded second edition of the Born in Africa Festival (BAFEST) powered by Access Bank Plc.

The Born in Africa festival is a celebration of the unparalleled dynamism of the true African spirit and creativity. This entertaining fusion of music, art, film and fashion is designed to tell a positive African story globally and better connect the world to the African continent.

Therefore, the Born in Africa Festival is birthed from a need to tell the true African story in all its glory. The second edition of the festival, themed, "More for The Culture," held in Lagos, last month, and saw over 35,000 attendees trooping in from across Nigeria and beyond.

Africa has several entertainment festivals created with the aim of projecting the continent, festivals such as Bushfire festival in Swaziland, Sauti Za Busara in Tanzania, Festival au Désert in Mali, Africa in Motion (AiM) Film Festival and the likes, but until the introduction of BAFEST, there was not one festival that brings all the elements of art (Music, film, creative art and fashion) under one umbrella with the sole aim of projecting Africa in good light.

The 2019 Born in Africa Festival was truly a celebration and projection of Africa and African talents, this was evident in the caliber of music artists, fashion designers, creative art and films featured.

The festival had the likes of Burna Boy, who is a true depiction of Africa's talent, he started from the grass roots in Nigeria, but is currently enjoying global fame and acceptance.

Also present was Naira Marley who is also currently enjoying music success and gaining massive following of young Africans. Other musicians present were Niniola, Seyi Shey, Becca from Ghana, Patoranking, Teni, Joeboy, Flavour, 9ice and Mr. Real.

Short films, feature-length films and Accelerate Filmmaker project films that depicts the true African spirit and art of storytelling were featured; Films such as 'Black Monday', written and directed by Adetola Films, the film is one of the films by the Top 5 finalist of the 2019 filmmaker project initiative.

The film focuses on the effects of stigmatization in the society as it tells a story of a young man who returns from prison to face stigmatization from the members of his community. 'Blast' a film by Miriam Dera's which is among the 2019 top five finalists of the filmmaker project initiative was also on screen.

The short film which stars Harriet Akinola and Tope Olowoniyen tells a story of a reclus-



sive young lady, tasked with making a pitch for a client at work, but must fight years of psychological torture and go ahead with the presentation or lose her job. Other films that featured at the festival include 'Blast' by Tosin Ibitoye, 'Last' by Olabisi Akinbinu, among others.

Prolific fashion designers such as Tokyo James, Emmy Kasbit, David Tlale and a host of other talented African fashion designers had their work displayed and worn by top models such as Ojy Okpe, and Millen Magese. There were also eye-catching and fascinating artworks on display as creative artists were on ground to engage guests.

A notable highlight of the festival was the electrifying opening dance performance coupled with a daring aerodynamic performance by the Drumstatic band, who were all suspended in the air. The ambience at the BAFEST 2019 was a lively one; guests had several options of refreshment as there was a

food court packed with vendors dishing tasty meals and drinks.

Commenting on the event and its significance, Access Bank GMD Herbert Wigwe explained that, "BAFEST is not just a means of providing quality entertainment to Africans, but a platform Access Bank has created to spotlight Africa through its enormous creativity and talents. We believe it is time the world knows the true story of Africa. I believe that this year's BAFEST will further strengthen this new African narrative we are creating."

Guests who took the time to attend and immerse themselves in the festival were truly entertained, and did not hesitate to share their feelings, experiences and highlights of the event. Miss Samiat Kelani, one of the many guests who enjoyed the festival explained that, the second edition was her first BAFEST experience and she was captivated by the art works and fashion wears on display, according to her "This is my first time at the BAFEST

and I am having fun. So far I have enjoyed the movies, the fashion and models. The art works here are really beautiful. I love all the African culture that is being projected here."

Miss Damola Oshodi, another BAFEST guest who is an art and film enthusiast also described her experience at the festival.

She said, "my experience this year has been very amazing, this place is very lively and interesting. It has been fantastic literally, from the movies, to the fashion and to the arts and the concert, it has been really great. When I came in, I walked in on a Nigerian movie at the movie park, and I loved the movie; the picture quality and story line.

"I am happy because this year has been a good year for Nigerian music and coming here today to see these artists perform live is a great pleasure for me." On her highlights of the festival, she said, "For me it is everything, but most importantly the art works on display and the artist on ground drawing portraits of people is my highlight, the talent is out of this world."

Also, Mr. Ife Dayo, a fun and African art lover explained that the art works he has seen on display in the art section of the BAFEST were breath taking and should be seen by all.

According to Dayo, "I like what I have seen so far, particularly in the art section, the works there are great, and more people need to see them. I like the caliber of musicians also present at this festival, and as you can see, I am having a good time."

The Born in Africa Festival is a brain child of Access Bank. Over the years, Access Bank as an institution has persistently shown passionate support for African creativity and the BAFEST initiative makes sense and comes naturally. The bank through the years has been strongly associated with the African creative sector; from its sponsorship of Art X Lagos, to its backing of AFFRIF and other platforms promoting African creativity. The bank has properly positioned itself to be Africa's gate way to the world, providing more than just banking.

What's the impact of digital technologies?

TECHNOLOGIES can help make our world fairer, more peaceful, and more just. Digital advances can support and accelerate achievement of each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals - from ending extreme poverty to reducing maternal and infant mortality, promoting sustainable farming and decent work, and achieving universal literacy. But technologies can also threaten privacy, erode security and fuel inequality. They have implications for human rights and human agency. Like generations before, we - governments, businesses and individuals - have a choice to make in how we harness and manage new technologies.

Digital technologies have advanced more rapidly than any innovation in our history - reaching around 50 per cent of the developing world's population in only two decades and transforming societies. By enhancing connectivity, financial inclusion, access to trade and public services, technology can be a great equaliser.

In the health sector, for instance, AI-enabled frontier technologies are helping to save lives, diagnose diseases and extend life expectancy. In education, virtual learning environments and distance learning have opened up programmes to students who would otherwise be excluded. Public services are also becoming more accessible and accountable through blockchain-powered systems, and less bureaucratically burdensome as a result of AI assistance. Big data can also support

more responsive and accurate policies and programmes.

However, those yet to be connected remain cut off from the benefits of this new era and remain further behind. Many of the people left behind are women, the elderly, persons with disabilities or from ethnic or linguistic minorities, indigenous groups and residents of poor or remote areas. The pace of connectivity is slowing, even reversing, among some constituencies. For example, globally, the proportion of women using the internet is 12 per cent lower than that of men. While this gap narrowed in most regions between 2013 and 2017, it widened in the least developed countries from 30 per cent to 33 per cent.

The use of algorithms can replicate and even amplify human and systemic bias where they function on the basis of data which is not adequately diverse. Lack of diversity in the technology sector can mean that this challenge is not adequately addressed.

Throughout history, technological revolutions have changed the labour force: creating new forms and patterns of work, making others obsolete, and leading to wider societal changes. This current wave of change is likely to have profound impacts. For example, the International Labour Organization estimates that the shift to a greener economy could create 24 million new jobs globally by 2030 through the adoption of sustainable practices in



the energy sector, the use of electric vehicles and increasing energy efficiency in existing and future buildings.

Meanwhile, reports by groups such as McKinsey suggest that 800 million people could lose their jobs to automation by 2030, while polls reveal that the majority of all employees worry that they do not have the necessary training or skills to get a well-paid job.

There is broad agreement that managing these trends will require changes in our approach to education, for instance, by placing more emphasis on science, technology, engineering, and maths; by teaching soft skills, and resilience; and by ensuring that people can re-skill and up-skill throughout their lifetimes. Unpaid work, for example childcare and elderly care in the home, will need to be better supported, especially as with the shifting age profile of global populations, the demands on these tasks are likely to increase.

Today, digital technologies such as data pooling

and AI are used to track and diagnose issues in agriculture, health, and the environment, or to perform daily tasks such as navigating traffic or paying a bill. They can be used to defend and exercise human rights - but they can also be used to violate them, for example, by monitoring our movements, purchases, conversations and behaviours. Governments and businesses increasingly have the tools to mine and exploit data for financial and other purposes.

However, personal data would become an asset to a person, if there were a formula for better regulation of personal data ownership. Data-powered technology has the potential to empower individuals, improve human welfare, and promote universal rights, depending on the type of protections put in place.

Social media connects almost half of the entire global population. It enables people to make their voices heard and to talk to people across the world in real time. However, it can also reinforce prejudices and sow discord, by giving hate speech and

misinformation a platform, or by amplifying echo chambers.

In this way, social media algorithms can fuel the fragmentation of societies around the world. And yet they also have the potential to do the opposite.

How to manage these developments is the subject of much discussion - nationally and internationally - at a time when geopolitical tensions are on the rise. The UN Secretary-General has warned of a 'great fracture' between world powers, each with their own internet and AI strategy, as well as dominant currency, trade and financial rules and contradictory geopolitical and military views. Such a divide could establish a digital Berlin Wall. Increasingly, digital cooperation between states - and a universal cyberspace that reflects global standards for peace and security, human rights and sustainable development - is seen as crucial to ensuring a united world. A 'global commitment for digital cooperation' is a key recommendation by the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation.

Driving female-focused entrepreneurship supported by co-working and community

CAPE TOWN

Over a short period of time, the partnership between Future Females and Ideas Cartel has quickly shown the benefit of connecting like-minds in inspiring spaces, with expansion just around the corner.

From a team of two in 2017 to a present state of 26 chapters across Africa, Australia, Europe and North America; a growing online community of 30,000 female entrepreneurs, and now a

thriving local co-working space, Future Females is a Cape Town success story worth paying attention to.

"For early-stage solopreneurs, the process of starting a business can be a lonely one, and getting stuck in your own head is almost unavoidable," says Future Females co-founder Lauren Dallas.

"The growth of Future Females has helped combat this; the community we've created is a source of support, advice and encouragement that would otherwise

be absent," notes Dallas.

Apart from the obvious numbers-based growth, the real power of their rise comes from what underlies it: a shared vision for a platform that empowers female entrepreneurs to connect, be inspired, inspire others and feel supported to create, fail and ultimately win.

The movement is underpinned by a framework that helps members to maximise their four scarce resources - time, money, energy and relationships - to

transform their businesses, careers and lives.

The Future Females community is forward thinking in both what they work for and how they work. Inner City by Ideas Cartel has been a crucial growth partner in this regard, providing an inspiring work environment in which the company could comfortably scale and thrive in the process.

"We are so proud to have Future Females as part of the entrepreneurial community at Ideas

Cartel," says Ideas Cartel founder Schuyler Vorster, adding: "Their story is inspiring, and has also acted as a proof point for us - that the Inner City spaces we have built are doing their part to create connection, drive innovation and support growth."

As one of Ideas Cartel's four business pillars, Inner City focuses on creating thoughtful, resilient workspaces for ambitious entrepreneurs, freelancers, creatives and business travellers. These inspiring spaces are inten-

tionally crafted to facilitate an essential element of innovation: connection - connection with people, places and spaces; of ideas, perspectives and purpose.

September 2019 saw Future Females move into their own private space to launch one of the first female-focused South African workspaces.

The design of the space was based on feedback from a co-creation workshop held with potential tenants, to ensure that it met the requirements of the commu-

nity it would serve. The expanded co-working space launches this February 1.

Future Females and Ideas Cartel share a belief in the entrepreneurial lifestyle - a wholesome, holistic approach to working life fuelled by passion and a desire to drive change in the world. The Future Females co-working space is a reflection of this belief, where everyone is supported in working towards their goals.

Tibet gradually sees improved structure of medical personnel thanks to medical assistance programme

By Shen Shaotie

“I planned to see a doctor in Chengdu, but then I heard some medical experts from Guangzhou came to the local hospital. So I came here to treat my arm,” said Hu Yangchun, a man who was under physical therapy for his right arm in the department of physiotherapy and rehabilitation at the People’s Hospital in Nyingchi, southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region.

Hu is a teacher at an elementary school in Nyingchi’s Bomi county. His cervical spine and right arm were injured by a debris flow when he walked his students home. Hu couldn’t stretch his right arm straight after it was injured, which made it difficult for him to eat. And he had to use his left hand to write on the blackboard on classes.

After treatment, he is now able to write normally, said Hu, slowly stretching his right arm.

“Air pressure wave therapy equipment has a very good and quick effect on the patients,” said Lhagod, director of the department of physiotherapy and rehabilitation of the People’s Hospital in Nyingchi, disclosing that the equipment was introduced to the hospital by the medical experts from south China’s Guangdong province.

The province has sent batches of medical experts to Tibet since 2015, explained Lhagod, adding that experts from Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong province, have brought earth-shaking changes to his depart-



ment in the past year.

In June 2015, China launched a medical assistance program for Tibet. Medical teams from 7 provinces and municipalities, including Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangdong have been dispatched by China’s National Health Commission to designated hospitals in Tibet Autonomous Region in batches, to help build up medical capacity of the Tibet People’s Hospital and seven other hospitals.

A total of 659 medical staff had

Guo Weigang, a doctor at Zhongshan Hospital, an affiliated hospital of Fudan University, performs a demonstration surgery at the Shigatse People’s Hospital. (Photo by People’s Daily)

provided assistance to hospitals in Tibet by the time when the fourth batch of medical teams completed their job there.

They brought 847 advanced technological results and experiences, as well as 1,014 new medical technologies to Tibet. At present, the autonomous region is able to independently cure 338 kinds of major diseases, and 1,990 kinds of medium-level diseases can be cured in the re-

gion’s prefectures and cities.

At present, the fifth batch of medical teams has been sent to Tibet. Over the past four years, Tibet has witnessed significant progress in its medical services and health sector. The numbers of hospital beds, healthcare technicians, and professional doctors per 1,000 people are close to the national average.

“In the past, our department could only provide some simple

conventional physical therapies for rehabilitation. Now, with the help of advanced ultrasonic examination, we can accurately detect diseases of arm and leg,” said Lhagod.

Some experts not only brought advanced modern medical equipment and technologies for treatment to Lhagod’s department, but also helped trained doctors there, attracting a great number of patients to the department. Jiang Li, a medical expert from the rehabilitation department of The Third Affiliated Hospital of Sun Yat-sen University, is one of them.

Shu Daqing is a student of Jiang. Studying anatomy, as well as the theories and practice of ultrasonic wave under the guidance of Jiang, Shu has basically mastered the examination and treatment for joint diseases troubling shoulder joint, ankle joint and joints of other limbs.

Under Jiang’s instruction, Shu pays high attention on scientific research, and is planning to work on medical thesis.

According to an executive of the health department of Nyingchi, 146 pairs of partner assistance have been formed between the medical experts from Guangdong and key local medical staff of Tibet. They have formulated methods to evaluate the teaching, and set quantified targets for the teaching and construction of key departments.

These efforts have helped improve the professional competence of local medical workers

and the human resource structure of the medical service and health industry of the region.

Under the help of the assisting medical teams, a medical training base covering all departments has been established in the People’s Hospital in Nyingchi. So far, the base has provided training for more than 1,000 local medical workers.

In the Shigatse People’s Hospital that locates in a city with an altitude of 3,800 meters above sea level, a brand new building is particularly eye-catching. It is a clinical simulation training center aided by Shanghai.

The building is equipped with advanced clinical teaching models and systems including smart simulation system and multimedia-based teaching system. It can be used for various training and exams.

Since 2015, the teams dispatched to Tibet by the medical assistance program have guided 588 local teams and 1,446 local medical workers, and trained 984 key local medical staffs and 1,593 from county-level hospitals, according to Wang Yunting, Party chief and deputy director of Tibet’s health commission.

At present, 120 assisted doctors in the autonomous region are able to perform one or two kinds of new surgeries independently, and 803 were promoted, Wang said.

Besides, assisted hospitals in Tibet have also sent 1,147 local medical workers to the hospitals that paired with them for further study, Wang added.

People’s Daily

NAIROBI

WHAT stands between Soi Cate Chelang and her dream of turning her small pallet-making business into a major enterprise is capital.

In Kenya, Chelang may well be a pioneer in making seats out of wooden pallets – the flat pieces of wood used to support goods or containers during shipping.

While she has no formal training in carpentry, Chelang tells IPS that she comes from a long line of carpenters, having trained under her grandfather and uncle. And what she doesn’t know, she learns from online lessons on carpentry.

She started the business more than a decade ago – before anyone else was doing it – and her products have been popular with consumers.

“My designs stand out because I combine many different elements. It is not just about turning wood into a seat. I use colourful fabrics and female clients enjoy fabrics that brighten

their homes. I also make kids furniture from pallets and use fabric that have popular cartoons on them,” she expounds. Chelang sells her three-seater household pallet sofa for 100 to 300 dollars, depending on the design and material used.

Clients seek her services through her social media pages where she markets her products under the name Soi Pallet Designs.

Not enough credit to grow But the 35-year-old is worried that the opportunity to cash in on her unique designs is passing her by.

“I do not have the money to set up a proper workshop and showroom. I cannot apply for contracts to make pallet seats for major entertainment clubs in the city because I do not have capital to finance such big orders,” she says, explaining that such clubs are interested in her designs.

“I managed to take one order of 5,000 dollars in 2018 because one of my mentors provided me with the capital to finance the order,” she says.

Bridging Africa’s great gender-financing divide

But that was a once-off. Because without collateral, she says, the banks will grant her a business loan. So for now she has to make seats to order. Even in this instance her clients must first pay 30 to 50 percent of the total cost to enable her to purchase materials and pay for some of her labour costs.

“I work with three carpenters who I pay on a daily basis. We only take one order at a time because I do not have a proper workshop and I cannot afford to hire more carpenters,” Chelang expounds.

The circumstances have served to confine her business to her home in Kisumu City some 350 kilometres away from Kenya’s capital Nairobi.

Traditional credit not available for African women

But Chelang’s inability to expand her business is not a new story. According to the MasterCard Index of Women Entrepreneurs 2017, a lack of capital

Women in entrepreneurship stand to gain from the African Development Bank’s affirmative. File photo



is one of the major challenges facing women doing business in Africa today, especially in sub-Saharan Africa.

This is despite data by the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) report of 2017-18 showing that sub-Saharan Africa has taken the lead as the only region where women form the majority of self-employed individuals.

•According to the report, globally, Africa has the most positive attitudes towards entrepreneurship as 76 percent of working age adults consider entrepreneurship a good career choice, while another 75 percent believe that entrepreneurs are admired in their societies.

•Over the last decade, the number of women joining entrepreneurship is on a steady rise, the GEM report states. Women are high-technology developers in Kenya or, like Chelang, are making waves in the informal sector.

•Female entrepreneurs are also in the steel manufacturing business in South Africa, and in the cocoa agro-processing businesses in Ivory Coast and the larger West African region.

•Even more impressive, the MasterCard Index of Women Entrepreneurs 2017 indicates that Uganda and Botswana have the highest percentage of women entrepreneurs globally. Other countries in this league include Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria and Zambia.

Setting up lasting financial structures to benefit Africa’s women

Aware of the financial constraints facing women in business, the African Development Bank (AfDB) is making concerted efforts to address the widening financing gap between male and female entrepreneurs in Africa.

The pan-African bank has placed the financing gap between male and female entrepreneurs across Africa, at a whopping 42 billion dollars.

To address this gap, the African Heads of State launched the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) programme back in 2016.

•As a joint pan-African initiative between AfDB and the African Guarantee Fund, AFAWA is a risk-sharing facility that will de-risk lending to women-owned and women-led businesses.

•During the most recent Global Gender Summit held in Kigali in 2019, AFAWA was officially launched in Rwanda. The affirmative action programme received a one-million-dollar commitment from the Rwandese government. Still in 2019, G7 leaders approved a package totalling 251 million dollars in support of AFAWA.

•Additionally, Attijariwafa Bank, a Moroccan multinational commercial bank, and the African Guarantee Fund have signed a 50 million dollar Memorandum of Understanding towards risk lending to women through partial guarantees.

By using a holistic approach, this affirmative action programme will address the major factors preventing women in Africa, including the access of financial products and services such as loans. Consequently these financial services will also be accessible and affordable as well.

AFAWA finance will unlock three billion dollars in credit for women in businesses and enterprises in Africa. Towards this goal, this programme will work with existing commercial banks and microfinance institutions to engineer lasting structural changes, to the benefit of women across the continent.

Further, there will be a rating system to evaluate financial institutions based on the extent to which they lend to women, and the consequent socio-economic impact. Top institu-

tions will receive preferential terms from the pan-African bank.

Sustainable, women-owned businesses will contribute to the economy

Financial experts such as Irene Omari say the AFAWA is important for women’s financial inclusion. A banker and leading entrepreneur in the Lakeside City of Kisumu, Omari tells IPS that “banks do not take female entrepreneurs seriously. Banks are still a long way from embracing women doing business. We are still considered very high risk by financial institutions because we lack collateral”.

As the sole proprietor of Top Strategy Achievers Limited, a multi-million-shilling branding and printing company, she is all too familiar with the financial challenges facing women in business today.

“I started working at 23 years old in the hospitality industry. I would also act as a middle person between branding companies and clients. In Kisumu City this services were hard to find. I saved every coin that I made and used it as capital,” she says.

Omari registered her company in 2013. She began operations in the same year while still employed at a local bank. “My salary paid the two staff that I had in the beginning, office rent, and all other overheads until the company could stand on its feet,” she says.

She says that because women, like Chelang, are not considered bankable they are significantly constrained in setting up solid, physical infrastructures to drive the growth and sustainability of their businesses.

“This is the reason why women are in self-employment where they basically work for themselves and not in entrepreneurship where they bring as many employees on board as possible,” Omari expounds.

•In Omari’s case she is an entrepreneur, and need not be at the place of work at all times because the business can thrive and be sustainable even in their absence. In self-employment, the presence of the business owner must be felt at all times.

Francis Kibe Kiragu, a lecturer in gender and development studies at the University of Nairobi, tells IPS that while women have sufficiently demonstrated a desire to run their own enterprises, they suffer crippling financial exclusion.

“Women in self-employment or entrepreneurship are therefore driven by necessity and not innovation. They just want to meet their basic needs and as a result, they are perceived as contributing very little to the economy,” he observes. Agencies

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD =043=

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

- 3 letter word: EBB, PRE, BED, USE, ROD, RED
- 4 letter word: LAST, SPAT, YULE, ABBA, TYRE, SORE, RITE
- 5 letter word: TOTAL, PIANO, ABBEY, LOESS, GREEN
- 6 letter word: MODERN, TANAPA, PASTOR
- 7 letter word: LIBERTY, DESTROY,
- 8 letter word: IDEALIST, IDEOLOGY, SALES MAN
- 9 letter word: BRILLIANT, BRIMSTONE

WORD FIT

CROSSWORD

Comments: 07863, 14, 01

- Clues: Across
- 1 Coins used to buy things (5)
 - 4 Intelligent (6)
 - 6 International prizes for people who makes discoveries each year (5,5)
 - 9 Before (3)
 - 10 Film with a historical subject (4)
 - 12 Duty (4)
 - 13 CD Writer (8)
 - 14 Small amount (6)
 - 15 An Island (4)
 - 18 A mountain pasture (3)
 - 20 Prefix relating to UK (5)
 - 21 First lady in Tanzania (5) 23 Food (3)
 - 24 To instruct (5) 25 Hidden news (6)
- Down:
- 1 Valuable chemical substance (7)
 - 2 High rank (8)
 - 3 Christmas (4)
 - 4 Important part (4)
 - 5 Vice president (4)
 - 7 Confidence and self-assurance (6)
 - 11 Theory of beliefs (8)
 - 13 Weather (7)
 - 16 Tibetan spiritual teacher (4)
 - 17 Make law (5)
 - 18 Dark and bitter beer (3)
 - 19 Problems (4)
 - 22 Allow (3)

BUSINESS

Improving digital access offers greatest private-sector investment opportunity in achieving the SDGs in Africa, reports Standard Chartered

JOHANNESBURG

OPPORTUNITY2030 study reveals an almost USD200 billion private-sector investment opportunity in contributing to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in five African countries;

The study examines the most impactful opportunities for investing in three infrastructure-focused SDGs in five high-growth markets in Africa: Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, Zambia.

Opportunity2030: The Standard Chartered SDG Investment Map reveals a USD197 billion opportunity for private-sector investors in five high-growth markets in Africa to help achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with improving digital access making up USD74.5 billion of that total.

The study highlights opportunities for investors to contribute to three infrastructure-focused goals between now and 2030: SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy and SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure across emerging markets.

Across all the world's emerging markets, Opportunity2030 identifies a USD10 trillion opportunity for private sector investors. This represents around 40 per cent of the total funding required to meet specific indicators within the three SDGs - allowing for population growth as well as maintaining current access - with public funds expected to provide the bulk of the investment.

Five African countries are included in the study: Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda and Zambia. Key highlights include:

Providing universal digital access represents the greatest investment opportunity for the private sector by 2030 (USD74.5 billion), followed by universal access to power (USD65.8 billion), transport infrastructure (USD46.4 billion) and access to clean water and sanitation (USD10.3 billion)

The biggest single opportunity across the African markets in the study is in increasing digital access - a combination of mobile phone subscriptions rates and internet connectivity in Nigeria (USD47.4 billion). Driven by its large and growing population, Nigeria also offers the greatest overall opportunity

across the SDG indicators measured (a total of USD114.2 billion), followed by Kenya (USD40 billion)

Zambia and Kenya present a big opportunity to make an impact on SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation): With an average of 43 per cent and 56 per cent of the population respectively currently lacking access to clean water and sanitation, there is a USD0.7 billion and USD2.3 billion private-sector investment opportunity to help close the gap by 2030

Uganda presents a meaningful opportunity to make an impact on SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy): with just 22 per cent of the population that have access to electricity, there is a USD6.1 billion private-sector investment opportunity to help achieve universal access by 2030

The greatest investment opportunity in Ghana is in achieving and maintaining universal access to electricity (a key SDG 7 indicator), representing a USD7.8 billion private-sector opportunity

Sunil Kaushal, Regional CEO, Africa & Middle East, Standard Chartered, said: "The UN Sustainable Development Goals are amongst the most ambitious projects humanity has ever attempted.

As well as offering our best hope yet of tackling the world's most serious challenges, they also offer a unique opportunity for the private sector. For the goals to be met in Africa, the private sector must play a central role in deploying capital to get projects off the ground.

Opportunity2030 provides a map of these opportunities, revealing the sectors and markets where investors can best contribute to the SDGs whilst achieving sustainable returns.

"Currently, not enough capital is reaching the countries that need it the most. With the UN's 2030 deadline for achieving SDGs just 10 years away, the time to act is now."

With Standard Chartered's experience and reach into Africa, the Bank uses banking knowledge, products and its unique footprint to fund sustainable development where it matters most.

In June 2019, we launched our first Sustainability Bond, raising EUR 500 million to fund projects aligned to the SDGs in emerging markets, and have worked with clients and partners to create a number of important landmark structured solutions to support the SDGs.

Geita District entrepreneurs vow to be ambassadors in standards promotion

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

ENTREPRENEURS in Geita District, have pledged to be ambassadors in promoting standards after attending sensitization campaign which ended yesterday.

The two days campaign was conducted by officials from Tanzania Bureau of Standards.

Speaking an entrepreneur identified as Samson Malando, said the sensitization campaign on standards plays a crucial role for their development.

He said most of SMEs do not understand how to get services or obtain mark of quality issued by TBS.

"Today we are born again, we thank people from the Standard Watchdog for the sensitization campaign ... we pledge to be ambassadors and deliver the message to our friends who did not attend", he said.

They thanked the management of TBS for conducting the campaign within their area pledging to start applies for



Geita entrepreneurs' gathered at Geita Municipal council's office after receiving entrepreneurship trainings. File photo.

mark of quality.

Some of SMEs who took part during the campaign which was held at Katoro town are processors, distributors, sellers of food and cosmetics products.

For his part, the TBS Acting Director of Quality Management Hamis Sudi said that they sensitized SMEs on how to ob-

tain quality mark.

He said the organization certifies products of entrepreneurs free of charge for three years and all costs are taken by the government

He said the main objective is to help them expand market of their products and remove trade barriers.

"TBS recognize that once

your products are certified you can produce sustainably for any market without restrictions," he said.

He asked them to use the opportunity and channel their application through the Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO).

"TBS as enabling institution provides free certification

services for SMEs in order to support industrial drive, it is much better for them to do so in order to avoid unnecessary problems," he said

He said at the moment the organization has committed to make sure that SMEs do not conduct their business as usual instead do according to the law, procedures and regulations including registering their undertakings.

Sudi said the bureau has started to train and educate entrepreneurs after realizing some challenges they were facing.

According to him, more than 79 SMEs have attended in the training that was opened by Geita District Commissioner Josephat Maganga

Apart from SMEs, others who took part in event were Geita district business officers, health officer and community development officers.

Similar training will be conducted later this month to SMEs in Bariadi, Kagama, Shinyanga and Simiyu districts.

Dar businessman Dewji attends key Summit in Paris

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies



Mohammed Dewji

Dar es Salaam-based businessman Mohammed Dewji was the only Tanzanian and East African CEO who took part at Monday's France Presidential Dinner with President Emmanuel Macron held during the annual Choose France Summit.

During the discussion, Dewji asked the French President: "What is your strategy for Anglophone Africa?" (Keeping in mind France typically fosters business and political relationships with their former colonies and Francophone Africa).

Macron enthusiastically replied that his strategy for Africa not focused on Francophone Africa. His recent partnership in Rwanda with President Paul Kagame is illustrative to this.

In his twitter account, Dewji said: "It was pleasure being hosted for dinner with President of France, Emmanuel Macron. His honesty and witty insights on the ever changing geopolitical landscape and complexity around national sovereignty really blew me away." He described Macron as very charismatic leader with foresight to move France forward.

In his speech, Macron urged business leaders to 'Choose France', insisting that his reforms are attracting investors despite six weeks of crippling protests and

walkouts over his plan to overhaul the retirement system.

Driving home the message that the eurozone's second-largest economy remains open for business, Macron's government announced a 2 billion-euro (\$2.2 billion) contract for the French shipyard of Saint-Nazaire on the Atlantic coast.

It will build two cruise ships for the company MSC, representing some 2,400 jobs over three years. MSC confirmed plans to build other ships in France for another 4 billion euros (\$4.4 billion).

"Good news doesn't arrive out of nowhere. It comes because we are implementing reforms, because our country is moving, mobilizing," Macron said. "I know that our heads are being filled with bad news and that we're led to believe that everything is going to explode. But it's not true."

Macron delivered those comments to workers at a plant of British-Swedish pharmaceuticals company AstraZeneca in the northern town of Dunkirk, one of his stops on a frenetic day of efforts to convince investors to choose France. AstraZeneca announced \$500 million in new investments over the next 5 years.

Later, in Versailles, Macron hosted 180 international business leaders, including top executives from Google, Netflix, Coca-Cola, Toyota,

Samsung and General Electric. Many executives were stopping en route to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

Coca-Cola said it would invest 1 billion euros (\$1.1 billion) over the next 5 years in France, including in its Dunkirk plant.

Japanese automaker Toyota said last week it will build a new car model at its plant in Valenciennes, northern France, which represents 400 jobs and 100 million euros (\$110 million) in investments.

"France has become the most attractive country for industrial investments and research and development investments in Europe," Finance minister Bruno Le Maire told French news broadcaster LCI. "We are attractive for innovation."

Le Maire acknowledged that Britain's planned departure of the European Union, which prompted some companies to move some of their business to an EU country, has given a boost to investments in France. "Of course we play on every economic opportunity," he said. American bank JP Morgan said it had bought new offices in central Paris, with space to house about 450 employees, to get better access to the EU market after Brexit.

Macron was elected in 2017 on a pro-European, pro-business platform and argued that France must become more globally competitive.

AfDB President opens trading on London Stock Exchange



AfDB complex at its headquarters in Tunis, Tunisia. File photo

LONDON

DON Robert, Chairman of London Stock Exchange Group, welcomed the president of the African Development Bank (AfDB) to open markets for trading at London Stock Exchange on Wednesday.

The reception in London followed the African Development Bank's Africa Investment Forum, held in November last year. The innovative market-place for accelerating investment into the continent is playing a valuable role in convening investors and corporates and removing the bottlenecks to investments and enabling a free flow of long-term capital.

The 2019 edition of the Forum, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, saw investor interest secured in deals valued at \$40.1 billion. Mozambique featured strongly in the 2019 edition, with state oil and fuel company Empresa Nacional de Hidrocarbonetos (ENH), tabling the largest deal worth \$24.6 billion.

Wrapping up a three-day visit to the UK, during which he attended the first UK-Africa Investment Summit, AfDB President Akinwumi Adesina lauded the

prospects of continued collaboration with London Stock Exchange Group.

Don Robert, Chairman, LSEG, said: "Deep and sustainable capital markets are key to supporting African companies and infrastructure. We look forward to continuing to play our part in the development of these markets and attracting investment to Africa. As such, we're delighted to continue our collaboration with the African Development Bank, which has now formally become a member of LSEG's Africa Advisory Group."

"My ringing of the bell here today marks the beginning of a new exciting, strategic, and impactful engagement between the African Development Bank and London Stock Exchange to jointly expand wealth creation in Africa and the UK," Adesina said.

Looking ahead, the bank chief said it would be working with LSEG's Africa Advisory Group (LAAG) to attract a bigger share of the \$5 trillion global Exchange Traded Fund Assets under management into African capital markets.

The bank on Tuesday became a for-

mal member of LAAG, an advocacy group which serves as a platform to enhance the development of African capital markets, boost trade and investment flows between the UK and Africa.

Adesina said the synthetic synchronization of £1 billion issued by the Bank had attracted global institutional investors to look at infrastructure in Africa. "We are excited about the recent listing of Kenya's Acorn Holdings, the country's first green bond in January 2020," he added, then also touched on the Africa Investment Forum.

For Chinelo Anohu of the Africa Investment Forum, the visit to London Stock Exchange forms part of the Bank's efforts to expand and deepen its relationships with foreign investors.

"With its unmatched growth and unparalleled investment opportunities, the next decade will, with no doubt, be Africa's decade. Today's ceremony signals the start of a new dawn for Africa, a continent that has embarked on an irreversible path to bring about lasting economic transformation," she concluded.

"The city of London is the financial center of choice for Africa," said

Matthew Rycroft CBE, Permanent Secretary at the Department for International Development.

On the recently concluded UK-Africa Investment Summit, Rycroft said: "We are delighted with our partnership with the Bank and at the Summit, we made some extremely significant announcements.

We announced commercial deals worth £6.5 billion and there are many more in the pipeline...But it is not just about sums of money; it is also about ensuring that our investments are sustainable and that they enable real sustained growth in the economies of Africa."

One hundred and twelve African companies are listed on London Stock Exchange, with a market capitalization of £125 billion. In 2019, two African telecommunications companies raised £800 million in capital through IPOs in London.

Several distinguished guests were present at the ceremony, including Nikhil Rathi, CEO London Stock Exchange plc, and Suneel Bakhshi, Chair, LSEG International Advisory Groups.

JPMorgan Chase board raises CEO Dimon's pay to \$31.5 million

JPMorgan Chase & Co Chief Executive Officer Jamie Dimon got a half-million-dollar raise for 2019, bringing his total compensation for the year to \$31.5 million, the company said in a filing on Thursday.

That was a 1.6 per cent increase from the \$31 million he received for 2018. The bank said it was based on its strong performance last year and over the long term, according to the filing.

The bank said its board of directors considered the bank's business results, risk controls and conduct, client, customer and stakeholder focus and teamwork and leadership when determining Dimon's pay.

Under Dimon, JPMorgan reported net income of \$36.4 billion for 2019, up from \$32.5 billion a year earlier, and a return on tangible common equity of 19 per cent, up from 17 per cent in 2018.

Dimon's raise stands in contrast to the pay cut that Morgan Stanley's board delivered to its chief executive, James Gorman, reducing his pay by 7 per cent for 2019 as the bank trimmed incentive compensation firm-wide in an effort to reduce expenses. Even so, Gorman is richly compensated, receiving \$27 million for 2019.

Dimon's pay package consists of an annual base salary of \$1.5 million and performance-based incentive of \$30 million, according to the regulatory filing.

The bank also disclosed awards of restricted stock units to other top executives indicating their compensation.

Gordon Smith, co-president and CEO of Consumer & Community Banking, and Daniel Pinto, co-president and CEO of the Corporate & Investment Bank, each received \$22.5 million in total compensation, up 2.3 per cent from a year ago.

Mary Erdoes, CEO for Asset & Wealth Management, received \$21 million, up 2.4 per cent. Marianne Lake, CEO of consumer lending, received more than \$15.3 million, up 2.3 per cent. Doug Petno, CEO for Commercial Banking, received more than \$13 million, up 2.4 per cent.

Chief Financial Officer Jennifer Piepszak received \$10 million in total compensation.



Jamie Dimon, chairman & CEO of JP Morgan Chase & Co., speaks during the Bloomberg Global Business Forum in New York City. File photo.

Trump to sign USMCA trade deal with Mexico, Canada

WASHINGTON, DC

US President Donald Trump will sign a trade pact between the United States, Mexico and Canada on Wednesday next week during a ceremony at the White House, an administration official from the White house has revealed.

Invitations had been sent out and the White House location would allow lawmakers from all over the country to attend, the official said.

The ceremony is likely to take place while an impeachment trial against Trump proceeds on Capitol Hill.

The official said Trump would be touting the pact after the signing during travel around the United States.

"This is a major accomplishment for the president and he will be taking this on the road in the coming weeks," one of the officials revealed.

Trump has made pursuing new trade deals a signature of his presidency and one of his key promises as a political candidate. The Republican president is running for re-election this year.

The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), which replaces NAFTA, still needs to be formally approved by Canada.

The deal cannot take effect until it has been ratified by all three member nations. Last week, the U.S. Senate overwhelmingly approved the legislation, sending the measure to Trump for him to sign into law.



U.S. President Donald Trump. File photo.

Oil rises, but potential impact of China virus on fuel demand haunts market



Pump jacks operate at sunset in an oil field in Midland, Texas U.S. File photo.

SINGAPORE

Oil prices climbed yesterday following a drawdown in U.S. crude stocks, but were set to fall heavily for the week amid worries that a new coronavirus in China that has killed 25 so far may spread, curbing travel, fuel demand and economic prospects.

Brent crude futures LCOc1 were up 31 cents, or 0.5 per cent, at \$62.35 a barrel by 0741 GMT after falling 1.9

per cent the previous session. For the week, Brent is down about 4 per cent.

U.S. West Texas Intermediate futures CLc1 were up 27 cents, or 0.5 per cent higher at \$55.86 a barrel. The contract fell 2 per cent on Thursday and is 4.6 per cent lower for the week.

"Oil's sell-off (for the week) continued at pace as fears continued about the effects on global demand from a virus-induced economic

slowdown in Asia," said Jeffrey Halley, senior market analyst, OANDA.

Offering support for prices was news that U.S. crude oil and distillate inventories fell last week, the Energy Information Administration said on Thursday.

Though they failed to match analysts' expectations of a 1 million barrel drop, crude inventories did decline by 405,000 barrels in the week to Jan. 17, government data

showed.

"The sell-off on the flu scare was mollified by a timely decline in U.S. crude inventories," said Stephen Innes, market strategist at AxiTrader.

The virus has infected more than 800 so far in China, with 25 dead as of Thursday, according to China's National Health Commission. The World Health Organisation has declared the situation an emergency, but stopped short of declaring the epidemic of international concern.

Most of the cases are in the central Chinese city of Wuhan, where the virus is believed to have originated late last year, though cases have now been found in at least seven other countries.

"Oil prices could remain on a slippery slope as traders remain incredibly twitchy about the effects the coronavirus outbreak could have on Chinese GDP and air travel more broadly," said AxiTrader's Innes.

Sasol share price rockets after update

CAPE TOWN

Sasol says it is investigating the explosion which occurred last week at its Lake Charles Chemicals Project and caused damage to a low-density polyethylene unit.

However, the petrochemical company said yesterday, initial findings indicate that the explosion occurred in a high-pressure section of the unit, that damage was limited to a small section, and critical equipment was not affected.

The incident occurred early this month at the US facility, which is still under construction.

"The investigation is underway to determine the cause, extent of the damage, and the scope and timeline of repair," the company said in a statement.

"We expect to determine the repair scope and outage duration by the second half of February," it added.

Sasol said as at the end of December 2019, engineering and procurement activities were substantially complete and construction

progress was at 98 per cent.

By late morning yesterday, Sasol's share price was up 6.5 per cent to R276.79. The company has lost a third of its value over the past year amid concerns about its Lake Charles project.

The Lake Charles project has been marred by cost overruns, which have been blamed on poor project management and forced the resignation of joint CEOs Bongani Nqwababa and Stephen Cornell in October.

The project will have seven production units that deliver various chemicals, including a

plastics variant called polyethylene.

"Overall project completion was at 99 per cent and capital expenditure amounted to US\$12.5 billion. The petrochemicals firm said during the time of the delay in the unit start-up, the ethylene produced by the cracker and destined for the unit will be sold externally.

"The projected earnings for the LCCP complex in this financial year will only be impacted by the loss in the margin of ethylene to low-density polyethylene," the company said.

Jeep, Suzuki models found to have broken EU emissions rules

AMSTERDAM

Fiat Chrysler's Jeep Grand Cherokee and Suzuki's Vitara diesel models both break emissions rules and must be fixed or face a ban on sales across

Europe, the Dutch road authority ruled on Thursday.

The RDW authority, acting as the reference regulator for across the European Union, said Jeep had developed a software fix and that the authority had ordered

the company to recall the model across Europe to roll it out.

It added Suzuki had yet to find a credible solution for the Vitara.

"Suzuki must come with adequate improvement measures or the RDW will begin the process

of revoking its European type approval," the RDW said in a statement, adding it had also started the process of revoking approval for the Jeep Grand Cherokee as a precautionary measure.

Regulators across the world

have been testing diesel models since Volkswagen admitted in 2015 that it used illegal software to cheat U.S. emissions tests.

The RDW said it had found both the Jeep Grand Cherokee and Vitara had used "prohibited

emissions strategies" that led them to emit higher levels of harmful nitrogen oxide (NOx) on the road than under testing conditions.

Dutch State Secretary for Infrastructure, Sientje van

Veldhoven, said in a letter to parliament she would inform prosecutors of the RDW's findings.

Fiat Chrysler and Suzuki could not immediately be reached for comment.

WORLD

Democrats in impeachment trial say Trump abused his power for political gain

WASHINGTON

DEMOCRATS worked methodically at U.S. President Donald Trump's impeachment trial on Thursday to dismantle his long-standing allegation that Democratic presidential contender Joe Biden acted improperly toward Ukraine while vice president.

On the second day of their arguments for Trump's removal from office, Democratic House of Representatives members argued that Biden did nothing wrong and was only carrying out official U.S. policy when he pressured Ukraine to fire its top prosecutor, Victor Shokin, because of corruption concerns.

Trump and his allies maintain that Biden wanted Shokin out in order to head off an investigation into a natural gas company, Burisma, where his son Hunter served as a director. Democrats said no evidence supported that allegation.

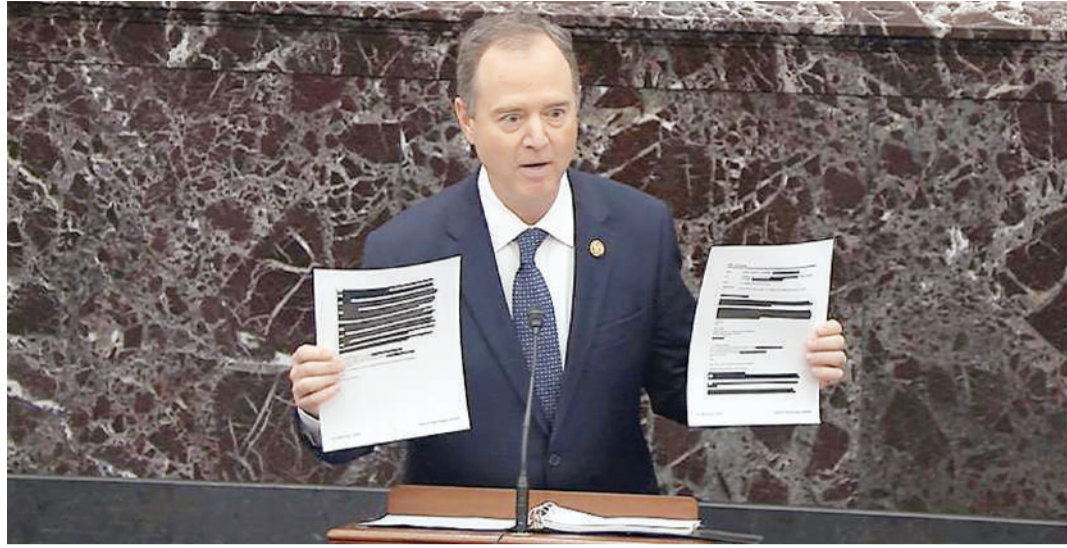
In more than eight hours of argument,

House managers spent Thursday focusing on the charge that Trump abused his office by pressing Ukraine to investigate the Bidens purely for political gain.

They contended that Trump pushed for the probe because he was worried about facing the former vice president in November's election. Biden is the front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination.

"If we allow this gross abuse of power to continue, this president would have free rein - free rein - to abuse his control of U.S. foreign policy for personal interest, and so would any other future president," U.S. Representative Sylvia Garcia said on the Senate floor. "And then this president, and all presidents, become above the law." Democrats contend senators should convict Trump on two charges brought by the Democratic-led House - abuse of power and obstruction of Congress.

But the Senate, which is controlled by Trump's fellow Republicans, remains



In this image from video, House impeachment manager Rep Adam Schiff, D-Calif, holds redacted documents as he speaks during the impeachment trial against US President Donald Trump in the Senate at the US Capitol in Washington, on Wednesday. (AP)

unlikely to do so. A two-thirds majority is needed to remove him from office.

Even so, Democrat Adam Schiff, the lead House manager, ended the evening by commending the senators who had endured a long day of arguments. "I just want to thank you keeping an open mind about all of the issues that we are presenting," Schiff said. "That's all that we can ask for."

The U.S. Constitution sets out the impeachment process for removing a president who commits "high crimes and misdemeanors." Trump's legal team has argued that the House charges were invalid because impeachable offenses must represent a specific violation of criminal law.

Trump condemned the proceedings as "unfair & corrupt" in a Twitter post on Thursday.

The charges against Trump arise from his request in a July 25 phone call last year that Ukraine investigate Biden on unsubstantiated corruption allegations and the president's actions to impede a House inquiry into the matter.

Trump also asked Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to investigate a discredited theory

beneficial to Russia that Ukraine worked with Democrats to hurt Trump in the 2016 U.S. election. Trump temporarily withheld \$391 million in U.S. military aid to Ukraine, which Democrats say was leverage for his demands.

'OPENED THE DOOR'

Trump's lawyers quickly argued that by bringing up the Bidens, Democrats had made their conduct a relevant subject for the rest of the trial.

"They opened the door. They opened the door and it's now relevant," Jay Sekulow, a personal lawyer for the president and a member of his defense team, told reporters at the Capitol. "So we will address the appropriate issues as defense lawyers would."

Added Republican Senator Ted Cruz: "Hunter Biden is not only relevant, he is now critical."

But Sekulow said Trump's team was not yet focused on whether new witnesses will be called, a matter the Senate will take up after senators have a chance to submit questions to both sides next week.

Agencies

Kremlin: UN SC permanent members' summit needed to find ways of easing global tensions

MOSCOW

A SUMMIT of five permanent UN Security Council members is necessary to discuss global challenges and begin to search for ways of easing tensions in the world, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

He recalled that Russian President Vladimir Putin, speaking in Jerusalem on January 23, had suggested holding a summit of the permanent members of the UN Security Council "in any country and at any point on the globe the counterparts find convenient."

"What for? In order to talk about the critical mass of challenges in various areas, about the potential for conflicts at the regional and international level, so that the five countries assume responsibility in order to prevent that critical mass from growing further," Peskov (pictured) said.

He added that the five countries' leaders should "put themselves above those disagreements, which exist between these countries, in order to begin to search for ways of easing tensions and address the challenges facing all of humanity now."

When asked whether it would make sense to hold the summit, if any of the five countries refused to take part in it, Peskov noted that the participation of all countries was essential "to pool efforts to find solutions to the problems facing us." "We cannot solve them alone," he added.

Peskov stressed that the countries, which had been invited to gather for a summit, were the founding member-states of the United Nations, which remains "the only universal, although not entirely perfect, platform in terms of answers to the challenges facing humanity."

Peskov said that Moscow will soon send officials messages to China, the United States, France and the United Kingdom in order to clarify the proposal to hold a summit of the five UNSC permanent members.

"In the coming days, messages will be sent to the leaders of these countries that will clarify the details of President Putin's proposal," he said, adding that the four countries were expected to get the messages "in the first half of the next week."

According to Peskov, the Kremlin will be "looking forward to a response" from the leaders.

Agencies



WHO: Coronavirus outbreak not yet global health emergency

GENEVA

THE World Health Organization (WHO) said on Thursday that it was "too early" to declare the outbreak of the novel coronavirus in China a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC), while warning that the number of cases may rise as many about the virus remain unknown.

"I am not declaring a public health emergency of international concern today. As it was yesterday, the Emergency Committee was divided over whether the outbreak of novel coronavirus represents a PHEIC or not," said WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus at a press conference after a closed-door meeting of the Emergency Committee (EC).

"Make no mistake, though, this

is an emergency in China. But it has not yet become a global health emergency. It may yet become one," Tedros (pictured) said, adding that WHO's risk assessment is that the outbreak is a very high risk in China, and a high risk regionally and globally.

"I wish to reiterate that the fact I am not declaring a PHEIC today should not be taken as a sign that WHO does not think the situation is serious, or that we are not taking it seriously," the WHO chief said.

The UN health agency extended its Emergency Committee discussions on whether to declare a PHEIC from Wednesday to Thursday.

The PHEIC is defined by the WHO as an extraordinary event that is determined to constitute a



public health risk to other states through the international spread of disease and to potentially require a coordinated international response.

Tedros said that 584 cases have now been reported to WHO, including 17 deaths. A total of 575 of those cases and all of the deaths have been reported in China, with other cases reported in Japan, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, the United States and

Vietnam.

Tedros said China has taken measures it believes appropriate to contain the spread of coronavirus in Wuhan, where the virus appears to have originated, and other cities, and WHO hoped that they will be both effective and short in their duration.

He thanked the Chinese government for its cooperation and transparency. The government has been successful in isolating and sequencing the virus very quickly and has shared that genetic sequence with the WHO and the international community.

For the moment, WHO does not recommend any broader restrictions on travel or trade, and recommends exit screening at airports as part of a comprehensive set of containment measures.

All countries should have in place measures to detect cases of coronavirus, including at health facilities, Tedros said.

"The advice to the DG (Director-General) is that now it is not the time. It is too early to consider this event is a public health emergency of international concern," said Didier Houssin, chair of the EC and an adviser to France's national health security agency.

According to Houssin, the WHO received from health authorities in China very precise information about the evolution of the epidemic.

The WHO had learned that the public transport suspension in Wuhan and some neighboring cities was not directly related to a specific evolution of the epidemic.

Xinhua

China's call for globalization, inclusiveness reverberates at Davos

DAVOS, Switzerland,

THREE years after Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered a keynote speech here at the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF), his energetic championship of globalization and solemn promise of further opening-up are still reverberating through the Swiss ski resort of Davos.

"I clearly felt that the political and business elites of other countries who I've talked with retain a deep impression of President Xi Jinping's speech," said Ning Tian, chairman and CEO of Hangzhou-based Panshi Information Technology.

"His view is widely supported by politicians and businessmen who have frequently quoted the

Chinese president in many occasions," Ning said.

As protectionism and unilateralism are rising against the trend, participants of this year's WEF not only lauded Xi's remarks in 2017, but also echoed China's call for -- in the words of Chinese Vice Premier Han Zheng on Tuesday -- "building an inclusive and open world economy together."

"PASSIONATE DEFENSE OF GLOBALIZATION"

While presenting Han to the WEF's 50th annual meeting to make a special address, Klaus Schwab, founder and executive chairman of the WEF, revisited the tremendous efforts and achievements made by the People's Republic of China since its founding 70 years ago and partic-



ularly through decades of reform and opening-up.

When China first joined the WEF, it represented only 1.8 percent of the global economy; last year, it accounted for over 16 percent of global gross domestic product (GDP), "not to forget

how many people were lifted out of poverty during this process," Schwab said.

"But what has been more impressive has been China's growing role in international affairs, playing a responsive and responsible role," Schwab said.

"Many of the participants here can still remember President Xi's historic remarks in this room in 2017, and his passionate defense of globalization," he said.

Economic globalization resulted from growing social productivity, and is a natural outcome of scientific and technological progress, not something created by any individuals or any countries, Xi said then, adding that economic globalization has powered global growth and facilitated movement of goods and capital,

advances in science, technology and civilization, and interactions among peoples.

Echoing Xi's remarks three years ago, Han on Tuesday called on the international community to build an inclusive and open world economy and uphold multilateralism in support of economic globalization, which is "a historical trend, an essential condition for productivity growth, and a natural result of the advance in science and technology," as well as "a strong driving force behind economic growth across the globe."

In response, Schwab thanked Han for the "reassurance related to continuing necessary opening-up processes, certainly heard with pleasure by all the investors here in the room." Xinhua

Sichuan adopts innovative method to lift farmers out of poverty

SOUTHWEST China's Sichuan province, by innovating the marketing mechanism for its poverty alleviation products, has helped a great number of farmers get through hardships.

The province registered a collective logo for local farmers for which all products coming from impoverished villages can apply. Those products approved will be recommended by the government to catering enterprises, supermarkets, government organs, communities and e-commerce platforms.

Such method has successfully introduced the products from Sichuan's impoverished villages to proper markets and lowered the cost of logistics.

The delicious Long'an grapefruit is

a protected geographical indication product, which has been introduced by Sichuan's Gexin village to establish featured industry. A total of 53.3 hectares of such fruit trees were planted in the village.

However, before the innovative marketing mechanism was put into use, the fruit barely played its role as a tool to alleviate poverty.

"Our village is an impoverished village, and the Long'an grapefruit was introduced to establish a specialty industry to help us get rid of poverty. But later we found it difficult to sell the fruits, for which our villagers were bearing a resentment," said Yang Shengrong, secretary of the Gexin village Party branch.

Jin Dafu, who came to Gexin village in early 2019 as the first secretary, a post in charge of poverty alleviation work, decided to find markets for the villagers after seeing the unsalable fruits rotten. "You plant them, I sell them," Jin told the villagers.

Thanks to the innovative marketing mechanism and Jin's efforts, the grapefruits of Gexin village embraced a sales boom.

Villager Long Chengmin said that he sold over 1,000 grapefruits online in 3 days, earning 6,000 yuan (\$876). "The fruits have become a money tree for us," he said.

Taking the opportunity, Gexin village established a cooperative joined by all the 24 impoverished households in the

village and opened an online shop that purchases and sells agricultural products including the Long'an grapefruit.

"The grapefruits were barely sold out even at a price of less than one yuan per kilogram, but now the price goes up to at least 10 yuan per kilogram," Yang introduced.

According to him, the cooperative received at least 3,000 orders last year, which benefited 78 grapefruit planters who saw their household income grow over 3,000 yuan on average.

The Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation recently issued a report on the development of rural e-commerce in China.

The report said rural e-commerce,

by connecting the supply and demand sides, has effectively cut cost and improved efficiency, thus stimulating production vitality in the rural region, increasing farmers' income and enhancing employment.

World Bank and Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba also jointly released a report titled E-commerce Development: Experience from China on Nov. 23, 2019.

According to the report, part of the impoverished regions in China have benefited from e-commerce, and digital technology can be a powerful instrument for rural vitalization and poverty reduction.

E-commerce is showing increasing power in revitalizing China's rural ar-

reas. As the country has established successful online platforms, Chinese farmers are seeing more hope of getting rid of poverty and embracing a well-off life.

Now, villagers from Gexin village have innovatively expanded their way of thinking.

They are now making tea from grapefruit flowers, extracting fructus aurantii immaturus from fruitlets, and making cakes with inferior-quality grapefruits. Besides, they are also selling chili sauce and eggs to gain extra income.

So far, the collective logo registered by Sichuan province has introduced 3,323 products to the market, achieving a sales volume of nearly 5.14 billion yuan.

People's Daily

'No, No America': Iraqis rally against US military presence

BAGHDAD

THOUSANDS of Iraqis rallied at two central Baghdad intersections on Friday after a prominent cleric called for a "million strong" protest against the American military presence, following the US killing of an Iranian general and an Iraqi militia chief.

The march called by Moqtada al-Sadr aims to pressure Washington to pull out its troops, but many anti-government protesters fear it could overshadow their separate, months-long demonstrations that have challenged Iran-backed Shi'ite groups' grip on power.

Sadr opposes all foreign interference in Iraq but has recently aligned himself more closely with Iran, whose allies have dominated state institutions since the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003.

Thronges of marchers started gathering early on Friday at al-Hurriya Square in central Baghdad and near around the city's main university, Re-

uters witnesses said. Marchers avoided Tahrir square, symbol of mass protests against Iraq's ruling elites.

"We want them all out - America, Israel, and the corrupt politicians in government," said Raed Abu Zahra, a health ministry worker from southern city of Samawa, who arrived by bus at night and stayed in Sadr City, a sprawling district of Baghdad controlled by the cleric's followers.

"We support the protests in Tahrir as well, but understand why Sadr held this protest here so it doesn't take attention from theirs," he added.

Men and women marched waving the red, white and black national colours, and chanted slogans against the United States, which leads a military coalition against the Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria.

"Do Not Cross This Barrier"

Some were wearing symbolic white robes indicating they're willing to die for their country while others sat looking out over the square from half finished buildings, holding signs read-



Protesters stage a sit-in at Tahrir Square during anti-government demonstrations in Baghdad, Iraq on Thursday. (AP)

ing "No, no, America, no, no, Israel, no, no, colonialists".

Marchers were protected by Sadr's Saraya al-Salam brigades and Iraq's

Popular Mobilization Forces, an umbrella grouping of Iran-backed Shi'ite militias, witnesses said.

It is unclear if the march will end

up at the gates of the US Embassy, the seat of US power in Iraq and the scene of violent clashes last month when militia supporters tried to storm the compound.

Main roads in Baghdad were barricaded by security forces and the city's Green Zone, which houses foreign missions, were blocked off with concrete barriers. Outside the US embassy, a sign reads "Warning. Do not cross this barrier, we will use pre-emptive measures against any attempt to cross".

The US killing of Iranian military mastermind General Qasem Soleimani in Baghdad this month has raised the spectre of more civil strife in a country torn by years of sectarian conflict.

For the first time in nearly two years, parliament voted along sectarian lines to press the government to kick out US forces. Shi'ite parties voted in favour, while Sunni Muslim and Kurdish lawmakers boycotted the session.

Agencies

World leaders in Jerusalem call for struggle against anti-Semitism

JERUSALEM

DOZENS of world leaders gathered on Thursday in Jerusalem to commemorate 75 years for the liberation of the Auschwitz camp and called on to combat the resurgence of modern-day anti-Semitism.

More than 40 royalties, presidents, and prime ministers took part in the 5th World Holocaust Forum, held this year in Jerusalem.

The gathering culminated in a ceremony at the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem, where the leaders made speeches pledging to remember the Holocaust and to take measures against the rising of anti-Semitism.

German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier expressed his "deepest sorrow" for the killing of 6 million Jews by the Nazis.

He conveyed remorse on behalf of his country. "This also must be said here: The perpetrators were human beings. They were Germans. Those who murdered, those who planned and helped in the murdering, the many who silently toed the line: They were Germans," he said.

"Today we join together to say no to anti-Semitism! No to hatred!" he said.

Also addressing the gathering, Britain's Prince Charles warned: "hatred and intolerance still lurk in the human heart."

He added that lessons of the Holocaust are still "searingly relevant" and told the forum that "we must be fearless in confronting falsehoods and resolute in resisting words and acts of violence."

Russian President Vladimir Putin urged a summit in 2020 of leaders of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council to "defend peace" in the wake of global instability.

Agencies

Trump to unveil stalled ME peace plan ahead of Israeli leaders' meet

MIAMI/JERUSALEM

US President Donald Trump said on Thursday he will release details of his long-delayed peace plan for the Middle East before Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his election rival Benny Gantz visit the White House next week.

The political aspects of the peace initiative have been closely guarded. Only the economic proposals have been unveiled.

Trump discussed the timing of the plan's release with two architects of the plan, senior advisers Jared Kushner and Avi

Berkowitz, on Air Force One while returning to Washington from Switzerland on Wednesday.

Speaking to reporters on Air Force One en route to the Miami area for a political event, Trump said Palestinians might react negatively to his plan at first, but that "it's actually very positive for them."

"It's a great plan," said Trump, who will meet with Netanyahu at the White House on Tuesday. "It's a plan that really would work."

Vice President Mike Pence, on a visit to Jerusalem, extended an invitation to Netanyahu and Gantz to make the visit. It was

not immediately clear whether Trump would meet the two leaders separately or together.

The Trump Middle East peace proposal is a document, dozens of pages long, that addresses in detail the thorny political issues between Israel and the Palestinians, such as the status of Jerusalem.

US officials made no mention of inviting the Palestinians, and Nabil Abu Rudeineh, a spokesman for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, said: "We warn Israel and the US administration not to cross any red lines."

Trump indicated his admin-

istration had spoken "briefly" to the Palestinians and would speak to them again "in a period of time."

Netanyahu said he had accepted the US invitation. His office said he would fly to the United States on Sunday. A Gantz spokesman did not respond when asked whether Gantz had accepted Trump's invitation.

Netanyahu, a veteran right-wing Israeli leader, faces political and legal troubles at home - he is heading for his third election in less than a year, and was indicted on criminal charges in November. He denies any wrongdoing.

Israeli political analysts viewed Trump's invitation as a boost to Netanyahu, his right-wing ally.

Netanyahu's principal domestic political rival Gantz, a centrist former general, this week lifted his objection to having the peace plan be published before Israel's March election. He had previously objected to it as interference in the vote.

Long-delayed plan

The launch of Trump's plan to end the decades-long conflict between Israel and the Palestinians has been delayed numerous times over the last two years.

A source familiar with the

peace team's thinking said bringing both Netanyahu and Gantz in on the details is aimed at defusing any suggestion that Trump might be favoring one Israeli candidate over another.

Trump is facing his own political clock, preoccupied with his bid for re-election in November, and could ill afford to wait for months for Israel to decide who its next prime minister will be, the source said.

"If we waited we could be in the same position four months from now and never put out the plan," the source said.

Agencies

China's per capita GDP exceeds \$10,000

CHINA recently released its economic performance of 2019. The country's GDP totaled 99.0865 trillion yuan (\$14.38 trillion), up 6.1 percent year on year. Besides, the per capita GDP of the country surpassed \$10,000 for the first time, reaching \$10,276.

During the past 70 years since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the country has grown from a country of basic survival to an economy of nearly 100 trillion yuan.

"This not only signified the continuous expansion of the size of our economy, but also marked the stable improvement in the quality of our economy as well as our people's livelihood. The Chinese people's efforts in this regard have not only laid a solid foundation for China's realization of a moderately prosperous society in all respects but also contributed to the development and progress of mankind," said Ning Jizhe, head of China's National Bureau of Statistics at a press conference held by the State Council Information Office on Jan. 17, adding that such performance is of landmark significance.

China's GDP almost reached 100 trillion yuan in 2019, or \$14.4 trillion at the average exchange rate, ranking the second in the world. To make such a remarkable achievement was no easy task.



Farmers harvest Chinese snake gourds in Shuyuan county, Suqian, east China's Jiangsu province, Nov. 5, 2019. (File photo)

In 1952, the country's GDP was only 67.9 billion yuan. In 1986, or 37 years after the founding of the People's Republic of China, the country's GDP rose to 1 trillion. China spent 14 years to increase the figure tenfold to 10 trillion, and another 19 years to make it to nearly 100 trillion.

According to statistics released by the World Bank, the population of countries with per capita GDP above \$10,000 was nearly 1.5 billion in 2018. As China, a country with a population of 1.4 billion, enters the ranks of such countries, their collective population has nearly doubled.

Ning introduced that China's GDP is expected to account for more than 16 percent of global GDP in 2019, and contribute about 30 percent to global growth. China remains the most powerful engine of world economic growth. Its per capita GDP is now among the ranks

of the world's middle-income countries, and its human development index status has further improved.

China's per capita GDP crossing the mark of \$10,000 suggested larger size of its economy, and will help the country improve its capability to shape a more favorable international environment, and consolidate its status as the second largest economy of the world, said Xu Wei, deputy director of the Department of Macroeconomic Research Development under the Research Center of the State Council.

"The huge domestic market formed by 1.4 billion people also offers important opportunities for each country to expand their business," he added.

China's economic growth stood at 6.1 percent last year, achieving its target of 6 to 6.5 percent set for the whole year and ranking the first among the

countries with per capita GDP above \$10,000. Such performance carries huge significance.

In 2019, consumer price went up by 2.9% over the previous year, meeting the projected target of around 3%. The core CPI excluding the prices of food and energy went up by 1.6%, a growth rate lower than that of the previous year.

In 2019, the monthly surveyed unemployment rates in urban areas stayed within the range of 5.0% to 5.3%, achieving the projected target of around 5.5% and below. In December, the urban surveyed unemployment rate in 31 major cities was 5.2%. A total of 13.52 million new urban jobs were created last year, exceeding the target of creating over 11 million urban jobs, which marked the seventh year in a row for China to create over 13 million urban jobs.

In 2019, the nationwide per capita disposable income of residents exceeded 30,000 yuan for the first time, reaching 30,733 yuan. Residents' income grew at the same pace as the economy and per capita GDP.

The per capita disposable income of rural households saw a real growth of 6.2 percent after deducting price factors. The growth continued outpacing that of the urban residents, once again narrowing the urban-rural income gap.

People's Daily

'We will secure victory,' Xi says

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping vowed on Thursday to build China by the end of this year into a moderately prosperous society that is universally acclaimed by the people and stands the test of history.

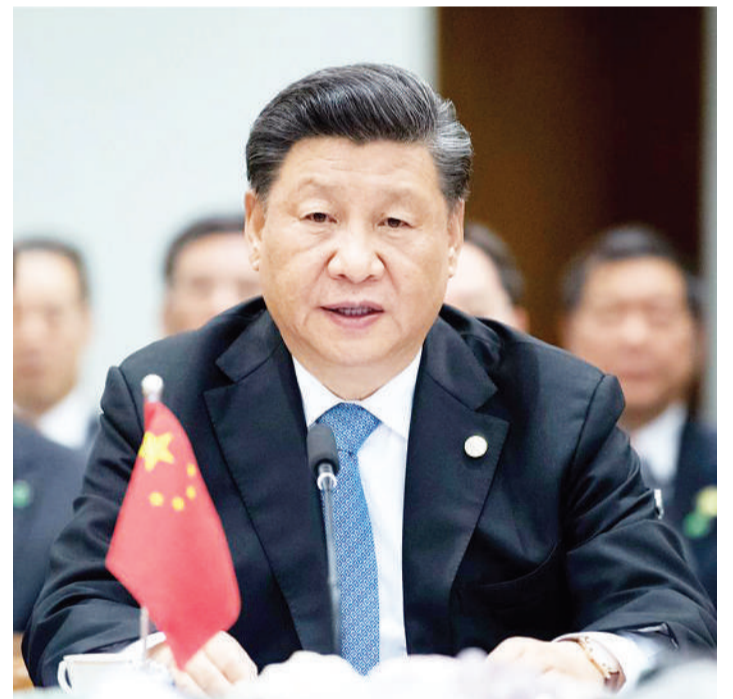
Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remark in his address to a gathering in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing in celebration of Spring Festival, or Lunar New Year, which falls on Saturday.

"In the new year, we will secure victory in completing the building of a moderately prosperous society and win the battle against absolute poverty to realize the first Centenary Goal," Xi said.

Noting that the millennia-old dream of the Chinese nation to become well-off overall will become reality, Xi called it a significant landmark in the course of the country's realization of the great national rejuvenation.

The Chinese president extended his festival greetings and best wishes to the people of all ethnic groups throughout the country, to compatriots in the Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions and Taiwan as well as to overseas Chinese around the world.

He reviewed the achievements China made in the past year despite many internal and



external challenges, saying the country kept advancing reform and opening-up for high-quality economic growth, and its economic operation remained within a reasonable range.

Great headway was made in three tough battles - poverty reduction, effective prevention and control of financial risks, and environmental protection - news of scientific and technological innovations kept pouring in, people's livelihoods improved, national defense and military reforms advanced steadily and the country's overall diplomacy bore fruit, Xi said.

The grand celebration of the

70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China has greatly cheered the national spirit and built a strong power of national unity, he added.

Looking forward, Xi said, China has worked out a strategic blueprint to realize socialist modernization step by step after it has completed the task of building a moderately prosperous society, and from there to build China into a prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious and beautiful modernized socialist country by the middle of this century.

Agencies

THE HAGUE/COX'S BAZAAR, BANGLADESH

World Court orders Myanmar to protect Rohingya

THE International Court of Justice on Thursday ordered Myanmar to take urgent measures to protect its Rohingya population from genocide, a ruling cheered by refugees as their first major legal victory since being forced from their homes.

A lawsuit launched by Gambia in November at the United Nations' highest body for disputes between states accuses Myanmar of genocide against Rohingya in violation of a 1948 convention.

The court's final decision could take years, and Thursday's ruling dealt only with Gambia's request for preliminary measures. But in a unanimous ruling

by the 17-judge panel, the court said the Rohingya face an ongoing threat and Myanmar must act to protect them.

Myanmar must "take all measures within its power to prevent all acts" prohibited under the 1948 Genocide Convention, and report back within four months, presiding Judge Abdulqawi Yusuf said, reading out a summary of the judgment.

Myanmar must use its influence over its military and other armed groups to prevent violence against the Rohingya "intended to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part".

Rohingya activists, who had

come from all over the world to the Hague, reacted with joy to the unanimous ruling which also explicitly recognized their ethnic minority as a protected group under the Genocide Convention.

"That is something we have been fighting for a long time: To be recognized as humans the same as everyone else," Yasmin Ullah, a Canada-based Rohingya activist said. Majority Buddhist Myanmar generally refuses to describe the Muslim Rohingya as an ethnic group and refers to them as Bangladeshi migrants.

Myanmar's ministry of foreign affairs said in a statement late on Thursday it "takes note" of

the decision.

"The unsubstantiated condemnation of Myanmar by some human rights actors has presented a distorted picture of the situation in Rakhine and affected Myanmar's bilateral relations with several countries", it added.

More than 730,000 Rohingya fled Myanmar after a military-led crackdown in 2017, and were forced into squalid camps across the border in Bangladesh. UN investigators concluded that the military campaign had been executed with "genocidal intent".

In camps in Bangladesh where they have fled, Rohingya

refugees hovered over mobile phones to watch the judgment.

"For the first time, we have got some justice," said Mohammed Nur, 34. "This is a big achievement for the entire Rohingya community." Rohingya still living inside Myanmar contacted by phone said they hoped the ruling would force the country to improve their situation. "We need protection," said Tin Aung, a Rohingya leader living in Myebon township in central Rakhine state, where Muslims have been confined to camps since violence in 2012.

A Myanmar government spokesman and two military spokesmen did not answer calls

from Reuters seeking comment.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres welcomed the court order and "recalls that, pursuant to the Charter and to the Statute of the Court, decisions of the Court are binding and trusts that Myanmar will duly comply," UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in a statement.

"Triumph" Gambia's justice minister, Abubacarr Tambadou, hailed the ruling as "a triumph for international justice".

Mainly Muslim Gambia brought the case despite being located halfway around the

world, on the argument that all nations have a universal legal duty to prevent genocide. Tambadou, a former prosecutor at a UN tribunal over the Rwanda genocide, took up the issue on behalf of the 57-member OIC group of Muslim states.

The case was argued last month by some of the world's top human rights lawyers, with Myanmar's civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi personally attending hearings at The Hague to ask judges to dismiss it.

Moments before the court began reading its ruling, the Financial Times published an article by Suu Kyi, in which she said war crimes may have been committed against Rohingya Muslims but refugees had exaggerated abuses.

Agencies



Coco Gauff

15-year-old Coco Gauff upsets '19 champ Osaka at Australian Open

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

COCO Gauff plays nothing like what her age – still just 15 – or her ranking – 67th and rapidly rising – would suggest.

Everyone keeps finding out that no matter an opponent's experience or accolades, no matter the stakes or the stage, Gauff plays with determination and delivers the goods.

Gauff became the youngest player in the professional era to eliminate the reigning women's champion at the Australian Open, beating former No. 1 Naomi Osaka 6-3, 6-4 in the third round at Melbourne Park on Friday.

After the match, during her on-court interview, Gauff turned into a rather typical teen, joking about wanting to take "a selfie for Instagram" with Rod Laver, the 11-time major champion after whom the stadium is named.

"Honestly, like, what is my life? Like, oh, my gosh!" Gauff told the crowd. "Two years ago, I lost first round in juniors and now I'm here. This is crazy."

She is also the youngest player to beat a top-five opponent in a women's tour-level match since Jennifer Capriati did it at 15 in 1991.

"You don't want to lose to a 15-year-old, you know?" Osaka said.

It was the second significant result of Day 5 in Melbourne: In the same quarter of the bracket, 23-time major champion Serena Williams lost to 27th-seeded Wang Qiang 6-4, 6-7 (2), 7-5 earlier.

Gauff pulled this off with some big serving, consistent groundstrokes and by letting Osaka largely be her own undoing.

Osaka made 30 unforced errors, Gauff merely 17. This was a rematch from the third round at the U.S. Open last September; Osaka won that one in straight sets, then consoled a crying Gauff afterward and encouraged her to speak to the fans.

"Her serve is way better," Osaka said. "I feel

like I wasn't really swinging freely, and she was."

So, Naomi, could you have done something differently?

"Put the ball in the court," came the reply.

Gauff's game is growing so quickly.

Osaka, for her part, made her own rapid ascent to the top of tennis, claiming the trophies at the U.S. Open in 2018 and Australian Open in 2019 to rise to No. 1 in the WTA rankings. She is only 22 herself.

Seems old by comparison, of course.

There were the occasional signs that Gauff is not a fully formed player – or person – just yet. For example, leading by a set and a break, serving at 1-0, 40-15, Gauff double-faulted twice in one game to get broken for the first time. It was a rare lapse, though – and one to be expected at this stage of her life and career.

One reminder of just how young Gauff is: Most of the entrants in this year's junior Australian Open are older than she is.

Another: She is taking online classes and said she's been given permission to turn in homework late, "considering the circumstances."

Yet another: She doesn't have an official driver's license quite yet, stuck practicing behind the wheel with a learner's permit.

Her play is far beyond her years. Her composure, on and off the court, is remarkable.

That all helped Gauff become the first American in 30 years to reach at least the third round in each of her first three major appearances.

Her next opponent will be either No. 14 seed Sofia Kenin or Zhang Shuai, who were scheduled to meet later Friday night.

So late, in fact, that Gauff said she would have to pass on scouting their match because she would "probably be asleep."

AP

'I'm better than that': Serena stunned at Australian Open



Serena Williams of the U.S. leaves Rod Laver Arena after the third round single loss to China's Wang Qiang at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Friday, Jan. 24, 2020. (AP Photo)

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

DOWN to what sure felt like her last chance, Serena Williams came through with a cross-court forehand winner to close a 24-stroke point, then raised her arms, held that celebratory pose and looked over toward her guest box.

Finally, on her sixth try, after 1½ hours of action, she had managed to convert a break point against 27th-seeded Wang Qiang in the Australian Open's third round.

Right then, it appeared that the comeback was on, the bid for a 24th Grand Slam singles title could continue. It turned out that Williams only was delaying a surprising defeat.

So tough at the toughest moments for so many years, Williams just could not quite do enough to put aside some shaky serving and all manner of other miscues, instead making her earliest exit at Melbourne Park in 14 years, a 6-4, 6-7 (2), 7-5 loss to Wang on Friday.

"I was optimistic that I would be able to win. I thought, 'OK, now finish this off.' I honestly didn't think I was going to lose that match," Williams said about her mindset after forcing a third set.

She began by crediting Wang but eventually shifted to criticizing herself for not playing well enough to win.

"I didn't return like Serena. Honestly, if we were just honest with ourselves, I lost that match," Williams said. "I can't play like that. I literally can't do that again. It's unprofessional. It's not cool."

Williams was broken in the final game after more than 2 1/2 hours, fittingly ending things with a backhand into the net. That was her 27th unforced error on the backhand side, part of a total of 56 miscues. Wang

made only 20.

"I'm better than that," said Williams, who trudged through the long walkway that leads to the locker room, carrying two bags, while Wang was doing the winner's interview in Rod Laver Arena.

Later, at her news conference, Wang laughed as she said: "I always believed I could do this one day. I didn't know which day."

Since grabbing major championship No. 23 at the 2017 Australian Open, while she was pregnant, Williams hasn't added to her total.

She appeared in four major finals over the past two seasons, losing each one.

And she bowed out much, much sooner this time, animated as can be, often displaying what she later called "the signature 'Serena frustration' look."

Williams owns seven trophies from the Australian Open and hadn't lost as early as the third round at either of the hard-court Grand Slam tournaments – in Melbourne or at the U.S. Open – since all the way back in 2006.

Here is just one measure of how unexpected this result was: The only other time these two women faced each other came at Flushing Meadows last September – the only Slam quarterfinal appearance of Wang's career thus far – and Williams needed all of 44 minutes to dominate her way to a 6-1, 6-0 victory. The total points were 50 to 15.

Wang quickly surpassed those game and point totals Friday, thanks in large part to nearly flawless play in the first set.

She saved all four break points she faced in that set, accumulated 10 winners and made just five unforced errors. Wang picked up the lone break she needed at love with an easy forehand putaway winner that made it 5-4, and she soon owned

the set.

After that lopsided loss in New York, Wang decided she needed more powerful strokes to compete with the likes of Williams, devoting her offseason to more work in the gym.

"I think it worked," Wang said, nodding. "You can see the result."

Wang quickly went up a break in the second set, too. Then, when Wang served for the victory at 5-4, Williams seemed to shift the entire complexion of the match.

She was 0 for 5 on break chances until then but the sixth time was the charm. On the point of the day, with both players slugging away from the baseline, it was Williams who did what it took to take it.

She was superior in the tiebreaker, too, and on they went to a third set.

"During the second set, (I was) a little bit confused. ... I have to be calm, you know?" Wang said. "A little bit confused inside, but my mind always told me I had to focus on the court, focus on the point and trust myself."

Asked whether she would party Friday night, Wang offered a simple answer: "No."

So what were her plans? "Rest," she said, "and just prepare for the next match."

That will come against 78th-ranked Ons Jabeur of Tunisia, who ended the career of Caroline Wozniacki by eliminating the 2018 Australian Open champion and former No. 1 by a 7-5, 3-6, 7-5 score.

The 29-year-old Wozniacki had announced that she would retire after this tournament. Following her final match, she sat on her courtside chair and cried.

At least the Dane was able to quickly joke about the circumstances, saying: "It was only fitting that my last match ended with a forehand error."

She and Williams are close

friends; their losses concluded at around the same time. They ran into each other in the locker room and "were both kind of bummed," said Williams, who teared up herself while discussing Wozniacki.

Friday's winners included No. 1 Ash Barty, two-time major champion Petra Kvitová, No. 18 Alison Riske and No. 22 Maria Sakkari. In men's action, defending champ Novak Djokovic, No. 14 Diego Schwartzman and unseeded Marton Fucsovics advanced.

The defending women's champion, Naomi Osaka, was scheduled to take on 15-year-old sensation Coco Gauff at night.

This was the first Grand Slam tournament in 11 years with each of the top 10 seeded women reaching the third round. Who would have suspected Williams would be the first to lose?

Williams was only seeded No. 8, on account of how infrequently she has competed since being away from the tour while having a baby daughter in September 2017.

But she is still about as good as it gets in women's tennis, as evidenced by her so-close-yet-so-far Grand Slam showings of late: The 38-year-old American was the runner-up at both Wimbledon and the U.S. Open in both 2018 and 2019.

She started 2020 well enough, winning a hard-court tuneup title in Auckland, New Zealand, this month for her first trophy of any sort in three years – and first as a mom.

But Williams wasn't able to carry that success to the Grand Slam level, where it matters the most to her.

"I'm way too old to play like this at this stage of my career," Williams said. "Definitely going to be training tomorrow, that's first and foremost – to make sure I don't do this again."

AP

LeBron has triple-double, Lakers pull away to beat Nets

NEW YORK

LEBRON James is on his way to Philadelphia, set to pass Kobe Bryant on the NBA's career scoring list in the former Lakers star's hometown.

It'll be another milestone achievement, but scoring has never been the most important thing to James. He prefers winning, and it looks like he'll do plenty more of that with these Lakers.

James had 27 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists in his 10th triple-double of the season and Los Angeles made a season-high 19 3-pointers to pull away and beat the Brooklyn Nets 128-113 on Thursday night.

James closed within 17 points of Bryant for No. 3 with a flurry in the fourth quarter. He can pass Bryant on Saturday at Philadelphia, where the five-time champion was born.

"Any time I am linked with the greats or I am able to do something in my career where I'm mentioned with the greats is a pretty cool thing," James said. "But as far as looking at the scoring, I don't know. That doesn't mean much to me."

"Just the overall point of my game is what means more to me: being an all-around player, being able to be successful on the floor and being able to contribute to the franchises that I played for, the three franchises I played for so far in my career."

James has 33,626 points. Bryant finished with 33,643.

A back-and-forth game for nearly three quarters turned into a rout after the Lakers broke the Nets' spirits with four straight 3-pointers spanning the third and fourth quarters, extending a one-point lead to 107-94, and Los An-



Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James (23) drives past Brooklyn Nets' Wilson Chandler (21) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Thursday, Jan. 23, 2020, in New York. (AP Photo/)

geles coasted from there.

Anthony Davis had 16 points and 11 rebounds, and Dwight Howard finished with 14 points and 12 boards in his first start of the season.

Kyrie Irving scored 20 points after missing a game with right hamstring tightness, but the Nets lost their fifth straight. Brooklyn has won just two of its last 14 games.

The Nets were without backup centers DeAndre Jordan and Nicolas Claxton, leaving them without many options behind starter Jarrett Allen. But they struggled just as badly guarding the perimeter. Los Angeles was 19 of 38 behind the arc, with Nets coach Kenny Atkinson saying his players were so worried about James that they left guys open outside.

"He started making shots and guys are just, they don't want to see him

score again and they help too much," Atkinson said. "I would say there's 10, 12 plays where we helped too much and you make one false step with a great passing team like them, they make you pay."

The Lakers led 38-35 after one, before both teams made seven 3-pointers in the second. Howard went 4 for 4 for eight points in the period, helping the Lakers take a 75-70 lead to halftime.

Danny Green made three 3s in the first four minutes of the third, pushing the lead to 88-75, but the Nets had it down to 95-94 after a 3-pointer by Irving with 49 seconds remaining. But then Davis and Rajon Rondo hit 3s before Jared Dudley, who played in Brooklyn last season, hit one from near the Nets' bench to beat the buzzer and make it 104-94. AP

Man United have the wrong man in Solskjaer, and it's time to move on

BY MARK OGDEN, SENIOR WRITER, ESPN FC

OLE Gunnar Solskjaer is the wrong man for Manchester United. Nice guy, great goal scorer, club legend -- the Norwegian is all of those, but when it comes to managing United at one of the most difficult stages in the club's recent history, he is completely ill-equipped to do the job.

There are many issues that must be resolved at United, but it is negligence on the part of the Glazer family, the club's owners and executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward if they believe that Solskjaer really is the best man available to manage the team.

It comes across as the "Dumb and Dumber" approach to running a football club. If being sacked by Cardiff City and two spells in Norway with Molde are deemed to be sufficient qualifications to take charge of United, the 20-time champions of England are likely to be waiting an awfully long time before they can celebrate a 21st title.

As Solskjaer watched from the dugout as United lost 2-0 to home to Burnley on Wednesday, he wore the expression of a man who knew he had been given a hopeless task: hopeless because of his lack of credentials for the job as well as the absence of quality players to make it easier.

Woodward wasn't there to witness the Burnley defeat or hear the angry chants directed towards him and the Glazers, but despite the obvious shortcomings on the pitch and within the coaching staff, sources have told ESPN that the United hierarchy are still behind the manager and back him to pull the club through the difficult period of transition.

It's been a long period of transition, too -- almost seven years, in fact -- and there is still no light at the end of the tunnel.

During that time, United have tried the Ferguson clone (David Moyes), the widely respected tactical genius (Louis van Gaal) and the trophy machine (Jose Mourinho) in their efforts to restore United to greatness, but now that the club legend (Solskjaer) is failing, which box will they look to tick next? The miracle worker or the firefighter?

Solskjaer is clearly failing, but what is also beyond dispute is that his task is being made so much harder by the institutional failings within Old Trafford that he can do nothing about.

Take the ongoing failure to appoint a technical director as one example, or United's haphazard recruitment policy that has seen the club lurch from expensive superstars (Angel di Maria, Paul Pogba, Alexis Sanchez) to young, British talent such as Daniel James, Aaron Wan-Bissaka and the raft of teenagers promoted to the first team in recent seasons.

Solskjaer inherited an imbalanced

Klopp: Liverpool 'worked their socks off' in late win

LONDON

JURGEN Klopp is loving life after Liverpool gutted out another three points in a thrilling if shaky 2-1 win over Wolves at the Molineux on Thursday.

Klopp gave full marks to Nuno Espirito Santo's Wolves, who pushed Liverpool to the brink.

The Reds got a series of fine interventions from Alisson Becker after Wolves equalized through Raul Jimenez in the second half.

That allowed Liverpool's Brazilian center forward to deliver the match-winning goal.

Klopp didn't love the performance, but he enjoyed the resolve.

"The genius moment of Bobby Firmino can help us," Klopp said. "We won the game, incredibly difficult but who cares?"

"We didn't panic but it was not like we were completely in the mood I wanted us to be in when we went 1-0 up. You saw then a couple of balls we played into their feet it makes no sense. It's completely normal. It's the most difficult thing in football. You start with a complex plan but the development of the game has

squad when he replaced Mourinho, initially in a caretaker role, in December 2018, but that squad has now been hollowed out to such an extent that injuries have left United looking and performing like a relegation candidate rather than a contender for the top four.

In some ways, it has been an achievement by Solskjaer to even have United in contention for the top four, considering the lack of quality within his squad, but to give the 46-year-old credit for getting the team as high as fifth simply highlights how far standards have fallen at Old Trafford since Ferguson retired in 2013.

Back then, the Glazers would never have considered a man with Solskjaer's limited qualifications to take charge of the club. Moyes proved to be completely out of his depth at Old Trafford, but the Scot could at least point to a sustained career as a Premier League manager at Everton as being enough to land the job. Moyes had earned the right to be the United manager.

Solskjaer was the stopgap when Mourinho was sacked -- nothing more, nothing less -- but when his remarkable early run of victories secured him the job on a permanent basis, the wheels began to fall off and his lack of suitability for the position was quickly exposed. And this brings us back to why he is not the man for the job.

He wasn't up to it in the first place, and he isn't up to it now, but he has been placed in a situation by Woodward and the Glazers where he is being asked to reshape a squad bloated by overpaid and underperforming players. Not only that but he's being forced to do it with the shock therapy of a clear-out rather than getting the necessary funds for a smoother transition.

Solskjaer's inexperience and managerial naivety led to him recklessly going into this season with too many holes in every department in his squad. Behind him, his coaching staff also lacks the tools that Solskjaer does not possess, so it is hardly surprising that the United team is performing so inconsistently and without a clear strategy. There is no sense of United being on a road to anywhere other than nowhere, and Solskjaer looks as lost as every one of his players.

It is not his fault that he is not up to the job, but it is a reality that will not go away.

United do have bigger problems and those are firmly on the Glazers to address, but that should not obscure the fact that the manager is not capable of arresting the slide on the pitch.

The Glazers and Woodward should make a change, for the sake of United and Solskjaer, and hire a man who has the credentials and the personality to drag the club back to where it expects to be.

influence on each individual on the pitch. One sees a chance, sees the space, are not exactly in the same mindset.

"So much to improve for us but knowing if we defend really well like we did in the third system we played tonight. Defending in a 4-4-2, offensively in a 4-3-3. Sadio off doesn't help. Finishing the game in a 4-5-1. ... Everybody worked their socks off. I'm so proud of the boys. It's incredible."

Cue more questions about Liverpool's inevitable first Premier League title and a possible unbeaten season.

"It's over when it's over, not before. So why should we really think about it? Let's carry on. It's difficult enough. We have to find solutions for the different games then we will see."

Liverpool visits Shrewsbury Town in the FA Cup on Saturday, then heads to West Ham United on Wednesday before hosting Saints on Feb. 1. The congested schedule won't ease up unless the Reds get knocked out of some competitions, and you wouldn't want to bet on that right now.

(Agencies)

Some 'easy' groups await Africa's giants, but they must beware overconfidence

BY ED DOVE, SPECIAL TO ESPN

THE 40 African nations still standing in the qualifying campaign for the 2022 World Cup learned the identities of their group stage opponents during a star-studded event at The Nile Ritz-Carlton in Cairo on Tuesday, but not everyone will be happy with their lot.

Teams were drawn into 10 groups of four teams, with the winners of each pool set to advance to two-legged playoffs.

Here's ESPN's group-by-group guide to the 10 pools in light of Tuesday's draw, who are the winners and losers from the second round draw, and who are our predicted 10 qualifiers for the playoffs?

Group A: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Niger, Djibouti

Where's the intrigue? Algeria are the continent's reigning champions, while Djibouti, ranked 184th in the world, are comfortably the weakest team still left standing in qualifying.

It will be an intriguing mismatch, with the Shoremen of the Red Sea now under the management of ambitious Frenchman Julien Mette.

Match to watch: Algeria vs Djibouti. During his time as AS Otoho coach, Mette was defeated 9-0 by MC Alger in the CAF Champions League... he won't want a repeat at international level.

Predicted winner: Algeria

What did they say? "I felt that there was a big chance we'd get [Algeria], and it's a beautiful story, for us, the little minnows, to come across the champions of Africa." - Julien Mette, Football 365.

Group B: Tunisia, Zambia, Mauritania, Equatorial Guinea

Where's the intrigue? Zambia impressed during World Cup 2018 qualification, as Wedson Nyirenda got the best out of a talented group of youngsters. They've dramatically lost their way since then, but the arrival of former Orlando Pirates and SC Zamalek coach Milutin Sredojevic should give them a shot in the arm.

Match to watch: Zambia vs Tunisia - It could be the match that decides that this group is a procession for the Carthage Eagles, or proves that Micho still has that Midas touch in international football.

Predicted winner: Tunisia

What did they say? "[We're] living our dreams," - Mauritania coach Corentin Martins on Instagram after the draw. Les Mourabitounes have never come close to World Cup qualification, but competed at the AFCON for the first time last year.

Group C: Nigeria, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Liberia

Where's the intrigue? The Super Eagles haven't fluffed World Cup qualification since being stunned by Angola in 2005, they're not going to mess this one up... are they?

Match to watch: Cape Verde vs Nigeria - The islanders can be gritty, tenacious opponents, and know how to punch above their weight, particularly on their artificial turf in Praia. They eliminated the Eagles from the 2019 WAFU Cup in Senegal, and recently held Cameroon 0-0 away in Afcon 2021 qualification. Can they make life tricky for Gernot Rohr's giants?

Predicted winner: Nigeria

What did they say? "We have three tricky opponents. A few years ago, Cape Verde were Africa's best FIFA ranked team, CAR have some good players in Europe. We played a friendly in Liberia recently that wasn't easy...we've [got] to be at our best against them." - Nigeria's Rohr, on the Super Eagles' Twitter handle.

Group D: Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Mozambique, Malawi

Where's the intrigue? Two African giants, the winners of the Africa Cup of Nations in 2015 and 2017, going head to head for one spot in the playoffs; what more do you want?

Match to watch: Cameroon vs Ivory



A number of groups look easy for the bigger sides, but pitfalls await those who are unprepared or overly confident. (Agencies)

Coast - The Indomitable Lions drew the short straw to find themselves pitted against the Elephants, a heavyweight lurking in Pot Two.

Considering Cameroon's own decline in recent years, they'll do well to reach a record-extending eighth World Cup, and this match, which will bring back memories of Didier Drogba and Samuel Eto'o tussling in the 2006 qualifying campaign, could prove decisive.

Predicted winner: Ivory Coast... just.

Group E: Mali, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda

Where's the intrigue? Ahead of the draw, Mali and Uganda looked like the most likely 'first time qualifiers', and after being pooled together, it appears likely that one will reach the playoffs. Oh, and there's also the matter of a pair of East African derbies to look forward to.

Match to watch: Mali vs Uganda - During the World Cup 2018 qualifying campaign, the Cranes defeated Egypt at home to boost their prospects, but defeat in Alexandria left them with two much to do. If they can improve away from home, and avoid defeat in Bamako, then they may be on the brink of finally ending East Africa's wait for a World Cup berth.

Predicted winner: Uganda

What did they say? "The Malian spirit, the Eagle spirit must prevail. To reach our objects, we need a sacred union around the national team. If we want to go to a World Cup, we mustn't calculate anymore, we must take our chances right to the end." - Mali's Mohamed Magassouba to local media.

Group F: Egypt, Gabon, Libya, Angola

Where's the intrigue? Egypt, wounded animals after a miserable Nations Cup on home soil last summer, didn't give a good account of themselves at the last World Cup and will be desperate to make amends. Mohamed Salah headlines a solid cast, but this group may prove trickier than it appears at first glance.

Match to watch: Egypt vs Gabon, Salah vs Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang - Two of Africa's superstars, both reigning Premier League Golden Boot winners, headline sides that -- to a man -- cannot match their quality. They both have unfinished business

at international level, for different reasons, but only one can advance to the playoffs.

Predicted winner: Egypt

What did they say? "We have to look back at our history and remember the number of groups we considered 'easy' before they ended up being quite difficult which stopped [us] from qualifying." - Egypt's Hossam El-Badry, to the Egyptian Federation.

Group G: Ghana, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia

Where's the intrigue? Perhaps the most fascinating of the 10 groups; both Ghana and South Africa are continental giants and former African champions, but both have fallen on hard times in recent years. The Black Stars endured a tournament to forget in Brazil 2014, and neither qualified for 2018.

However, there are green shoots of optimism for both, in the form of Ghana's new FA leadership and the return of domestic football, and Bafana Bafana's encouraging showing at the Nations Cup.

There's also the small matter of a pair of South Africa-Zimbabwe clashes, a neighbourly derby that won't be friendly.

Match to watch: South Africa vs Ghana - Bafana were recently defeated 2-0 by Ghana in Cape Coast in the Afcon qualifiers, during one of Molefi Ntseki's early games in change. However, in front of home support, it's imperative South Africa take all three points when these two cross swords again.

Predicted winner: South Africa

What did they say? "The last time they took us to Cape Coast it was difficult for us when it comes to travelling and player recovery, but this time we will go into this match knowing the conditions." - Ntseki, as per The Sowetan.

Group H: Senegal, Congo-Brazzaville, Namibia, Togo

Where's the intrigue? Senegal are overwhelming favourites to win after being handed a particularly favourable draw. Togo, surprise qualifiers in 2006, have a love-hate relationship with their experienced manager Claude Le Roy, but would need a major upturn in fortunes to progress.

Match to watch: Togo vs Senegal -

How 71-year-old 'White Sorcerer' Le Roy would love to send shockwaves across the continent once again with victory over Sadio Mane and Senegal.

Predicted winner: Senegal

What did they say? "Senegal are the clear favourites in our group, but favourites were made to be beaten. Across six matches, you can have surprises." - Togo's Le Roy, to APS.

Group I: Morocco, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Sudan

Where's the intrigue? Morocco, like Nigeria, Senegal and Tunisia, are overwhelming favourites, but the side still need to settle in a new identity following the post-Nations Cup departure of influential coach Herve Renard and the arrival of Vahid Halilhodzic.

Match to watch: Guinea vs Morocco

The Atlas Lions failed to win away in West Africa in the qualifying campaigns for the 2000 Afcon and the 2006 World Cup, putting pressure on themselves ahead of the home legs. Will Hakim Ziyech and co. be able to find a way through when they travel to Conakry this time around?

Predicted winner: Morocco

Group J: Democratic Republic of Congo, Benin, Madagascar, Tanzania

Where's the intrigue? The most evenly matched of all the groups, DR Congo were poor at the Nations Cup and appear to have lost their way, while Benin and Madagascar have improved dramatically over the last 18 months. Both know how to upset bigger teams, and will realise they may never have a better opportunity to compete for a berth at the World Cup.

Match to watch: Madagascar vs DR Congo - The islanders held Senegal at home and defeated Nigeria during the Nations Cup, but can they take that blueprint into a likely must-win home game against the Leopards?

Predicted winner: Benin

What did they say? "We have to thoroughly evaluate what didn't work and why we weren't at the last edition in Russia, and based on the errors that we find, we must see how to correct them and prepare ourselves." - DRC assistant coach Guy Bukasa, on national television.

Gwiji by David Chikoko

