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Plane leaves Harare for Singapore to return home remains of hero Mugabe

HARARE

A plane has left Zimbabwe for Singapore carrying government officials and relatives to return home the body of Robert Mugabe, but it was still not clear where the former leader would be buried, a family spokesman said on Monday.

Mugabe's family is pushing against the government's plan to bury him at the National Heroes Acre burial grounds in Harare and wants him to be interred in his home village, relatives have told Reuters.

Leo Mugabe, the late president's nephew and family spokesman, said a charter plane left Harare for Singapore just after 9 a.m. on Monday. Mugabe's body was expected to arrive in Zimbabwe on Wednesday at 3 p.m., he said.

But when pressed on where Mugabe would be buried, the close relative was non-committal.



But when pressed on where Mugabe would be buried, the close relative was non-committal

"Mugabe was a chief and he will be buried in accordance with tradition. The chiefs have not told us where he will be buried, so it is not clear yet. I also don't know," he said.

In some parts of Zimbabwe, burials of chiefs are a secret affair and people are only told the resting place afterwards.

Mugabe died on Friday aged 95 in Singapore, where he had for long been receiving medical treatment. He dominated Zimbabwean politics for four decades from independence in 1980 until he was removed by the army issued from the ruling ZANU-PF in a November 2017 coup.

Revered by many as a liberator who freed his people from white minority rule, Mugabe was vilified by others for wrecking one of Africa's most promising economies and harshly muzzling his opponents.

Mugabe's resting place has been a topic of discussion since the Zimbabwe Independent newspaper reported last

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Dr Inmi Patterson (3rd-L), Chargé d'Affaires in the US Embassy in Tanzania, pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday tasting enriched porridge made by Magdalena Haule Njaidi (L) - one of 20 participants of 13-week online training organised by the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs programme with US government funding. The training had just concluded. Others are Dr Consolata Ishebabi (R), Director for SMEs in the Industry and Trade ministry, and WE programme coordinator Dr Victoria Kisiyombe (2nd-L). Photo: John Badi

Germany uplifts maternal, childcare by 32.7bn/- grant

By Henry Mwangonde

THE German government through its development bank KfW yesterday issued a grant amounting to 13 million euro equivalent to 32.74bn/- for social security support in maternal and neonatal health and HIV/AIDS prevention.

The funds are expected to help safeguard the health of poor mothers and their new born through a program dubbed Tumaini la Mama.

Speaking at the signing ceremony to receive the grant, the Treasury Permanent Secretary Dotto James said the money was for funding the third phase of the project.

The project was developed to increase



The grant increases Germany's support to the project to euro 46 million, equivalent to 115.8bn/-.

access to quality health services by offering health insurance to poor pregnant women for up to six months after delivery, through the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) and the Community Health Fund (CHF).

"The project is highly important as it enhances efforts of the government to reduce maternal and infant mortality but also creating the habit of using health insurance services among our people," he said.

The project was in line with the National Five Year Development Plan which targets to reduce under-five mortality per 1000 live births to 45, maternal mortality per 100,000 live births to

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PM wishes Cuban investors enter sugar, tourism sectors

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa yesterday appealed to Cuban investors to come and set foot in the country's agriculture sector especially in sugarcane production on the basis of the country's achievements and successes in the sector.

He made this appeal in Dodoma in a conversation with Cuban First Deputy-Minister



of Foreign Affairs, Marcelino Medina Gonzalez (pictured).

The premier hailed the big Caribbean island for support it has offered to Tanzania especially in improving social warfare.

"Tanzania and Cuba have historical relations. We recognize the deep relations existing between the two countries and that this relationship has been there since the first phase government of

TURN TO PAGE 2

The completion of the project will solve a number of address challenges especially power cuts thus assuring industrialists enough power supply to run factories unhindered. This will also attract more investors to come into the country

By Guardian Reporter, Rufiji

ENERGY Minister Dr Medard Kalemami has called on local leaders and residents of regions contributing tributaries of Rufiji River to come up with better strategies that will sustain water flows into the river in the wake of the 2115-MW Stiegler's Gorge hydroelectric power project.

Visiting the hydro-power project, Dr Kalemami noted that rising economic activities along the water sources negatively impacts the catchment environment and lifespan of rivers, thus the regions and districts need to find out how to conduct their activities with caution.

He said that authorities in the regions should enforce laws to ensure that the water sources are well protected and the residents be guided and empowered to protect the environment.

"Rufiji River should not be allowed to lose substantial amounts of water as that would harm the hydro-power project, so authorities have to ensure that by-laws are enforced to protect catchment areas from being damaged," he said.

The government cannot in its own manage to protect the breadth of the catchment zone and needs to conserve the environment with support



Project implementers, Egyptian firms Arab Contractors and Elsewedy Electric Co. have completed the drilling and construction of a tunnel for draining out water in the project site

from local governments and private sector stakeholders, he said.

Project implementers, Egyptian firms Arab Contractors and Elsewedy Electric Co. have completed the drilling and construction of a tunnel for draining out water in the project site.

He said the project supervisors and employees of various categories should observe patriotism by ensuring due diligence and redoubled efforts for best results.

"The ongoing activity is to construct two walls to enable water diversion," he said, speaking about a portion of the current phase of the project that has five days to be completed.

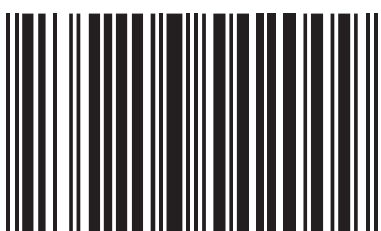
The minister urged the constructors to work day and night to make sure that the project is completed within the scheduled timeframe.

"You have to work tirelessly to ensure that you hand over the project on June 14, 2022...work hard to produce a quality project," the minister intoned.

He said the hydroelectric power project is among pioneer programmes that are expected to make a considerable contribution in the government's goal to industrialize the economy.

"The completion of the project will address

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Minister tasks four regions to protect Rufiji river catchments

FROM PAGE 1

a number of challenges especially power cuts thus assuring industrialists enough power supply to run factories unhindered. This will also attract more investors to come into the country," he said.

Availability of stable power supply will not only stimulate economic activities but also attract social engagements that supplement employment opportunities.

Dr Kalemami underscored the need for people in surrounding areas to be prioritized in obtaining employment opportunities.

The project's supervisor, Stephen

Manda said the project was progressing well, including the construction of a bridge across the river to ease the ferrying of construction materials.

Similarly, expansion of the railway port at Fuga area was also complete, in which case the contractor can use the railway to transport materials and equipment, he said, pointing out that the project had so far employed 1151 people, where 822 are locals and 296 are foreigners.

For his part, Morogoro Regional Commissioner Dr Kebwe Stephen Kebwe said that the government will make sure that more locals surrounding the project area secure jobs in the project.

Germany uplifts maternal, childcare by 32.7bn/- grant

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250, life expectancy reach 66 and HIV prevalence decrease to three percent.

The grant increases Germany's support to the project to euro 46 million, equivalent to 115.8bn/-.

So far about one million women and newborns in five regions have benefited from quality health services throughout pregnancy, delivery and the first 100 days of the new born child in regions of Tanga, Mbeya, Songwe, Lindi and Mtwara.

In her remarks the KFW Country Director Annika Calov said the programme is part of long term cooperation between Tanzania and Germany aiming at improving universal health coverage.

"Today is a good day for maternal health in Tanzania. These additional 13 million euro will help safeguard the health of poor mothers and their new

born through the Tumaini la Mama programme," she told the gathering.

Tanzania suffers high adverse sexual and reproductive health indicators including high levels of maternal mortality. There is also the issue of adolescent births, mother to child transmission of HIV, intimate partner violence, where the persistence of child and teenage marriages, girls forced to drop out of school due to pregnancy, and low contraceptive prevalence linger.

She said that sexual reproductive health programmes have limited orientation to key segments of the population and there is little evidence of integration of mother and child health with HIV/Aids interventions.

Although Tanzania has met its country target for reducing the under-five mortality rate, newborn deaths are responsible for 40-percent of all under-five deaths, she added.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa leads a government delegation during talks in Dodoma city yesterday with a Cuban government delegation led by First Deputy Foreign Affairs minister Marcelino Medina Gonzalez (R). Photo: PMO

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month that Mugabe would snub the offer of a burial at National Heroes Acre - a site reserved for the country's heroes - because he felt bitter about the way he was removed from power.

The Zimbabwean government said in a memo sent to embassies that it planned to hold a state funeral for Mugabe in the National Sports Stadium

Plane leaves Harare for Singapore to return home Mugabe's remains

on Saturday, with a burial ceremony on Sunday, but it did not say where the burial would be.

If Mugabe is buried in Kutama village, 85 km (50 miles) from Harare, it would be a major rebuke for his successor,

President Emmerson Mnangagwa, and the ruling ZANU-PF party that Mugabe helped to found.



Finance and Planning ministry permanent secretary in Doto James (2nd-L), KFW Development Bank Tanzania country director Dr Annika Calov (L) and National Insurance Health Fund director general Bernard Konga display documents in Dar es Salaam (3rd-L) yesterday shortly after signing an agreement for a 13 million euro grant for social security support in maternal neonatal health and HIV/AIDS prevention in Tanzania. The aim is to safeguard the health of poor mothers and their newborns through a programme dubbed Tumaini La Mama (literally, Mother's Hope). Photo courtesy of Finance ministry

PM invites Cuban investors in sugar, and tourism sectors

FROM PAGE 1

Mwalimu Julius Nyerere and founder president Fidel Castro Ruz," he said.

He said Cuba has made tremendous development in agricultural technology as well as techniques of the production of sugar.

Tanzania has adequate resources required to meet production and a ready market considering that the country is a net sugar importer, he said, highlighting that Tanzania is in need of 105,000 tonnes of sugar for domestic consumption and 155,000 tonnes of industrial sugar per annum.

The Cuban economy has depended heavily on the sugarcane crop since the 18th century. Vast areas have been leveled, irrigated, and planted sugarcane, and yields per acre have increased with rising application of fertilizers. In 2015, raw sugar accounted for \$378 million of Cuba's \$1.4 billion exports.

The premier underlined that the government will continue to strengthen relations with Cuba in various sectors, including social welfare exchanges.

He mentioned the sectors such as health where doctors from Cuba have been coming to Tanzania to train local doctors and Tanzanian doctors hosted in Cuba for further learning.

He similarly invited Cuban investors to help modernize the tourism industry, highlighting the fact that there is a city in Cuba which receives one million tourists a year and has it is only 22 kilometres in breadth.

Commenting on the newly opened Cuban embassy, the premier said it will facilitate communication between the two countries.

In her remarks, the visiting senior cabinet minister said the government of Cuba will continue to strengthen relations between the two countries, hailing efforts by the government to strengthen economic growth benefitting all the people.

She pointed at how she had been impressed by the government's decision to open an embassy in Cuba as it would strengthen relations between the two countries. The senior minister visited Zanzibar before his working meeting with the premier in Dodoma.

Malaria can be eradicated by 2050, say global experts

LONDON

MALARIA can be eradicated within a generation, global health experts have said.

In a major report on Sunday, 41 specialists said a future free of malaria - one of the world's oldest and deadliest diseases - can be achieved as early as 2050.

This contradicted the conclusions last month of a malaria review by the World Health Organization and the experts urged the WHO not to shy away from this "goal of epic proportions".

To meet that target, however, governments, scientists and public health leaders need to inject more money and innovation into fighting the disease and the mosquitoes that carry

it, the report said - something that will require "ambition, commitment and partnership like never before".

"For too long, malaria eradication has been a distant dream, but now we have evidence that malaria can and should be eradicated by 2050," said Richard Feachem, director of the Global Health Group at the University of California, San Francisco, who co-chaired a review of malaria eradication commissioned by The Lancet medical journal.

"We must ... challenge ourselves with ambitious targets and commit to the bold action needed to meet them," he added.

The Lancet Commission's view comes a few weeks after the WHO published its own report on whether malaria can be wiped out, concluding

that eradication cannot be achieved soon, and that setting unrealistic goals with unknown costs and endpoints could lead to "frustration and backlashes".

In contrast to the Lancet Commission, the WHO report said the priority now should be to lay the groundwork for future eradication "while guarding against the risk of failure that would lead to the waste of huge sums of money (and) frustrate all those involved."

The Lancet report, however, said that rather than slogging on with steadily reducing malaria cases - all the time under the threat of resurgence - global health authorities could "instead choose to commit to a time-bound eradication goal that will bring

purpose, urgency and dedication" to the fight.

Malaria infected about 219 million people in 2017 and killed around 435,000 of them - the vast majority babies and children in the poorest parts of Africa. Due to ongoing transmission, half the world's population is still at risk of contracting malaria, and globally, it kills a child every two minutes.

These figures are little changed from 2016, but global case numbers had previously fallen steadily from 239 million in 2010 to 214 million in 2015, and deaths from 607,000 to around 500,000 from 2010 to 2013.

Martin Edlund, head of the campaign group Malaria No More, said the world should do everything possible to eradicate the disease: "If we double

down on ending malaria now, the world will reap massive social, humanitarian and economic benefits and save millions of people from needlessly dying from mosquito bites," he said in a statement.

Winnie Mpanju-Shumbusho, a Tanzanian doctor who co-chaired The Lancet Commission, said malaria eradication was "a public health and equity imperative".

To stamp out the disease by 2050, the report's authors proposed three ways to speed up malaria's decline.

Existing malaria-fighting tools such as bednets, medicines and insecticides should be used more smartly, it said, and new tools such as vaccines should be developed. Thirdly, governments in both malaria-affected and malaria-free

countries need to boost investment by about \$2 billion a year to accelerate progress.



For too long, malaria eradication has been a distant dream, but now we have evidence that malaria can and should be eradicated by 2050



Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein presents a gift to Feza Secondary School student Wahda Mbarak Uzia at a luncheon he hosted at Zanzibar State House yesterday for students who excelled in this year's Form Four and Form Six national examinations. Looking on (R) is the Zanzibar Education and Vocational Training minister Riziki Pembe Juma. Photo: Zanzibar State House

By Guardian Reporter

Dr Shein awards more scholarships for 'exceptional' Form Six students

ZANZIBAR President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein has awarded more scholarships for students who have performed well in their Form Six exams

Dr Shein announced yesterday when speaking at the function to commend the best students in their Form Four and Six national examinations held at State House grounds in Zanzibar.

He said his government continues with its procedures to provide scholarships for Form Six, who performed well in their final examinations for science and arts subjects.

This year, the scholarships had gone

up for 60 students instead of 30 last year, he said, pledging to continue with that initiative, which is aimed at increasing the number of experts in different fields.

In the programme, the beneficiaries are given full sponsorship to study within and outside the country.

Dr Shein also commended 187 students who scored Division One in their Form Four national exams last year and ten best schools.

The Isles' President also lauded Hassan Ali Hamad of Lumumba Secondary School for scoring Division One and Seven Points in the 2018 exams.

He also encouraged school girls to venture into science subjects as Zanzibar needs more experts in the area of science and technology.

"As government, we're determined to ensure that more girls are empowered with education," he said, adding that

the room was open for girls to venture into higher education.

Dr Shein said that his government is working hard to improve education sector in Zanzibar as in line with the ruling CCM election manifesto of 2015-2020.

Zanzibar minister for Education and Vocational Training, Riziki Pembe Juma commended Dr Shein for his countless efforts to scale up education in Isles.

Annual headline inflation saw fall last month - NBS

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE annual headline inflation rate for the month of August, 2019 has decreased by 3.6 per cent from 3.7 per cent recorded in July 2019, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said yesterday.

Releasing the statistics yesterday, the acting director of population census and social statistics, Ruth Davison said the decrease of the headline inflation explains that the of price change of commodities for the year ended August, 2019 has decreased compared to price change recorded in the previous year ended July, 2019.

She said the overall index went up to 116.01 in August, 2019 from 112.01 recorded in August, 2018, adding that food and non alcoholic beverages inflation rate increased from 2.2 per cent from 0.9 per cent in April, 2019.

"The decrease of the headline inflation rate for the month of August, 2019 is mainly attributed to decrease of non-food items for the year ended August, 2019 compared to prices recorded for the year August, 2018," she said.

The acting director named some of the non-food items that shows a price decrease in percentage include kerosene (2.6), petrol (4.3) gas stove (1.4), household maintenance (1.7) and commodities for personal care such as hair cream and tonic (1.3).

Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages Inflation Rate for the month of August, 2019 has increased to 3.7 per cent from 2.9 per cent recorded in July, 2019.

On the other hand the annual inflation rate which excludes food and

energy for the month of August, 2019 has slightly decreased to 2.9 per cent from 3.1 recorded in July, 2019.

She also added that the consumer price index from July, 2019 to August, 2019 has decreased by 0.5 per cent compared to 0.4 per cent recorded in June, 2019 to July 2019.

The overall price index has decreased to 116.01 in August, 2019 from 116.61 recorded in July 2019. "The decrease of the overall price index is attributed to decrease for food and non-food items," she added.

Some of the food items that contributed to such a decrease include sardines by 1.0 per cent, fruits (3.7pc), vegetables (2.9 pc), lentils (4.1 pc), potatoes (6.2pc) and cooking bananas (4.0 pc).

On the other hand, non-food items that contributed to the decrease include charcoal (1.1pc) diesel (4.2pc) and petrol (6.1pc).

In comparison with other East African countries of Kenya and Uganda, she said the annual inflation rate in Kenya has decreased to 5.00 per cent in August, 2019 from 6.27 per cent recorded in July, 2019.

In Uganda, the annual headline inflation rate for the month of August, 2019 has decreased to 2.1 per cent from 2.6 per cent recorded in July, 2019.

"The decrease of the headline inflation rate for the month of August, 2019 is mainly attributed to decrease of non-food items for the year ended August, 2019 compared to prices recorded for the year August, 2018"

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Very little is needed to have a happy life, says Dodoma mother

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

MANY unemployed people with disabilities face challenging barriers to be successful in their day to day obligations. However, 'Very little is needed to make a happy life; it is all within yourself, in your way of thinking and doing things, says Mary Makongo.

But for Mary Makongo, a resident of Hombolo ward in Dodoma Region, nothing can stop her from achieving her goals despite having a physical disability.

The mother of two children has a message to fellow people with disabilities, saying how ever little one gets, he or she can achieve big things in life through determination and hard work.

She is among people enrolled in the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF)'s conditional cash transfer (CCT) programme aimed at supporting vulnerable groups in the society.

Talking to this paper during a visit to her home, she explained that after enrolment in the programme in 2014 where she was getting 36,000/- after every two months she planned to build a house. She started building the house in 2016.

She used to buy two iron sheets every time she received the stipend and managed to have a total of 12 iron sheets and built a mud house and bought chicken. Her poultry multiplied and bought two goats.

Mary later built another house with three rooms that she rents to students, thanks to the Hombolo-based Local Government Training Institute. She explained that the tenants pay 200,000/- per room in four month's semester, translating to 600,000/- per semester.

"I am happy that through proper savings from the little money I get from TASAF, I have reached this far" she said pointing at a new house under construction.

The three roomed self contained house underway, will also have a tailor training room connected to it, which she said will be used to train those interested in tailoring.

Mary also owns a tailoring machine where she makes clothes for children and adults, supplementing her incomes from TASAF. Ever jovial Mary said through increased incomes, she had acquired a half hectare of land and cultivated grapes.

"Some of us are working hard and can prove wrong those people who used to think that a disabled person can't do anything," she said, smiling as she goes for the sewing machine.

The world is full of those people whose physical disabilities couldn't stop them from making their dreams come true.

"Not everyone is a genius, but many people can be extraordinary and I strongly believe that with the right support, many more people with disabilities can employ themselves, making a valuable contribution to the society and living better lives for themselves," she added.



I am happy that through proper savings from the little money I get from TASAF, I have reached this far

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has been called to come up with better strategies that will make people with disabilities to easily access banking services such as automated teller machines (ATMs).

Special Seats MP Amina Mollel made the call yesterday during question and answer session in the august House in the country's capital Dodoma.

The lawmaker had wanted to know the government's plan to ensure ATMs are provided with all the needed facilities to persons with disabilities.

"Many ATMs in the country do not meet the needs of people with disabilities," she said.

Government called upon to ensure accessible banking services for people with disabilities

Responding, Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning Dr Ashatu Kijaji said she had instructed all banks in the country to ensure that they provide friendly environmenta for PWDs especially for the ATM services.

The minister said that all banks in the country should ensure that the banking services had enabling environment for people with disabilities to access such services.

She explained that, most of infrastructure challenges that were faced by people with disabilities had been resolved and were now

friendly in many areas.

She assured parliament that the government will closely monitor banks to ensure that ATM machine are friendly to all groups of people.

The government began improving payment system in 1996 and since then the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) had continued to supervise the installation of modern and effective system in order to meet the market demands and technological changes.

The said improvements were aimed at addressing the needs of various groups

in the community, including people with special needs.

The minister noted that in May 2007, the central bank had issued the online payment system, a government initiative to ensure that the online payment services are safe and meet the needs of all groups in the community.

She added that, despite the guidance provided by the government, all banks in the country had not been able to set friendly environment for people with disabilities.



NMB Bank acting managing director Filbert Mponzi (R) shares a light moment with Mara regional commissioner Adam Malima (L) on the sidelines of the September 6 to 7 Tanzania-Uganda Business Forum held in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR and Cuba have agreed to reinforce the current good relations between the two countries in various areas with main focus on improving the health sector.

The agreement came after the Isles' President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein met with the Cuban First Deputy-Minister of Foreign Affairs Marcelino Medina Gonzalez in the Indian Ocean archipelago on Sunday.

The duo expressed their willingness to maintain constructive relations between Cuba and Zanzibar, as they stressed the importance of Cuba to

Zanzibar, Cuba agree to strengthen relations

provide more scholarships for the medical field.

Medina commended Shein for his on-going initiative to improve the health sector, promising to continue supporting Zanzibar to achieve her development goals in the health sector as well as extending relations in other areas, including tourism.

During the meeting, Dr Shein also thanked Cuba for the historical relations that had benefited the people of Zanzibar in the past five decades, adding that supporting the training of

medical doctors will enable Zanzibar to have enough skilled labour in hospitals in the near future.

Currently there are 15 medical students studying in Cuba.

The two leaders said the existing bilateral cooperation can further be developed and expanded beyond health, and education sectors, with eyes on tourism which has taken a lead in contributing to the national GDP in Zanzibar. "We still have a lot to learn from Cuba because you are ahead of us. Even in tourism we need to share

your experiences from the 'Varadero tourism region of Cuba with high class hotels and other attractions including beaches," Dr Shein said.

The First Deputy Minister was accompanied by the Cuban ambassador to Tanzania Prof Lucas Domingo Hernandez who said that the visit to Zanzibar and Tanzania widens doors for cooperation also in agriculture and trade, along with political relations between Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) and Communist Party of Cuba (CPC).

US embassy urged: Have more women entrepreneurs join SELFINA training

By Correspondent James Kandoya

US Embassy in Dar es Salaam has been asked to increase the number of women entrepreneurs participating in online training facilitated by partner SELFINA, to bolster development.

Director of the small industries and small business from the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, Dr Consolata Ishebabi made the appeal when conferring certificates to 20 women who took part at the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE).

Dr Ishebabi thanked for the support from the US embassy in the country to empower women through training but further said the number of twenty women was not big enough.

"We are celebrating the graduation of our twenty sisters after a three weeks intensive course. But the number is not enough out of the women in the country. I call on the embassy to reconsider increasing the number of participants," she said.

She however reaffirmed the government commitment to strengthen collaboration with the US government in all development related issues for mutual benefit of its people.

Dr Ishebabi called on the new graduates to be good ambassadors of what they had gained through the training and be ready to share with their fellow women entrepreneurs.

"Let me assure you that the government will play its role to continue developing you to the further developmental step," she said.

For her part, The US ambassador in the country, Dr Inmi Patterson challenged the graduates to rethink of becoming stimulants to other women entrepreneurs.

"You have acquired the knowledge, it is a right time to think how you can extend your social responsibility to surrounding society. How do you stimulate them to ensure that each women in the country are courageous to realize their dream? She challenged.

She said women have greater power to bring more changes in the economy within the society and entire nation and once a woman succeeds, the whole family benefits from the success.

"Women empowerment is one way to bring revolution in the community. Women entrepreneurs is a sign that women have equal opportunities," she said.

The U.S. embassy in the country handed over a total of US \$ 5000 to five graduates who emerged winners in business proposas' exercise.

They are Lightness Salema, Veneranda Masoum, Doris Mbwambo, Lucy Chuwa and Joyce Saguti

About three months ago, the U.S. embassy launched the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE), a White House-led Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative to support women entrepreneurs around the world.



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THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



IN THE FAIR COMPETITION TRIBUNAL OF TANZANIA AT DAR ES SALAAM

APPEAL NO. 10 OF 2019

BETWEEN

TANZANI ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED (TANESCO).....APPELLANT

AND

PATRICK PAUL NTILINGANIZA AS THE NEXT FRIEND OF PASCHAL PATRICK (MINOR).....1ST RESPONDENT

AND

THE ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY (EWURA).....2ST RESPONDENT

(Notice pursuant to Rule 16 of the Fair Competition Tribunal Rules, 2012)

TAKE NOTICE THAT an appeal has been lodged in the Tribunal against the whole decision of The Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA), the 2nd Respondent herein, dated 22nd June, 2019 in complaint Number 71/135/156 in which the 1st Respondent was awarded general damages amounting Tzs 100,000,000 in respect of pain, injuries, loss of limbs and psychological torture the minor suffered as a result of Appellant negligence of carrying out of its licensed activity.

The Appellant contends, amongst other things, that the 2nd respondent failed to properly evaluate evidence before it hence leading to unjust decision and that the award of Tzs 100,000,000 was erroneously awarded. Thus, the Appellant pray that the decision of the 2nd Respondent be quashed and set aside with cost.

BY THIS PUBLIC NOTICE any person who considers that he has sufficient interest in the outcome of the appeal may apply to intervene in the proceedings within seven days of first publication of this notice to the Fair Competition Tribunal, 9th Floor, Ubungu Plaza, Morogoro Road, P.O. Box 79650, Dar es Salaam.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL of the Tribunal this 10th day of September, 2019.

REGISTRAR

21530001



CELEBRATION... Members of the AAR Insurance Company staff congratulate the firm's director, Violet Mordichai, in Dar es Salaam last week after she won the Women in Insurance and Banking Forum's Best Insurance Director prize. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Bugando referral hospital to construct 59bn/-state-of-the art cardiac institute

By Correspondent James Kandoya

BUGANDO Referral Hospital is set to establish 59bn/- cardiac institute in efforts to improve cardiovascular services in the Lake Zone.

Hospital managing director Prof Abel Makubi announced over the weekend when speaking to the head of communication units from the institutes under the Ministry for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children on an official tour to see the success achieved in the health sector over the past four years.

He said the new institutes will have two towers whereby one of them will have fifteen floors and another one with ten floors.

This is part of the hospital's move to complement government efforts to improve health delivery as well as reducing the number of patients, who are being referred to Dar es Salaam and abroad for cardiovascular-related treatment, he said.

Prof Makubi also said the facility

had increased the number of health providers at different levels in the country and from abroad such as nurses, doctors and specialists and other experts.

He thanked the government for its efforts to train medical experts and specialists enabling the facility to offer services such as dental, optical, orthopedic, brain and neuro just to mention a few.

"Surgery services have highly improved for many patients of all ages including children with spinal bifida problem," he added.

Prof Makubi applauded Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) and Muhimbili Orthopedic Institute (MOI) for a great work and collaborative support.

Meanwhile, the facility had served 2bn/- spent annually when referring patients suffering from cancer to Ocean Road Cancer Institute (ORCI).

"The facility received 5.5bn/- to build a special building in collaboration between the government and development partners who made it possible to

procure machines to treat people with cancer problems. I would like to thank the government for its commendable efforts," he said.

He said currently, 90 per cent of patients with cancer related cases are treated at the facility where initial over 50 per cent were referred to ORCI.

For his part, the radiography at the facility Alex Mpugi said before the use of machine they used to treat patients with cancer related problems using chemicals.

"I call on the public especially women to adhere to cervical cancer and breast screening regularly for their future health," he reminded.

The Dr Fabian Massaga, the surgeon at the facility said the facility had renovated and expanded theatre rooms to 13 from 6 rooms.

He said as a result the number of patients operated had increased from 20 to 50 and therefore reduced the number of those who were waiting for surgery services for three months.

Kilolo DC urges young generation to seek positions of leadership in upcoming local, general elections

By Correspondent Friday Friday, Kilolo

KILOLO District Commissioner, Asia Abdallah has called on youth to come out and participate in the forthcoming local government elections and 2020 general election.

The DC also wanted the young Tanzanians to take part in the voters' registration so that they could exercise their democratic right of voting and being elected in the election.

DC Abdallah made the call over the weekend when launching multi-sport bonanza aimed at bringing together Kilolo youth and developing youth talents.

She said that the youth have a greater chance of participating in local government elections so they can choose leaders who will help to push the wheel of development.

The two-day bonanza, which ended on Saturday, took place in the grounds of Ilula sokoni, Nyalumbu Ward in the small town of Ilula in Kilolo, Iringa Region.

She noted that the bonanza was aimed at uniting the Kilolo community into one, bringing them together and having the opportunity to discuss various challenges to push the wheel of Kilolo's development, including the implementation of the 2015-2020 CCM Election Manifesto.

"We need to develop a variety of young talent in order to get the likes of Simon Msuva and Mbwana Samatta playing overseas football who have been paid a lot for their talent, as we know sport is fun and work," emphasized DC Asia Abdallah.

Abdallah added that Kilolo District has been very fortunate to have some good players like Simon Msuva who have come out of the district.

For their part, the CCM Kilolo District Chairman, Kilian Myenzi and Nyalumbu Ward Councilor, David Mfugwa through (Chadema) praised the District Commissioner's bonanza for bringing together the youth from all three divisions of Kilolo District.

In the bonanza eight teams from Nyalumbu (host), Image, Ruhambuyuni, Kiwalamo, Ilula, Kitowo, Mahenge and Dabaga villages participated in the football bonanza.

The first winner received three thousand shillings (300,000 / -), the second winner went away with two thousand shillings (200,000 / -), the third winner got 100,000 shillings and all participants received one set of jersey and one football.

The youth and Tanzanians are generally responsible for selecting leaders from the local to the national level.

In local government, the elected officials are the chairpersons of the villages and suburbs in the district council and the local chairs on the part of municipalities and cities.

Just as local government elections are the basis for building a general election that determines the lives of Tanzanians in the next five years, it is necessary to have a strong foundation to ensure a sustainable home.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) involve young people in all developmental programmes, that when you speak about poverty, quality education, sanitation, industry, infrastructure, gender equality and democracy, it all affect the youth.

If the world recognizes the importance of youth and gives them leadership and decision-making opportunities, it is best time to give them the opportunity to contest on the streets in their neighbourhoods so they can bring the required contributions, ideas and creativity.

"We need to develop a variety of young talent in order to get the likes of Simon Msuva and Mbwana Samatta playing overseas football who have been paid a lot for their talent, as we know sport is fun and work"

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TRA registers over 10bn/- in Mwanza Region's collections of revenue in last two months

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

THE Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) in Mwanza Region has increased revenue collection from 8.3bn/- to 10.3bn/- in the past two months.

The TRA regional manager, Joseph Mtandika said the increase was recorded after starting to use Mwanza port for goods transportation.

Mtandika revealed this yesterday when speaking at the meeting organised for traders using Mwanza port and Airport to export their merchandises.

"In the 2019/2020 fiscal year we collected 10.3bn/- between July and August, an increase of 2bn/- compared to the 2017/2018 fiscal year during the same months where we collected 8.3bn/-," said Mtandika.

One of the traders who attended the meeting, Brown Mushi called on the customs staff and the police force to team up and remove challenges during shipment of goods, which at the end of the day leads to unnecessary inconveniences to the business

community. "And in turn these delays lead to lose of government's revenues," he said.

Over-estimation of taxes has been cited as the main challenge faced by traders in the region. "Most of the estimations are not realistic compared to what we do in businesses. That's why we are appealing to the government and TRA to come up with better system that will be friendly to us."

He also suggested the need to remove unnecessary conveniences when goods are being transported to the markets and any delays on the way which affects their businesses.

Assistant regional custom manager, Christopher Sojo said the East African market has tax relief for products manufactured locally especially in the region.

"So, it is an opportunity for traders in the region to use the Mwanza port and reduce the cost of doing business," he said, calling on traders to chip-in in the campaign against smuggling and illegal trade.



Information, Culture, Arts and Sports minister Dr Harrison Mwakyembe has a word with Bethel International School Pre-unit and Standard Seven pupils at the school's 15th graduation ceremony in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. The school is run by the SDA Reform Church Reform. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Morogoro authorities arrest 21 tricycle riders in ongoing cleanup operation

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa,

Morogoro

AUTHORITIES in Morogoro Region have arrested 21 tricycle drivers over wrong parking offenses in the ongoing cleanup operation aimed to address the challenge and promote adherence to road safety laws.

Run collaboratively by security organs, Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) Tanzania National

Road Agency (TANROAD) and the Tanzania Rural and Urban Road Agency (TARURA), the operation also saw 81 vehicles being seized by the Police Force.

Regional Police Commander (RPC) Wilbrod Mutafungwa told The Guardian here over the weekend that the decision came following increase of incidents of the tricycle drivers parking their vehicles in wrong areas thus risking their lives and of others.

"The drivers have been violating

rules for very long time now; they have openly been parking their vehicles in wrong areas especially near Regional Commissioner's office...This is intolerable, we want every user of motor vehicles to adhere to road laws and parking rules," he said.

According to him, the authority has allocated Islam, Juwata, DDC areas as parking sites for tricycles and not somewhere else, so all drivers should be aware of that to avoid unnecessary disturbance.

Commander Mutafungwa said that following investigations all suspects will this week appear in court to face the charges.

For his part, the regional drivers association's chairman Daudi Bilali thanked regional authorities for taking immediate measures to suppress drivers along regional commissioner's office.

Adding, town buses allowed to trip under LATRA permit have been given routes sticker but were not given to

tricycles, this situation cause families of drivers to fail to afford basic needs due to decrease of income per day.

He also urged security organs to arrest buses operating without permit saying that leaving the vehicles to operate informally was affecting trickles business. "Most of the tricycle drivers are forced to use informal parking areas due to high charges in the formal parking sites...for example parking charges at Msamvu bus stand, Masika and town centre terminals goes

up to 3000/-, means 1000/- per each terminal, which is too high for us to afford," he added.

Also, head of LATRA in Morogoro Andrew Mlacha confirmed that his office registered town buses for town trips, each vehicle given permit sticker that indicates its routes but most of tricycles are yet to be registered.

"I'm planning to discuss with the municipal office that has the authority to register them to avoid unnecessary conflict and accidents," he said.



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EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI)

TENDER TITLE: CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AUTHORISED ECONOMIC OPERATOR ENTERPRISE RISK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (AEO ERMS) FOR UGANDA REVENUE AUTHORITY (URA)

TENDER NUMBER: PRQ20190297

The Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) with support from TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) is seeking Expressions of Interest for Consultancy Services for development and implementation of the Authorised Economic Operator Enterprise Risk Management System (AEO ERMS) system which shall incorporate re-engineered business processes under the Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) Programme, Post Clearance Audit (PCA), Compliance and Business Analysis (CBA), Customs Enforcement, Trade Division, Ministries, Departments Agencies (MDAs) and other support functions.

Terms of reference for this Expressions of Interest (EOI) and the EOI document can be obtained at <http://www.trademarka.com/get-involved/procurement/>. All queries quoting the above Tender Title and Number should be emailed to procurement@trademarka.com.

You are further advised that only applications from firms/consortiums shall be accepted.
The closing date for submissions is 2 October 2019.

Interested, qualified firms/consortiums should submit applications as detailed in the tender document.

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Every need for caution in efforts to help budding minerals market

WAYS are being sought to improve the state of the budding minerals market in the country, which the government is nurturing in the wake of efforts to curb the rampant smuggling of all sorts of minerals to the borders to earn a higher price. Not only was a wall built around Mimerani tanzanite mining area but minerals trading centres opened in various regional centres, though it appears some are not yet conducting actual trade in minerals, just exhibition. There are restrictions embedded to ease tracking of purchases.

Dealers in minerals have of late been talking to minister Dotto Biteko on the problems they are still encountering in the effort to localize minerals trading in a 'win-win' environment, and true enough the government decided to go part of the way to meet the dealers' demands. While the minister did not elaborately set out the function of existing restrictions, a few issues can be mapped out at least mentally, one of them being the creation of purchasing cartels. They would swoop markets one after another.

Dealers are on the whole unhappy with the situation where their licences apply to specific regional minerals trading centres they would ask to be attached, not purchasing minerals at random all over the country. The trouble with this arrangement is that it skews competition to one between traders at a specific place instead of traders all over the country, and implicitly understates the market price of the minerals were the trading free enough. Similarly, foreign buyers would be tied to the same condition.

From a commercial point of view there is no actual problem with trading cartels so long as they can't make regulations to keep out competitors,

in which case a few powerful buyers would purchase most minerals, and undercapitalized local buyers would walk away.

At the same time, what need is there for a class of miners and a class of local buyers, when the latter have to sell the minerals on the global market, despite intentions of cutting and branding locally. Technically it is possible but the marketing is different.

There are times that Russia attempted to break the global diamonds marketing cartel at Antwerp in Belgium and failed, as the highly priced industrial and decorative products require the most authentic vetting the market can find, and that aspect itself can take up nearly a third of its market price. In that case selling independently by any country implies having to undercut the price significantly as it can't offset the brand advantage tied to network trading in valuable stones and minerals. At the same time limiting the competition in the local purchasing of gemstones reinforces the pressure for smuggling, and thus bribes.

The minister met halfway the demands of minerals traders, in accepting that licences be used zonally rather than regionally, which means a trader shall have two or three centres in which he or she can buy minerals, not the whole country. As they say, Rome was not built in a day, so it is likely that minerals trading in the country started with plenty of precautions to optimize certain benefits, for instance the prices that the Bank of Tanzania offers to small scale miners or dealers if it picks the stock it purchases directly or after initial trading. All these are issues that must be considered in improving regulations, that the government should not seek maximum benefits from small miners as that will stymie the trading, etc.

Prevention of suicides is taxing indeed and demands a multi-sectoral approach

WORLD Suicide Prevention Day is an awareness day observed on 10 September every year, in order to provide worldwide commitment and action to prevent suicides, with various activities around the world since 2003. The International Association for Suicide Prevention collaborates with the World Health Organization and the World Federation for Mental Health to host World Suicide Prevention Day. In 2011 an estimated 40 countries held awareness events to mark the occasion. According to WHO's mental health Atlas released in 2014, no low-income country reported having a national suicide prevention strategy, while less than 10 percent of lower-middle income countries, and almost a third of upper-middle and high-income countries had.

As of recent WHO releases, challenges represented by social stigma, the taboo to openly discuss suicide, and low availability of data are still to date obstacles leading to poor data quality for both suicide and suicide attempts: "given the sensitivity of suicide - and the illegality of suicidal behaviour in some countries - it is likely that under-reporting and misclassification are greater problems for suicide than for most other causes of death."

Suicide has a number of complex and interrelated and underlying contributing factors ... that can contribute to the feelings of pain and hopelessness. Having access to means to kill oneself - most typically firearms, medicines and poisons - is also a risk factor.

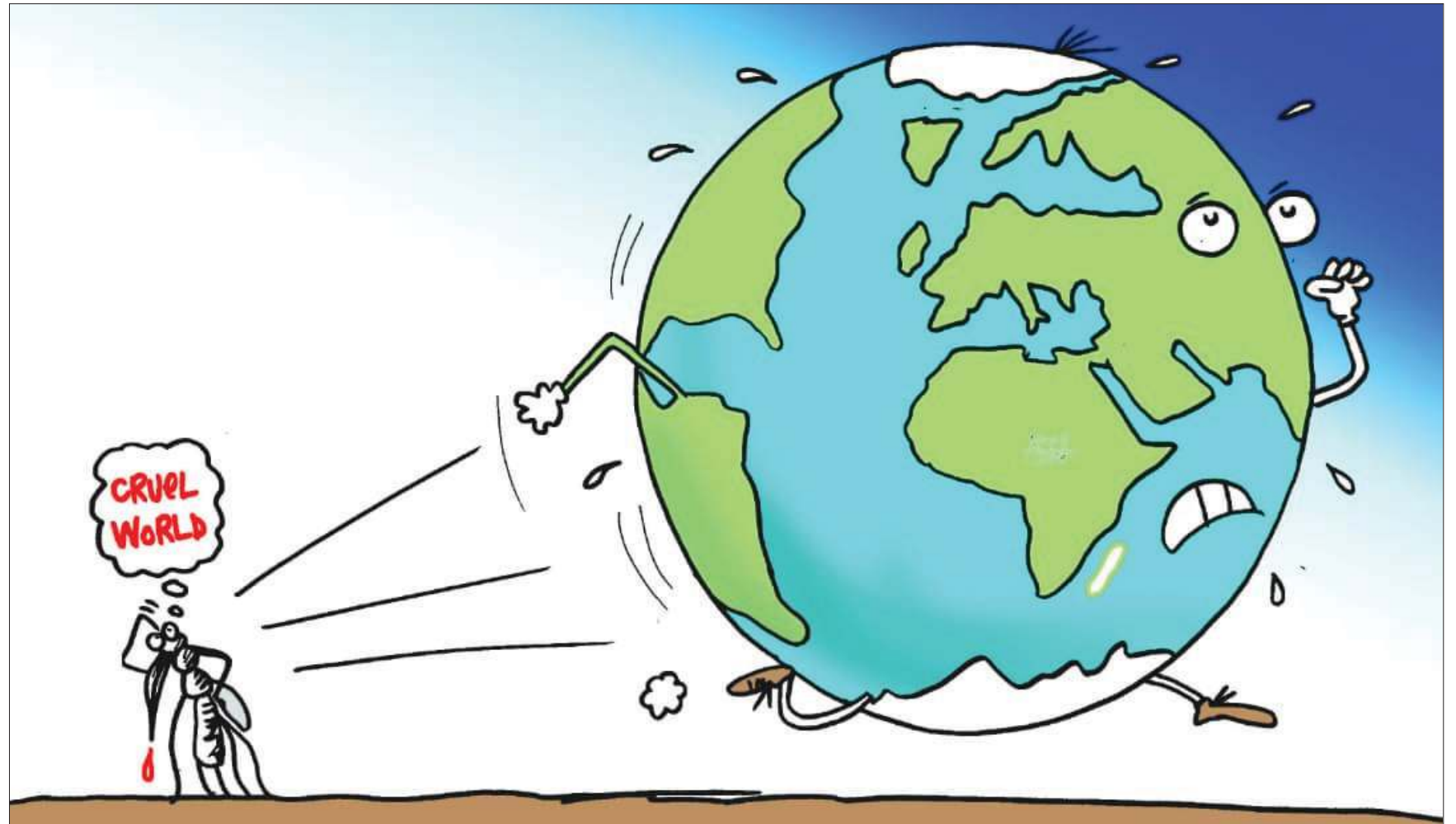
An estimated one million people per year die by suicide or about one person in 10,000 (1.4 pc of all deaths), or "a death every 40 seconds or about 3,000 every day". As of 2004 the number of

people who die by suicide is expected to reach 1.5 million per year by 2020.

On average, three male suicides are reported for every female one, consistently across different age groups and in almost every country in the world. "Conversely, rates of suicide attempts tend to be 2-3 times higher in women than in men, although the gender gap has narrowed in recent years." More people die from suicide than from murder and war; it is the 13th leading cause of death worldwide. According to WHO there are twenty people who have a suicide attempt for every one that is fatal, at a rate approximately one every three seconds. Suicide is the most common cause of death for people aged 15 - 24.

According to WHO, suicide accounts for nearly half of all violent deaths in the world. Brian Mishara, IASP president, noted that, "more people kill themselves than die in all wars, terrorist acts and interpersonal violence combined." As of 2008, the WHO refers the widest number of suicides occur in the age group 15 - 29, while the lowest in the 80+ although representing as well the one with the highest rate (per 100,000) of all age groups, with 278 suicides and 60.1 for females and males respectively. In 2015 the reported global age-standardized rate is 10.7 per 100,000.

Social norms play a significant role in the development of suicidal behaviours. Late 19th century's sociological studies recorded first ever observations on suicide: with statistics of the time at hand, sociologists mentioned the effects of industrialization as in relations between new urbanized communities and vulnerability to self-destructive behavior, suggesting social pressures have effects on suicide. Socio-economic status plays an important role in suicidal behavior globally.



Horror fatigue or not, none of us women can afford to look away

By Maxine Case

WHEN fatigue sets in from being forced to witness the horror we South Africans are confronted with on what seems to be a daily basis, rest, regroup, recover, but come back to fight another day.

My friend Tarisai Mchuchu answers an email I sent her: "I am well but yesterday I became overwhelmed with a lot of emotions with these women murders and rape; it can get a bit much."

I didn't respond to her mail, because I too am struggling with heavy emotions, the kind that render even answering an email too much to bear. I feel sad, so infinitely sad as if someone close to me has died.

Someone Tarisai and I know has died; my email had been an offer to draw up a short article for the website of Mosaic, an organisation committed to fighting gender-based violence, of which I am a board member and Tarisai the executive director. On Saturday evening after attending a Women's Day function, I checked my emails and saw that Majid Hargey, another of the Mosaic board members had passed away the previous day and had been buried the same day in terms of his religion. Our small board is made up of diverse people. Sometimes I think the only thing we have in common is our commitment to empowering survivors of abuse and domestic violence. Majid showed up at every meeting as a voice for fairness, advocating for justice and dignity for the people we serve, including our staff. A businessman, Majid stressed the importance of the bottom line with ways to ensure the sustainability of a 25-year-old non-profit operating in the current funding environment. I sometimes wondered about Majid's interest in the organisation and its work, but never thought to ask. He was not the only male on the board. I've been thinking a lot of the role of men in our society in the past few days. Perhaps this is because the murder of Uyinene Mrwetyana feels very close to home. My uncle is a postman, based at the Clareinch Post Office. According to him, no one who knows this colleague of his, the man who's confessed to raping and killing Uyinene, can believe that he's capable of such horror. But of course, this is a story we've all heard before. The man who on 15 August 2019 finally admitted to stabbing my mother multiple times



Protesters gather to hand-over a memorandum of grievances during gender-based violence demonstration outside Parliament, following the rape and murder of UCT student Uyinene Mrwetyana on September 05, 2019 in Cape Town, South Africa. While accepting a memorandum of demands from the protesters, Ramaphosa admitted that he will be addressing the issue of violence against women and children and that a state of emergency should be declared

was another such man. In his failed bail hearing, Tyrone Prinsloo's twin sister spoke about how everyone back home "thought it was a joke" when they first heard about the crimes he had been accused of, accused being the crucial word, because he was incapable of such actions, she believed. How I'd wished that it had indeed been a joke or some weird dream when I watched the doctors in the emergency room battle to save my mother's life. I had neither the luxury of mirth or make-believe then. So, as much as I've been thinking about men as the perpetrators of violence against women, for the past year, I've also been thinking of the women who stand with them, support them or in the instance of Prinsloo's wife, withdraw charges against them, leaving them to offend again.

I wish I had answers. I wish I had a safe remove from violence and fear, but what South African woman does? I could never imagine that my mother would become a victim of gender-based violence when I first joined the board of Mosaic, but thanks to them, I was supported - by Tarisai, who is an advocate and came to court to support me and my family when she was able to, and the court support workers who joined us in protesting against the granting of bail to Prinsloo - a fight we won.

On 15 August, Prinsloo pleaded guilty and accepted a plea deal of 15 years of which three years will be suspended,

but I can't say whether anyone won. While my family got closure and were spared a longer trial, perhaps he'd have been given a longer sentence were the case to have gone to trial.

Maybe. Or so I thought until I saw the 10-year sentence handed down to Reghard Groenewald for the murder of Hilary van Rooyen, his friend's mother, in her own home. I've learnt a lot during the months it took to bring my mother's attacker to justice: the importance of protest, the use of media both traditional and social and how crucial it is for the voices of victims and survivors to be heard in the court.

My family was lucky to have access to people like Tarisai and others working as prosecutors and defenders. My mother is a children's book writer and so there was some media interest in her case because of this. Crime against women is so endemic in South Africa that so few stories make their way to the general public without an angle.

There are enough stories of horror that do make the newspapers. In the past few days, in addition to Uyinene, I've read about Jesse Hess, Lynette Volschenk and Janika Mallo - all women or girls murdered in Cape Town, the city where I live and that's not counting the women whose stories never made the newspapers I read, or those in the rest of the Western Cape, the rest of South Africa.

I suppose I can stop reading the papers or visiting the news websites,

but I owe it to these women to know their stories. I know that I cannot look away no matter how much better it would be for my state of mind, no matter how much their stories bleed into my day or into my psyche. None of us women can afford to look away. We no longer have the luxury of disbelief - not him, not true. Not my partner, not my brother, not my nephew, not my uncle.

Think about the men you know and hold them to account. Examine your own complicity.

Men too, have a part to play. You don't need to join a board to support women and their right to peace and safety. A good place to start is to reject the normalisation and acceptance of abuse against women and children each time you witness it.

And when fatigue sets in from being forced to witness the horror we South Africans are confronted with on what seems to be a daily basis, rest, regroup, recover, but come back to fight another day. Our country is at war. We can either be fighters or fodder.

Maxine Case is an author. Her first novel, All We Have Left Unsaid, was awarded the 2007 Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best First Book (Africa) and was the joint winner of the Herman Charles Bosman Prize. She is currently a mentor on the University of Iowa's Women's Creative Mentorship Project and recently completed her first screenplay.

When you enslave people you deprive them of half their virtue

By Muharram Macatta

EUROPEAN colonizers turned to Africa for enslaved labourers to build the cities and extract the resources of the Americas. They forced millions of mostly unnamed Africans across the Atlantic to the Americas and from one part of the Americas to another. In this context we should now analyze these slave trades herein.

Records of the voyages have been found in archives and libraries throughout the Atlantic world. They provide information about vessels, routes, and the people associated with them, both enslaved and enslavers. Sources are cited for every voyage included.

The volume of slaves carried off from Africa reached thirty thousand per year in the 1690s and eighty-five thousand per year a century later. More than eight out of ten Africans forced into the slave trade made their journeys in the century and a half after 1700.

Africans carried to Brazil came overwhelmingly from Angola. Africans carried to North America, including the Caribbean, left from mainly West Africa.

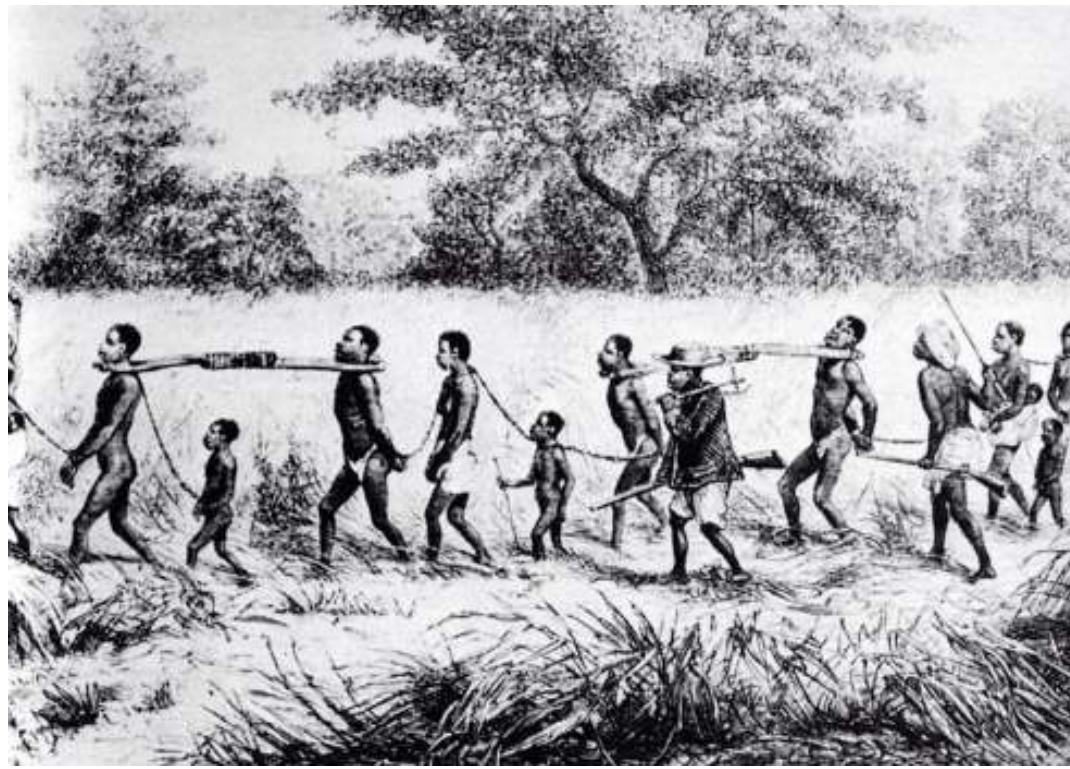
The majority of enslaved Africans were brought to British North America between 1720 and 1780. The decade 1821 to 1830 still saw over 80,000 people a year leaving Africa in slave ships. Well over a million more - one tenth of the volume carried off in the slave trade era - followed within the next twenty years.

The Middle Passage was dangerous and miserable for African slave. The sexes were separated, kept naked, packed close together, and the men were chained for long periods. About twelve percent of those who embarked did not survive the voyage.

Slavery in the US was distinctive in the near balance of the sexes and the ability of the slave population to increase its numbers by natural reproduction. Unlike any other slave society, the US had a high and sustained natural increase in the slave population for a more than a century and a half.

Infant and child mortality rates were twice as high among slave children as among southern white children. Half of all slave infants died in their first year of life. A major contributor to the high infant and child death rate was chronic undernourishment.

Most infants of enslaved mothers were weaned within three or four months. Even in the eighteenth century, the earliest weaning age advised



by doctors was eight months. The average birth weight of slave infants was less than 5.5 pounds, considered severely underweight by today's standards.

After weaning, slave infants were fed a starch-based diet, consisting of foods such as gruel, which lacked sufficient nutrients for health and growth. Generally speaking, slaves suffered a variety of miserable and often fatal maladies due to the Atlantic Slave Trade, and to inhumane living and working conditions.

Common symptoms among enslaved populations included: blindness; abdominal swelling; bowed legs; skin lesions; and convulsions. Beriberi (caused by a deficiency of thiamine); pellagra (caused by a niacin deficiency); tetany (caused by deficiencies of calcium, magnesium, and Vitamin D); rickets (also caused by a deficiency of Vitamin D); and kwashiorkor (caused by severe protein deficiency).

Diarrhea, dysentery, whooping cough, and respiratory diseases as well as worms pushed the infant and early childhood death rate of slaves to twice that experienced by white infants and children.

Prices of slaves varied widely over time, due to factors including supply, and changes in prices of commodities such as cotton. Even considering the relative expense of owning and keeping a slave, slavery was profitable.

In order to ensure the profitability of slaves, and to produce maximum "return on investment," slave owners generally supplied only the minimum food and shelter needed for survival.

and forced their slaves to work from sunrise to sunset.

Although young adult men had the highest expected levels of output, young adult women had value over and above their ability to work in the fields; they were able to have children who by law were also slaves of the owner of the mother.

Therefore, the average price of female slaves was higher than their male counterparts up to puberty age. Men around the age of 25-years-old were the most "valuable." Slaveholding became more concentrated over time, particularly as slavery was abolished in the northern states. The fraction of households owning slaves fell from "36 percent in 1830 to 25 percent in 1860".

During the American Civil War, roughly 180,000 black men served in the Union Army, and another 29,000 served in the Navy. Three-fifths of all black troops were former slaves. When you make men slaves you deprive them of half their virtue, you set them in your own conduct an example of fraud, rapine, cruelty, and compel them to live with you in a state of war.

A change in economic interests soon after 1776, when America became independent, Britain's sugar colonies, such as Jamaica and Barbados, declined as America could trade directly with the French and Dutch in the West Indies.

Furthermore, as the industrial revolution took hold in the 18th century, Britain no longer needed slave-based goods. The country was more able to prosper from new systems which re-

quired high efficiency, through free trade and free labour.

Cotton, rather than sugar, became the main produce of the British economy and English towns, such as Manchester and Salford, became industrial centers of world importance.

Economists have attempted to model the circumstances under which slavery (and variants such as Serfdom) appear and disappear. One observation is that slavery becomes more desirable for landowners where land is abundant but labour is scarce, such that rent is depressed and paid workers can demand high wages.

If the opposite holds true, then it becomes more costly for landowners to have guards for the slaves than to employ paid workers who can only demand low wages due to the amount of competition.

Thus, first slavery and then serfdom gradually decreased in Europe as the population grew, but were reintroduced in the Americas and in Russia as large areas of new land with few people became available.

Slavery is more common when the labour done is relatively simple and thus easy to supervise, such as large-scale growing of a single crop, like sugar and cotton, in which output was based on economies of scale.

This enables such systems of labour, such as the gang system in the United States, to become prominent on large plantations where field hands were monitored and worked with factory-like precision.

For example, each work gang was based on an internal division of labour that not only assigned every member of the gang to a precise task, but also simultaneously made their own performance dependent on the actions of the others.

The hoe hands chopped out the weeds that surrounded the cotton plants as well as excessive sprouts. The plow gangs followed behind, stirring the soil near the rows of cotton plants and tossing it back around the plants. Thus, the gang system worked like an assembly line.

Since the 18th century, critics have argued that slavery tends to retard technological advancement because the focus is on increasing the number of slaves doing simple tasks rather than upgrading the efficiency of labour.

For example, it is sometime argued that, because of this narrow focus, theoretical knowledge and learning in Greece - and later in Rome - was not applied to ease physical labour or improve manufacturing.

NGOs are the "most powerful part of society" and they can bring inclusiveness and collective sharing in human settlements, said Lu.

"Inclusiveness is a celebration of our diversity," Lu noted. "The first step of this is communication and mutual learning. NGOs are diverse, open, and peaceful organizations and are therefore in the best position to understand the value and strength of an inclusive society."

Lu said he spent the last 10 years visiting NGOs around the world and found that inclusiveness and collective sharing are the most important values for the development of human civilization.

Efforts to build and protect cities and human communities come at a time the world, human lives and all creatures and the eco-systems are threatened by climate change, conflicts and a long list of woes that are chipping away the earth's habitable environments desired by its inhabitants.

The focus on cities and human settlements is one of 2030 Global Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals.

The rural-to-urban migration is expected to continue in some of the most populous countries like China, India and some African countries.

China, the world's most populous country with 1.4 billion, has acknowledged that 56 percent of its population already live in cities and the urban population is expected to increase to 60 percent by 2020. China's massive migration to cities has been unprecedented in world contemporary history.



Can South Africa lead the way in reducing the risks of cyberspace to human security? File photo

Policing the fourth industrial revolution in sub-Saharan Africa

BY KAREN ALLEN

THERE'S a hype to the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) with its disruptive digital technologies that promise to transform our lives, calibrate our decision making with algorithmic precision and satisfy our every craving in real time. But what are its risks, and how do we police this new cyber environment?

One of the problems with 4IR, South Africa's Tshwane University of Technology cyber expert Prof Mammo Muchie and others have observed, is that 'technology advances at exponential rates, human society does not.' So while business leaders at the World Economic Forum in Cape Town last week focused on the massive economic and developmental potential of dramatic advances in technology, others remain concerned about human security and the potential vulnerabilities.

At a recent Institute for Security Studies seminar on the issue, Anriette Esterhuysen - a senior figure on the Global Commission on the Stability of Cyberspace and a convener for the African School on Internet Governance - said African countries needed to develop good basic capacity in institutions such as the courts and government ministries to withstand virtual threats in the new digital age.

At the same time, Africa must be part of the global conversations about establishing 'cyber norms'. These provide the base or the 'ecosystem' in which the continent can build resilience to mitigate the abuse of technology.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has established a 4IR Commission to embed cyber culture into government. But commissions are only as robust as the actions that follow. And due to the transnational nature of the threat, any policy prescription should locate South Africa and Africa more generally in an international context, rather than retreat into national silos.

An increasingly interconnected world makes Africa as vulnerable (if not more so) than the wealthier global north. When the Cambridge Analytica scandal became headline news, in which big data was manipulated to help shape the voting patterns of millions of citizens, it emerged that the data of 60 000 South African internet users had been compromised.

Lower internet penetration in Africa compared to the global north is also no insurance against data manipulation and cyber attacks. Tech expansion is happening at an astonishing rate. There are expected to be nearly half a million more internet users in sub-Saharan Africa by 2022.

"Controlling the narrative", whether for political, commercial or social ends, has seen the use of technologies such as Twitter bots, which

automatically convey multiple messages, proliferate. In future, as 4IR technologies allow for even more automation, issues of accountability and attribution will become murkier. This new technological dawn also represents a shifting of power from traditional governments to those who control and own big data, including big commercial entities.

Tech was once the preserve of nation states and their militaries. Now it is available off the shelf for anyone who can afford it. On the one hand that is empowering and represents a diffusion of power to ordinary citizens. But because cybercriminals who abuse that resource are not constrained by borders, their actions raise questions of accountability.

Countries in the global south struggle with capacity. South Africa is no exception. Ramaphosa has promised that one million more young people will be trained in data science in the next decade in South Africa. There is scope for the private sector to play a bigger role in developing human know-how in order to reap the benefits of big tech for society in general. This will also help identify 'blind spots' before they're exploited by those breaking the law.

So what laws are we referring to when it comes to those who abuse big data or commit cybercrime? The answer is littered with caveats.

South Africa's law doesn't fully cover cyber issues. This year the Protection of Personal Information Act (2013) will come into effect. However with organisations having two years to ensure they are compliant, it won't be until 2022 that we start to see enforcement.

South Africa is also still without a law that deals specifically with cybercrime and cybersecurity. The Cybercrimes and Cybersecurity Bill needs to be approved by Parliament before it is enacted as law. Given the transnational nature of cybercrimes, international law should similarly develop to cover them.

Already South Africa is participating at the United Nations level in several initiatives to establish cyber 'norms' (agreed rules of state behaviour) to support international human rights law. These include limits on state actions that threaten human rights and the security of users.

But there is a sense among many international players that at a global level South Africa could use its position to show leadership and achieve more for the region as a whole. The country has indicated its desire to 'go it alone' by resisting ratifying key cyber conventions such as the Malabo and Budapest conventions, choosing instead to use such treaties as reference points.

Karen Allen, Senior Research Adviser, Emerging Threats in Africa, ISS

Civil society for inclusive, resilient and sustainable urban areas of the future

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, USA

THE United Nations held its first major international conference in one of America's mountain states, bringing scores of civil society organizations (CSOs) to discuss ways on making "cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable by 2030."

The annual UN Civil Society Conference, which had been meeting mostly in New York, site of the UN world headquarters, and in some foreign capitals, was hosted by Salt Lake City's Mayor's office August 26-28 under the title "Building Inclusive and Sustainable Cities and Communities."

More than half of the current world population of 7.7 billion now live in cities big and small. The UN has projected that the world population will reach 9.7 billion by 2050 and 5 billion of them will be in living in urban areas. Megacities of 10-20 million people each will be even bigger.

The conference adopted a lengthy outcome document that pledged to implement one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which calls for focusing on cities and human settlements throughout the world buffeted by climate change, insecurity and economic problems.

The document urged all stakeholders "to enhance inclusivity and respect for the dignity of all, from which human rights originate" and "to work to remove unjust systemic barriers to success, noting that bias and discrimination marginalize and segregate large segments of society."

It urged stakeholders to "apply conscious inclusivity and respect for hu-



man dignity and rights in our daily lives while advocating for similar efforts in our corporate and organizational lives, in our laws, regulations, policies, and practices, and in our economy."

The president of the UN General Assembly, Maria Fernanda Espinosa, praised NGOs for their contribution to strengthen the work of the UN. But she warned that many major challenges have remained unaddressed.

"I encourage you to continue to engage with your governments to ensure that we use these opportunities to put us on the right path, and work in your communities on local solutions and initiatives that have the potential to be scaled-up and replicated."

Salt Lake City introduced its Youth Climate Compact during the conference, calling for raising awareness in "our own communities about policy that is detrimental to the health of our planet and promote policy which works to confront the main causes of the climate crisis."

The Youth Climate Compact said an estimated 143 million people around the world will be displaced by climate change by 2050.

Attendees included a delegation from China headed by Dezhi Lu, vice president of China Charity Alliance, and chair of the Huamin Charity Organization, a non-governmental organization among the dozens of UN-recognized NGOs.

Seven challenges to overcome when launching a media startup

By Jeremy Caplan

THE first challenge in developing an entrepreneurial journalism startup relates to identifying a true gap between what already exists and what people need.

It's easy to think about something you would like to create. What's harder - and more important - is to try to stand in the shoes of those you aim to serve.

What are the challenges they face in their daily lives? What do they already read, watch or listen to? How do they access information? What do they enjoy most about the media they consume, and what do they find frustrating? What are the things they need to know about in order to make the most of each day?

When you understand your target community, you will spot gaps in the market. You might realise that in a community full of Spanish speakers, people have to rely on English-language reports for news about local schools.

It might also be that coverage of cancer research isn't readily accessible to readers who get their news from social media platforms on their daily commute. Or that there are few podcasts for devout travellers. When you understand those you aim to serve, it is easier to address their needs.

If you are part of a community yourself, you have an advantage in that you are not starting from scratch. But to develop your understanding, it is important to interview people in the community.

These interviews should be open-ended. Think of these as opportunities to listen and learn. Ask questions about what keeps someone up at night. Ask what they are excited to wake up for in the morning. Ask what media they have consumed this week.

Pro tip: referring to "this week" or "today" in interviews ensures that people talk about their actual behaviour, not the behaviour they aspire to have.

You might learn things that surprise you. Once you have a grasp of what the present pain points are - and what is missing for the people you are aiming to serve - you are in a position to envision something that would address those gaps.

Second challenge: Settling on a clear, specific idea. Once you have identified a potential opportunity, the next step is to narrow your idea down so that it is manageable.



We often begin with big ambitions. We aim to create the next great fill-in-the-blank for a huge group of people. Even though you may dream of creating a business news service for all of Poland, for example, serving such a big market on many distinct business topics may not be feasible on day one.

Lofty aims might sound impressive, but the reality is that ventures with limited resources have to start small and narrow before they grow. It is not feasible to do many things at once when you have got a small team and minimal funding.

So your idea for a business news service for Poland may begin, instead, as a newsletter covering the financial services sector in Warsaw. In time, if readers find value in what you are creating, you can expand and add to the breadth or depth of your coverage.

Third challenge: Finding partners. Even as brilliant and capable as you are, you may not be able to do everything that your venture needs all by yourself. If you are like most successful entrepreneurs, you will need collaborators.

Identifying suitable people can be tricky, because your friends may not be suitable work partners and those you don't yet know well may not end up being compatible.

Drafting a list of people you have worked with in the past can be a good way of identifying potential collaborators. Industry gatherings, social circles

and alumni networks can also be useful.

Run through your LinkedIn connections and review other social network contacts. If there is someone who might be a good fit, see if you can collaborate on a small project to test compatibility.

Plan an event together or collaborate on an article. If friction arises or you find it difficult to make progress together, that could be a useful warning sign. If you identify someone who seems like a good fit, consider a short-term trial. That gives you the option of separating amicably if things don't work out.

Fourth challenge: Getting the design right. Getting the look and feel of a new journalism product right is crucial. And it is hard. Not only do you have to provide accurate and engaging information, but you have to make sure your packaging and presentation is appealing as well.

People have so many information options that if something is confusing or unattractive, they will be tempted to click over to something easier on the eye.

As journalists, we may be tempted to focus exclusively on the substance of our content. But people evaluating a new product are often drawn in - or repelled - by their initial visual impres-

sions.

Because journalists often don't have training in user-experience design, they may not prioritise how the product looks and feels.

Here are some tips, one: if you are investing time or money on content, allocate a significant share towards images. Pictures drive first impressions.

Two: white space is crucial when people are processing complex ideas. Balance the amount of text on a page with empty space, just as you would avoid filling every inch of wall space with hangings.

Three: somewhere in your materials, state your project's value in simple, clear terms in a large font. Consumers inevitably will ask themselves: "What's in it for me?"

Four: simplify the initial action a customer can take. It should take just a few seconds for people to sign up for a newsletter or begin watching a video, playing a podcast episode or reading a story. Consumers who confront too many options, tabs or buttons are prone to flee.

The best way to tell if you are on the right track with your design is to silently watch someone using your product. Ask them to narrate what they are thinking and doing.

Avoid the temptation to coach

them through it. Instead, watch and see where they look and what they try to do. Listen to the questions they ask along the way.

This process is standard across industries. Google tests its product testing this way as well. Listening and watching will yield strong signals about where your design choices are leading people.

Fifth challenge: Finding your 100th customer. Finding your first users beyond the circle of people you already know is a big challenge for journalism startups. Once you have a startup in development, it is usually easy to get your family and friends to try it out.

People who know you best are happy to serve as guinea pigs to lend you a hand. But when you are ready to move beyond your circle of acquaintances, you will have to take a big step forward in marketing.

If your product is a valuable one, it will do some of its own marketing, as word spreads from your friends to theirs. You will also want to extend your outreach efforts to reach new people. Some of that may entail writing personal notes, sending texts or making calls.

To engage people, you might also set up gatherings, run community events, or connect with influencers on social media. Creating content for other sites and social media platforms can also be useful as a form of content marketing. Throughout the process, focus on outreach channels that resonate with your specific community.

Sixth challenge: Finding the second value stream. Making a product useful for your primary target community isn't always sufficient. In many cases you have to create value for a second community - those who are paying.

That might mean subscribers who pay for premium content. It could mean advertisers. Or it might mean consulting clients or those who sponsor your events.

If you are in a position to charge your consumers directly, your challenge is ensuring that the product is different enough from what is already available so that people will be willing to pay. Keep in mind that people who say they will pay in surveys may

not actually pull out their wallets back at home.

If you are creating the kind of product that people expect to consume for free, your challenge will be to find third-party revenue. That may mean advertisers, foundation funders or clients who will pay for your services.

Regardless of how you plan to generate revenue, you are going to have to create and communicate a clear message about your venture's value. Make sure you have that value in mind from day one.

Here is an example of how one successful news startup does it. In a pop-up box on its site, Morning Brew asks potential readers: "Want business news that's actually enjoyable? Join over 1 million others and start your morning with our daily newsletter."

The value Morning Brew promises is crystal clear, and an example of the newsletter is front and centre on the Morning Brew site for consumers to sample.

Seventh challenge: Staying committed through the inevitable slumps. Every new project encounters periods of uncertainty. In many cases, it takes far longer than entrepreneurs expect to find a match between the product they envision and its community. The challenge is to weather that period of uncertainty without giving up.

It is easy to lose courage when it seems like no one is consuming what you are producing. The temptation is to return to the familiar path - doing journalism in the same way you have done it in the past. Rather than forge ahead with something that has an uncertain future, you may feel tempted to give up and move on.

But if you have something of value to offer the community you are serving, your persistence may pay off. If you provide a valuable product or service, they will reward you with their attention. Once you have their attention, you are well along the way to developing a venture that can last.

A dispatch by the International Journalists' Network (IJNet), a project of the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists. Jeremy Caplan is Director of Teaching and Learning at CUNY's Newmark Graduate School of Journalism in NYC.

Awareness should be the priority in public health efforts against leprosy

MANILA

INCREASING awareness of the continuing existence of Hansen's Disease (leprosy) is critical to sustaining effective public health efforts against the disease, eliminating the social stigma associated with it, and halting its transmission.

That was the consensus reached by participants at the Global Forum of People's Organisations on Hansen's Disease in Manila on Sept. 9, following a lecture by Dr. Arturo Cunanan, the Chief Medical Officer of the Culion Sanitarium and General Hospital in the Philippines. The forum was organised by Japan's Sasakawa Health Foundation (SHF) and The Nippon Foundation.

Cunanan noted that for several years, the number of new cases has plateaued at about 200,000 per year, a troubling statistic that he attributed in part to a lack of awareness among public health bodies as well as people affected by the disease.

The social stigma attached to leprosy is a barrier to early detection of the disease, which is the key to slowing its rate of transmission. Cunanan said that the average length of time between the onset of the disease and the beginning of treatment is about two years.

This happens because on the one hand, patients are unaware of medical help available to them, unwilling, or otherwise unable to seek treatment due to stigma; and on the other, a lack of expertise and resources on the part of public health departments due to a misunderstanding of the persistence of the disease.



Not a priority

"Many public health and government officials confuse elimination and eradication," Cunanan told the forum participants. "They think that leprosy being eliminated as a public health problem means it has been eradicated, so they are surprised when they learn it still exists."

What this has resulted in is a decline in the material and human resources available for combatting leprosy. "Leprosy will never be a priority" for government health programmes, Cunanan said. "There are more pressing problems, bigger emergencies."

The Philippines is a good example. The disease is considered a minor problem, and the number of new cases each year is relatively low - there were 2,108 new cases in 2017, out of a national population of about 107 million - but has been relatively consistent year after year, "between 2,000 and about 3,000".

Because of the mistaken belief that leprosy has either disappeared entirely or has become rare, medical expertise and programmes have disappeared from

public health institutions. That in turn has degraded the supervision and monitoring needed to identify new cases and prevent the transmission of the disease, Cunanan explained.

Lucy Massao, a member of the Tanzania Leprosy Association (TLA), noted that the stigma and lack of understanding of leprosy among the public in her country was also reflected in the shortcomings of the public health framework.

"We at TLA really spend a lot of time trying to educate people,

including the officials," she said. "Many patients, the health officials refer to us, because they cannot offer much support except for the medications. But they are improving, through working with us."

Role of people's organisations
Public health authorities elsewhere are also gradually recognising the value of the organisations of people who have been affected by leprosy. "You are the best experts," Cunanan told the forum participants, "because you have first-hand experience."

Organisation members can assist in early detection and outreach, Cunanan explained, and help public health authorities improve their services to leprosy patients.

In the Philippines, collaboration with people's organisations such as Coalition of Leprosy Advocates of the Philippines has actually been included in official policy. Philippine Assistant Secretary of Health Dr. Maria Laxamana, who delivered the keynote address on the forum's first day, noted that "intensified collaborative efforts among [government] agencies and with private partners" is a key objective of the government's National Leprosy Control Programme.

Dr. V.R. Pemmaraju of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Global Leprosy Programme said that there has been a marked growth in talent and inclusiveness among people's or-

ganisations, which is increasing their effectiveness in supporting and extending public health efforts towards leprosy.

"What we're seeing, and you can see it at this forum, is that the groups are more global, include more women, and are more educated about the disease and the support needed," Pemmaraju told IPS.

"This has been very good from the point of view of the WHO, because of the added social aspect of the Global Leprosy Partnership," he explained. Where people's organisations still need to develop is in working effectively with governments.

"They [the organisations] have the experience and knowledge about leprosy, but what I've seen is that most need more skills in negotiating and engaging with government officials," Pemmaraju said. "There is still some gap in inclusion of people's organisations in forming public health policy [related to leprosy], and developing those skills would help to reduce that."

Pemmaraju is upbeat about the prospects of people's organisations gaining a bigger voice in public health policy towards leprosy. "In each of these meetings, I see the groups growing globally and gaining more influence," Pemmaraju said. "With the engagement of the people's organisations, we [the WHO] are optimistic that we can achieve our goal of 'zero leprosy.'"

African penguins facing big threat following ships' risky oil transfer

By Peter Ryan

ensuring its survival.

THE African Penguin is in serious trouble. Its population has fallen by more than 95% over the last century and, despite ongoing conservation efforts, its numbers continue to fall. There are now barely 20,000 breeding pairs in the world - and the largest colony is in South Africa, on islands around Algoa Bay in the country's Eastern Cape province.

There are several reasons for the decline in African Penguin numbers. Historically, egg collecting played a major role in decreasing population numbers, and guano scraping for fertiliser removed important nesting habitats. But today the main threat the African Penguin faces is a shortage of the small fish it prefers to feed on.

Environmental changes coupled with local over-fishing have seen the penguin's prey shift their range from the west coast upwelling region to South Africa's south coast. However, there are very few suitable breeding islands off the south coast, and that leaves the penguins with few safe breeding locations.

Now oil spills from a project that's designed to harness the economic potential of South Africa's oceans are threatening the world's largest remaining African Penguin colony. Although there is a need to balance economic development and conservation, the African Penguin is an endangered species and - given that it is home to the largest colony - South Africa is largely responsible for

Oil spills

The colony is on St Croix Island, next to Coega harbour in Algoa Bay near the city of Port Elizabeth. The harbour is a deep-water, free trade port that's a key component of Operation Phakisa - a government drive to promote the "blue" (ocean) economy.

For the last three years ship-to-ship bunkering, which involves the transfer of fuel from one vessel to another at sea, has been permitted in the bay close to this crucial seabird breeding island. In that time there have been two oil spills that have killed penguins and other seabirds in the area.

The Marine Pollution (Control and Civil Liability) Act 6 of 1981 prohibits such routine bunkering off the South African coast because it is an inherently risky operation. Small leaks in pipelines or tank overflows can cause serious pollution. Once oil has been spilled it is dispersed by currents and the wind. This makes it very difficult to contain.

Oil spills have severe effects on seabirds. Oil reduces the seabirds' insulation, leaving them vulnerable to hypothermia. It also causes skin irritation and ulcers. They try to preen oil off their plumage, invariably ingesting some of the highly toxic fuel oil, which disrupts their endocrine systems. Penguins are especially prone to oiling be-



cause they are flightless, and so are unable to fly over polluted areas.

Rehabilitation facilities such as the Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds SANCCOB do a tremendous amount to try and mitigate the effects of oil spills. But research shows that oiled African Penguins which are cleaned and released have lower breeding success than unoiled birds.

The two oil spills - one in 2016 and the other in July this year - near St Croix have affected at least 220 African Penguins and there are about 15,000 in the colony.

In each case, penguin nests containing eggs and chicks were abandoned. Cape Gannets

and Cape Cormorants, both listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature as globally endangered, were also oiled. Fortunately, both spills were relatively minor. A major spill could impact a large proportion of the beleaguered African Penguin population.

Environmental damage

This is a hugely worrying situation. No environmental risk assessment has been conducted for the bunkering operations that have led to two oil spills. This is also despite the fact that the bay is a marine biodiversity hotspot, and its seabird breeding islands fall within the recently-declared Addo Marine Protected Area.

A number of environmental stakeholders, including BirdLife South Africa, have repeatedly raised concerns about this practice. But their objections have been ignored.

Ship-to-ship bunkering in Algoa Bay should be halted pending a thorough cost-benefit assessment of the practice. We don't know the benefits to the local economy, but the costs of oil spills are clear: they negatively affect local fisheries and the burgeoning marine tourism sector, as well as several endangered species.

Alistair McInnes, Manager of BirdLife Seabird Conservation Programme; Christina Hagen of BirdLife South Africa; and Christian Triay of SANCCOB also contributed to this article.

Iowa State University experts work on global food waste reduction agenda

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

IOWA State University scientists collaborated on a World Resources Institute report, released yesterday, that seeks to reduce the annual 1.3 billion tons of global food loss and waste by 2030.

The report, "Reducing Food Loss and Waste: Setting a Global Action Agenda," finds momentum to address reducing the enormous amount of food that is lost or wasted each year and proposes a global action agenda to successfully meet the United Nations' call to halve food loss and waste by 2030.

"The amount of food lost and wasted is staggering. It's the equivalent of wasting 15 years of Iowa's corn and soybean harvest

each and every year, plus the seed, fertilizer, water, soil, money and labor involved in producing it," said Dirk Maier, professor of agricultural and biosystems engineering and director of the newly formed Consortium for Innovation in Post-Harvest Loss and Food Waste Reduction.

"Our consortium collaborators are working on a number of scalable interventions on the global action agenda. We are tackling post-harvest loss across the mango, tomato and white maize supply chains in Kenya, Nigeria, and Tanzania by engaging academic and entrepreneurial capacity of the next generation of researchers and students in multi-national, multi-disciplinary teams together with professionals from the private and public sectors," he said.

Produced by World Resources Institute—with support from The Rockefeller Foundation, and in partnership with United Nations Environment Programme, Natural Resources Defense Council, Iowa State University, the University of Maryland's Ed Snider Center, the Consortium for Innovation in Postharvest Loss and Food Waste Reduction, Wageningen University and Research and the Waste and Resources Action Programme—the report has been released at the World Food Summit in Copenhagen, Denmark. It's designed to guide businesses, governments, civil society, and others in the food system to play an active role in tackling food loss and waste, individually and collectively.

"There's more public and pri-

ate sector activity than ever—with 30 of the world's largest global companies setting targets to reduce food loss and waste—but we're still falling short in major areas," said Andrew Steer, president and CEO of WRI. "We are amidst a window of opportunity to scale a nascent global movement, and this report gives us a blueprint for the kind of action that's needed to halve food loss and waste."

"Addressing food loss and waste is an underappreciated strategy for also promoting economic security, mitigating climate change, addressing hunger, and ensuring more people have the opportunity to eat a diet rich in nutritious food," said Roy Steiner, managing director, Food Initiative of the Rockefeller Foundation. "We have an opportunity now, across

the public and private sectors, to scale up solutions and create meaningful impact for both people and our planet."

Nearly a third of all food produced in the world goes uneaten each year, an amount that costs the global economy \$940 billion and emits 8% of planet-warming greenhouse gases.

At the same time, one in nine people is undernourished. Looking across the entire food supply chain, from farm to plate, the report pinpoints prime opportunities for governments and businesses to reduce such inefficiency and waste.

The three-pronged action agenda advises: Governments and companies should follow an approach of "Target-Measure-Act." Adopt a target to halve food loss

and waste by 2030, measure how much and where food is being lost and wasted and take action on the hotspots.

All actors in the food supply chain should start pursuing a sector-specific "to-do" list, as outlined in the report. For example, crop farmers could engage their customers to explore changes in quality specifications that can enable more of what is harvested to be sold; packinghouses could build near farm facilities to convert unmarketable crops and by-products into value-added products; and retailers could educate consumers about better food management such as how to store food correctly.

Governments and business leaders should pursue 10 "scaling interventions" to accelerate the

impact and pace of sector-specific actions. The 10 interventions tackle food loss and waste across the entire supply chain, target a handful of food loss and waste hotspots and help set the enabling policy and financial conditions that are necessary for success.

"The global action agenda we're proposing rests on big, bold ideas. I'm happy to say some are already underway, such as a rise in national public-private partnerships and new financing.

Others would break fresh ground. We know this is ambitious, but when we look at the amount of food that is lost and wasted, it's clear that such a massive challenge demands massive action," said Katie Flanagan, associate with WRI and lead author of the report.



Jema Ngwale (L), a sector development leader with the Danish Embassy in Tanzania, presents a dummy cheque for 120m/- in Dar es Salaam at the weekend to eight winners of a training programme organised by the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (Costech) through the Dar Teknoma Business Incubators (DTBI). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Transforming African conservation from old social cause into next-gen growth market

By Rhett A. Butler

AFRICA'S conservation challenges are daunting. The continent faces rapid human population growth, expanding agriculture and infrastructure, and globalized demand for its natural resources, including its forests, oceans, and wildlife. On top of that, Africa is expected to be particularly affected by climate change, which could

produce more extreme weather events, exacerbate conflict, and drive large-scale human migration.

On the surface it would seem that time is running short for African wildlife, but one Ghanaian entrepreneur sees conservation as one of the great opportunities for Africa.

"We need to challenge the idea that Africa's extraordinary biodiversity and wild-

life is a diminishing resource that needs to be protected and reframe conservation as a growth sector," said Fred Swaniker, the Founder and CEO of the African Leadership Group who has won accolades from the likes of Bill Gates, Time Magazine, and the World Economic Forum for his efforts to transform higher education in Africa.

Conservation, Swaniker

told Mongabay, has three critical characteristics of a growth sector, including the enabling conditions needed to recast Africa's wildlife as one of the continent's greatest assets, a magnetic appeal to attract top talent, and the potential to yield financial returns for investors and local communities.

For these reasons, Swaniker has made conservation

one of the central priorities of his efforts to develop and enable the next generation of African leaders through African Leadership University (ALU), which currently has two campuses and aims to have 25 across Africa by 2025. ALU's School of Wildlife Conservation (SOWC) specifically aims to help Africans use their knowledge, experience, and big ideas to "own and drive" the conser-

NCDs account for 52 percent of deaths in Ethiopia - study

ADDIS ABABA

NON-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) are the cause of high causality in Ethiopia, accounting for 52 percent of annual deaths, a study has revealed.

According to a study conducted by the Ethiopian Ministry of Health in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO), one out of five Ethiopians die prematurely, before the age of 70 years due to NDCs.

The study estimates that NDCs are costing Ethiopia at least 31.3 billion birr or \$1.1 billion per year, which is equivalent to 1.8 percent of the country's GDP.

The main causes NDCs are tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, unhealthy diet and physical inactivity.

Urgent action is needed against NDCs, otherwise called the silent killers, which are posing a threat to social development and economic progress in Ethiopia, said Esther Mary Aceng-Dokotum, the WHO representative while launching the study on Thursday in Addis Ababa.

"Ethiopia has a high burden of NDCs and the number of disability adjusted life years lost due to NDCs has increased three times during the past 25 years," she said.

In 2015, an estimated 65,000 cases of cancer occurred in Ethiopia, two third of which were with women.

The average life expectancy at birth in Ethiopia was 65.5 years in 2016. It varies by gender: 63.7 for men and 67.3 for women. The average life expectancy figure is higher than the average of 61.2 years for the whole of African

region.

The study indicates that tobacco use is lower in Ethiopia than in many other countries as 7.3 percent of men and only 0.4 percent of women smoke. Nevertheless, a strong tobacco control measures are necessary to keep the rates low and make it even lower, according to the report.

The study states 23 policy interventions will be made to reduce the risk factors for NDCs. The intervention requires the nation to invest 20.8 billion Birr (\$0.72 billion) to prevent more than one million premature deaths over 15 years.

The interventions can also prevent diseases and disabilities such as those caused by strokes. The study indicated that heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease, stroke, cancer, and chronic respiratory disease are common NDCs in Ethiopia.

Harmful alcohol consumption among the people consuming alcohol appears to be low in Ethiopia especially for women. Attributable NDCs to alcohol consumption include many forms of cancer, pancreatitis, epilepsy, and diabetes.

The total alcohol consumption per capita in Ethiopia was 2.9 liters in the year reported, which is below the average for the African region surveyed by WHO. The report stated that Ethiopia has the lowest rates of alcohol consumption compared to alcohol consumption in Africa.

The study further noted that the government has so far given minimal attention to negative impacts of NDCs with small budgetary allocation.

Jeremy Corbyn, Britain's unlikely EU warrior, makes last stand on Brexit

For decades, Jeremy Corbyn was among the EU's strongest critics. Today, he is the last line of defence against Britain leaving the bloc on Oct. 31 without a withdrawal agreement.

By ELIZABETH PIPER in LONDON

IN 2009, a little-known British politician declared he didn't want to live in a European empire of the 21st century.

The speaker was Jeremy Corbyn, then a backbench Member of Parliament (MP) on the hard left of the Labour Party. He was addressing a rally against the European Union's Lisbon Treaty that gave Brussels greater powers.

Today, Corbyn is his party's leader and he is fighting a very different campaign: Preventing Prime Minister Boris Johnson leading Britain out of the EU, "do or die," on Oct. 31.

Corbyn's journey - from Eurosceptic to last line of defence against leaving the EU without a withdrawal agreement, from Socialist rebel to leader of an opposition united against Johnson - is among the most improbable in modern British history.

In a backbench career spanning more than three decades, Corbyn voted against his own Labour Party over 400 times. He became Labour Party leader in 2015.

Corbyn was at his most rebellious during fellow Labour member Tony Blair's premiership in 1997-2007, opposing closer economic and political ties with the EU, which is viewed by some on the hard left as a "capitalist club," and voting against the U.S.-led wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

He has called members of Hamas and Hezbollah "friends." He once described the North Atlantic Treaty Organization as a "military Frankenstein." Corbyn's Labour is being investigated for anti-Semitism by Britain's human rights watchdog after a surge in complaints since Corbyn took office. Labour has said it will cooperate fully with the inquiry and Corbyn has promised to tackle the "poison" of anti-Semitism.

Labour MP Neil Coyle, who backed Corbyn to become party leader in 2015, sums up why for many people he is a divisive figure, and why he came to regret lending Corbyn his support: "He has 30 years of baggage on dodgy issues," Coyle told Reuters.

Corbyn, 70, declined to be interviewed for this article. Reuters spoke to half a dozen people who know Corbyn well, including some of his closest allies, and reviewed past speeches, his parliamentary voting record, and overseas trips to paint a picture of the man who could be Britain's prime minister after an election expected in weeks.

Colleagues described a principled politician with little personal ambition who became the Left's candidate for the Labour Party leadership in 2015 simply "because it was his turn," a political activist more than a parliamentarian, a firm believer in the redistribution of wealth and drawn to any "liberation struggle."

Since becoming leader, Corbyn has appeared to change tack on some issues. He has said he opposes leaving the EU on terms that will hurt ordinary Britons and believes any "Brexit" deal must be put to a popular vote. He has supported Britain's commitment to NATO and said he regrets calling members of Hamas and Hezbollah friends.

Corbyn's opponents are unconvinced. They believe he still harbours dangerous, hard left views on the economy and foreign policy. Corbyn has a deep-rooted antipathy to Brussels that is unlikely to have changed, these people say.

One of Britain's longest-serving and most respected MPs, Ken Clarke, has known Corbyn for 30 years. "He doesn't modify his views," observed Clarke, a former Conservative minister.

The Labour leader's critics, including some within the party, say he hasn't done enough to challenge anti-Semitism.

The making of the man

Corbyn grew up in a middle class



Jeremy Corbyn

family in the rural English county of Shropshire. His father, David, was an electrical engineer. His mother, Naomi, taught maths. Corbyn's parents met in the 1930s at a local meeting in support of the Spanish Republic against Franco's fascist rule. They shaped Corbyn's Socialist beliefs.

"Both committed Socialists and peace campaigners, my mum's inspiration was to encourage girls to believe they could achieve anything in their lives," Corbyn said in a speech to the Labour Party conference in 2016.

Dennis Skinner worked alongside Corbyn in the Labour Party's Socialist Campaign Group of left-wing lawmakers. One of nine children, and the son of a miner, Skinner embodies Labour's working class roots.

Skinner said Corbyn came from a very different Socialist household. "They probably didn't sit around a table with four or five brothers all arguing the toss about this, that or the other. I can imagine his father would say, 'Now it's your turn Jeremy, do you want to make a contribution?'"

When he was 15, Corbyn joined the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, an advocacy group that wants the UK to get rid of its nuclear weapons and opposes NATO. He would later become vice president of the disarmament group, a position he still holds.

At the age of 19, Corbyn became a teacher in Jamaica, then travelled around Latin America - the start of an enduring fascination with the region. It was the late 1960s, when leftist groups were on the rise.

Corbyn was in Santiago, he has said, when "the great" Salvador Allende and his Popular Unity party were readying for power. Last December, Corbyn flew to Mexico for the inauguration of leftist President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, who has called Corbyn his "eternal friend." Corbyn's third wife is Mexican lawyer and activist Laura Álvarez.

On the back benches

Corbyn was elected to parliament in 1983 as MP for London's Islington North, a patchwork district of multi-million pound Georgian homes and social housing. He has increased his majority from just over 5,000 in 1983 to more than 33,000 now. Friend and ally Jon Lansman says Corbyn cares deeply about his constituents.

"He did a lot of stuff on housing, on migration, poverty, benefits," said Lansman, who worked on Corbyn's Labour leadership campaign in 2015 and co-founded Momentum, a pro-Corbyn movement.

Mike Gapes, a former Labour MP who now represents a small, centrist party, was also on the Left of Britain's politics in those early days. Like Corbyn, Gapes voted in a 1975 referendum to leave the forerunner of the EU, the European Economic Area. "We wanted to introduce import controls in the siege economy, a form of Socialism in one country," Gapes said.

Over the years, Gapes went on, "many of us moved on from those delusions" but a few kept the faith. "One of them was Jeremy Corbyn."

Ronnie Campbell, MP for the north-

eastern English constituency of Blyth Valley, first met Corbyn in 1987 and remembers how the new MP's scruffy appearance, in particular his refusal to wear a tie, challenged parliamentary tradition. "The Tories would get up and say, 'Mr Speaker, there's somebody in this chamber not properly dressed.' And it was Jeremy sitting in the back with no tie."

Campbell described Corbyn as an "inquisitive" man who would talk to pretty much any protest or rebel group because he wanted to "hear it from the horse's mouth." Some of his meetings got Corbyn into trouble. He drew all-party criticism for inviting Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams to parliament in 1984 at the height of violence in Northern Ireland. Sinn Féin was the political arm of the Irish Republican Army that fought a decades-long war against British rule.

Campbell said some of Corbyn's allies were "mortified" when they found out he was talking to Adams. Corbyn responded, "We've got to get to know what their cause is and what they want, and that was his argument at the time," Campbell said. "We've got to try and understand these people."

Corbyn was one of the sponsors of the Stop the War Coalition, a campaign group set up in 2001 when George W. Bush announced the "war on terror." Stop the War says it opposes the British establishment's "disastrous addiction to war."

Corbyn has spoken openly about his "difficulties" with Tony Blair, who became Labour Party leader in 1994 and prime minister in 1997. Blair distanced Labour from its Socialist roots and drew the party towards the middle ground. Blair also backed Bush's invasion of Iraq.

In 2015 at a question-and-answer session, Corbyn was asked by an audience member whether he shared any of Blair's qualities. "Tony Blair and I were never close," he said to laughter. "I am sorry, I have a lot of difficulties with Tony Blair." Corbyn listed his reasons: Blair's "obsession" with selling off state-owned industry and "with

being very close to the U.S. and the neo-Cons, the war in Iraq, and all the problems that have come as a result of that." Blair has said he believes it was the right decision to join the war in Iraq.

Corbyn's turn

The Socialist Campaign Group had tried and failed to get one of its members on the Labour leadership ballot for years. At a meeting of the group in 2015, one of Corbyn's closest allies, John McDonnell, persuaded Corbyn to enter the Labour leadership contest.

McDonnell has since become Labour's finance policy chief. Campbell recalled McDonnell telling Corbyn: "It's your turn anyway. Get on the paper, at least try to get on the paper. And Jeremy said, 'OK, I'll have a bash at it.'"

Lansman said Corbyn was a good choice because he "didn't have any enemies. Everybody liked him. He was seen as a principled guy, no kind of side to him."

Corbyn's expectations of getting the required 35 nominations were so low that he had no qualms about agreeing, people close to him said. To the surprise of many, he passed the threshold.

In the contest that followed, Corbyn's criticism of U.S. influence and Conservative austerity policies, introduced after the 2008 global financial crisis, won over many young voters. Labour Party membership surged, and in September 2015 Corbyn won the leadership with almost 60% of the vote.

But Corbyn's Socialist agenda alienated Labour MPs in parliament. Many of them occupied the centre ground and were loyal to the ideals of Blair, one of Labour's most successful post-war leaders.

Coyle, one of the MPs who nominated Corbyn, declared less than a year later that he regretted his backing, having concluded Corbyn was a weak leader with a mistaken sense of priorities. There were resignations among Corbyn's parliamentary team.

Health policy chief Heidi Alexander was the first to quit in June 2016.

"As much as I respect you as a man of principle, I do not believe you have the capacity to shape the answers our country is demanding, and I believe that if we are to form the next government, a change of leadership is essential," she wrote in her resignation letter.

Corbyn defeated what his supporters called a disgraceful coup attempt by MPs. Labour Party members re-elected him as party leader in September 2016.

Charges of anti-Semitism

During Corbyn's time as leader, Labour has been beset by accusations of anti-Semitism. In May, Britain's Equality and Human Rights Commission said it was launching an investigation into whether Labour has discriminated against, harassed or victimised people because they are Jewish.

The commission acted after receiving "a number of complaints and allegations of anti-Semitism in the party." It said its inquiry would seek to determine whether the party or its employees had committed unlawful acts and whether the party had responded to complaints efficiently and effectively.

Corbyn has said he is determined to "confront this poison" of anti-Semitism. But he has also drawn criticism that his own comments and actions have created a space for anti-Semitism to flourish.

In March 2018, Corbyn apologised for sending a supportive message to the creator of a London mural after local officials ordered it should be destroyed.

The mural depicted Jewish bankers playing Monopoly on the backs of the poor. Corbyn conceded the image was "deeply disturbing and anti-Semitic."

In August 2018, he apologised over an event he hosted in 2010 where a speaker compared Israel to Nazism. That same month, a photograph emerged from a trip by Corbyn to Tunisia in 2014.

It showed Corbyn at a ceremony where the perpetrators of the 1972 Munich massacre of Israeli Olympic athletes were honoured by a Palestinian delegation. Corbyn said he was there as part of a wider event about Middle East peace and wasn't involved in the ceremony.

MP Luciana Berger quit Labour earlier this year, saying the party had become "institutionally antisemitic." She was one of nine Labour MPs who left the party within one week saying it had been "hijacked by the machine politics of the hard left." The MPs also accused the party leadership of "being complicit in facilitating Brexit." Corbyn expressed disappointment at their decision.

Corbyn, a lifelong peace campaigner, has changed tack on defence.

Throughout his decades on the parliamentary back benches, he questioned why NATO wasn't dismantled after the Cold War and accused the alliance of forcing member states to spend heavily on arms that perpetuate war. He consistently argued against Britain's nuclear weapons system, Trident.

But in a foreign policy speech in 2017, Corbyn said it was vital that Britain maintained "a close relationship with our European partners alongside our commitment to NATO." And he now accepts the Labour Party's long-standing policy to maintain Trident, although says he remains committed to achieving a "nuclear-free world" and would not use such weapons.

Labour's foreign affairs policy chief, Emily Thornberry, explained that Corbyn has "been on a journey" since becoming party leader. Critics say he is playing hide-and-seek with his policies, appearing to agree with the party line while not bending on his long-held views. "He really hasn't moved on much," said Coyle.

Corbyn is at his most confident when criticising the government over economic austerity. He has vowed to break with the public spending curbs of successive administrations and create a Britain for "the many, not the few."

In the country's 2017 general election, he campaigned to bring key sectors of the economy under state control - the railways, the postal service and some public utilities, such as water. He promised greater investment in public services, including healthcare and education. He said he would raise taxation for the top 5% of earners. Students would no longer have to pay for their university education.

More recently, Labour announced plans to redistribute wealth by forcing companies with more than 250 employees to transfer 10% of their shares to workers.

The Labour Party manifesto was credited along with Corbyn's energetic campaign with winning considerably more votes than Corbyn's detractors believed was possible, cementing his position as party leader. Lansman says there is no turning back. "We want to change the party and change the country and that is a long-term project."





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Minister Kairuki briefs Shandong investors on what tourism, agroprocessing can offer

By Francis Kajubi

A HIGH-powered Chinese business delegation from Shandong province has been invited to invest in the country's prime sectors which include tourism, agro-processing, construction and manufacturing as they offer maximum rate of returns.

The Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office responsible for Investment, Angela Kairuki, told a delegation of 80 elite business people and state officials from Shandong in China that the government is offering better investment climate with fiscal incentives to private investors.

Kairuki said apart from the mentioned sectors, the country also gives better rate of returns to investors in agriculture, fisheries and livestock development especially processing of livestock products for both domestic and export markets.

"Tourism is the fastest growing industry which in 2018 contributed 17.2 percent of gross domestic product but we still have more room for growth such as construction of five-star hotels," she said adding that for the past five years foreign tourism arrivals have been relentlessly on the increase from less than a million to close to two million now.

She said agriculture and agro-processing are also lucrative areas to invest because similarly the rate of return is high as demand for commodities and processed agro-products locally and in the region, is on a spiraling trend.

"Manufacturing of packaging materials is another key area that needs strong investment as currently we are lacking enough factors to make such material while demand on the increase," the Investment Minister



Members of the Shandong business delegation follow presentations by government officials led by Investments Minister of State in the PMO, Angela Kairuki in Dar es Salaam last week. Photo: Francis Kajubi.

added as the country grapples with a ban imposed on plastic bags last June.

She assured the delegation that President John Magufuli's government is pro-business and has crackdown against bureaucracy in public offices which has often frustrated investors. Kairuki further noted that in order to boost industrial investments, President Magufuli's administration is investing in the over 2,000 megawatts Rufiji Hydro-electric Power Project for cheap reliable power supply.

Deputy Minister of Livestock and Fisheries, Abdallah Ulega assured the Shandong

tycoons that investments are badly needed on Lake Victoria and along the Indian Ocean coastline both of which have huge fish stocks and other aquatic life potential valued at billions of shillings.

"On average, a Tanzanian household consume between 8 and 15 kilograms of fish in a year but Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations suggest that a person must consume at least 50kgs of fish per annum. So we need more investment for fish processing from the lakes and the deep sea," Ulega said.

He also said there is massive untapped po-

tential in livestock industry with the country among the top three African countries having large numbers of livestock much of whose products are wasted instead of being processed.

Tanzania Investment Centre's Investment Promotion Manager for Foreign Trade, Abubakar Ndawata said Tanzania is targeting to become a semi industrialized and middle income economy by 2025 and has been growing sustainably at between 6 and 7.1 percent for the past five years.

"Investors who are coming to Tanzania

through the TIC are entitled to several incentives that include zero import duty on capital goods with a minimum capital of US\$500,000 for foreign investors," Ndawata told the Chinese business tycoons and state officials from the Asian nation's third largest province in terms of gross domestic product which last year grossed over US\$1.17 trillion.

He said as of June this year, China was among the top investors in the country with a portfolio of over US\$5.96 billion in 745 projects creating over 87,000 jobs.

Earlier, briefing the delegation which visited Export Processing Zone Authority (EPZA)'s Benjamin William Mkapa Industrial Park in Dar es Salaam, EPZA Director General, Joseph Simbakalia said the country strongly needs more Chinese investments.

"Shandong is a leading province in China for production and processing of goods for the export market, so you have an interest to invest in Tanzania," Simbakalia told the delegation while stressing that all opportunities available at EPZA are available to the Shandong investors.

Lyu Wei, Deputy Director General of the Department of Commerce in Shandong Province and the head of delegation said the Chinese delegation is willing to invest in the country and that's the reason behind their decision to come and learn about available opportunities.

"Shandong is a third rich province in China with a population of 100 million and a GDP contribution of US\$1.16 trillion as the end of 2018," Wei said while pointing out that strong bilateral ties existing between Beijing and Dar es Salaam have encouraged them to choose Tanzania as a better investment destination.

High beer sales double EABL bosses' bonuses

NAIROBI

RISING beer sales and profit have delivered triple-digit growth in the bonuses of East African Breweries Limited (EABL) top executives.

This saw the brewer's managing director's annual pay grow by more than a fifth to cross the Sh100 million mark in the year to June. Bonuses paid to CEO Andrew Cowan, Jane Karuku (managing director of Kenya Breweries Limited) and Gyorgy Geiszl (the finance director) recorded triple-digit growth on the back of a 59 percent growth in profits to Sh11.5 billion, the EABL annual

report shows.

This lifted Mr Cowan's pay to Sh115.7 million or Sh9.6 million per month in the period to June, reflecting a 21.7 percent increase. The strong profit performance was attributed to the 11 percent growth in volumes and a 12 percent surge in sales to Sh82.53 billion, marking the first time the brewer had grown profits since 2016.

Mr Cowan earned a salary of Sh35.8 million in that period, representing an increase of 2.43 percent from a year earlier with his bonus having grown 145.3 percent to Sh24.5 million. In the period to June, Mr Cowan also took

home Sh55.3 million in perks, up 10.55 percent from Sh50 million a year earlier while Ms Karuku saw her pay grow 19.58 percent to Sh46.4 million or Sh3.8 million monthly compared to the previous year.

Reward scheme

Her compensation increased largely on account of a 110.6 percent jump in bonus to Sh10.6 million from Sh5 million a year earlier. Mr Geiszl's pay rose 22.11 percent to Sh68 million in the period from Sh55.7 million a year earlier on back of the reward scheme.

The brewer linked its remuneration policy to the performance of the company and individual employee contribution. "Bonus pay is discretionary and is paid out in line with the company's bonus scheme, which seeks to reward an em-



EABL's CEO Andrew Cowan.

ployee's contribution as part of a 'winning team'," said the company.

EABL's performance was underpinned by the recovery in the consumption of both beer and spirits across the region. Accord-

ing to the firm's audited financial statements, all regional markets registered increased sales, pushing up the firm's total revenues by 12 percent to Sh82.54 billion from Sh73.45 billion.

Double digit growth

Revenues in Uganda and Tanzania grew by eight percent and 20 percent respectively while Kenya went up 13 percent. Ugandan and Tanzanian subsidiaries contributed 15 percent and 12 percent respectively to EABL's profits with Kenya accounting for 73 percent of the earnings. In Kenya, EABL sells the low-end lager Senator Keg brand and spirits and these attracted double-digit growth.

EABL is counting on frothing demand for the low-priced Senator Keg beer and also scotch whisky to counter the impact of tax increases. Sales of Senator Keg, a low-priced lager made from locally-grown sorghum, rose by close to a third in the last financial year, which will help to offset the impact of higher taxes from September. Mr Cowan said growing demand for scotch whisky brands like Johnny Walker and Singleton could also counter the potential headwinds that taxes pose to the business.



NMB Bank Plc's acting Managing Director, Filbert Mponzi (R) in a tete-a-tete with Mara Regional Commissioner, Adam Malima (L) and Kagera RC, Brigadier General Marco Gaguti during a Uganda and Tanzania Business Forum held in Dar es Salaam last week. Photo: courtesy of NMB.

South Africans get the bug: Cape Town chef serves only dishes based on insects

CAPE TOWN

SOUTH African chef Mario Barnard said he was "grossed out" and did not entirely enjoy eating grilled scorpions and crunchy insects mixed with garlic and spices on a trip to Thailand four years ago.

But the experience inspired Barnard to start experimenting with insect-based meals and in July he opened a pop-up restaurant in Cape Town's trendy Woodstock suburb that only serves bug meals. "Insect Experience" is the first restaurant in South Africa to serve insect-only meals, Barnard said, though they have proven increasingly popular in various countries around the world.

Barnard has teamed up with local start-up Gourmet Grubb, who turn black soldier fly larvae into protein powder and milk, which can be used to make insect-based ice cream. "A couple of months ago I met Jean and Leah (of Gourmet Grubb) and they've got the same problem as me, where we don't like the insect as it is in its whole form, so we decided to do it in a powder form and make gourmet dishes," Barnard told Reuters at the pop-up restaurant.

Adventurous customers can try small bowls of insects, including mealworms, as well as larger dried mopane worms, which are already considered a delicacy in some African countries. "People are looking

for new things to do and it's been going well," Barnard said, adding that his pop-up restaurant would remain open until November - well beyond the original closure date - after launching in July.

Diners at "Insect Experience" can also tuck into mopane polenta fries with tomato chilli chutney or black soldier fly butterflied ravioli with roasted chilli garlic sauce, both reasonably priced at R50 (\$3.28) a meal.

The ravioli is made from a mix of around 50 percent insect powder and flour, said Barnard, as he waited for a new batch of termites and crickets to arrive. "It's good for the environment and it's the food of the future," he said, adding they looked to ex-

pand their range into bug beer, biscuits and even dog food.

The United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation has said insects emit fewer greenhouse gases and less ammonia than cattle or pigs, require much less land and water, and that there are more than 1 900 edible insect species. Scientists have touted insect-based food as a sustainable and cheap food that is high in protein, fibre and minerals.

"I've never eaten insects before. It didn't taste like insect," said one satisfied customer at Insect Experience, Angelo Caralse. "It tasted like croquettes, it tasted like potatoes and chickpea with a slightly nutty, spicy flavour. I enjoyed it."

Airtel and Lands ministry partner in an effort to enable clients to pay land bills through handsets

By Smart Money Reporter

EFFECTIVE yesterday Airtel Money subscribers can pay their land bills using their mobile phone wallets following a deal reached by Airtel Tanzania Limited and Ministry of Lands, Housing and Settlement Development.

Minister of Lands, William Lukuvi said in Dar es Salaam this week that the agreement is a very convenient way of making land bills payment which will help customers save time as payment can be done any time anywhere.

"We understand that Airtel adopted GePG payment system way back, partnering with Ministry of Land today will simplify our bills collection which in turn will increase government tax collection exercise," Lukuvi said. The Government's Electronic Payment Gateway (GePG) allows people to pay taxes, bills and other payments to the state through digital means.

He pointed out that the move is also aimed at further promoting and deepening financial inclusion among the Tanzanians by easing payment processes where customers had to travel to the Ministry or find nearest bank to pay their land bills.

"I call upon all Airtel customers who own land to collect their bills either electronically or physically from the

Ministry of Lands and pay using Airtel Money," the Minister added while noting that the government's innovative efforts in introducing GePG has eased the process of acquiring bills and making payments by the public.

"This model of paying government bills has resulted in many benefits such as proper record keeping, timely reporting, reduced leakages, time saving and fraud prevention as well as increasing revenues," he underlined.

The latest statistics from Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority, the local market has more than 260 million mobile money subscriptions with total mobile money transactions valued at more than 8trn/-.

Speaking at the same occasion, Airtel Tanzania Corporate Communications and Regulatory Affairs Director, Beatrice Singano said the mobile phone service company supports state plans to increase financial inclusion in Tanzania.

"We understand the importance of tax payment and revenue collection to the government as it is the only way to achieve strategic project development. We will continue partnering with our government agencies and institutions to facilitate ease in paying government taxes, fees and charges," Singano noted.

She called on Tanzanians to continue using all Airtel Digital services as they are convenient and user friendly with reliable security. "It is important to understand that Tanzanians own Airtel by 49 percent through the government. Using Airtel services means you are using your own firm's products and services," Singano added.

Airtel Money is currently connected to over 1,000 billers including utility service providers and is also integrated with over 40 financial institutions which allow customers to withdraw, make payment and savings. The company has rolled out close to 1,000 Airtel Money Branches across the country.



Beatrice Singano (R), Airtel Tanzania's Corporate Communications and Regulatory Affairs Director, briefs Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, minister William Lukuvi during the launch of Airtel Money land bills payment through mobile wallets in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo courtesy of Airtel Tanzania.

Around \$11tn investment needed in oil and gas to meet current demand

ABU DHABI

ABOUT \$11 trillion (Dh40tn) of investment in oil and gas is needed to keep up with current demand, with the UAE on track to reach 4 million barrels per day production capacity by 2020, according to the group chief executive of Abu Dhabi National Oil Company.

"Over three times the amount of energy currently consumed by all of Europe will be added to global energy demand in the next two decades," said Dr Sultan Al Jaber. "We are on track to achieving our production capacity goals of 4 million barrels of oil per day by 2020 and 5 million by 2030. In parallel, by tapping into gas caps, undeveloped reservoirs and unconventional resources, we are unlocking vast reserves of natural gas," he added.

He was speaking at the opening of the triennial World Energy Congress in Abu Dhabi. The UAE produces 4.2 per cent of global oil production, according to the BP Statistical Review of World Energy, much of it from fields owned and operated by Adnoc. The UAE, which is compliant with a global pact to restrict production to balance the oil markets, produced 3 million bpd in July, according to secondary sources cited by Opec.

Dr Sultan said plans were un-



Abu Dhabi National Oil Company's group CEO, Dr Sultan Al Jaber.

derway to expand Adnoc's carbon capture utilisation and storage programme, launched in 2018, by six-fold over the next decade. "We produce among the least carbon-intensive barrels in the world. We lead the industry with the lowest methane intensity, and we are in-

vesting in technology that captures significant amounts of carbon dioxide from industrial sources," he said.

The state oil company had earlier outlined plans to increase utilisation of CO2 to reach 250 million standard cubic feet per day by

2027. Current supplies of the green house gas are collected from Emirate Steel and injected into the Rumaitha and Bab oilfields to boost oil recovery. Adnoc plans to increase the oil recovery rate to 70 per cent from its reservoirs, which is twice the global average.

S&P to SA: Beware of your words about Eskom debt backlog

JOHANNESBURG

TALKS around restructuring Eskom's bonds must be approached carefully to avoid spooking the market, according to S&P Global Ratings.

Public Enterprises Minister Pravin Gordhan said on Thursday the government will consult with the power utility's debt holders on any reorganisation and that there isn't any real concern about haircuts.

"Whether you are talking about a haircut or a re-profiling or a restructuring, one has to tread very carefully because it could possibly lead to what is seen as a distressed-debt exchange and be called a default," S&P's managing director and regional manager for Africa, Konrad Reuss, said on Friday. "That would be quite unsettling for the markets."

Eskom, which supplies about 95% of South Africa's power, has amassed R450 billion of debt and turned to the government for bailouts to remain solvent as it confronts massive cost overruns at two partially completed coal-fired plants. The government has proposed splitting the utility into generation, transmission and distribution units under a state holding company - an option rejected by labor unions that fear it will lead to privatisation and job losses.

"We understand various options are being discussed to deal with Eskom's financial distress," Reuss said while attending the World Economic Forum on Africa in Cape Town. "For us, at this point, it is wait-and-see and get more information."

'Need details'

S&P in March changed the outlook on its CCC+ ratings of Eskom to stable from negative after Finance Minister Tito Mboweni announced the allocation of R69 billion over three years to support the company. In July, Mboweni said the government will give Eskom an extra R59 billion over two years.

"Eskom has various kinds of debt - domestic, foreign, government-guaranteed and unguaranteed - which makes it highly complex," Reuss said. "The last thing you'd want to see is that unintentionally a default is being triggered. That's why we are all quite keen to get more details."

Eskom is regarded as the biggest risk to South Africa's economy and the utility's drag on growth and the nation's finances has stoked fears that the country could lose its last remaining investment-grade credit rating with Moody's Investors Service.

Fitch Ratings has said the extra support for Eskom will widen the budget deficit for this fiscal year to 6.3% of gross domestic product, compared with the 4.5% of GDP the government projected in February. S&P was the first major ratings company to downgrade South Africa's debt to junk status in 2017.

"The issues in the economy and from a ratings perspective are still the same: low growth and the fiscal trajectory in terms of deficit and debt ratios is still going in the wrong direction," Reuss said. "Whatever the economic plan is, there is urgency. We need to see implementation of measures that bring back growth and a fiscal turnaround." The National Treasury released an economic policy paper last week that proposed Eskom could sell some coal-fired power plants as part of a raft of reforms to boost the economy.



SA Public Enterprises Minister Pravin Gordhan.

Carrefour pays off Sh1.5bn loan long before it matures

NAIROBI

CARREFOUR Kenya has repaid a Sh1.53 billion loan it obtained from Dubai-based parent firm Majid Al Futtaim before contractual maturity, an indicator of the growing fortunes and financial muscle of its local subsidiary.

In 2016, Majid Al Futtaim extended a Sh1.5 billion loan to its Kenyan subsidiary to fund its expansion, money that was to be repaid during a two year period starting 2018. Carrefour Kenya, however, has repaid all the dues, according to disclosures in Majid Al Futtaim's 2019 half year results.

"In 2016, term loan facilities of Sh1,530 million (Sh1.5 billion) and GEL10.9 million (Sh382 million) were obtained by the Group's subsidiaries in Kenya and Georgia respectively. These facilities were paid and settled by the Group during the period prior to their contractual maturities," the financial report released says.

Majid Al Futtaim, the exclusive holder of Carrefour's franchise in Kenya, earlier this year announced it had registered a 71 percent jump in local sales from Sh8.11 billion in 2017 to hit Sh14 billion in 2018 in an indication that its footprint expansion is paying off.

Carrefour's growth in Kenya comes amid its expansion bid that has seen it open seven stores in Nairobi. The sales registered from Carrefour's puts it in the multi-billion-shilling range as the brand emerges as a top alternative for customers in the wake of Nakumatt's decline.

The retailer has been expanding its presence in Kenya by taking over spaces previously occupied by struggling supermarket chains including Nakumatt and Uchumi, as well as opening new spaces to cash in on underserved markets.

In the wake of its expansion bid, the firm has refurbished its stores at the Village Market, Junction Mall and Thika Road Mall (TRM), which has seen the three outlets previously operating as mini marts increase their products selection.

Existing branches are located at the Junction, Nyayo roundabout, The Hub in Karen, Village Market, Two Rivers Mall, Thika Road Mall (TRM) and at Sarit Centre in Westlands. The spirited entry into Kenya by multinational chain stores has stiffened competition, pitting new players against the local family-owned retailers.

Third oil and gas conference to focus on local content and industrialisation

IN this interview with **ABDULSAMAD ABDULRAHIM** who is Chairman of Association of Tanzania Oil & Gas Service Providers and Director of Ocean Business Partners Tanzania, Smart Money reporter asks what will the 3rd Oil & Gas Conference scheduled to be held in Dar es Salaam next month, focus on, excerpts:

Since you introduced having the oil and gas congress summit, what progress has been made in terms of investments?

The congress offers a fitting international forum to showcase Tanzania's opportunities for investment in the oil and gas sector. Additionally, the congress is normally focused on the creation of partnerships between local and international companies by gathering together all the major government and industry stakeholders. In terms of how much investment has been made, I am sure it is a lot but as organisers of the congress we may not have updated information which is readily available at Tanzania Investment Center.

Since organising the first congress in 2017, what other achievements have been made?

Since the first congress which was held in 2017 in Dar es Salaam, the event has immediately established itself as the premier meeting point of the industry in Tanzania and East Africa. This year we will be bringing more experts from around the world, within Tanzania and the region to have fruitful discussions and learn about the latest project updates.

Who are your major partners in organizing this summit?

Along with the Ministry of Energy, Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation, Petroleum Upstream Regulatory Authority and Energy, Water Utilities Regulatory Authority and National Economic Empowerment Council plus several other key industry stakeholders who have also announced their support and participation in the upcoming congress, it is organised by Ocean Business Partners in collaboration with the CWC Group. The CWC Group is a recognised global conference expert in the oil and gas, power and investment sectors, with particular expertise in emerging markets.

Tell us something about this year's congress, what will be the highlights?

The 3rd International Oil and Gas Congress will be held in Dar es Salaam between 2nd and 3rd October 2019 at Julius Nyerere International Conventional Centre. The congress offers a fitting international forum to showcase Tanzania's opportunities for investment in the oil and gas sector. Additionally, the congress will focus on the creation of partnerships



between local and international companies by gathering together all the major government and industry stakeholders.

Anything interesting for small and medium size local companies which don't have enough resources to invest in oil and gas sector?

The event will also be an exciting opportunity for local companies to meet and engage with potential partners for in-depth discussions about the development of the strategic oil and gas mega projects, borrow ideas for capacity building and knowledge transfer, the opportunities for Tanzanian companies and workforce in the oil and gas value chain, and many other areas.

What about regulatory bodies and government ministries and agencies?

During the congress, the government will outline the vision for Tanzania's industrialisation powered by oil and gas, and highlight the investment opportunities that the latest project developments will bring to the country. The country will also push for government and industry collaboration to move projects forward as it keenly looks into how to ensure project efficiencies and competitiveness; and downstream projects and infrastructure development in Tanzania.

Will there be discussion on local content and how far are we progressing as a nation?

Major discussions will touch on local content as the theme states, 'Promoting local content,

partnership creation and capacity building,' which will provide latest updates in Tanzania's projects, identifying the opportunities available in the oil & gas projects value chain, implementing best practices in the sector, partnership creation, capacity building and environment protection.

Will there be any mention of industrialization which a government priority?

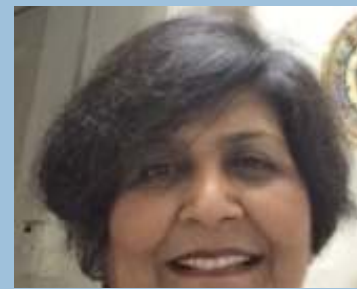
Considering the potential for Tanzania to be East Africa's major exporter of natural gas, the country intends to use the resource to drive industrialization and economic development in the region. Tanzania is exploring possible partnerships to develop its oil and gas sector ahead of the congress which will also explore various strategic projects that will provide a number of opportunities in the oil and gas value chain and associated sectors, as well as the latest developments of its gas projects.

Anything new that will be introduced this year during the congress?

Yes we are coming up with the first Tanzania Oil & Gas Congress Industry Awards which will be in three major categories: International Company of the Year Award; Tanzanian Company of the Year Award; and Local Content Champion of the Year Award. In order to take part in the competition, stakeholders should visit our website <https://www.cwctog.com/awards/> for details.

Is there a link between safety and wellness?

CORPORATE WELLNESS



By Bhakti Shah,

ORGANIZATIONS are increasingly recognizing the relationship between safe workers and healthy workers. Even with strict safety policies and procedures, workplace accidents and illnesses still happen.

Workplace wellbeing programs that address lifestyle factors and health risks of workers lead to more engaged employees, reduced turnover, reduced claims and high productivity. Safety Programs: Every company with employees who work in jobs requiring physical labor and/or in potentially hazardous conditions has safety programmes to communicate, train and in some cases, reward employees for learning about and demonstrating safe behaviors, as well as for reducing lost-time accidents and other measurable results.

Safety programs are mandated by OSHA and are usually managed by safety and/or risk management professionals who are empowered to compel employees to comply or face consequences.

Generally, these programs are administered from a "top down" perspective driven by government and company mandates.

Wellness Programs: Many companies offer wellness programs to promote healthy behaviors, such as eating better, exercising, seeing medical professionals, and acting on advice to manage health risk factors and treat diseases.

While the government does not mandate these programs, these progressive companies recognize that employees who are healthy and feel well are more likely to be motivated and engaged on the job and take less time off as a result of sicknesses.

Wellness programs are usually managed by HR professionals, who encourage employees to participate. These programs are administered from a "bottom up" perspective, based on voluntary participation.

According to research, there are many overlaps between worker safety and wellbeing, especially for work that is strenuous and repetitive and for which being in good physical shape is essential.

For example, Obesity is one of the major contributors to back injuries because overweight people often have difficulty using good body mechanics when moving and lifting ob-

jects. There are also numerous links between workplace stress and work-related illness because stress contributes to high blood pressure, which can result in poor decision making and increased errors.

Inadequate sleep and fatigue can directly reduce concentration and the ability to work safely, even for employees in non-physical jobs.

Because the two fields approach their objectives with different assumptions, priorities and methods, coordination is not common. In most companies, safety and wellness are two silos that are largely disconnected - HR watches over wellness efforts and safety watches over safety behaviors. The links between the two are significant, but ignored by most companies.

Here are the steps needed to create an integrated wellness and safety system that can fit your organization and be most effective:

1) Assessment: Assess your current programs to determine where they are working and where not, in accordance with industry standards and best practices.

2) Program design: Use the data along with senior leadership and employee participant surveys to determine program improvements and way to integrate them. The resulting strategic plan will be roadmap to best streamline, execute and manage.

3) Software platform is extremely important to manage, administer, communicate and track the program.

4) Training of employees at all levels about how to be personally involved and to train and encourage others.

5) Communications with interactive tools help keep the program top of mind and continuously engage participants.

6) Recognize active participation and results achievement. This cultural dynamic will encourage intrinsic motivation leading to ongoing behavior change.

7) Analyze: Measure all aspects of the program on an ongoing basis to notice levels of engagement.

Reply back to bhakti@impactafya.com. comor call +255 754 694 643 with your feedback. We welcome your suggestions for corporate wellness tips you'd like to see covered in our future columns.

Bhakti Shah, MPH is the Founder and Managing Director of Impactafya Ltd, collaborating with Workplace Options and Mayo Clinic, USA to provide Corporate Wellness and EAP Solutions in East Africa. Bhakti is also the Advisor for the Africa Business Portal and the Past President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Tanzania.

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VIEW FROM THE TOP

Generation start-up: Kiliim reviving Egypt's traditional weaving through the web

CAIRO

KILIM, the Egyptian traditional art of hand-weaving, takes a craftsman in the Nile Delta village of Fowwa about one week and a kilo of sheep's wool to complete an artwork before it finds its way into the hands of customers from the US to Switzerland with the click of a button.

This intersection of heritage and technology is where Cairo-based e-commerce startup Kiliim sits. Co-founders Ibrahim Shams and Noha El Taher, the husband-and-wife team behind the venture, help preserve the intricate and ancient dying art of Kilim in the age of automation. "The social aspect of our business is to try and save this craft from dying, empower craftsmen to resume practise and to ensure its sustainability," Mr Shams told The National in a phone interview.

Kiliim joins a growing number of start-ups in Egypt, the Middle East's fastest growing economy, as the country recognises the role of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in contributing to economic growth and reducing unemployment. Egypt is approaching the end of a

three-year International Monetary Fund programme designed to help economic recovery after years of political and financial turmoil. Part of the reforms tied to the \$12 billion (Dh44bn) loan is to help stimulate the private sector, particularly facilitating access to financing for SMEs.

"Egypt needs at least 700,000 new jobs annually to absorb its young and growing population, and that can only come from the private sector," according to the IMF. The young duo behind Kiliim started their business after the birth of their daughter, Lina, when they were unable to find a handmade and authentic decorative item for her room that reflected their cultural heritage.

"We found a market gap for products that were local, with modern design, high-quality and available online," Mr Shams says. The couple decided to combine Ms El Taher's graphic design experience with Mr Shams' corporate background to start the business in July 2016. Their first port of call was Fowwa, a village in the northern governorate of Kafr Al Sheikh that is the centre for kilim weaving in Egypt and home to thousands of workshops.



An Egyptian weaving artisan at work.

With the advent of mass-produced, cheaper machine-made rugs and Chinese ornaments flooding the market, the industry began to decline from about 2000 craftsmen to 200 in the early aughts.

"There was a huge deterioration in the craft, the craftsmen were leaving it and there were pleas to the government to save it before it dies out," says Mr Shams. The former Henkel executive

took a train to Fowwa and started speaking to craftsmen to understand the situation on the ground before eventually finding a group of artisans that were optimistic about restoring the craft and in the hopes of reversing their fortunes.

Kiliim, which started out with one workshop with four people, now commissions three workshops with 16 craftsmen and hopes to add a fourth

workshop to reach 21 artisans by year-end to cater to demand. Demand has surged over the last three years, with the startup selling 3,500 pieces to about 2,000 customers in 33 countries, as sales grow 50 per cent year-on-year, according to Mr Shams.

The richly-coloured wool pieces range from \$60 for bathmats, \$130 for small runners and \$1400 for rugs; prices vary depending on the size. While the debut collection was inspired by traditional motifs of oriental and geometric design, others have botanical themes with cypress trees and floral elements, varied textures that depart from the traditional flat-weave, and an Egyptian cotton collection.

Ms El Taher plays around with the design and colour palette to introduce contemporary patterns, depending on seasonal trends, though each piece retains its traditional technique. Apart from the domestic market, the US is Kiliim's biggest market while it also exports to retailers in Germany, France, the UAE, Canada and Switzerland. Apart from its website, Kiliim also sells its products on US online marketplace Etsy and US wholesale platform Faire.

The business started off with a 50,000 Egyptian pound capital investment by the co-founders and managed to break-even within six months of operations, generating enough profits to re-invest into growing the company, according to Mr Shams.

The founders were approached by local and foreign investors but they declined as they wanted to grow the business at their own pace after escaping the hectic corporate jobs. To access alternative funding sources, they applied for grants and entrepreneurship competitions. Winning first place at the MIT Arab Enterprise competition in 2017 has secured them a \$50,000 prize used to fund participation at international trade shows and future growth plans.

Kiliim plans to open its first retail store by 2020 in Cairo and expand into other home textiles from bedding to throws, says Mr Shams. Typical customers value the design and authenticity of hand-made crafts, a niche market ranging from newlyweds to people seeking to furnish their city or beach homes in the north

WORLD

UK's Johnson tells Irish leader Brexit deal can be reached

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson, facing staunch opposition at home, told Ireland's leader yesterday that a new Brexit deal can be reached so Britain leaves the European Union by the Oct 31 deadline.

Speaking alongside Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar in Dublin, Johnson said a deal on the Irish border question can be secured in time to enable a smooth British departure from the EU by the scheduled Brexit date.

He said a no-deal departure from the European Union would represent a "failure of statecraft" and that all sides would bear a responsibility for that.

Johnson has said he will take Britain out of the EU on Oct 31 even without a deal, but Parliament has passed a bill that would force him to seek a delay from the EU if no deal has been agreed.

The embattled prime minister did not explain how the longstanding stale-

mate can be broken in a way that satisfies the other 27 EU leaders and would win backing in Britain's Parliament, where his party no longer has a working majority.

Johnson has been criticized in Britain for not producing new plans to break the Brexit impasse, and Varadkar also said that Britain has not produced any realistic alternatives to the controversial "backstop" agreement reached by Johnson's predecessor, Theresa May.

Opposition to the backstop was a key reason why Britain's Parliament rejected May's Brexit deal with the EU on three occasions earlier this year.

The backstop, which has emerged as the main stumbling block to an agreement, is intended to make sure that no hard border is put up between EU member Ireland and Northern Ireland, which is part of the United Kingdom.

Varadkar said a no-deal departure would cause severe economic problems for Ireland now that border



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson, left, meets with Ireland's Prime Minister Leo Varadkar at Government Buildings in Dublin, yesterday. (AP)

checks have been eliminated for an extended period of time.

Varadkar also said on Monday that the removal of the border backstop without any proper replacement would mean a no-deal Brexit for the United Kingdom.

"In the absence of agreed alternative arrangements, no backstop is no deal for us," Varadkar said ahead of talks with his British counterpart, Boris Johnson.

"All it does is kick the can down the road for another 14 months; another 14 months of uncertainty for business, another 14 months of uncertainty for people north and south of the border. So that's not an option that we find attractive at all."

Varadkar said he would not replace a legal guarantee for the Irish backstop, an insurance agreement to prevent the return of border controls between Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic, without any specific alternative.

The Irish leader says more negotiations are needed and that the Good Friday peace agree-

ment, which states that no hard border is re-imposed on the island of Ireland, must be respected.

He said the EU does not want another extension of the Oct 31 deadline but is willing to consider one if it is requested.

The Dublin meeting marks the first time the two leaders have met since Johnson took power in July.

Varadkar has said he does not expect an immediate breakthrough in the border impasse.

Johnson's political position in Britain has been greatly weakened over the past week, with the loss of his Conservative Party's working majority in Parliament and the departure of some key party figures who sided with the opposition in key votes.

He plans to press a rebellious Parliament later Monday to back his plan for an early election, with the hope of winning a majority that would back his Brexit strategy, but opposition parties have said they will vote the measure down.

Agencies

British Airways cancels 1,700 flights as pilots strike

LONDON

BRITISH Airways (BA) pilots began a two-day strike yesterday, grounding nearly all of its flights and disrupting thousands of passengers in a dispute over pay.

The airline, part of the International Airlines Group (IAG), canceled 1,700 flights to and from London's Heathrow and Gatwick airports yesterday and today ahead of action by British Airline Pilots Association (BALPA) members in BA's first ever pilot strike.

"I am really sorry that the cynical actions of the pilots' union have put us in his position," BA Chief Executive Alex Cruz told BBC television.

"It is by all accounts an own goal; it's going to punish customers, it's going to punish our brand, it's going

to punish the rest of the colleagues." IAG shares were down more than 2% in early trading.

BA has offered its pilots an 11.5% pay rise over three years, which it said would take the pay of its highest earning captains from 167,000 pounds (\$205,000), plus 16,000 pounds in allowances, to just over 200,000 pounds.

Its pilots on average earn around 90,000 pounds a year.

BALPA wants the pay deal to include profit sharing.

"British Airways is going through some good times, we want to share in those profits just as we shared the pain in the bad times," BALPA General Secretary Brian Strutton told BBC television.

He had said pilots were willing to compromise, but BA was not pre-



pared to "budge".

The airline dismissed a new offer by BALPA last week as an "eleventh hour inflated proposal" that was not made in good faith. BALPA had said it would have called off the strikes this week if BA had engaged with the offer.

BA's Cruz said 11.5% was "way

above" inflation and the offer already recognized that BA was making money. UK inflation stood at 2.1% in July.

Cruz said the airline was prepared to negotiate.

"The commitment of everyone at British Airways is to get over this particular dispute as quickly as possible and we urge the union to sit down with us as quickly as we can so we can reach an agreement," he told BBC radio.

He said it was a BA dispute and it would be resolved by the carrier rather than IAG.

The airline said it had no detail from BALPA on which pilots would strike, and had no way of predicting how many would come to work or which aircraft they are qualified to fly, so had no option but to cancel

nearly 100% of its flights.

Following strikes yesterday and today, another day of industrial action is scheduled for Sept. 27.

BA has been criticized over its communications with passengers ahead of the strike, which has caused thousands of people to change their travel plans.

The UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) is investigating the airline after it enraged some travelers by wrongly telling them their flights had been canceled.

The regulator also reminded the airline to tell customers their rights. During the strikes, BA must offer passengers reimbursement for canceled flights, alternate travel arrangements under comparable conditions or a new flight at a later date.

Agencies

Sudan's Cabinet sworn in, 1st since al-Bashir's ouster

CAIRO

SUDAN has sworn in its first Cabinet since the military ousted autocratic President Omar al-Bashir in April following mass pro-democracy protests.

The new members include Sudan's first woman foreign minister, Asmaa Abdalla, and a former World Bank economist as finance minister.

The Cabinet is part of a power-sharing agreement between the military and pro-democracy demonstrators. The agreement was signed following pressure from the United States and its Arab allies, amid growing concerns the political crisis could ignite a civil war.

The new prime minister, Abdallah Hamdok, is still negotiating with the pro-democracy movement over the

last two Cabinet posts.

The swearing-in took place on Sunday before to country's top judge, as well as Hamdok and Gen Abdel-Fattah Burhan, the head of the sovereign council.

Sudan on Sunday swore in its first Cabinet since the military ousted autocratic President Omar al-Bashir in April following mass pro-democracy protests.

The new members include Sudan's first woman foreign minister, Asmaa Abdalla, along with three other women, in an apparent acknowledgement of Sudanese women's participation in the uprising.

The Cabinet is part of a power-sharing agreement between the military and pro-democracy demonstrators, which also includes a joint military-



Asmaa Abdalla

civilian sovereign council and a legislative body that is supposed to be formed within three months. The three bodies are to govern Sudan for little more than three years until elections can be held.

The agreement capped months of negotiations that were accompanied by a deadly crackdown by security forces.

Eighteen Cabinet ministers were sworn in before the country's top judge, Babaker Abbas, as well as Prime Minister Abdallah Hamdok and Gen Abdel-Fattah Burhan, the head of the sovereign council. Hamdok is still negotiating with the pro-democracy movement over the last two ministerial posts to complete his 20-member Cabinet. Burhan headed a joint ceremonial meeting of the Cabinet and the sovereign council.

The culture and information minister, Faisal Saleh, said at a televised news conference af-

ter the meeting that both bodies "share responsibility for achieving the targets ... and the whole world is watching" their performance.

Finance Minister Ibrahim El-badawi, who is a former World Bank economist, said the governing bodies would carry out "urgent measures" in the first 200 days to "restructure the budget, control prices and tackle youth unemployment."

The transitional administration faces towering challenges, including the dire economic conditions behind the start the protests late last year that eventually led the military to remove al-Bashir.

Agencies

Italy Premier Conte pitches for support in key Parliament votes

ROME

ITALIAN Premier Giuseppe Conte is pitching for support in Parliament for his new left-leaning coalition ahead of crucial confidence votes.

The lower Chamber of Deputies, where the government has a comfortable majority, was expected to vote yesterday evening. Conte's fortunes are dicier in the Senate, where a coalition of the populist 5-Star Movement and center-left Democrats holds a much-slimmer margin in today's vote.

In a speech to parliament before the vote, Conte called for less conflictual relations with the European Union, reiterated that he would work with Brussels to reform the bloc's budget rules and its immigration laws.

The 5-Star and Democrats agreed to join forces after the far-right League walked out of the previous coalition. Their previous coalition was marked by constant bickering.

"We cannot in the coming months waste our time with disputes and clashes," Conte told the lower house. "We must be sober in our words and active in our deeds."

Conte, a law professor with no political affiliation, added: "The language of this government will be mild-mannered because we understand that our actions will not be judged by the arrogance of our words."

Agencies



Chinese antimalarial drug saving lives in Uganda

KAMPALA

AGNES Akissa and her 11-year-old son have suffered several bouts of malaria, greatly impacting on her household income as the female anopheles' bites made her lose working hours.

Malaria is an endemic disease in Uganda, killing mostly pregnant mothers and children below the age of five.

Those who are sick of the disease lose several working hours and also have to spend their meagre income to treat the disease.

The Ministry of Health announced earlier that the country was facing an unprecedented increase of malaria cases over the last three months. The malaria cases between June and August increased to 1.4 million from 1 million.

People like Akissa are using a Chinese-made drug, Duo-Cotecxin, for the treatment of the deadly malaria. The artemisinin-based combination therapy is manufactured by China-based KPC Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

"After taking it, I started feeling better unlike other previous medicines I have been taking," Akissa told Xinhua, noting that she also treated her school-going child with Duo-Cotecxin after he tested positive for malaria.

Feng Shichao, a Chinese construction worker, told Xinhua that he first got a malaria attack while in Juba, the capital of South Sudan. "I had a fever and my temperature was 39.6 degrees Celsius, and I suffered pain in all my joints and a splitting headache. At that time, I was very nervous and worried, scared of dying from cerebral malaria," Feng said.

When Feng sought treatment from China Aid Hospital in South Sudan, the doctor prescribed Duo-Cotecxin.

"There are several malaria drugs on the market but the advantage of Duo-Cotecxin is that you swallow tablets once a day for three days unlike other treatments where you swallow twice a day for three days," said Laban Kittata, a pharmacist at Royal Pharm 2011 Ltd in the capital Kampala.

Kittata argued that the lesser the number of times one swallows the tablets the more chances of adhering to the treatment.

He said although the price of Duo-Cotecxin is slightly higher on the market compared to other malaria medicines, the drug works and patients find it easy to adhere to the treatment.

Hu Junjie, the general manager KPC Cotec Medical Company, a subsidiary of KPC Pharmaceuticals, Inc. told Xinhua that apart from manufacturing the drug to help fight the disease, the company will open a modern hospital facility in the country to provide health care to women and children.

Hu said this is geared towards fighting communicable diseases that are said to be on the increase in the country. China has over the years donated medical equipment and an assortment of medicines including antimalarial to Uganda to improve local health care service.

According to the Chinese embassy, China has been donating medical supplies to Uganda worth more than 8 million U.S. dollars over the past 36 years. "Public health cooperation is an important component of the friendly China-Uganda and China-Africa relations.

We have provided necessary assistance to Uganda to the best of our capability, helping to improve the health care service," said Chen Huixin, counselor of the Chinese Embassy in Uganda.

Xinhua

China, Arab States to see new opportunities for cooperation

THE fourth China-Arab States Expo was held in Yinchuan, capital city of northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region on Sept. 5.

Cao Jianming, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China, attended the opening ceremony, read a congratulatory letter from Chinese President Xi Jinping and delivered a keynote speech.

Aiming to enhance friendship, deepen cooperation and pursue common development, the expo attracted over 12,600 participants from 2,900 regional organizations, commerce chambers, associations and enterprises in 89 countries, outnumbering those of the three previous sessions of the event.

Guests from both home and abroad gathered at the Ningxia International Hall at the foot of Helan Mountain and by the Yellow River, to renew friendship and seek business opportunities.

Under the theme of "New opportunity, new future", the event features trade fairs, forums and exhibitions on trade and investment, Internet plus, cross-border e-commerce, infrastructure, agriculture, etc., to promote mutually beneficial cooperation between China and Arab states.

"I particularly investigated a livestock farm in Ningxia during my visit to China this time, as agriculture is an important industry in Mauritania and I hope to learn from China's experiences," said Boydiel Houmeid,

Vice-President of the National Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

He told People's Daily that the China-Arab States Expo provides an important platform for each party to strengthen mutual understanding and deepen cooperation, saying he hopes to gain practical results from the event.

The Republic of Niger takes great delight in participating in the expo, said Iro Sani, First Vice-President of the National Assembly of the country.

The China-Arab States Expo demonstrates the close relationship between China and the Arab countries as well as the fruitful results they have achieved, and such relationship

not only exists at the governmental level, but also among the peoples of developing countries and China, he noted.

New opportunities lead to bright future. The four-day event, further carrying out the spirits of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, will host a series of activities including an opening ceremony, China-Arab States Business Summit, China-Arab States Technology Transfer & Innovation Cooperation Conference, Online Silk Road Conference and Serial Activities of Theme Province (Jiangsu).

These activities will establish a high-level platform for international politicians, business leaders and scholars to communicate, discuss

cooperation opportunities, and work together for common development.

"Ningxia will make good use of the important platform of the China-Arab States Expo to promote high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), take opportunities and release potential, and further open air, land and internet passages to Arab states," said Shi Taifeng, secretary of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

Shi noted that the region will further improve the capacity cooperation and technology exchange mechanisms between China and Arab countries, and expand their cooperation in trade, technology, energy,

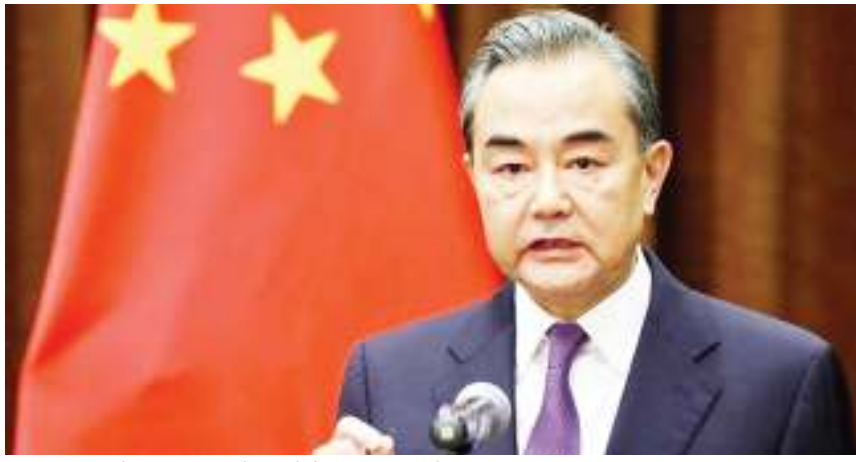
agriculture and tourism.

The ancient Silk Road is a witness to the long history of the friendship between China and Arab states, as well as the collision and fusion of the two civilizations.

So far, China has signed cooperative documents under the BRI framework with 18 Arab countries, and both sides have achieved fruitful results in infrastructure, energy, trade parks, high tech and finance cooperation.

It's been almost ten years since the first China-Arab States Expo. The fourth session of the event today demonstrates a larger pattern and wider platform that are joined by more parties at a deeper level.

People's Daily



State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi

Foreign ministry calls on US to negotiate peace with Taliban

CHINA, Afghanistan and Pakistan called for the orderly and responsible withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan to secure the stable transition of the situation there as the foreign ministers from the three countries met in Islamabad on Saturday.

For some time, significant progress has been made in negotiations between the United States and the Taliban, with principled consensus reached on signing a peace deal, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said at a joint news conference after the trilateral foreign ministers' dialogue.

The three countries called on the United States and the Taliban to continue the negotiations and implement an agreement, Wang said, according to the Foreign Ministry's website.

When asked about China's view on the Afghan situation, Wang said the future political arrangement of Afghanistan should have broad representation and inclusiveness to equally involve all factions and ethnic groups in political life.

It should firmly stick to fighting against terrorism and maintain a peace-and friendship-based foreign policy, he said.

Wang said that China, as a friendly neighbor and sincere friend of Afghanistan, will firmly stand with the Afghan people to contribute to the reconciliation and restoration process in Afghanistan.

He said the foreign ministers have agreed that the trilateral cooperation of China, Afghanistan and Pakistan has

made positive achievements in facilitating domestic Afghan political reconciliation, enhancing regional connectivity and improving regional common development.

China, Afghanistan and Pakistan have agreed that their cooperation should be pushed forward under the Belt and Road Initiative, and they are willing to enhance connectivity, implement projects in the socio-economic sector and strengthen people-to-people exchanges, Wang said.

It has been agreed that the fourth China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Dialogue will be held in China next year. The mechanism was established in 2017 as a platform to promote trilateral talks and cooperation.

This year's meeting came amid rising trends of unilateralism and protectionism in the world that threaten the interests of developing countries.

"The dialogue is one of the efforts made by China to help ease tensions and avoid intensified conflicts in South Asia," said Li Haidong, a professor of US studies at China Foreign Affairs University.

The situation in South Asia is currently undergoing profound and complicated changes, and Afghanistan is faced with both opportunities and challenges in realizing peace and reconciliation, Li said.

"China is making use of all existing mechanisms with countries in this region to promote mutual understanding and ease tensions there as a responsible country," he said. **Xinhua**



The opening ceremony of the Fourth China-Arab States Expo

Fourth China-Arab States Expo Kicks off in Yinchuan, China

NINGXIA,

THE opening ceremony of the Fourth China-Arab States Expo kicked off in Yinchuan, the capital city of northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region on Sept. 5, 2019.

Under the theme of "New opportunity, new future," the expo will focus on infrastructure, Internet-plus Healthcare, high technology, modern agriculture, logistics, tourism, digital economy and industrial cooperation via trade fairs and forums.

According to official data, this year's event welcomes over 12,600 guests from 89 countries and over 2,900 regional organizations, chambers of commerce, associations and enterprises.

Co-hosted by the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China, China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) and the People's Government of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, the expo will last from Sept. 5-8.

People's Daily

Promotion meeting of Overseas Economic Cooperation Zones brings investment opportunities for Belt and Road countries

"CHINA-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is one corridor with many doors," said Fareena Mazhar, Executive Director of the General of Board of Investment of Pakistan at the promotion meeting of Overseas Economic Cooperation Zones held on Sept. 6 during the China-Arab States Expo.

As an important carrier of the Belt and Road international cooperation, overseas economic and trade cooperation zones play an increasingly important role in international economic and trade exchanges.

The building of economic corridors is an exemplary model to

follow when it comes to international economic cooperation, whether it takes place in Pakistan or Arab countries or even in the world.

"In 2018, China's FDI ranked second in the world and the stocking investment ranked third in the world," said Liu Minqiang, Vice Director of Department of Outward Investment and Economic Cooperation of Ministry of Commerce of China, affirming China's important role in contributing to the global growth.

"We will take openness, inclusiveness and mutually benefiting as our guiding principles. We will allow the economic structure,

natural endowment and cultural traditions of Belt and Road countries to connect with each other so that we could promote further connectivity while respecting the differences between different countries," added Liu, addressing China's willingness to cooperate with countries along the Belt and Road routes under the principle of mutual respects.

He also mentioned that it is pivotal to support market entities, build facilitation platform for cooperation and build demonstration industrial parks while following the philosophy of green development and sustainability.

As of the first half of 2019, Chinese enterprises have invested and constructed 113 cooperation zones in more than 40 countries, with a cumulative investment of 36.6 billion US dollars.

More than 4,000 enterprises have entered the cooperation zones and have paid 3 billion US dollar taxes and dues to the host country, creating 265,000 jobs in the region.

The success of China's economic cooperation with foreign countries was reaffirmed by Sun Yaoguo, the General Engineer of China Road and Bridge Corporation. "Our works have been recognized by the foreign govern-

ments," said Sun. "President Xi Jinping proposed that we need to promote the development of economic corridors and build economic and industrial parks. So, over the past years, the industrial parks have grown from zero to a big scale and have received tangible results."

"We have also facilitated industrialization process of the Belt and Road countries, it is an important carrier for the construction of the Belt and Road Initiative. The going out of Chinese companies are accelerating. One consensus is that overseas economic cooperation is an important platform for Chinese com-

panies going abroad," added Sun. Sun's words are echoed by Fareena Mazhar. During the meeting, she said that in the shape of CEPC, both governments have made joint efforts to focus on expanding economic dimensions of the relationships and bring it into industrial parks with excellent cooperation that two countries enjoy at economic and political levels.

"It is high time to go a step forward and do concrete and focused efforts on populating industrial zones either to invest in and build infrastructure or relocation of Chinese labor-intensive industry," said Fareena,

"The government of Pakistan is committed to providing business-friendly incentive packages aimed at up-scaling investment relations with China to grow the industries and employment."

She also highlighted the advantage of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, in terms of searching for future cooperation between Ningxia and Pakistan. "There are also plenty of sectors with absolute advantages in Ningxia that match those in Pakistan," said Fareena. "I hope more and more enterprises from Ningxia can get better understanding of Pakistan in market and enter into cooperation." **People's Daily**

At least 29 killed over two terrorist attacks in Burkina Faso

OUAGADOUGOU

AT least 29 civilians were killed over two terrorist attacks on Sunday in the northern region of Burkina Faso, according to a government release. A transport truck hit an explosive device claiming the lives of 15 civilians and injuring 6 others in the

Sanmatenga Province, central north region, the government said in a release that reached Xinhua on Monday.

On the other hand, 14 civilians were killed over an attack on a goods convoy on the Dablo-Kelbo road axis, northern region, it said.

Since 2015, Burkina Faso has been facing a series of terrorist attacks that

caused over 500 deaths and 280,000 displaced people.

On Sept. 5, six people were killed as gunmen ambushed armed forces patrol in northern Soum province.

Nearly a month earlier, on August 19, 24 armed forces were killed over an attack on army detachment in northern Burkina Faso. **Xinhua**

More Americans will die after Trump abruptly ends Afghan talks, Taliban say

KABUL/WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Donald Trump's decision to cancel Afghan peace talks will cost more American lives, the Taliban said on Sunday while the United States promised to keep up military pressure on the militants, in a stunning reversal of efforts to forge a deal ending nearly 20 years of war in Afghanistan.

The Islamist group issued a statement after Trump unexpectedly canceled secret talks planned for Sunday with the Taliban's major leaders at the presidential compound in Camp David, Maryland. He broke off the talks on Saturday after the Taliban claimed responsibility for an attack in Kabul last week that killed an American soldier and 11 others.

Zabihullah Mujahid, a Taliban spokesman, criticized Trump for calling off the dialogue and said U.S. forces have been pounding Afghanistan with attacks at the same time.

"This will lead to more losses to the U.S.," he said. "Its credibility will be affected, its anti-peace stance will be exposed to the world, losses to lives and assets will increase."

In Washington, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said that Afghan peace talks were on hold and Washington would not reduce U.S. military support for Afghan troops until it was convinced the Taliban could follow through on significant commitments.

The United States has recalled U.S. special envoy for Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad to chart the path forward, Pompeo said in appearances on Sunday TV news shows. Asked on "Fox News Sunday" whether Afghan talks were dead, Pompeo said, "For the time being they are."

Trump has long wanted to end U.S. involvement in Afghanistan - since his days as a candidate - and American diplomats have been talking with Taliban representatives for months about a plan to withdraw thousands of U.S. troops in exchange for security guarantees by the Taliban.

U.S. and Taliban negotiators struck a draft peace deal last week that could have led to a drawdown of troops from America's longest war. There are currently 14,000 U.S. forces as well as thousands of other NATO troops in the country, 18 years after its invasion by a U.S.-led coalition following the Sept. 11, 2001, al Qaeda attacks on the United States.

Fighting in Afghanistan has contin-



President Donald Trump

ued amid the talks and recent assaults by the Taliban cast doubts over the draft deal. As violence has escalated, Afghan leaders including President Ashraf Ghani have been increasingly critical of the deal and encouraged the Taliban to enter direct talks.

Asked whether the collapse of talks put a U.S. troop pullout on hold as well, Pompeo said the issue would be discussed. "The president hasn't yet made a decision on that," he said on ABC's "This Week."

CAMP DAVID SURPRISE

Trump decided to get personally involved to get the agreement to the finish line at Camp David after "real progress" had been made in talks, Pompeo said.

"President Trump ultimately made the decision," Pompeo told Fox. "He said, 'I want to talk to (President) Ashraf Ghani. I want to talk to these Taliban negotiators. I want to look them in the eye. I want to see if we can get to the final outcome we needed.'"

The U.S. president has touted his skills as a negotiator and personal rapport with world leaders including Kim Jong Un of North Korea, but such one-on-one diplomacy has not led to any breakthrough deals so far.

Trump was criticized, even by some fellow Republicans, for having offered to host on U.S. soil a militant group that has killed American troops and had sheltered al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

"Camp David is where America's

leaders met to plan our response after al Qaeda, supported by the Taliban, killed 3,000 Americans on 9/11," U.S. Representative Liz Cheney, a Republican whose father, Dick Cheney, was U.S. vice president at the time of the attacks, wrote on Twitter on Sunday. "No member of the Taliban should set foot there. Ever."

Americans will on Wednesday mark the 18th anniversary of the al Qaeda attacks in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania.

Taliban fighters, who now control more territory than at any time since 2001, launched assaults over the past week that included a suicide attack in Kabul on Thursday that killed U.S. Army Sergeant Elis Barreto Ortiz, 34, from Puerto Rico.

Earlier this month, senior security officials in Kabul said joint air raids by U.S. and Afghan forces against the Taliban have not subsided. Pompeo said more than 1,000 Taliban fighters have been killed in Afghanistan in the last 10 days. Nine former U.S. ambassadors warned on Tuesday that Afghanistan could collapse in a "total civil war" if Trump withdraws all U.S. forces before the Kabul government and the Taliban conclude a peace settlement.

Pompeo downplayed chances of a premature withdrawal.

"President Trump made clear we're not just going to withdraw because there's a timeline. We're only going to reduce our forces when certain conditions are met," he said on CNN's "State of the Union."

Agencies



Pope greets palm frond-waving crowds in Mauritius

PORT LOUIS, Mauritius

POPE FRANCIS was welcomed by palm frond-waving crowds in Mauritius yesterday as he drove past sugarcane fields on his way to the capital, where he said a Mass on a terraced mountainside overlooking the harbor.

Tens of thousands of people gathered to see the pontiff on his lightning visit at the end of a three-country tour of Africa. He was due to spend about eight hours on the Indian Ocean island. Mauritius is far richer than the first two countries on his tour - Mozambique and Madagascar - as the former British colony has benefited greatly from tourism and a financial services sector.

But it also has a youth unemployment problem and a sizable income gap between social classes, and the pope addressed both issues in the homily of his Mass.

"Despite the economic growth your country has known in recent decades, it is the young who are suffering the most," he said.

"They suffer from unemployment, which not only creates uncertainty about the future, but also prevents them from believing that they play a significant part in your shared history. Uncertainty about the future makes them feel that they are on the margins of society; it leaves them vulnerable and helpless before new forms of slavery," he said.

Roughly one in four young Mauritians are out of work, and the World Bank says household income inequality there has widened since the global economic downturn after 2008. Only recently has it begun to narrow slightly, according to local statistics.

Anti-poverty campaigners say Mauritius' tax treaties and financial services industry facilitates tax avoidance, draining desperately needed revenues from poor countries.

The main reason for Francis' trip was to pay tribute to Jacques-Désiré Laval, a 19th century French priest who helped former slaves. **Xinhua**

Putin walked his walk to swap detainees between Russia, Ukraine, says Kremlin

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has walked his part of the walk to have a swap of detainees between Russia and Ukraine, meeting them at the airport is not the leader's prerogative, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters yesterday, responding to a question why Putin did not arrive at the airport to personally welcome and greet the swap participants unlike Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky.



"Overall, this is not the Russian leader's prerogative. The head of the state walked his part of the walk to have the swap implemented. This is

the main thing and not whether he arrived at the airport," he said.

Peskov failed to comment on the question whether Russian citizenship would be issued for the Ukrainians swapped by Ukraine.

On September 7, Moscow and Kiev swapped prisoners on the '35 for 35' formula. Preparations for the prisoner swap intensified after Vladimir Zelensky had been elected Ukraine's president. Several weeks ago, the negotiations entered an active phase and legal procedures began for the

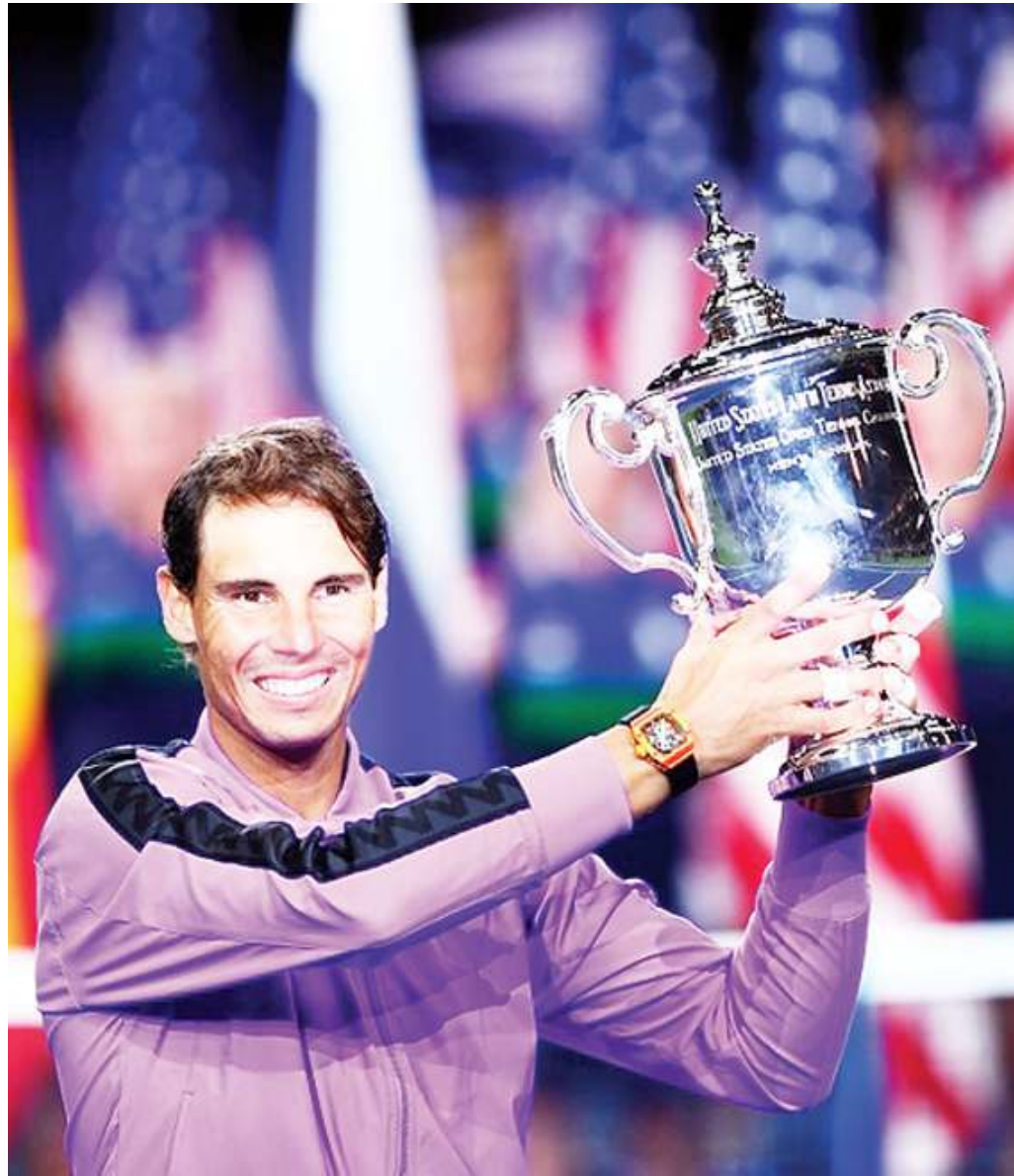
two countries' nationals who had been added to the list.

On September 5, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that the exchange would be massive and might be a step towards mending bilateral ties.

On September 7, Zelensky arrived at Kiev's Boryspil International Airport to greet the plane from Moscow with Ukrainian citizens onboard, who returned home as part of the swap. General Prosecutor of Ukraine Ruslan Ryaboshapka and relatives of the detainees also came to the airport.

The
Guardian

SPORT



Rafael Nadal of Spain celebrates with the championship trophy after beating Daniil Medvedev of Russia in the men's singles final on day fourteen of the 2019 U.S. Open tennis tournament at USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York, USA on Sunday. (Agencies)

Nadal motivated by love of game, not Grand Slam record

NEW YORK

RAFA Nadal moved within one Grand Slam title of tying Roger Federer's all-time mark of 20 on Sunday but even after adding a fourth U.S. Open to his collection the Spaniard said it was his love of the game, not records, that motivates him.

Nadal fended off a late comeback from Daniil Medvedev to win a five-set classic at Flushing Meadows, winning a 19th slam that also took him three clear of Novak Djokovic's 16 titles.

"I am playing tennis because I love to play tennis," Nadal told reporters.

"I can't just think about Grand Slams. Tennis is more than Grand Slams. I need to think about the rest of the things.

"I play to be happy. Of course, the victory of today makes me super happy."

It is anyone's guess who among the 'Big Three' will finish their career with the most slams.

At 33, Nadal may have the edge on Federer, the 38-year-old Swiss crashing out of the U.S. Open in the quarter-finals and failing to add to his Grand Slam titles since winning the 2018 Australian Open.

If nowhere else, Nadal will be a hot favourite at the French Open, where he has won a record 12 titles including the last three.

He said that while he was honoured to be part of the battle to be crowned the greatest of all time, and thrilled if it attracted more fans to the game, he would still sleep well if he comes up short.

"You can't be all day looking next to you about if one having more or one having little bit less because you will be frustrated," he said.

"All the things that I achieved in my career are much more than what I ever thought and what I ever dream.

"I would love to be the one who have more. But I really believe that I will not be happier or less happy if that happens or not happen," he said.

"What gives you the happiness is the personal satisfaction that you gave your best.

"In that way I am very, very calm, very pleased with myself."

Meanwhile, Daniil Medvedev once revelled in his role as the villain of Flushing Meadows but on Sunday the Russian completed his transformation to unlikely hero after taking Rafa Nadal the distance in a pulsating U.S. Open final.

Despite losing to the Spaniard in a five-set

thriller, Medvedev's performance suggests more Grand Slam finals are in his future and that he could be a genuine challenger to the 'Big Three' – Nadal, Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic.

The 23-year-old Russian, who had got on the wrong side of fans at Flushing Meadows with a string of on-court antics, arrived at his maiden Grand Slam final to a chorus of boos.

However, he gradually won over the Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd as the match wore on, showing heart and skill in abundance to fight back from two sets down before Nadal claimed the 7-5 6-3 5-7 4-6 6-4 thriller that stretched four hours and 50 minutes.

"I know earlier in the tournament I said something in kind of a bad way and now I'm saying it in a good way: That it's because of your energy that I'm in the final," said Medvedev as he accepted the runner-up trophy.

"You guys were pushing me to prolong this match because you want to see more tennis and because of you guys I was fighting like hell."

Medvedev, who had never previously made it past the fourth round of a Grand Slam, became the player fans loved to hate when he angrily snatched a towel from a ballperson in his third round match and showed the crowd his middle finger.

He then sarcastically thanked the crowd after the match, saying, "the energy you're giving me right now, guys, I think it will be enough for my next five matches."

He picked up \$9,000 in fines for his behaviour in that match, taking his total to \$19,000 for the first three rounds at Flushing Meadows having earlier been fined for verbal abuse and throwing his racket.

However, a contrite Medvedev later said he regretted his behaviour and apologised for the animosity, telling the crowd after his quarter-final victory over Stan Wawrinka that "what I've done is not good".

His match against Nadal marked a fourth straight tournament final for Medvedev, who arrived at the U.S. Open fresh off a victory at Cincinnati during a remarkable summer run.

On Sunday, he said the tournament had made him see the error of his ways.

"You guys see that I can also change because I am a human being," Medvedev told the crowd after applauding Nadal's 19th Grand Slam title.

"Thank you very much from the bottom of my heart."

Taifa Stars player ratings against Burundi



Taifa Stars

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S Taifa Stars beat Burundi on penalty kicks to qualify for the groups' stage of 2022 World Cup qualifiers in Dar es Salaam on Sunday afternoon. Here's how we rate the individual performance of each of the Taifa Stars' players.

Juma Kaseja 8

The veteran goalkeeper was the hero of the day, rarely put a foot wrong, dealt with the aerial threat superbly and topped it with two penalties saves to send Tanzania into the group stage.

Kelvin Yondani 6.5

Yondani did well to bring Burundi's attacks to a halt on numerous occasions, while standing firm in Taifa Stars' backline. However his suicidal pass in the first half nearly gifted Burundi.

Erasto Nyoni 7

He continued from where he left off in the first game as he was immense in the heart of the defence.

Mohamed Hussein 6

He held his own in the wing-back position and did well to deal with the threats coming down the left flank. He could have done better with his delivery.

Hassan Kessy 7

He made a superb last-ditch block on the line that denied Burundi what looked a certain goal. The Nkana defender will also need to improve on his crosses.

Jonas Mkude 7

Mkude worked his socks off in the middle of the park. He was the link between defence and attack.

Salum Abubakar 6.5

Superb in possession and with passing. His creativity and short passing game was at times unplayable.

Simon Msuva 7

The Morocco-based speed merchant proved to be a threat throughout the game, especially on the counter. Control let him down on occasion.

Mbwana Samatta 7

The Taifa Stars captain scored the crucial goal with a header from a set-piece. He worked hard switching positions all the time but did not really test the Burundi keeper.

He helped the team maintain lots of possession with his ability to work his way out of tight spaces. He eventually came off with a knock with just over 14 minutes to go in the extra time.

Hassan Dilunga 6

Not as effective as he would have liked to be, but Dilunga was reliable when his team needed him.

Iddy Selemani 6.5

The Azam forward did well to link up with Msuva and Samatta, but lost possession on a few occasions.

Substitutes

Shaban Chilunda 6

Came on for Sure Boy in the second half but did little to assert himself on the game. His apparent lack of match fitness was evident.

Himid Mao 6.5

He was dropped from the starting line-up but came on in extra time as a fourth substitute when Taifa Stars needed fresh legs and cover in the middle.

He stuck with Etienne Ndayiragije's game plan and did well to execute his tactics on the field. Bravely took up the second spot kick and arrogantly delivered it into the net to make it two out of two for Tanzania.

Gadiel Michael 6

He came on as a second half substitute, did well going forward but his crossing and decision making in the final third was not up to standard.

Farid Mussa 6.5

By introducing the Spain-based winger in the second half, Stars had a player who was not shy to hold the ball and take on players up front.

He was lively on a few occasions though Burundi had an answer to all his threats.

USA Basketball relying on defense so far at World Cup



Greece's Giannis Antetokounmpo is surrounded by United States players as he fights to hold on to the ball during phase two of the FIBA Basketball World Cup at the Shenzhen Bay Sports Center in Shenzhen in southern China's Guangdong province on Saturday, Sept. 7, 2019. United States beats Greece 69-53. (AP Photo)

SHENZHEN, China

U.S. guard Donovan Mitchell turned toward his bench with fists clenched, then punched the air in celebration and let out a joyous scream.

It wasn't for a dunk, or a 3-pointer, or some highlight-reel play. Mitchell's exuberant reaction was because the U.S. forced a 24-second violation in a big moment against Greece on Saturday.

The U.S. team at this World Cup is like none other assembled by the Americans for a big international tournament in a long time. This is no scoring juggernaut, but rather a team that has decided its best path to victory – and, it hopes, an unprecedented third consecutive World Cup title – is to clamp down on the defensive end.

"We all love playing defense," U.S. guard Marcus Smart said. "That's the thing. When you've got a team like that, it's not crazy for us. We knew coming in what we could do and hopefully everybody else knows."

Through four games, the unbeaten Americans – who face Brazil on Monday – have held opponents to 36% shooting. And they've given up a total of 98 points in their last two games, the stingiest two-game run by any U.S. men's team in a big tournament since the 1988 Olympics.

"I told them that if they didn't play defense like this, their NBA contracts would be pulled," U.S. coach Gregg Popovich joked. Popovich, of course, doesn't have the power to jeopardize the \$171,296,102 that the U.S. roster is set to make in the NBA next season. But the Americans are playing as if he does.

And it's largely out of necessity, since the offense just isn't clicking.

For the first time since the 2004 Olympics, the U.S. is not going to lead a major international tournament in scoring. Unless things pick up on the offensive end, the Americans might finish outside of the top five in scoring at an international event for the first time since the 1986 world championships – long before NBA players were making up the rosters for such events.

The U.S. is averaging 87 points so far in China, which would be the lowest per-game mark by an American team in an international tournament since the 1998 world championships. And the U.S. field-goal percentage so far at the World Cup (42.5) isn't even in the top half, ranking a dismal 21st in a 32-team field through Sunday's games.

So the defense matters, big-time.

"That's got to be our calling card," U.S. forward Harrison Barnes said. "I think when you look at past USA teams, scoring has not been an issue. There's been a lot of talent. But for us, we know that defense is how we're going to stay in games, how we're going to be able to win and compete. So I think we've done a good job of focusing in on that and that's what's really carrying us right now."

There have been 12 instances so far in this World Cup of a team scoring at least 100 points, 34 instances of a team shooting at least 50% in a game and 42 instances of a team shooting at least 40% from 3-point range. And in all those cases, none of those benchmarks has been reached by the U.S.

In order, the Americans have shot 49, 35, 48 and 36% – yet

are still 4-0.

"You obviously want to shoot better," said U.S. guard Joe Harris, the NBA's 3-point percentage and 3-point shootout champion last season. "So we have to get better in that regard. ... Still have to hang our hat defensively. That's where we really feel like and believe we're going to win this tournament, on the defensive end, but we know we have to play better offensively and shoot better."

Popovich has been stressing defense all summer with this team, and said he isn't surprised that the group has figured out how to come together on that end of the floor. Players, meanwhile, are just waiting for someone to get hot and for that contagious feeling to spread around the rest of the roster.

It'll happen, Mitchell insisted. "And it's going to feel great," Mitchell said.

Penalty save sees Liberia through in World Cup qualifier

JOHANNESBURG

LIBERIA needed a last-gasp penalty save, Ethiopia an own goal, Tanzania shoot-out penalties and Equatorial Guinea a late strike to all win their World Cup first round ties on Sunday and advance to the group phase of the qualifiers for Qatar 2022.

The quartet are the first nations through from the opening knockout round, which pits the 28 bottom-ranked countries on the continent in two-legged knockout ties.

A last-gasp penalty save by teenage goalkeeper Ashley Williams ensured Liberia, coached by Englishman Peter Butler, advanced 3-2 on aggregate over neighbours Sierra Leone, despite losing 1-0 in Freetown.

Sierra Leone reduced the aggregate deficit through Kei Kamara after 55 minutes of Sunday's second leg and would have won the tie on the away goal rule if they had scored the penalty in stoppage time at the end of the match.

But captain Umaru Bangura's kick was easily stopped by 18-year-old Williams to ensure Liberia's progress.

Ethiopia drew 1-1 away against Lesotho in Maseru where home captain Nkaku Lerotholi's own goal early

in the second half provided the visitors with the vital away goal in a 1-1 aggregate draw.

Tanzania made heavy weather of their tie against Burundi after drawing 1-1 away in the first leg last Wednesday.

They were ahead in Sunday's return leg in Dar-es-Salaam through Belgian-based Mbwana Samatta but gave up an equaliser to Fiston Abdul Razak on the stroke of halftime.

The match then went into extra time before Burundi missed all their kicks in the post-match penalty shootout, which Tanzania won 3-0.

Equatorial Guinea captain Emilio Nsue, formerly of Middlesbrough and Birmingham City, scored the 72nd minute winner in his side's 1-0 win at home to South Sudan in Malabo.

The 2-1 aggregate victory proved a lot tougher than expected for Equatorial Guinea, who had beaten the same team 4-0 when they last hosted them three years ago.

The remaining 10 first round qualifying ties will be settled on Tuesday. The winners advance to the group phase where 40 countries will be divided into 10 groups.

REUTERS

Salah can match Messi if he becomes less selfish in front of goal - Wenger

LONDON

LIVERPOOL star Mohamed Salah boasts similarities to Lionel Messi and can become even better if he tones down his obsession with goals, according to Arsene Wenger.

The ex-Arsenal coach, who recently hinted at a possible return to management in the international arena, believes the Reds attacker's game is comparable to Messi's but is still missing a few crucial ingredients.

Aside from a few more goals, Wenger also stressed Salah has to learn when to go for goal himself and when to pass it to a teammate.

"He's 20 goals away basically, if you want to be as concrete as possible," Wenger told beIN Sports.

"But he is similar to Messi. He must still find the consistency of Messi. I find him a just as good finisher but Messi is the complete thing - he gives the final ball as well and Salah is a bit obsessed now by finishing himself so that's a dimension he'll get certainly when he gets a little bit older. To find the moment when you have to give the ball and when you have to finish."

"I like him very much, he has huge potential."

In Liverpool's recent 3-0 win over Burnley, Salah was criticised after failing to pass to Sadio Mane in the second half when his fellow

attacker was in a far better position.

While Salah is the star of the Reds frontline, Mane and Roberto Firmino have also been consistent performers for Jurgen Klopp's side with Wenger praising the Brazilian striker in particular for his selfless style of play.

"You forget the guy that sacrifices himself a little bit is Firmino," he said.

"Like Luis Suarez did for Messi and Neymar. A guy that works for the team, that works for everybody and gets them to shine."

"This piece of the jigsaw is very hard to find - a striker that is generous."

Since stepping aside from Arsenal in 2018, Wenger has avoided jumping straight back into management but admits he remains obsessed with the beautiful game.

"I needed longer than I thought to take a distance from what I did before. To really let it settle," Wenger said.

"I took a distance and realised I was living like somebody in a coma for 35 years and who woke up and saw something different in life other than just my club, my game and my work."

"I watch it still when I wake up in the morning - straight in my mind is football. My main interest is still there."

Umtiti rubbishes Arsenal rumours, talk of being Neymar bargaining chip

PARIS

SAMUEL Umtiti has rubbished reports suggesting that he had contact with Arsenal over the summer and was a potential bargaining chip in Barcelona's bid to bring Neymar back to the club.

Transfer talk raged around the World Cup winner for much of the last transfer window.

It was suggested, having slipped down the pecking order at Camp Nou, that the 25-year-old France international could be on the move.

A switch to the Premier League was mooted, with Arsenal said to be leading the chase for a proven performer at the very highest level.

Umtiti, though, claims that a new challenge at Emirates Stadium is not something that he ever considered.

"Honestly, I don't know where this rumour with Arsenal came from," he told Canal Football Club.

"Overnight, I received messages from my friends 'ah, so you are joining Arsenal?' I'm not, I'm sorry but I'm staying at Barcelona."

"Contacts with Arsenal? To be honest, I don't know if they had conversations with my agent, I just told him that I didn't care what was happening this summer and that it wasn't even necessary to talk to me

about it. "It was useless, I was going to have the same answer."

"My dream as a child is to play for Barcelona. Last season was the most difficult of my career, especially in terms of injuries."

Umtiti was restricted to just 14 appearances across all competitions in 2018-19. A series of niggling knocks prevented him making the impact he had been looking for, with another injury having ruled him out of the latest France squad.

With Barca forced into favouring other options, Umtiti was billed as one of those who could be used as a makeweight in Barcelona's efforts to prise Neymar away from Paris Saint-Germain.

The deadline passed with no deal done there and Umtiti is adamant that he was never close to heading back to his homeland.

He added: "Exchange coin for Neymar? It's crazy."

"It made me laugh, I don't even have an answer to where it comes from."

Gerard Pique and Clement Lenglet have become the go-to centre-half partnership for Barcelona boss Ernesto Valverde, but Umtiti will be given a chance to compete for more regular game time in 2019-20.

(Agencies)

Ramos equals Casillas record; Spain, Italy win qualifiers

BARCELONA, Spain

SERGIO Ramos equaled the record for the most appearances for Spain as his team continued its march toward qualifying for the 2020 European Championship by beating Faroe Islands 4-0 on Sunday.

The 33-year-old Ramos matched goalkeeper Iker Casillas' milestone with his 167th game for La Roja. The Real Madrid defender, who received a standing ovation at Gijon's El Molinon stadium when substituted late in the game, will establish a new mark if he plays against Norway on Oct. 12.

"To equal the best goalkeeper in the history of football was a very important goal for me," Ramos said. "It was complicated, but I had the good fortune to debut very young and to stay in favor of all the coaches I have had, and be blessed with not suffering injuries."

"I hope I can defend these colors for many more years."

Ramos has a record of 125 wins, 22 draws and 20 losses with Spain since his debut in 2005. He has helped Spain win a World Cup and two European Championships.

Italy joined Spain in also winning its sixth match in as many qualifiers for next summer's tournament, keeping both on pace to win their respective groups.

But while Spain eased past the modest Faroe Islands, Italy struggled to win 2-1 at Finland.

Spain and Italy are ranked 1st and 4th in UEFA's ranking of European teams, respectively. The Faroe Islands are ranked 53rd and Finland 43rd.

Spain leads Group F with 18 points, well ahead of Sweden in second place with 11.

Italy took a big step to winning Group J by taking its total to 18 points. Finland is second with 12.

STRIKE OPTIONS

Coach Roberto Moreno might have wanted an even bigger win over Spain's lowly opponent, but he must have liked seeing both of his strikers in fine form.

Rodrigo Moreno scored the first two goals before substitute Paco Alcacer added a late brace.



Spain's coach Roberto Moreno, right, speaks with Sergio Ramos during the Euro 2020 group F qualifying soccer match between Spain and Faroe Islands at the Molinon, stadium in Gijon, Spain, Sunday, Sept. 8, 2019. (AP Photo)

Alcacer is building up some superb numbers with Spain, netting 11 goals in 16 appearances. Rodrigo is also producing goals while he and Alcacer both fight for playing times with Alvaro Morata. Rodrigo and Morata have netted four goals each in six qualifiers.

"Our goal of qualifying is almost achieved," coach Moreno said. "All my players want to play and today was a game to show that they are motivated to play for the national side. They were all locked in and focused."

Rodrigo put Spain ahead in the 13th when he tapped into an open net after Thiago Alcantara pressured to recover the ball and knocked it to Mikel Oyarzabal, who lured in the goalkeeper before laying off to his attack partner.

Rodrigo doubled the advantage five minutes after the restart with a deflected shot when the Valencia striker received the ball and cut back across

the area.

Alcacer got Spain's third goal in the 90th - slicing in Thiago's low pass - before he headed in a final goal.

Also in Group F, Sweden's Emil Forsberg canceled out Stefan Johansen's goal for Norway in a 1-1 draw, a fourth consecutive stalemate between the Scandinavian rivals.

Romania forward George Puscas headed in a goal just after halftime to beat Malta 1-0 and leave his team in third place in the group with 10 points.

HAND BALL DISPUTE

Italy needed a questionable hand ball decision to convert a penalty and eke out a win in Finland.

Sauli Vaisanen appeared to have his arm across his chest when he stopped a shot from Andrea Belotti, but the referee immediately pointed to the penalty spot and Jorginho quickly

converted the winner in the 79th.

Teemu Pukki had earned and scored a penalty for Finland seven minutes earlier after Ciro Immobile opened the scoring for Italy.

Bosnia and Herzegovina coach Robert Prosinecki resigned after his team lost 4-2 at Armenia, which was led by two goals from Roma midfielder Henrik Mkhitaryan.

Armenia moved ahead of Bosnia and into third place in Group J with nine points.

Bottom sides Greece and Liechtenstein drew 1-1.

MISSED CHANCE

Denmark missed a chance to move into the lead of Group D ahead of Ireland after being held 0-0 at Georgia.

Switzerland brushed aside Gibraltar 4-0. Switzerland is a point behind Denmark with a game in hand.

AP

Europe's clubs divided over Champions League reform

LAUSANNE

THE battle over the future of the Champions League will resume on Monday and Tuesday when the European Club Association (ECA) meets in Geneva and the leadership faces rebellion from members.

ECA, led by Juventus chairman Andrea Agnelli, is closely involved in proposals to reshape Europe's main club competition for 2024.

The proposals were presented by European football's governing body UEFA in May although details had leaked earlier.

The reforms include the introduction of weekend fixtures, four groups of eight, and a tiered system with relegation and promotion that would see the top six teams in each group automatically qualify for the following year's competition.

ECA, which boasts of "more than 230 members", faced an outcry from many of those clubs and from national leagues which would be hit hard by the scheme.

"A semi-closed league with more matches... threatens to enormously impoverish the Spanish league," said Javier Tebas of La Liga.

England's Premier League issued a statement saying: "The domestic game should continue to be the priority for professional clubs."

Opponents say the plan is designed to guarantee the income of a handful of big clubs.

"This reform would especially harm medium and small clubs," said Wanja Greuel, the president of Young Boys of Berne, the reigning Swiss champions.

"It eliminates the access to the top flight of European competitions through domestic leagues. Fans will gradually lose interest in domestic leagues and those leagues would be further economically damaged."

Last month UEFA announced it was cancelling a meeting with the ECA and the European Leagues, a wider body representing more than 900 European clubs, scheduled for September 11.

"It will kill the dream"

UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin said he wanted to "collect feedback" from member federations.

The cancellation of the meeting "reveals strong opposition," said Bernard Caiazza, president of French Ligue 1 club Saint Etienne, who are outspoken opponents of the plan.

"When you close the supreme competition to 90 percent of clubs, you kill the dream for a middle-sized club reaching it," said Caiazza.

He gives the example of Lille, who dramatically improved last season, finished as French league runners up, but who from 2024 "could no longer experience this fairytale of moving from 17th place in Ligue 1 to the Champions League in the space of 14 months".

On Friday, both UEFA and the ECA struck a cautious note.

"We need to take into consideration the clubs' feedback," ECA secretary general Michele Centenaro said. "Domestic football (leagues) must be protected and, at the same time, we must try to better reward European cup performances."

UEFA's Director of Competitions Giorgio Marchetti said there was "no pressure to make a decision" and discussions would continue into 2020.



Liverpool's Mohamed Salah holds aloft the Champions League trophy in 2019 - but the competition could have a revamped format by 2024 if the European Club Association gets its way (AFP Photo)

Both UEFA and ECA both regularly deny paternity of the project.

According to a source close to the talks, however, the reform is the responsibility of Marchetti, who was general secretary of the Italian league before joining UEFA, in collaboration with his ECA counterpart, Belgium's Diederik Dewaele, who was previously with UEFA.

The clubs are playing the same ambiguous game, a source said.

"Five or six large influential European clubs within the ECA have a large part in the reform proposal but each tries to get it endorsed by the other so as not to lose credibility."

Among these are Agnelli's Juventus and other big clubs worried that income from the domestic leagues they dominate will stagnate.

"It's interesting to PSG because it creates wealth for all of football," said Victo-

riano Melero of Paris Saint-Germain.

Barcelona and Ajax are in favour. Real Madrid are reportedly backers as well.

Smaller clubs on the ECA executive - Lyon, HJK Helsinki and Legia Warsaw - are also in favour. Marseille are also supporters.

Other big clubs have been cagey.

In Italy, Roma and the two Milan clubs abstained in an Italian league vote on the plan.

In Germany, Bayern Munich, one of the presumed authors of the scheme, and Borussia Dortmund have spoken against it.

This summer, ECA held "club forums" at which it continued to present an unchanged scheme despite repeated hostile reactions.

After a meeting of its executive board on August 16, ECA said in a statement: "Our members have made clear that the

current structure of UEFA Club Competitions is not serving the interests of the majority of clubs, particularly those outside of the largest domestic competitions."

Even if it will take longer than expected, the key elements of the plan seem to be on track, Raffaele Poli, a researcher at the International Centre for the Study of Sport in Neuchatel.

"The proposal set the cat among the pigeons," said Poli.

He said that "nothing is decided" but, he predicted, "there will still be more European matches, groups with 16 matches and a strengthening of the elite."

"The percentage of clubs that are against the project or undecided is higher than the percentage of clubs that are in favour," said Saint Etienne's Caiazza.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Ramos equals Casillas record;
Spain, Italy win qualifiers

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Filbert Bayi Schools' pupils dance to a Bongo Flava song at a graduation which was held at the schools' premises in Kibaha District, Coast Region last week-end. PHOTO: JOSEPH MCHEKADONA

Swimmers should go for glory in Africa Junior Championships-TSA

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA's swimmers have been urged to play their hearts out in order to excel in the Africa Junior Swimming Championships scheduled to start tomorrow in Tunisia.

Tanzania Swimming Association (TSA)'s Vice-Chairperson, Asmah Hilal, made the call after handing over the national flag to the squad in a ceremony held at Shaaban Robert Secondary School in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Tanzania will field four swimmers, namely Yuki Omori who is from the Morogoro International School (MIS) swimming team known as Piranhas, Khaleed Ladha (Mwanza Swim Club), Aaron Akwenda (Bluefins) and Mohameduwais Abdullatif of Taliss-IST Swimming Club.

Swimming coach Samwel Mtupo, from Mwanza Swim Club, trains the team.

The TSA official said swimmers must know that they are representing more than 50 million Tanzanians who would like to see those either win medals or attain the highest personal best times (PBs).

She said that TSA has been struggling to develop the game and only the best performances will attract sponsors while inspiring other young people to start learning and taking part in the game.

"We aware that the competition is very tough as it features world-class swimmers in the world, but, we are confident the team will perform well, so, we certainly hope that they can maintain their level and improve their personal best times at the event," Asmah noted.

The competition is scheduled to reach its climax on September 15 with over 1000 athletes expected to take part.

Apart from Mtupo, the national junior swimming team was also trained by a famous coach, Alexander Mwaipasi, and Michael Livingstone.

Mtupo said they know the competition is very tough, but the swimmers' prowess make him confident that they will shine in the event.

"We have prepared ourselves well for the competition, it is not an easy event as swimmers from other countries also target the best results," he disclosed.

Mtupo also disclosed that his swimmers have shown drastic improvement in their training.

"We have made good stamina, we are more energetic and determined to shine in the event," he said.



A section of Yanga players warm up prior to locking horns with Kariobangi Sharks of Kenya in an international friendly match at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam in August this year.

Yanga step up preps for Zesco United duel

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA soccer giants, Young Africans (Yanga), have said preparations for the coming CAF Champions League's first round match against Zesco United of Zambia are going on well.

Yanga will host Zesco United in the first leg at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Saturday and the return leg will be played in Zambia a week later.

Mwinyi Zahera, who heads Yanga's technical bench, said his team is preparing well for the encounter.

He said morale is high in the camp and all of the players are looking forward to the game.

"Our aim is to win the game at home, the preparations are going on well, I'm confident that we will do well in our game against Zesco," he said.

He said his squad's recent friendly match

against First Division League (FDL) outfit, Pamba, has helped him plan well for the Zesco match.

Yanga were held to 1-1 draw by Pamba in the match which took place in Mwanza last week.

Zahera disclosed the game against Zesco will not be easy as the Zambian side has many good players who can dictate the results of the match.

The Zambia champions are also coached by George Lwandamina, who had headed Yanga's technical bench in the previous season.

Yanga dispatched Botswana's Township Rollers in the preliminary stage of the tournament to book a place in the first round.

Yanga and Township Rollers settled for 1-1 draw in the first leg clash and the former, against all odds, cruised to 1-0 win over the Botswana champions in the return leg in Gaborone.

Ugandan striker Juma Balinya drilled in the lone goal for Yanga to earn them the memorable victory.

Zesco cruised to 3-0 aggregate victory over Eswatini outfit, Green Mamba, in the preliminary stage to secure progression to the first round.

Zesco recorded 2-0 win over Green Mamba in the first leg in Manzini, the Zambia big guns notched 1-0 win over their opponents in the second leg in Lusaka.

An aggregate victory over Zesco will steer Yanga to the tournament's groups' stage and see the side repeat the feat it achieved in 1998.

Should Yanga lose to Zesco in the first round, the Tanzania club will have chance to feature in a playoff against an outfit, which has made it to this season's CAF Confederation Cup's first round, to seek qualification for the groups' stage of the CAF Confederation Cup.

TPDF sports teams get boost

By Correspondent Faustine Feliciane

NATIONAL Microfinance Bank (NMB) has promised to keep on sponsoring Tanzania People's Defense Forces (TPDF) sports outfits with a view to seeing to it the latter successfully take part in competitions in and outside the country.

The institution issued the promise at a function for congratulating TPDF for promoting golf at the domestic level.

The function, which preceded the Chief of Defense Forces (CDF) Cup 2019, took place at the TPDF Lugalo Golf Club in Dar es Salaam last week-end.

Golf has lately been attracting interest from a good number of people in comparison to the interest in the sport in previous years thanks to TPDF's efforts, the bank disclosed.

Filbert Mponzi, NMB's Business Wholesale's Head, noted the institution will maintain its cooperation with TPDF and support the sports teams.

The bank sponsored CDF Cup 2019, which took place for two days, at Lugalo Club.

The competition was one of activities targeting to celebrate Tanzania's Armed Forces Day, which takes place on September 1 every year.

"Armed forces are some of key institutions in our country, which has plenty of customers for our bank," the NMB official noted.

"This has prompted us to support sports in the institution as per the institution's demands."

"NMB promises to keep on sponsoring CDF Cup, as well as TPDF sports teams...we have put this into effort with a view to fulfilling NMB's policy on supporting sports."

"We as well put our weight behind the country's army squad which participated in this year's East Africa Military Games, which took place in Kenya," Lugalo Golf Club organizes NMB CDF Cup, which is backed by the bank.

This year's tournament brought together plenty of golfers. The event saw 127 amateur golfers, 19 professionals and 25 junior golfers compete.

Ally Mcharo of TPC Moshi Club was the competition's overall winner.

The golfer congratulated NMB for supporting the sport, a situation which has played a vital role in raising the sport's standard.

He called on the institution to keep on sponsoring golf tournaments with a view to nurturing golf players who will win honours for the country internationally. Participating golf players that grabbed top honours in categories, namely professionals, Divisions A, B and C, Ladies, Ladies seniors and juniors received prizes.

Awards were moreover presented to overall winners in women and men categories. Mohamed Yakubu, TPDF Chief of Staff, showered praises on NMB for its support to golf and army's sports teams, which take part in tournaments.

CDF Cup 2019 got 21.7m/- in sponsorship from NMB which has turned out to be one of the sport's key stakeholders.

NMB handed over 15m/- for financing the country's army sports teams which took part in this year's East Africa Military Games.

TONIGHT @21:00

5 EATV **NIRVANA**

TUESDAY

11:00 DADAZ [live]
13:30 Kall Za Wana
14:00 Dakika 10 Za Maangamzi
15:00 FUNGUKA
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music
19:00 EATV SAA I
19:30 MJADALA
21:00 Nirvana
21:30 Wakilisha
22:00 Grace Na Asili Yangu
22:30 Bongo Hills

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12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
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