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'To turn herders into ranchers, invest more'

The 2016 animal health strategy and vision for Tanzania noted that more than 85 per cent of Tanzanians live in rural areas, out of whom about 37 per cent keep livestock

By Guardian Reporter, Iringa

AS the national programme aimed at modernising traditional livestock keeping continues, those it targets have called on the government to go beyond sensitisation by investing more in technology, modern animal breeds and expertise for the plan to bear fruit.

Speaking here yesterday, dairy farmers taking part in the ongoing research on better livestock feeds said training sessions from early this month should go together with a comprehensive strategy to help the country shift from grazing large numbers of animals to profitable dairy farming.

Giving feedback for research participants in Mufindi district where the study is taking place, Upendo Kalinga said this can only be achieved if animal keepers are empowered to access quality breeds, if they are taught by



For instance, if you have acres of grass for your animals, you will definitely need a mower to ease the cutting of grass

experts how to produce grass and other feeds in their local environments and supplied with basic equipment a dairy farmer must have.

"For instance, if you have acres of grass for your animals, you will definitely need a mower to ease the cutting of grass," she said.

From feed processing skills to machines that facilitate the same, Kalinga argued that the government has a big role to play in transforming animal keeping in the country.

In a rejoinder, the Director General of the Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI) Dr Eligy Shirima said the government is set to roll out breeding technology that chooses the gender of the calf.

Dr Shirima said the technology will allow farmers to choose male or female calves depending on their own demand which he said will be a milestone in Tanzania's livestock sector.

Dr Angello Mwilawa, the director of research, training and extension services in the Ministry of Livestock Development and Fisheries who is in charge of the national programme issued an appeal to animal keepers including pastoral communities to heed recommendations by experts and adopt modern methods of animal husbandry.

These methods are more productive and will save these communities the time used to wandering around in search of grass and wa

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A re-enactment of the run-up to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, as performed at Dar es Salaam's Azania Front Evangelical Lutheran Church during Good Friday mass yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala.

Good Friday - and looming hunger preoccupies clerics

By Guardian Reporter

GOOD Friday messages delivered by Christian clergy yesterday spanned from spiritual matters to worldly issues affecting Tanzanians such as the looming food shortage due to poor rains, poverty, diseases and corruption.

The Union of Christian Churches in Arusha region yesterday appealed to Tanzanians to use available food cautiously in the wake of looming famine in the entire East African region due to poor long rains.

In their Good Friday message, the churches also warned of deforestation due to excessive felling of trees for fuel, appealing for enhanced environmental conservation for the country to remain a good place to



I urge everyone to take this as their responsibility. Take action by conserving and storing food so that your families do not suffer later

live in. Catholic Archbishop Isaac Amani of Arusha Archdiocese who is deputy chairman of the union said Tanzani-

ans should take precautionary measures by conserving food as the March-April-May long rains have not poured as expected, signaling tough times ahead when it comes to food and water.

"I urge everyone to take this as their responsibility. Take action by conserving and storing food so that your families do not suffer later," Archbishop Amani urged.

The prelate also used the opportunity to appeal to Tanzanians to take care of their health by investing in health insurance policies since many people die for failing to pay hospital bills in cash.

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Three die, 48 injured in bus overtake, tyre burst

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

THREE people have been confirmed dead and 48 injured after a commuter bus plunged into a drainage chamber in Ilemela district near Mwanza International Airport on Thursday.

Witnesses said that the bus which was heading for the Mwanza city centre from Ig-



ombe in Ilemela veered off the road following a front right tyre burst as the bus driver attempted to overtake a lorry and rammed into a bridge barrier, leading to the tyre burst.

The Medical Officer in charge at the Sekou Toure regional referral hospital, Dr Bahati Msaki said here yesterday that the

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Govt downplays tourism fears amid abduction of Cuban doctors

NAIROBI

The Kenyan government is downplaying the impact of the recent kidnapping of Cuban doctors on tourism, terming it as an "isolated criminal incident."

Foreign Affairs Cabinet Secretary Monica Juma told a news conference yesterday she hoped there would be no "spurious linkage" between what

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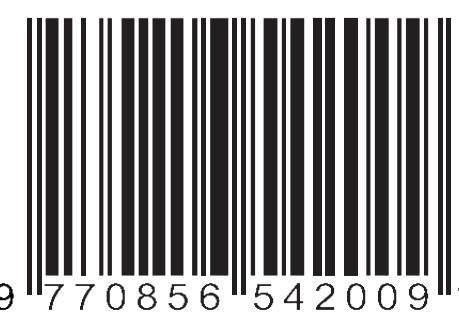
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Good Friday: Looming hunger preoccupies most clerics

FROM PAGE 1

The ELCT Bishop of Karagwe Diocese Dr Benson Bagonza said intelligent people in the society must be ready to bear pain in order to address long existing problems of corruption, disease and poverty.

He said the society has for a long time cried over the problem seeking immediate support to stem the challenges.

"Most people are still in the darkness of slavery as they are suffering from poverty, disease and corruption, and others alike that hinder them from enjoying their lives," Bishop Bagonza emphasized.

He also insisted on the need for the public to embrace solidarity in order to overcome challenges that retard development in our country.

"Therefore, we need people who are ready to bear the pain of shame, hatred, torture and all sorts of embarrassment in order to bring to an end to these challenges in public life.

Dr Bagonza cited an example of first President Julius Nyerere who after having fought for Independence, he then felt unhappy to see neighboring countries not yet being free.

The bishop was speaking at the national Easter service held in Karagwe Diocese at the Lukajage Lutheran Church in Kagera Region.

The service was attended by government officials including the Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS), Prof Faustine Kamuzora.

Good Friday is a Christian holiday commemorating the crucifixion of Jesus and his death observed on the Friday ahead of Easter Sunday.

'To turn herders into ranchers, invest more'

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ter for their animals, he pointed out.

The training programme brings pastoral communities to comprehend a range of issues including laws that govern the livestock sub-sector, how to mitigate conflicts with farmers and conservationists, as well as modern methods of animal husbandry that should be embraced.

Speaking during the launch of the programme at Kimotorok village in Simanjoro district of Manyara region, the minister, Luhaga Mpina said the initiative involves training pastoralists and other communities depending largely on livestock for their livelihood, on how to turn their animals into financial resources.

The 2016 animal health strategy and vision for Tanzania noted that more than 85 per cent of Tanzanians live in rural areas, out of whom about 37 per cent keep livestock.

The livestock population in the country is estimated at 23 million cattle, seven million sheep, 16 million goats, two million pigs and 59 million poultry.

An estimated 88 per cent out of the total livestock population is kept in smallholder traditional systems, the study specified.



Selemani Jafo (2nd-R), Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government), has a word with Chamwino district commissioner Vumilia Nyamoga (3rd-R) and Chamwino District Council executive director Athuman Masasi (R) when assessing the ongoing construction of the district's hospital at Mlwa on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Three die, 48 injured in overtake, tyre burst woe

FROM PAGE 1

facility received 48 injured people and two dead bodies, where 18 out of the 48 were rushed to the facility in critical condition.

They were referred to the Bugando referral hospital while 16 others with sustained slight injuries were treated and discharged.

Dr Erasto Sylvanus, emergency medicine physician who is acting head of the emergency and casualty department at Bugando referral hospital said out of the 18 patients received at the facility, 10 are male and eight female. Two patients are minors and five had already been operated upon, he said.

"The five had injuries in various parts including the head, abdomen and bone. One of them died in the Intensive Care Unit," Dr Sylvanus noted. The driver of the ill-fated bus named Mwaka Isabuki who sustained injuries on the head is among patients admitted to the hospital's ICU.

Nyamagana district commissioner Dr Phillis Nyimbi who

visited patients at both Sekou Toure and Bugando hospitals appealed to drivers to be keen on the road and owners of the public service vehicles to ensure that their buses are road-worthy.

"Passengers should always be vigilant whenever they are being driven dangerously and report to authorities to avoid loss of lives and injuries like the one that has just happened," he said. The survivors, Ibrahim Mtuhi who is admitted at Sekou Toure and Dosele Mbutu who is at Bugando, both said that the bus lost control and veered off the road after its right front tyre burst when the driver attempted to overtake a lorry.



Dar es Salaam Special Police Zone Commander Lazar Mambosasa addresses journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, assuring the public of enhanced security during the Easter holidays. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Zimbabwe celebrates 39 years of independence

HARARE

All roads led to the National Sports Stadium yesterday for the country's 39th Independence Day main celebrations where President Mnangagwa is expected to deliver the keynote independence address.

This year's celebrations are running under the theme: "Zimbabwe at 39 -- Embracing Devolution for Vision 2030."

Invitations have already been sent to embassies, ministers, political party leaders and other dignitaries.

In other provinces, Ministers of State, provincial and district administrators, who spoke to The Herald yesterday,

said all was set for Independence Day celebrations.

Minister of State for Harare Metropolitan Provincial Affairs Oliver Chidawu urged Zimbabweans from all walks of life to throng the giant stadium, saying buses have been provided at the usual pick up points.

"It is time for our independence, let us celebrate together as the people of Harare. Our celebrations will be at the National Sports Stadium on April 18, 2019. Let us come in our numbers. The buses will pick up people at the usual pick up points from 6 o'clock in the morning. We have 50 buses for Harare. We are also urging those who can assist with their own transport to help carry

people to the stadium," he said. "Let us celebrate in peace and harmony. Let us observe the protocols and dignity that are associated with the celebrations. Members of the public should not leave the stadium before His Excellency has finished presenting his independence message."

In Masvingo, it is all systems go for the celebrations that will be held throughout the province with main celebrations set for the provincial capital where Minister of State for Provincial Affairs Cde Ezra Chadzimiria will officiate.

By yesterday afternoon preparations had been completed at all centres where the festivities will be held.

Provincial administrator Mr Fungai Mbetsa said they expect a capacity crowd attend. "We are done with the preparations and have mobilised more than \$10 000 for the event," said Mr Mbetsa.

He said the venue was ready to host the event with members of the uniformed forces having perfected their drills in readiness for today.

In Bikita the district administrator Mr Bernard Hadzirabwi, who will lead the celebrations said they expect a capacity crowd to converge at Bikita Training Centre at Nyika Growth point for the festivities.

He said everything was in place for the celebrations. Chiredzi Acting

District Administrator Ms Memory Dhlwayo said the main celebrations will be held at Tshovani Stadium and called on people from all walks of life to attend.

Celebrations will be also held in Chivi, Zaka, Mwenzezi and Gutu and Masvingo districts which received a share of game meat and other donations to feed hundreds of people expected to grace the Independence festivities.

Mashonaland Central was by yesterday putting final touches to preparations at Chipadze Stadium where the celebration will be held.

A sizeable number of Bindura residents gathered at the stadium

yesterday to watch the uniformed forced performing their drills. They said they could not wait for the festivities today.

Acting provincial administrator Mr Richard Chipfuva, who visited the stadium, confirmed that everything is in place for the big day.

"This year's celebration are special in the sense that it is the first anniversary in the new dispensation and for us here in Mash Central we are privileged to have a female Minister of State who is also new to the task," said Mr Chipfuva. The Minister of State Senator Monica Mavhunga also participated in the rehearsals. The province has mobilised over \$8 000 for the event.

Govt downplays tourism fears amid abduction of Cuban doctors

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happened in Mandera and tourist destinations especially at the Coast.

"We continue to provide information (to foreign countries) that helps explain the state of our security. I don't think we are going to see an avalanche of travel advisories. And I don't think there are many tourists who visit Mandera, so I think we have to be nuanced in this discussions."

She spoke a week after two Cuban doctors Dr Assel Herera Correa (physician) and Dr Landy Rodriguez (surgeon) were kidnapped in Mandera by suspects Al-Shabaab militants. The attack left one police officer.

Though the government has pledged to return them to safety, Dr Juma said the criminal incident should not be used to adjudge Kenya's safety as a tourist destination.

"There was an incident in Mandera, and Mandera is how many kilometres from Mombasa? I think we should inform people correctly because there are people out there who think Mandera is contiguous to Mombasa. We have a duty to explain that there is a world difference between Mandera and Mombasa."

Kenya earned about Sh157 billion from tourism last year. But the sector has suffered since 2013 when Al-Shabaab militants attacked the Westgate Mall, killing 67 people.

In the past, Western countries who provide a large pool of tourists to Kenya have issued travel advisories to Kenya in the wake of terror incidents.

The US and the UK, who provide the largest pool of foreign tourists have advised their nationals from visiting the north-eastern region where Mandera is and certain parts of north coast.

Recently, the US listed Kenya as a possible place to be kidnapped and advised its nationals to be cautious while travelling to Kenya due to threaten of crime, terrorism and kidnapping.

The advisory followed months after an Italian charity worker Silvia Romano was kidnapped in Kilifi in November.

"We are very distressed as a government because medical personnel are never targeted for abduction. This just points to the level of arrogance and disrespect to the life of the people that these doctors serve. Our hospitals in frontier counties serve populations from across the border as Mandera hospitals have done.

"We have asked Somalia, because it is believed initially that the doctors could be in Somalia, to render cooperation. Everything is being done, and it is our strongest desire that these doctors are brought home. There is no justification for holding medical personnel in any circumstances."

Police on Saturday assured the local and international community that Kenya is safe, amid a multi-agency search for the two Cuban doctors kidnapped in Mandera County by suspected Al-Shabaab fighters.

In a statement, the National Police Service (NPS) said concerted efforts were being made to find doctors Assel Herera Correa and Landy Rodriguez, who were abducted on Friday in a daring road ambush at Banisa stage in Mandera town.

In the incident that took place a few minutes after 9am, the attackers shot dead one of the two police officers who were escorting the medical staff to their work station.

Chinese investments generate 87,000 jobs

By Getrude Mbago

CHINA'S investment projects in Tanzania for the year 2017 created more than 87,000 job opportunities benefiting mostly young locals who were grappling for employment for years. The Chinese ambassador in the country Wang Ke revealed this during the closure of the Tanzania-China High-Level Investment and Business Environment Dialogue in Dar es Salaam

on Wednesday. Organised collaboratively by the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation and the Chinese Embassy, the dialogue brought together over 200 Chinese companies as well as government entities to discuss and hear views on the Tanzania's investment climate. "Official data of Tanzania shows that as of 2017, China's investment projects in Tanza-

nia totaled 6 billion US dollars (about 15trn/-) created more than 87,000 job opportunities, surpassing the United Kingdom to be the largest investor in the country," She noted. The envoy said that said that the Tanzania-China economic cooperation has been rapidly growing and reached an unprecedented scale. "The today's Dialogue stands as a proof of the determination and strong desire of the Tanza-

nian government to deliver its promise and improve the investment environment," she said. She said that China is willing to work together with Tanzania in opening the door of communication, carrying forward the concept of practicality, maintaining positive interaction and taking the initiative in offering advice, so as to jointly push for breakthroughs in China-Tanzania economic and trade cooperation, especially in the field of

investment and financing. The envoy further called upon the government to pay special attention to the issues raised by Chinese companies related to investment policies and laws. She also wanted the labor and immigration departments to focus on the pursuits of enterprises regarding the application for residence permits. The tax authority should also concentrate on resolving problems in tax payments, tax refunds, tax rates and

other tax-related problems. During the dialogue minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Investment Angellah Kairuki said Tanzania enjoy deep-rooted traditional friendship for over a half decade promising that the government of Tanzania will always be there to support and facilitate smooth operation of investors in the country. According to her, the Tanzanian government has recognized the challenges faced by foreign

investors, including Chinese investors vowing that the government will actively continue to formulate favorable investment policies and a friendly regulatory framework to provide more convenience and create an attractive business environment for foreign investment. "We will tirelessly work to find durable solutions for all the challenges thwarting investments development in the country," she said.



With business slow, this small trader elected to hide under his business table to protect himself from pounding rain, as found at Mnazi Mmoja in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Photo: John Badi

PM urges PSSSF to come up with strategies to improve collections

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has directed the management of Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF) to come up with strategies to improve collections.

He made the directive on Thursday during a meeting with PSSSF top management held at the funds headquarters in the country's capital - Dodoma.

Majaliwa said the fund's performance presented to him by PSSSF director general indicates low collections from members' contributions, the trend, he said, weren't impressive.

The government restructured pension funds from five namely NSSF, GPF, LAFP, PPF and PSPF to two - NSSF and Public Sector Social Security Fund.

PSSSF was formed following the merger of the PPF, PSPF, Local Authorities Pension Fund (LAPF) and Government Employees Provident Fund (GEPF).

"We merged pension funds to make them perform much better...the management is responsible for ensuring enhanced collections from members of the merged funds including GEPF, PSPF, LAPF and PPF", he noted.

PM Majaliwa insisted the PSSSF management to make sure it enrolls new members as well as following up some of the previous members who joined from other pension funds.

"You should make sure that all the members of other merged pension funds continue to contribute to PSSSF", he said urging them to conduct a review on the trend of members' monthly contributions.

According to him, the review will help it to analyze factors contributing to decreased collections thus planning how to improve it.

Earlier when presenting the fund's performance report from August 2018 to March 31st 2019, PSSSF Director General, Hosea Kashimba said they main responsibilities are to collect monthly contributions, register new members, investments and paying pension benefits to retirees.

Kashimba informed the Premier that after the funds were merged, PSSSF has continued to register new members whereby it has brought on board a total of 7,575 new members until March 2019.

He said that previously the fund had a total of 962,871 members, among them 279,564 were from the private sector, and have already been transferred to NSSF.

He said until March 2019, the fund had a total of 750,943 members who are public servants including 67,636 who joined from NSSF after the merging exercise.

According to Kashimba, PSSSF collected 928.31bn/- equivalent to 88.62 percent of its target to collect 1.05trn/- in between August 2018 and March 2019.

Factors impeding contractors' performance named

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

AUTHORITIES in Njombe region have said the one month deadline issued by President John Magufuli to complete construction of Njombe bus terminal can hardly be achieved due to complexity of job variety factors.

Njombe District chairman, Edwin Mwanzinga said: "We cannot meet the one month deadline by 100 per cent due to various factors including changing weather conditions and ongoing rains". The project which is implemented by Hanang International Limited aims to create sustainable, conducive and secured

bus terminal for inter-regional buses, inter-town buses, inter-district buses, intra Njombe town buses (Dala dala) and taxis. According to Mwanzinga the other remaining works include removing broken stones, bricks, and other materials, construction of parking lot and ticket

booking/reservation counters, fixing gates and construction of passengers' waiting lounge. "The contractors failed to continue with laying of paving blocks at the parking lot due to ongoing rains. We are expecting to complete the remaining job by end of June, 2019", he said adding the new bus terminal

will be in use from July this year. He said the district authority also wants to construct business stalls along the terminal fence. He said the stalls will be special for small scale entrepreneurs. He said they are planning to start using the new terminal in the coming financial year

whereas the district is expected to collect more revenues from inter-regional buses, inter-town buses and inter-district buses. While in Njombe last week, President John Magufuli tasked Njombe district executive director, Iluminata Mwenda and the contractor, Hanang International Limited to make sure

construction of the bust stand is completed in one month. The bus terminal will also include administration offices, waiting room, restaurant, toilets, police post and an information room. It is located at Mjimwema, some 4 kilometers from Njombe town along the Makambako-Songea road.

TANAPA embarks on programme to promote 'Black Rhinos Tourism'

By Guardian Correspondent, Same

THE Tanzania National Park (TANAPA) has embarked on the first ever programme to promote 'Black Rhinos Tourism' at the Mkomazi national park, a project which is expected to spend over 1.5bn/- upon its completion.

Black rhinos are the smaller of the two rhino species available in the African continent. They are critically endangered species, with an estimated 5,000 remaining in Africa.

Assistant commissioner of conservation at Mkomazi National Park Abel

Mtui said the new tourism which is set to commence on July this year, will apparently increase tourists' arrivals in the country thus improving the sector's revenues and the country's economy.

According to him, currently, South Africa is the only African country that practices black rhino tourism. The park's warden said the project has commenced by constructing electrical fence in an area covering 13,000-square km which will be used to conserve the animals. "Following its importance and demand, TANAPA saw it better to establish the project

in the Mkomazi national park to attract more tourists in the country," he said.

He added that among the activities going on in the park is construction of key infrastructures such as roads, dams for animals as well as installation of safety and security gadgets to monitor the rhinos.

Glory Sumai, an ecologist at the Mkomazi national park said black rhinos are among the endangered wildlife species but also key of Tanzania's national identity and form the foundation of the tourism sector. He also mentioned wild dog as

among endangered species saying that to rescue them, Mkomazi had embarked on a programme to increase reproduction of the animals as well as black rhinos.

"From July this year, tourists who will be visiting the national park will be able to spend their time to witness the black rhinos in a closer spot as they will many in numbers in the special conservation areas.

For her part, Same District Commissioner Rosemary Senyamule said that the government is going to provide closer support to enable smooth completion of the project.



It's roaring business at Dar es Salaam's Mabibo banana market, popularly known as Mahakama ya Ndizi, despite the rain-induced muddy condition of the all-important facility, as witnessed by photographer John Badi yesterday.

SPECIAL FEATURE ON INDUSTRIALIZATION DEVELOPMENT IN TANZANIA

"NCHI YA VIWANDA"



The Guardian Ltd, wish to inform the public and our esteemed Clients that, A special feature on Industrialization in Tanzania which was supposed to be published on 18th April 2019 was put on hold to 23rd April 2019.

We apologise for inconvenience caused.

We wish you all a good Easter Holiday

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Holy Thursday and Good Friday prayers as held in Dar, Dodoma



President John Magufuli joined other Christian faithful in Holy Thursday prayers at Saint Peter's Catholic Church in Dar es Salaam. Photo: State House



Dodoma residents buy chickens at the city's Majengo market yesterday in preparation for Easter celebrations. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph



Parents and guardians buy shoes for their children along Dodoma city's One Way Street yesterday, with Easter celebrations just around the corner. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph



It's an Easter shopping spree for vegetables and fruit at Dodoma city's Majengo market, as captured yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph



Bishop Amon Kinyunyu (L) of the Dodoma Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania exchanges greetings with former bishop Peter Mwasika at the Dodoma parish shortly after Good Friday mass. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph



Christian faithful take part in Good Friday prayers at ELCT's Azania Front church in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



Good Friday mass under way at Saint Joseph's Catholic church in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



Capt (rtd) George Mkuchika (R, back to camera), Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance), and Foreign Affairs, East Africa, Regional and International Cooperation minister Prof Palamagamba Kabudi (to his left) attend Good Friday mass at Saint Alban's Anglican church in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Monitoring training improves lives of smallholder farmers in Chamwino

By Beatrice Philemon

THE agriculture budget tracking and monitoring training has brought positive results to smallholder women farmers in Dodoma's Chamwino district as they can raise voices and demand for their rights.

The training according to them has increased transparency and accountability in the

agriculture sector within their community.

This was revealed yesterday by chairman of 'Jukwaa la Wanawake' in Chamwino district, Janeth Nyamayahasi when briefing journalists and ActionAid Tanzania staff on how they have benefited from the training which is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The project is implemented

for four years from 2017 to 2020 in 16 wards in Chamwino and Singida districts.

"We are very glad for this training because right now there is notable increase of skills and knowledge to smallholder women farmers in Chamwino district on budget monitoring and they are now able to use different tools for example social audit citizen

report to generate evidence for advocacy," she said.

She noted that because of the training citizens in Chamwino district were able to follow up on various implemented projects including cattle dipping at Msanga ward, which is properly functioning. She said authorities have also rehabilitated a cattle dipping at Kongano area.

Nyamayahasi asserted that as a result of the trainings and sensitizations, women can now demand for their rights and access to land as well as sit together with their husband to discuss various issues relating to their families.

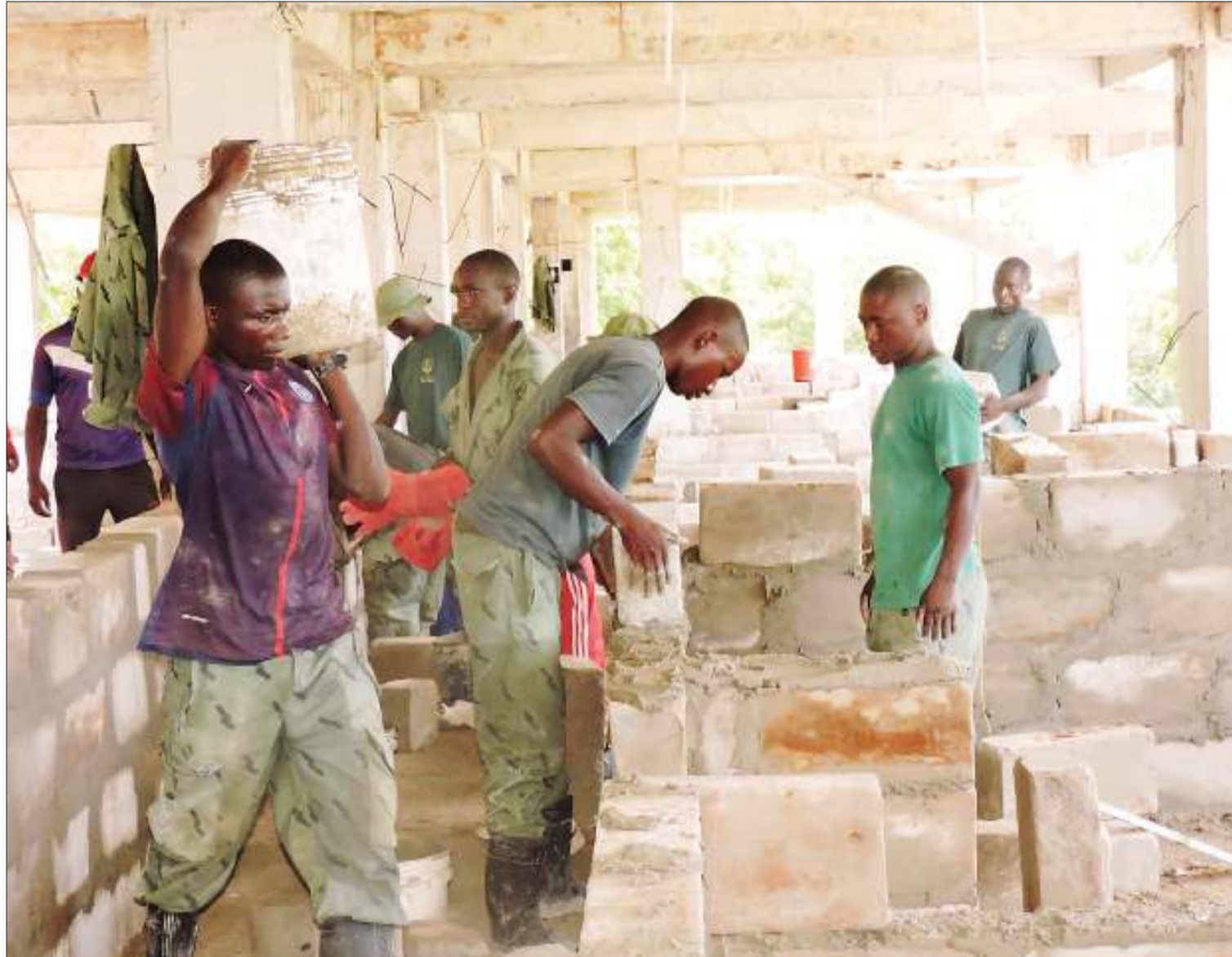
ActionAid Tanzania, livelihoods and local right programme manager, Elias Mtinda added that the awareness on

budget tracking for women has led to government officials at local government levels to engage communities in the planning as well as reporting of the public spending on agriculture sector.

According to him farmers especially the smallholder women farmers as ordinary citizen can now push their agendas much easier compared to pre-

vious years.

During the training, farmers were trained on budget tracking and how to prioritize issues affecting them especially on agricultural sector, how to demand their rights to access land, fight violence against women and children in the community and help members to understand their roles and responsibilities.



Construction of Ukonga Prison housing project buildings in progress in Dar es Salaam on Thursday, the work done by members of the National Service economic and development wing (SUMA JKT). Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

TBA to hire additional staff, says government

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government is planning to recruit more staffs for the Tanzania Building Agency (TBA) facing a shortage of personnel which hinders implementation of its projects.

Works, Transport and Communication, deputy minister Elias Kwandikwa said this recently after he had visited and inspected the ongoing constructions of the Magomeni housing estates in Kinondoni district, Dar es Salaam Region.

Upon completion, the proposed construction of residential apartments will have a capacity of accommodating 656 households.

Kwandikwa said that currently, TBA has 350 workers while the demand is 1500 workers the situation that hinders its performance.

"We are planning to employ more workers to enable the agency to properly perform its functions", he said.

He also tasked the TBA to ensure that construction of the estates is completed by December, this year.

TBA acting chief executive officer, Jasper Rugemalira said the agency was facing a number of challenges including costs for building materials.

He gave example of iron steels, which he said the price had increased from 1.65m/- to 2.31m/- while the price for cement had increased from 11,000/- per bag to 13,000/-.

Rugemalira added that upon completion, the facilities will be able to accommodate 656 ex-tenants and not 644 as it was proposed before.

It was previously reported that the Magomeni housing estate in Dar es Salaam had delayed owing to high costs of construction materials.

The 20bn/- project which was meant to be completed last September was projected to end in March last year - a six months delay.

TBA project coordinator, Anthony Ndendya blamed the delay on scarcity of construction equipment and the exorbitant costs of leasing them.

Construction of the 644 units in the high density area was launched by President John Magufuli in April 2016 following a decision by the government to take over its implementation from the Kinondoni municipality.

Speaking during the ceremony to lay a foundation stone President Magufuli insisted that the estates will accommodate more than 640 residents of the area whose land has been taken for the project.

Magufuli reiterated that people who have shifted to allow for the land to be used for the project will stay in the houses for five years without paying rent.

He noted that the project was a result of the government cost cutting initiatives.



It was previously reported that the Magomeni housing estate in Dar es Salaam had delayed owing to high costs

PASS Trust unveils plan to create 700,000 jobs in 2019

By Guardian Reporter

THE Private Agricultural Sector Support (PASS) Trust is targeting to create at least 700,000 jobs in the agricultural sector in the year 2019

Speaking during the release of the institution's 2018 performance results in Dar es Salaam, managing director Nicomed Bohay also says at least 235,253 families will benefit either directly or indirectly from the jobs which will be created through PASS model of loans guarantee worth 210.6 billion shillings and business develop-

ment services.

"Every year, we have over 800,000 youths joining the labour market in Tanzania, yet there are no jobs to accommodate these numbers. At PASS, we believe that through mentorship and coaching in agri business entrepreneurship, we can help many youths to start their enterprises", said Bohay

A total of 929,172 agricultural entrepreneurs have benefited from PASS guaranteed loans amounting to 712bn/- between the years 2000 to 2018.

In the year 2018 alone, PASS benefited a total of 196,873 agribusinesses through loans guarantee as well as business development services in 26 regions spread across Tanzania.

Among the services offered by PASS include developing solid and bankable investment project write ups as well as facilitating access to finance through credit guarantee schemes that it operates with various banks.

"We are happy that apart from guaranteeing them loans, we have also created jobs especially to the youths of this country" added Bohay.

In the year 2018 alone, PASS created at least 387,804 employment opportunities in various sectors. These include livestock, crop production, crop processing, processing, crop trading, mechanization, irrigation infrastructure, transportation of agricultural commodities, bee keeping, fish farming as well as inputs trading.

"We are in the process of signing up more commercial banks, as well as support access to credit for community as well as rural financial institutions", said the MD.

In one of its incubation centres in

Morogoro, PASS' manages agricultural innovation centre that offers mentorship and coaching to youths in horticulture, through the use of screen houses.

Youths are coached by experts from both PASS and Sokoine University of Agriculture on issues to do with production, farm preparation and management, fertilizer application among others. They are also taken through financial literacy, market opportunities among other things that are helpful in ensuring business growth.

PASS works with 15 banks towards

implementing its endeavours in supporting investments in the sector. They include CRDB Bank PLC, NMB Bank PLC, TIB Development Bank, African Banking Corporation Ltd, Akiba Commercial Bank PLC, Bank of Africa Tanzania Ltd, Amana Bank Ltd, Equity Bank Tanzania Ltd, Mkombozi Commercial Bank PLC, Access Bank Tanzania Ltd, TPB Bank PLC, Vision Fund Micro Finance Bank Ltd, Azania Bank Limited, NBC Bank Ltd and Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank.

AGENCIES

TFS gets set to upgrade Pugu forest reserve in Coast region

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

TANZANIA Forest Services (TFS) is finalising the plans to upgrade Pugu Forest Reserve located in Coast Region to become special forest reserve for natural environment.

Pugu forest, which is located 20 km South West of Dar es Salaam, is one of the forest reserves available in the country and controlled by TFS.

The deputy forest manager for Pugu, Manzia Shedura, said it was resolved recently at a special tree planting campaign held in the forest. Themed; "The Green Tanzania is Possible, Plant Trees for Industrial Development"; the campaign is part of the government reforestation efforts seeking to control the impact of climate change.

According to her, Pugu forest remains a vital resource given its contribution to the ecosystem and the environment in Dar es Salaam Region.

She said the forest is having an exclusive features and species which are not found anywhere in the world. Therefore it upgrading it was vital for protection of natural resources and environment.

"The upgrading meant to abolish all human activities in or along the forest area; rather the forest will only be used for ecological tourism," she said.

She said that "The move also means that even if there will be signs of mining and other economic resources, no permit will

be issued to extract the resources in the forest."

Pugu forest reserve is rich of bio-diversities including reptiles, birds and insects as well as popular trees known as Mpugupugu that named after Pugu forest and Pugu secondary school.

For his part, TFS extension and publicity officer Shaban Kiula said the campaign is targeting on restoring the lost ecological system that was destroyed by human activities. Kiula said that Tanzania is covered with total of 48.1 million actors of forest resources in the geographical area of 88 million.

He said Pugu forest reserve is covered with more than 50 species, today (yesterday) we plant species called 'albizia'.

"I call upon other stakeholders in the country to support the government's efforts in preserving the forest resources for the benefit of all living organisms," he said.

TFS ambassador Neli Kazikazi urged youth to preserve the forest resources for the country's development.

She said young people are supposed to be the catalyst for developing and preserving the forest resources in order to attract international tourism that creates employment.

Kazikazi who is also the Miss Tanzania second runner-up also urged the society residing close to forest to make good use and safe ways of preserving and developing the forest resources.



A banana vendor hunts for customers for her ripe bananas along the Ilala Mchikichini stretch of Dar es Salaam's Uhuru Street yesterday. Photo: Selemani Mpochi

Bagamoyo distributes 227 bags of sugar to orphanages, govt schools

By Guardian Reporter

BAGAMOYO District Commissioner Zainabu Kawawa has confiscated 227 bags of smuggled sugar and later distributed the consignment to public schools and orphanage centres.

Speaking at the handing over ceremony, Kawawa warned dishonest business people from en-

gaging in illegal importation of the sweetener and other products since they will all be seized and donated to the needy.

"Importation of sugar and other products into our district should be done through authorised ports. Importers must adhere to country laws including payment of government taxes," said the DC.

She said the district security and safety committee is well organised to ensure control of illegal imports through unauthorised ports. She noted that Bagamoyo district is determined to control illegal imports to boost revenue collections.

Kawawa said her office was working hard to create an enabling businesses and investment

climate.

She said the district authority has already organised a joint meeting with stakeholders, traders and government departments and institutions to discuss how to eliminate bureaucracy in issuance of importation permits.

She said stakeholders are expected to come up with sugges-

tions on how to control illegal imports and taxes evasion.

She mentioned some of the government institutions which will take part in the meeting as the Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA), Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA), Customs and revenue departments and members of the district security

and safety committee.

Kawawa hinted that the aim of conducting the meeting was to inform the public on the conducive environment available that could enable businesspeople to use the Bagamoyo port in order to boost government's revenue collections.

"We want to bring together stakeholders to discuss how the

district can create an enabling business environment," said Kawawa.

The DC however challenged the schools to make good use of the provided sugar.

She warned teachers that stringent actions will be taken against any of them who will attempt to take the sugar for personal use.

Buses leave many Easter travellers stranded for hours

NAIROBI

HUNDREDS of passengers travelling for the Easter holidays were yesterday night stranded as public service vehicles grappled to meet the high demand.

Many of the travellers to western Kenya were forced to wait for long hours outside various booking offices.

Mary Moraa, who had planned to travel to Kisii, said most vehicles were fully-booked by the time she got to the booking office yesterday afternoon.

"At Ena Coach booking office, I was told vehicles to Kisii could only be available on Saturday. I was forced to move from one station to another only to find space at Otange shuttle where the fares had been hiked," said Moraa.

Popular bus offices such as Transline and Smartline were crowded with passengers milling around waiting for vehicles that were not forthcoming.

Some bus companies have also increased their prices by more than Sh1,000, further hurting the pockets of the passengers.

"I usually pay Sh800 to travel to Kisii, but today I have been forced to pay Sh1,500. They said to board their bus, you must pay Sh1,300 while a shuttle is nothing less than Sh1,500. But I had to wait for the vehicle for more than six hours," said Moraa.

For PSV companies that had not raised their prices such as Ena Coach, all their vehicles had been fully booked for Friday with passengers advised to try their luck on Saturday.

At Machakos Country Bus stage, some travellers were forced to spend the night in the cold as they waited for

vehicles they had already booked.

The transport crisis comes in the wake of increased fuel prices, adding more pain to Kenyans.

The Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) on Sunday announced new prices for petrol, diesel and kerosene, which rose to hit Sh106.60, Sh102.13 and Sh102.22 respectively.

The monthly review saw the prices of both petrol and diesel go up by Sh5 while the cost of kerosene, which is mainly used by majority of poor households, went up by Sh2.76.

It is common for relatives to travel in the same vehicle when going to a common destination.

This may be a wedding, a burial, or simply visiting a public social place such as a mall. Sadly, some of these journeys have ended tragically.

In January for instance, six family members, among them four children and their grandfather, died in a road accident on the Kericho-Nakuru highway.

In another crash in July 2016, five members of the same family perished at Salгаа, on the Nakuru-Eldoret Highway. The five were: father, son, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren.

In yet another heart-rending case, in August last year, five members of the same family died in a grisly road crash at Kianungu on the Nyeri-Nyahururu Road.

A man, his two children and two female relatives perished. They were returning home from a family gathering.

During the Easter season last year, a woman and her four children perished on the Nakuru - Eldoret high-



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way. They were heading to Ol Kalou in Nyandarua County for bride price payment.

Over the years, the shattering news of relatives dying on our roads at the same time have led some to reconsider travelling in the same vehicle.

Whatever mode of travelling they are using, public or private, they either travel on different dates, or use different vehicles.

Daisy Okoti's is one such family. Un-

like most people who travel as a family, Daisy cannot remember the last time she travelled together with her sisters.

"I have two sisters, and as far back as my memory can go, the three of us travelled separately. When we were younger, it was usually the firstborn travelling alone and then the two of us would travel together," says Daisy.

When they were in primary, one of them used the institution's van, while

the other two would use public means to get to school.

"Our neighbours and schoolmates thought that one of us was favoured, but it was our parents' way to ensure that we did not travel in the same vehicle," she says.

They are all adults now, but this structure of travelling separately is so ingrained in them that the thought of the three travelling together does not even come up.

"Sometimes two of us travel together, but never the three of us. Even when we are offered a lift, it is very natural for one of us to step back.

"When travelling home over the holidays, since we all live in Nairobi, it takes us about three days to get home for Christmas. We pick dates carefully. One could go on a Tuesday, the other on a Wednesday and the last one on a Thursday. Or two of us would arrive on the same day but at different times,



Mwanga district commissioner Thomas Apsion (C) cuts a ribbon on Thursday to launch a Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS) project research report on the water sector in the district. Others are PETS chairman Hendry Chaki (L) and Veronica Shao, executive director of the Kilimanjaro NGO Cluster on STI/HIV/AIDS and reproductive health interventions (KINSHAI). Photo: Godfrey Mushi

Tanzanian expert trains Batswana on new live-line power stabilisers

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

ABOUT 30 electrical experts from Botswana are attending a short course on live line technology in Gaborone, carried out by a Tanzanian engineer, Mac Donald Mwakamele.

Speaking in an interview, Mwakamele said the government of Botswana through its electric company (BPC) had assigned him to train 30 local expert on the technology.

Explaining further he said with about 70 percent of the country's population having access to electricity, Botswana is currently focused on the digital transformation of its grid network to enhance reliable access for its people.

He said that few countries in Southern Africa region are in process to adopt live line technology that would ensure reliable power supply.

Mwakamele said Zambia has already adopted the technology.

The live line technology can help investors to continue producing in case there is power problem, since it allows maintenance without switching off

electricity.

Engineer Mwakamele said after Gaborone, he would return to Tanzania and conduct a similar training before going to Nigeria later on this year.

He said few years ago Zambia Electric Supply Corporation had contacted him to help train their technicians to adopt the technology.

He went on to explain that after Zambia introduced the technology it has helped to create new jobs which has offered opportunity to increase gender equality by hiring female technicians.

"The government (Zambia) has placed preference to train female technicians which strengthens social development by empowering women who were otherwise marginalised," he said.

He also asked the management of Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TanESCO) to support him in order to enable the country achieve her goals.

"As more investors come in jobs are created, government's revenue is boosted and the economy grows," he added.

Ambitious 2.6bn/- worth special needs education centre in Arusha time-barred

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

THE construction of the 2.6bn/- worth special education and training facility targeting to combine all 'special needs' schools under one roof has stalled, despite the government remitting 90 percent of the building costs.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Science Technology and Vocational Training, Ave Maria Semakafu,

stated here that the facility was supposed to have been ready by January last year, when the first batch of pupils and students were to be taken in. President John Magufuli is expected to inaugurate the buildings on the 28th of April this year, which is less than ten days from now.

The Permanent Secretary was speaking at Patandi Teachers training Centre during the inspection of the unfinished structures for the proposed

multi-use education centre for pupils and students with various types of physical and mental disabilities.

Ave Maria Semakafu pointed out that, even after extending the completion period from early last year to January this year, the building is far from being complete and the government now wants clear explanation regarding the project stalling.

"This was supposed to be an

exemplary training facility for people with special needs, including pupils, students and teachers, yet there seems to be no sign of it being completed in time while some parts do not meet anticipated quality standards," said the PS, adding that the next step is to revoke the contract of the construction firm undertaking the project.

The government is currently planning to establish special

training and education facilities to cater for youth with special needs in each and every region of Tanzania and the first such project is being constructed at Patandi in the Tengeru Ward, of Meru District, Arusha Region.

Acting Principal for Patandi Special Needs Teachers Training Centre, Mwalimu Andrew Tamamu said the project is being executed at the cost of 2.567 billion/- and so far the

central government has remitted 2.3 billion/- which is 90 percent of the total expenses.

The facility will feature a total of 12 classrooms capable of taking 640 students, an administration block, four dormitories and a multi-purpose hall.

"We have been allowed to start recruiting students and so far we have permission to enroll 320," said the Head of the institution.

Explaining the project delay,

the contractor in-charge of the dormitory wing, Eliud Misana said the construction project entails high standards of workmanship but the available local masons are less qualified thus taking longer time to train and direct them on what to do.

"We are also crippled by lack of materials as these, especially gravel, are outsourced from far and the people hired to deliver them usually bring the lot rather late," said Misana.



Work in progress at the construction site of a medical laboratory in the Bukima Parish of the Catholic Church in Musoma Rural as captured earlier this week, the aim being to make better health services more accessible to residents of surrounding areas. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Kenya and Uganda to demarcate their territorial boundary

KAMPALA

KENYA and Uganda will begin boundary demarcation in the latest bid to resolve row over the Migingo Island.

Foreign Affairs Cabinet Secretary Monica Juma yesterday said the new move follows a deal reached between Nairobi and Kampala during President Yoweri Museveni's recent tour of Kenya.

"It is a technical process, to mark the boundary. Does it mean we are going to begin renegotiating boundaries? No. That is not what it means. Our commitment is to respect the boundaries inherited at independence. That is an immutable starting point," Dr Juma told a press conference in Nairobi during the Ministry's quarterly briefing. "What we are talking about is really to re-clarify the boundaries so that people

don't claim what is theirs when it is not theirs either by omission or commission."

The memorandum of understanding signed between President Uhuru Kenyatta and Uganda's Museveni will seek to clarify the border, create more border points for legal crossings as well as provide guidelines on sharing resources that straddle the border, Juma said.

A similar arrangement had been reached with Ethiopia and Tanzania, to help remove disputes over the border reach.

But between Ugandan and Kenya, the focus could be on how to resolve the Migingo Island issue.

Now in its 15 years of tiff, the one-acre island, closest to Kenyan shores in Migori County is rich in fish.

AGENCIES

Govt pledges incentives to teachers whose students excel in national examinations

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has pledged to award incentives to primary school teachers whose students will perform better in national examinations.

The Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Regional Administration and Local Government, Dr Tixon Zunda made the revelation when winding up the sustainable training

course to public school education officers at ward level from Dodoma and Singida regions.

The training was held at Bustani Teachers College in Kondoa District, Dodoma Region.

"Incentives will be awarded to all teachers whose students will perform better especially in national examinations," he said calling upon teachers to work hard to enable their students to perform better in their final examinations.

The PS further urged the ward education of-

ficers to conduct close monitoring and evaluation of teachers' performance.

He added that the government has resolved to use student's performance to measure their accountability instead of the Open Performance Review and Appraisal System (OPRAS).

Dr Zunda noted that each teacher must have a prepared work plan all the time to increase students passing rates in his or her subject.

He clarified that each teacher will be tested

according to the number of periods attended for the whole term, the thing that will help to reduce negligence.

Other criteria will be to increase the passing rate in the subject through tests on 'KKK' which is reading, writing and counting for both primary and secondary school students.

Head of Agency for the Development of Educational Management (ADEM) Lucas Mzelela said the training to ward education officers

was aimed at improving the quality of education in the country.

Mzelela added that after the training, the ward education officers in collaboration with district education officers will conduct training to other teachers.

He said ADEM has been commissioned to conduct training across the country to ensure all children knows how to read, count and write.

Merck Foundation brings together 15 African First Ladies to break the stigma of infertility

BUJUMBURA

MERCK Foundation First Ladies Initiative (MFLLI) has brought together First Ladies from 15 African countries to discuss strategies to end stigma over infertility and empower women and girls in education.

The summit which was held from March 30th to April 1st this year included a special training programme that was organised for the First Ladies' technical teams to enable them to achieve the agreed

objectives and follow up on Merck Foundation's programmes of building capacity in different sectors.

Prof Frank Stangenberg Haverkamp, Chairman of the Executive Board of E. Merck KG and the Chairman of Merck Foundation Board of Trustees emphasized that Merck through its foundation is committed to support the social and economic development of Africa, Asia and developing countries by building healthcare capacity.

"Our aim is to improve access to quality and equitable healthcare solutions across African continent," he said. Dr Rasha Kelej, CEO of Merck Foundation and President - Merck More Than a Mother said: "I am very proud to partner with the African First Ladies to become 'Merck More Than a Mother' ambassador and partner with them to build healthcare capacity, break the stigma of infertility and empower women and girls in education with special focus on STEM.

During our strategy meeting, we shared experiences, discussed challenges and defined solutions to ensure continuous improvement and exchange variable aspects of different cultures in order to localise specific messages that can raise health awareness and create a culture shift to empower women and girls across Africa."

Denise Nkurunziza, the First Lady of Burundi said, "I thank Merck Foundation for inviting me. We recently launched their programmes in my country, and they are proving to be very substantial.



Simanjiro District Council executive director Yefred Myenzi (C) presents agenda at a meeting for ward councillors on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadei

AfDB seminar: Ethical business model is key to successful delivery of projects

ABIDJAN

PARTICIPANTS of an African Development Bank business opportunity seminar held here earlier this month have underscored the need to strengthen and foster the engagement of the business sector and other stakeholders to effectively support investment in infrastructure and human development projects.

Seeking strategic alliances and potential business opportunities with the bank, the private-sector representatives, civil works contractors, local manufacturers, suppliers, small and medium-sized enterprises and govern-

ment representatives took part in presentations and interactive sessions on the bank's vision for Africa's economic development, operational priorities, business processes and procurement guidelines.

AfDB officials at the two-day seminar also facilitated dialogue sessions on ongoing projects as well as the bank's financial products business opportunities and programmes available to public, private and social enterprises.

Delivering a presentation on the bank's strategies and policy parameters for partnerships and project financing, AfDB senior policy specialist Hassanatu Man-

saray said: "In every investment we make, the bank's due diligence teams look at the economic viability and development impact of the project or programme."

Valerie Dabady, the bank's manager for Resource Mobilisation and Partnerships, meanwhile said the institution's capacity to link public-sector needs with private sector expertise, technology and resources was unrivalled on the continent. "The African Development Bank Group has funded 4,391 projects since its inception. This includes 1,166 projects in West Africa with total commitments of \$23.5 billion. In 2018, the Bank's total approvals and disbursements

stood at \$8.90 billion and \$6.02 billion, respectively," Dabady said.

Dabady remarked that the bank's non-sovereign investments also continue to grow, with those in private sector transactions growing from \$250 million in 2005 to \$2.29 billion last year.

She listed several prospective opportunities for private sector partners in the infrastructure space, including the \$371.22 million Abidjan urban transport project to finance work on a fourth bridge in the Abidjan metropolis, the Dakar-Lagos Highway rehabilitation project, and the Yeleen Rural Electrification Project in Burkina Faso.

Romain Neyrand, SOCPRM chief financial officer (CFO) shared his insights while working on Abidjan's Henri Konan Bédié Bridge project. Launched in 2014 and co-financed by the bank, the 6.7 km bridge has 24 toll lanes, four dedicated electronic tag lanes and now averages up to 7,500 vehicles per hour.

The bridge has registered over 100,000,000 vehicles since its opening and contributes significantly to the reduction of pollution, congestion and carbon dioxide emissions in Abidjan. The public facility currently has 185 employees.

Commenting on the AfDB-

funded AZITO power plant, Azito Energie CFO Douphet Yeo said the combined cycle power plant is contributing to Côte d'Ivoire's energy mix, and exporting electricity to the neighbouring markets of Ghana, Mali, Burkina Faso, Togo and Benin.

"The bank needs to get more private sector players plugged into its investment plans and priorities, and its business development and investment framework for key sectors like infrastructure and agriculture," said Oladipo Ajayi, Finance Controller for Johannesburg-based AGCO Corporation, an agriculture equipment maker.

Participants at the seminar affirmed that the bank's ethical business model was responsible for the successful financing, execution and delivery of its infrastructure and human development projects.

Convened twice a year, the Abidjan Business Opportunity Seminar was attended by some 200 delegates from Algeria, Angola, Austria, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, France, Nigeria, South Africa, Spain, Sweden and Turkey.

The second one for 2019 is scheduled for the fourth quarter of the year and will be hosted by the bank's Field Regional Resource Centre in Tunis.

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SATURDAY 20 APRIL 2019

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

True, this venture demands immediate implementation

PRESIDENT John Magufuli earlier this week directed top officials in departments overseeing the lands and industries dockets to ensure that a project proposed back in 2017 to start a 25,000 acre sugar plantation and put up a sugar factory is processed rapidly and takes off soon.

The project by a Mauritius state-led company, Sugar Investment Trust (SIT), was not rapidly taken up and the necessary efforts to find land for the project as well as permits for regulatory needs brought the company's board chairman to seek audience with the president on the issue, noting the constant emphasis on facilitating foreign investments. He finally had audience, and acted upon.

The news about a major sugar investment plan taking two years and not getting off the ground came in the wake of clear confusion in the ranks of the Ministry of Industry and Trade concerning the sugar import regime.

At a certain point it was decided that local sugar manufacturers should no longer import the material but those who make beverages or confectionaries that require a specified type of sugar that isn't offloaded into the market can do their importing, for those needs in particular.

The decision was rather hurriedly rescinded, so local sugar companies can still import sugar from outside, repack it and sell as it was a local product, happy at that.

As a matter of fact a competitive situation would have required that the sugar is imported and placed on the market by importer's price, which suggests that many local producers would close shop as cheaper sugar would be sufficient.

Many people and especially mem-

bers of Parliament see that situation as hellish and leads to the death of local industries, whereas that is not the case.

The owners would simply be compelled to sell shares to well placed investors, acquire new technology, shed labor and produce more competitively, not just close shop and go home. But this scenario too isn't the favorite vision of conservatives detesting selling shares to foreigners.

There is an expression that the best way to go forward is to know what to take and what to leave behind, in which case industrial progress requires a competitive and not a protectionist situation.

This preference for a protected market appears to be the reason officials were holding back the major sugar investment plan as the prospect of covering the gap in sugar needs with a new major project would scuttle their plans to continue with large imports that are rereleased as local produce and put to the market at much higher prices than ought to be the case.

They parade this practice as proper for protection of local industry, while it impoverishes consumers.

Since the fifth phase government is intent on walking the talk on industrialization, many of these bureaucratic bottlenecks ostensibly put in place to protect local industries but in actual fact making the people poorer shall yield to pressure slowly but surely.

This is the only way to avoid upheavals that we now see taking place in many parts of Africa, and a number of others waiting to happen.

People don't sleep on empty stomachs singing nationalist hymns as it doesn't work. Getting investments, flooding the country with cheap local sugar is good.

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HAPPY EASTER



Ancient Rome offers lessons on importance of sustainable development

By Special Correspondent

SUSTAINABLE development encapsulates the idea that material progress must always go hand in hand with social inclusion and respect for the environment.

Delinking economic growth from the other two pillars would be an act of self-sabotage. Ancient Rome offers us a case study of how tragedy might play out—and how it can be avoided.

The Roman Republic lasted 500 years because its institutions were supple enough to adapt to two great challenges—internal conflict between aristocrats and the masses and external conflict with rival states and integration of conquered peoples.

Despite constant tensions, Romans were bonded by shared values—a sense of honor rooted in public service and a commitment to their conception of the common good.

For generations, the center held—until it did not. At first, the changes were subtle. Territorial expansion—at the beginning of the second century BCE, the Republic stretched from Gaul to Greece—brought an influx of wealth in the form of tribute payments, taxes from new provinces, and the development of metal mines.

A new class of super-wealthy Romans created financial instruments to package debt, resell it, and invest the profits in infrastructure projects. Sound familiar?

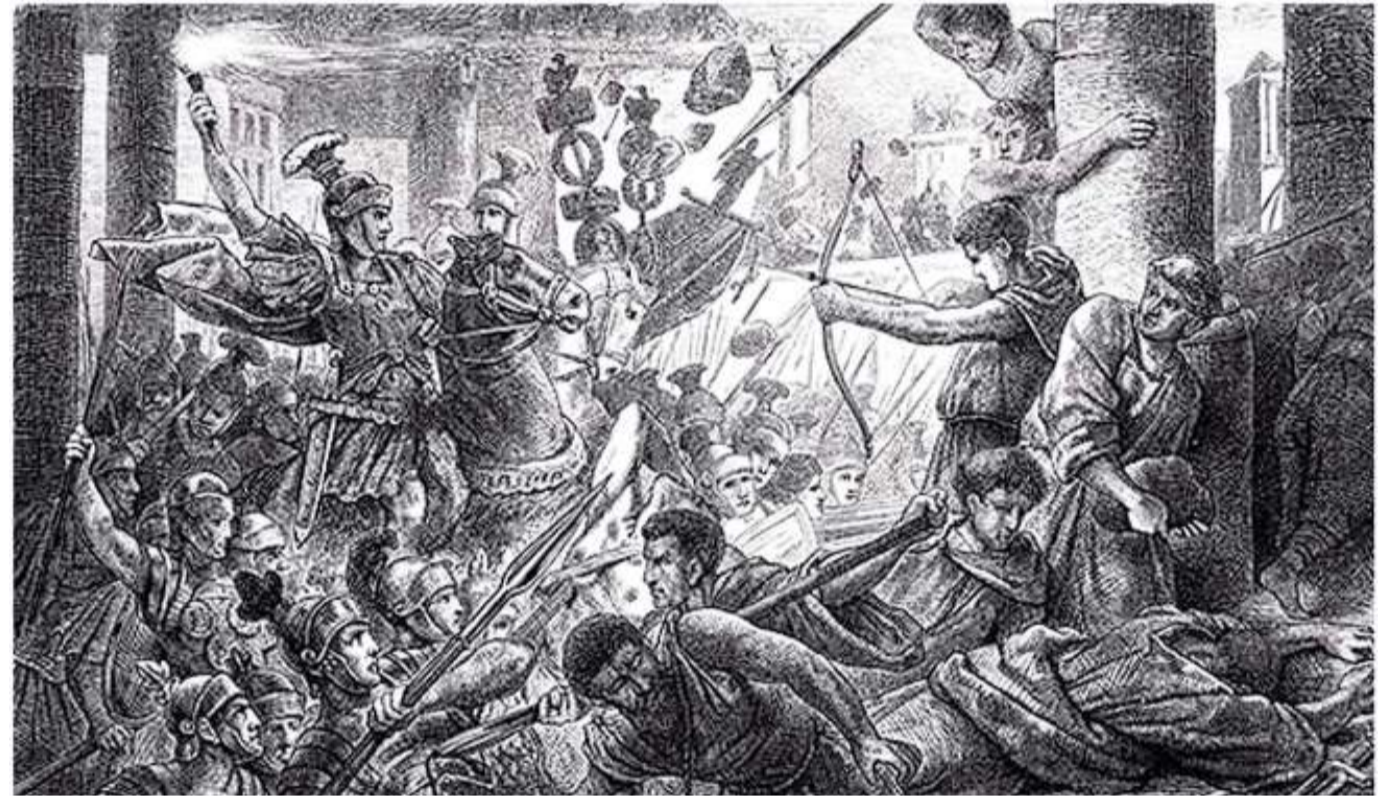
In many ways, this was an ancient form of globalization, both trade and financial. And the boom times drove the population of Rome to nearly 1 million by the first century BCE, making it the first city on earth to reach that milestone.

But all was not well. The new wealth was not being shared widely. A mass influx of slaves upended the labor market and left soldiers and citizens out of work and increasingly angry.

At the same time, as noted by Edward Watts in his new book, *Mortal Republic*, wealth accumulation began to supplant personal virtue and service to the state as the main measure of success.

And the elites did not spend their newfound wealth merely on villas and luxury goods. Unlike their forefathers, they engaged in large-scale bribery and corruption to secure political honors and offices, and judicial impunity.

Perhaps no one person embodies the dynamic of the age better than Marcus Licinius



Crassus. His fortune—generated largely by corrupt property speculation—was so vast that it matched the entire Roman treasury. And as bankroller for hundreds of politicians, he gained unrivaled influence from his wealth.

It wasn't long before the fault lines ruptured. In previous centuries, the elites responded to popular discontent by sharing power and rebalancing the political equilibrium. But under the sway of self-interest and corruption, the consensus unraveled.

The same pattern played out again and again during the Republic's last century—populist anger running into patrician intransigence, leading to overreach by both sides, often ending in violence.

The cycle started with the Gracchus brothers, Tiberius and Gaius. Tiberius pushed for the redistribution of land to the poor. But his reform plan triggered conservative opposition, and he was clubbed to death. His younger brother, Gaius, picked up the mantle, focusing on social protection—in the form of subsidized grain—and fighting corruption through judicial reform. He too was killed.

Following the chaos, Gaius Marius arose as the champion of the poor, riding a wave of popular disgust at senatorial corruption.

But he ultimately allied with those willing to use violence for political means, prompting a patrician backlash and the dictatorship of Sulla, who did the unthinkable—lead an army across the Roman city limits. His reign was one of mass proscriptions, property confiscation, and neutering of plebian

power.

In the years that followed, unscrupulous patricians such as Cataline and Clodius sought to advance their own careers by exploiting popular frustration—including by casual recourse to violence and intimidation.

All of this paved the way for Julius Caesar, who used strong-arm tactics to carry out populist reforms. But after his victory in a civil war, Caesar too assumed the title of dictator and became increasingly autocratic. His murder prompted another round of civil bloodletting, effectively killing the Republic.

Over the course of the Republic's fateful final century, a succession of leaders smashed norms previously thought inviolable. Political violence became routine.

The institutions of state were weaponized to persecute opponents. The mob grew increasingly angry. In turn, strongmen offered to restore order. All because of the festering wounds of inequality and corruption.

Following the Republic's collapse, Rome enjoyed a remarkable resurgence—although the peace was secured in part through the suppression of democratic institutions.

Edward Gibbon, the great chronicler of the fall of Rome, deemed the apex of empire in the second century CE to be the period in history when "the condition of the human race was most happy and prosperous."

What Gibbon did not know was that favorable fortune owed much to a favorable climate. As documented by Kyle Harper in a remarkable new

book, *The Fate of Rome: Climate, Disease, and the End of an Empire*, the period between roughly 200 BCE and 150 CE is now known as the Rome Climate Optimum—a warm, wet, and predictable climate uniquely favorable to the empire's key agricultural crops.

But by the third century, the climate became cooler, drier, and more unpredictable, with more frequent droughts and crop failures. By the middle of the fifth century, the Late Antique Little Ice Age had arrived.

A changing climate reduced the empire's resilience to a variety of shocks, including pandemics. Smallpox struck in the second century, and a virulent outbreak that may have been Ebola followed in the third. In the mid-sixth century, the Plague of Justinian—the first known incidence of bubonic plague—probably killed half of the empire's population.

Recent evidence shows the role of climate change. The decade before the outbreak of plague saw some of Europe's coldest temperatures in two millennia, brought about by a sequence of massive volcanic eruptions.

This likely forced gerbils and marmots out of their natural habitats in central Asia, causing the bacteria-bearing fleas they carried to infect the black rat, whose population had exploded along Rome's expansive network of trade routes.

To be sure, the fall of Rome had many fathers. It remains perhaps the most overdetermined event in human history. But it seems increasingly clear that the natural world impinging on the human world was a major culprit.

Weakened by these hostile forces of nature, the empire started to unravel in the third century. This was a period marked by persistent political instability, pressure on the frontiers, and a fiscal crisis compounded by currency debasement.

Heeding expert counsel will often stand as vital protection against dengue fever

DENGUE fever is a mosquito-borne tropical disease caused by the dengue virus. Symptoms typically begin three to fourteen days after infection. This may include a high fever, headache, vomiting, muscle and joint pains, and a characteristic skin rash. Recovery generally takes two to seven days. In a small proportion of cases, the disease develops into severe dengue, also known as dengue hemorrhagic fever, resulting in bleeding, low levels of blood platelets and blood plasma leakage, or into dengue shock syndrome, where dangerously low blood pressure occurs.

Dengue is spread by several species of female mosquitoes of the Aedes type, principally *A. aegypti*. The virus has five types; infection with one type usually gives lifelong immunity to that type, but only short-term immunity to the others. Subsequent infection with a different type increases the risk of severe complications. A number of tests are available to confirm the diagnosis including detecting antibodies to the virus or its RNA.

A vaccine for dengue fever has been approved and is commercially available in a number of countries. The vaccine, however, is only recommended in those who have been previously infected. Other methods of prevention include reducing mosquito habitat and limiting exposure to bites. This may be done by getting rid of or covering standing water and wearing clothing that covers much of the body. Treatment of acute dengue is supportive and includes giving fluid either by mouth or intravenously for mild or moderate disease. For more severe cases, blood transfusion may be required. About half a million people require hospital admission every year. Paracetamol (acetaminophen) is recommended instead of nonsteroidal

anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) for fever reduction and pain relief in dengue due to an increased risk of bleeding from NSAID use.

Dengue has become a global problem since the Second World War and is common in more than 110 countries, mainly in Asia and South America. Each year between 50 and 528 million people are infected and approximately 10,000 to 20,000 die.

The earliest descriptions of an outbreak date from 1779. Its viral cause and spread were understood by the early 20th century. Apart from eliminating the mosquitoes, work is ongoing for medication targeted directly at the virus. It is classified as a neglected tropical disease.

In the same vein, the government this week confirmed a new outbreak of dengue fever in the commercial capital, Dar es Salaam and Tanga region, with more than 300 people having tested positive.

The Deputy Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Dr Faustine Ndugulile told reporters at a press conference in Dodoma that 252 cases were recorded in Dar es Salaam and another 55 in Tanga.

Due to the outbreak, he appealed to people with symptoms such as sudden high fever, severe headache, pain behind the eyes, severe joint and muscle pain, fatigue and vomiting to seek medical advice, rest and drink plenty of fluids but avoid using painkillers such as Diclopar, Brufen and Ibuprofen as they can increase the risk of bleeding.

All the 252 patients in Dar es Salaam are receiving treatment, and no fatality has been reported until now, he told a news conference. Medical authorities are currently monitoring cases of the disease throughout the country, with no fatality recorded

By Bashir Farah

Ogaden Basin: A mirage of wealth and a source of corporate selfishness

ON February 27, 2019, a group of friends and I unexpectedly decided to travel to Hilala oil site without prior discussion. This unplanned journey turned to be a long trip towards Calub oil extraction site, the biggest in the Ogaden Basin which is also known as Jehdin (Jeexdin). My primary objective was to see the actual scene where the first barrel of crude oil was recently extracted.

I was also very keen to understand the extent of support that the local communities around the extraction sites receive, both from the companies involved in oil extraction, the regional administration, and the federal government. It was an unprecedented golden opportunity that enabled us to acquire access to see the highly securitized oil extraction sites in the Ogaden Basin.

However, at first glance, what became apparent to us was the orchestrated secrecy around the widespread marginalization which was in full display, and the large-scale destruction that could have been prevented. This observation compelled me to write this piece in order to highlight the actual situation on the ground.

Without the recent political changes in Ethiopia, and the ousting of former Somali Regional president Abdi Mahmoud Omar which followed, I would certainly not have had the same access to the Calub and Hilala oil sites that I was fortunate enough to have now. Emotionally, I was intensely distraught by being a witness to a dire situation that rendered me completely helpless and made me feel as though there was nothing I could contribute. The living standards of the local communities and their desperate fight against poverty was extremely heart-breaking.

Against the backdrop of their plight, we find gas reserves and oil fields without any physical production, companies that never take the plight of locals seriously, and authorities that never fully represented their communities, all contesting fraudulently in Calub and Hilala. On top of this, poor infrastructure coupled with the existence of very limited amenities worsened the situation- because while the aforementioned actors contested over billions of dollars worth of resources the communities under which these resources lie are lacking the very basic necessities in life.

A visual geographical representation of Poly-GCL's current areas of activity, including their planned pipeline construction

In more general terms, from the public perception, oil exploration means the imposition of new restrictions on the local community rather than something

which will pave the way for local economic improvement. As such, among the local community, a famous saying goes "the resources in Calub and Hilala will make Ethiopia rich but will keep us impoverished" which poignantly captures the ordinary person's thoughts around these resources based on their experiences.

History of Ogaden oil extraction

On June 2018, Chinese owned Poly-GCL Petroleum company conducted the first ever crude oil extraction tests in the Ogaden Basin. The inaugural ceremony of the crude oil tests was attended by federal government representatives, the then Somali Regional state President Abdi Mohamoud Omar (Abdi Iley), and senior executives of Poly-GCL Petroleum.

However, the history of oil exploration in the Ogaden Basin dates far beyond the present century. It is a history which spans three successive Ethiopian regimes: emperor Haile Selassie I, The Derg, and the current government led by EPRDF. Between 1955-1991, 46 wells have been drilled in Calub and Hilala oil sites. Aside from recently discovered wells and ongoing explorations, Calub and Hilala oil exploration sites comprise of nearly 32 wells. Despite this long history, the communities living in these areas remain somewhat doubtful of the physical existence of the crude oil that has been tested just a few months ago. While they clearly witness ongoing exploration/extractions activities past and present, their sense of suspicion arises from the sheer imbal-

Abdi Mohammed Omar (right), President of Somali Regional State, Meles Alem (centre), spokesperson of the ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ahmed Shide, Minister of Communication Affairs attending the inaugural ceremony of the first ever crude oil extraction



ance between the long history of oil exploration and the perceived benefits from the companies involved in such activities.

In other words, if this prized resource does in fact exist- why have we not gained a single thing? Thus, from the eyes of the local community, oil discovery in Calub, Hilala and elsewhere in the region remains a fantasy engulfed with the possibility of wealth, but which remains inherently inaccessible.

Over the past 70 years, there has not been a single period where one can claim to have witnessed some form of harmony between the expectations of local communities and the activities of these corporations, nor have we witnessed any tangible contributions made to the lives of those directly affected by these very activities. Hilala-6 Well where the first barrel of crude oil was recently extracted.

Job creation and local development

When oil exploration in the Ogaden Basin started in the 1950s, people were genuinely hopeful, smiling and congratulating one another on the discovery of oil in their villages. It was conceived of as something valuable, with the potential of contributing positively to their quality of life. After 70 years of persistent explorations, for the first time, light crude oil from Hilala site began to be extracted on a trial basis. Nonetheless, this long-awaited and eagerly anticipated event did not bring with it the same hope that news of its existence first brought to the population. This is because the mechanics behind oil extraction is virtually invisible to the public eye, what was evident however was that, just like in the

past, recent extraction tests have brought no economic benefit to the local people whatsoever.

Furthermore, although a quarter of the working age population of Qorahay and Shabelle zones are unemployed, there have been no attempts at job creation by the oil companies operating in the oil sites. Nor have they attempted to hire the vast number of young people on the job market within this impoverished community, instead relying on hiring from outside. Thus, it appears that the important practice of localization and contextualization of oil and gas extraction activities remain largely ignored at both federal and regional levels.

For instance, the nearest village to Hilala-6 Well is Armale (Carmale), where people are dying of hunger due to severe food and water shortages thereby having to rely on traveling long distances for this basic provision. Meanwhile, homes inside the closed-off oil fields are well decorated, ventilated, and with the availability of running-water, electricity and other essential infrastructure. Moreover, the communities residing around these sites have no access to health services, and no available roads except for those exclusive to the companies operating in Calub and Hilala. In short, comparing the residential areas for the employees of Poly-GCL inside the campuses with the homes of the local people is frankly equivalent to the comparison of heaven and hell placed side by side.

Milking of a dying cow

As far as local communities are concerned, the situation in Hilala bears the resemblance of a dying cow milked by a stranger, and Poly-GCL's negligence of the local com-

munity is testament to this. The Chinese state-owned company has displayed a total disregard for the lives and livelihoods of communities who reside around extraction sites, their poor living standards have been exacerbated by a brutal disruption in their particular way of life as nomadic communities who depend wholly on their livestock for survival. Oil exploration activities have essentially shrunk the lands that nomads rely on for grazing, while imposing new restrictions around the movement of animals, killing anything and anyone in sight who trespasses certain demarcated areas. It is worth mentioning that such restricted areas are made up of confiscated lands that have led to a systematic pattern of forced displacements and the loss of livelihoods. In short, perhaps the least of the troubles brought by companies such as Poly-GCL is the thick dust that rises in the skies of Armale and Dhoobaweyn triggered by massive lorries transporting equipment.

Despite the decreased visibility caused by this rising dust, and the overall decrease in air quality, it appears that this is the least of the negative consequences that the presence of these corporations has had on the ancestral homelands of the local communities concerned.

The Health effects

Generally, oil exploration is considered a high-risk game. In the Somali Region, the risks associated with oil extraction and exploration to the immediate community and the wider region has never been assessed scientifically.

Moreover, not a single study has been conducted on the direct and indirect health effects of oil extraction. According to experts in

the field, oil exploration can have direct and indirect health effects. While direct health effects are those that result from the direct consequences of oil exploration, indirect health effects are those that result from the presence of the highly lucrative oil industry in the largely impoverished Elele and Dhoobaweyn districts. Neither Poly-GCL, nor the regional or federal state have taken any measures to ensure the protection of local people and the environment by raising any such concerns or creating some form of awareness from a public health perspective. Currently in terms of health, people are stuck in a stage of limbo where they seem to be caught between addressing the direct and indirect health issues caused by oil extraction and the uncertainty around what will happen next.

In summary, there are many critical concerns around the Ogaden Basin, but three major factors pose particularly huge challenges:

The first issue relates to the lack of transparency around extraction activities even in terms of essential information regarding the economic development and benefits for local communities, particularly around designated budget shares allocated for the development of local communities, all of which remain a completely hidden agenda.

The second is the total absence of regional institutions or civil society organizations that could have represented the interest of local community and prevented the occurrence of any detrimental effects of oil exploration, in terms of both health and the environment by holding companies accountable.

Innovators working to meet Africa's unmet health needs

By Nontobeko Mlambo

AN exhibition by the 30 WHO Innovation Challenge finalists was officiated by President of Cabo Verde Jorge Carlos Fonseca with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The innovators exhibited their innovations on the three-day WHO Africa Health Forum in Praia. The initiative attracted over 2 400 applications. Entries came in from 77 countries, 44 of them from African countries, with 34% of submissions from women innovators. The initiative aimed to source, select and profile innovations that apply a fresh new look in addressing challenges the continent faces.

Twambilile Phanga is a Malawian citizen, a researcher, and an advocate who is passionate about projects that promote rights, education and health of adolescents. Watch the video

She currently works as a senior research officer at the University of North Carolina (UNC) Project on adolescent focused projects. The Youth Friendly Health Services (YFHS) project in Malawi is an initiative supported by the UNC. In 2016, UNC project conducted the Girl Power study to assess whether a model of youth-friendly health services implemented in government clinics could improve service uptake in this population. The study compared three clinics that offered a model of YFHS to one that did not. Participants were followed for one year to monitor uptake and adherence to services. The results were 97% HIV testing, 82% condoms, and 54% contraception uptake, compared to the low numbers from the

clinic that did not offer the services. The YFHS model proved to be effective in increasing uptake and adherence to sexual and reproductive health support and services. The programme provides services from a young person's perspective and addresses known barriers to care in youth dedicated spaces, separate from adults. Providers are trained in the YFHS approach to improve attitudes and peer educators are used to help young clients navigate health services as well as provide free services.

Gérard Niyondiko is an engineer and a social entrepreneur who studied chemistry. Watch the video

He is the co-founder of Maia Africa, which aims to protect from malaria. MAIA is the first vector control tool designed in Africa with the Malaria Research and Training Center in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso and local women to protect vulnerable people by integrating it into their daily habits. The goal is to protect 20,000 people in the outlying areas of Ouagadougou with the long-lasting mosquito-repellent ointment over the course of 2019.

The lack of access to accurate, practical information and resources for women in Africa around menstruation is overwhelming. Watch the video

There are many taboos, stigmas, and restrictions attached to menstruation that restrict, shame, and diminish women. Disposable pads are unaffordable, poorly stocked and, if stocked, are of poor quality. Women are also often ashamed to purchase from male clerks. Also, most water, sanitation and hygiene facilities are inappropriate with no doors or locks, with no space



to change and no water and soap to wash. This situation puts these women at greater risk for contracting diseases and infections.

Jennifer Rubli, born in Canada, is trying to change this. She works for Femme International, an NGO that operates in the East African region, as research and monitoring and evaluation coordinator. The organisation has successfully developed and implemented a

comprehensive education-based intervention along with the distribution of reusable menstrual products.

Dr. Ime Asangansi holds a PhD in Information Systems from the University of Oslo, Norway and a medical degree (MBBS) from the University of Ibadan Nigeria. Watch the video

He is also an experienced software engineer and is the CEO of

eHealth4everyone, the company through which he developed the ISS platform. The ISS platform integrates several checklists used by health partners when conducting integrative supportive supervision and makes this data easily accessible. The tool is web-based and can be used from a simple mobile device through an application. The solution is very easy to set up and can accommodate

the input of data both online and offline. The solution enables GPS location, live signature and image capturing and storage, as well as the ability to download data and attachments for analysis and to accept or reject data submissions, as required.

Eunice Kamaara is a Professor at Moi University in Kenya with a doctorate in African Christian Ethics and MSc. in International Health Research Ethics. In 2004, she founded the African Character Initiation Programme (ACIP) with 4 university colleagues. The ACIP accompanies and empowers adolescents with information through their identity and sexual crises, to build their confidence and self-esteem and provides them with life skills and character values for successful transition to responsible adulthood. The community-based and participatory programme provides a one-stop source of information on adolescent realities in a context of modernization and information explosion.

For sustainability, the programme is community-sponsored and owned with an inbuilt training of young programme alumni as future trainers. Over the last 13 years, the programme has directly impacted over 2000 boys and girls through workshops and camps and directly mentored over 1500 individual boys and girls. The ACIP has been tested in a multitude of areas within Kenya, as well as Malawi and Nepal.

China stages exhibition to show cultural exchanges along Silk Road

BEIJING

AN exhibition of treasures from national museums of 12 countries along the Silk Road was staged at the National Museum of China in Beijing on April 11.

Featuring 234 items of relics, the exhibition displays the stories of cultural exchanges along the land and maritime Silk Roads.

The exhibition aims to provide an opportunity for people across the world to share the diversity of human civilization, said Wang Chunfa, curator of the National Museum of China.

By displaying the fusion of arts and skills of the countries along the Belt and Road, the exhibition promotes Silk Road spirit and reveals the future trend of the world - the building of a community of shared future for mankind, Wang remarked.

The exhibition is divided into two sections: the land Silk Road and maritime Silk Road, introducing cultural relics from 13 countries including China, Cambodia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Mongolia, Oman, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, and Tajikistan.

The relics include both national historic treasures and exotic items that carry the history of trade and cultural exchanges along the ancient Silk Road.



According to the exhibition, China started exchanges with the western Eurasia as early as in the prehistoric age. The artifacts of Turbino culture that originated from Russia are reliable evidences.

They have been found multiple times

Photo shows a barbed spear, artifact of Turbino culture, collected by the National Museum of China.

in northwest China's Gansu and Qinghai provinces as well as central China's Henan province. The barbed spear of Turbino culture collected by the National Museum of China and the leaf-like spear sent from Russia resembled

with each other.

The eastern section of the Silk Road was unclogged by Emperor Wu of Western Han Dynasty (206 BC-9 AD) in the late 2nd century BC, and the channel was later joined by the Roman Empire from

the western end.

During a long period of history, the Silk Road served as a relatively safe and effective channel for trade and cultural exchanges between the east and the west. Ever since, the communication and exchanges between the two parts of the world kept on.

A Chinese-style porcelain plate made by Iran now collected by the National Museum of Poland is a record of the trade and cultural exchanges along the Silk Road.

Such record can also be reflected by a Chinese cup manufactured in the Tang Dynasty (618-907) unearthed in Latvia which, according to experts, may have traveled all the way through Central Asia Bulgaria, and Scandinavia through trade, and ended up onto the shore of the Baltic Sea.

In 1913, Edouard Chavannes, a renowned French sinology, proposed the concept of maritime Silk Road for the first time. The maritime trade channel is also called maritime porcelain road and maritime spice road as porcelain and spice were the major goods traded along the route.

A plaque carved with the language of Hadhramaut collected

by the National Museum of Oman recorded the booming frankincense trade of the kingdom of a ramawt at that time.

The history of the Silk Road still has a profound influence even today, said the National Museum of Korea in the foreword of the exhibition.

All regions covered by the network could eliminate misunderstanding, live in harmony and achieve common prosperity through communication and cooperation, and the Silk Road is a core concept that helps the Republic of Korea, China and Japan, all situating at the eastern end of the Silk Road, understand the cultural traditions of each other, foreword of the exhibition.

In Nov. 2018, the National Museum of China hosted the First Conference of the International Alliance of Museums of the Silk Road, and signed a cooperation agreement under the proposal of Chinese President Xi Jinping, said Wang.

The exhibition, as a concrete step to implement the agreement, will last until July 14, 2019, Wang added.

Xinhua

Brexit uncertainty jeopardises UK's long-term economic prospects

LONDON

AS firms prepare for the prospect of a looming no-deal Brexit, recent business activities in the UK have been unusual, most evident in economic data which is out of the normal and surprisingly good.

However, Brexit uncertainty will harm the long-term prospects for the British economy, experts told Xinhua in recent interviews.

UNEXPECTED BOOST

Data released last week by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) showed three-monthly GDP growth up to the end of February at 0.3 percent.

Though a lackluster performance, it exceeded expectations by some economists and commentators, who had expected Brexit-related uncertainty would plunge the UK economy into stagnation or even recession during the first quarter.

This out-turn was also higher than the 0.1 percent growth rate that the National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR), one of UK's longest established independent research institutes, forecast last month.

Garry Young, head of macroeconomic modelling and forecasting at the NIESR, said: "The latest ONS data was better than we had expected, but recent survey evidence suggests that economic growth is likely to continue at a fairly modest pace for the first half of this year ... The near-term outlook for the UK economy continues to depend on the outcome of the Brexit negotiations."

Howard Archer, chief economic adviser at EY ITEM Club, an economics forecasting group, told Xinhua that the better-than-expected GDP figures were partly helped by the revised-up December's GDP monthly figure.

"GDP growth of 0.2 percent month-on-month in February was led by manufacturing output spiking 0.9 percent month-on-month. This is a very high figure," he said.

According to a recent research by IHS Markit, UK manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI) stood at a 13-month high of 55.1 in March, mainly boosted by businesses' stockpiling of raw material and finished goods for



fear of a disruptive Brexit.

EMPLOYMENT MYTH

Recent figures from ONS showed that the number of employed in the UK has risen between November and January to a record high of 32.7 million.

"The surprising thing is that the overall economy is slowing down and investment is also slowing down in the UK, but the job market has not stopped growing," said Pawel Adrjan, UK economist at Indeed Hiring Lab.

The uncertainty around Brexit probably contributed to the recent employ-

ment data, Adrjan said.

"Businesses are reluctant to invest in long-term projects because of the uncertainties, and the only way they can meet demand is to continue hiring people, which results in growing employment," he explained.

"The second trend is that it becomes harder and harder for businesses to hire more staff, because there are fewer and fewer people unemployed thanks to the record-high employment rate," he added.

Furthermore, he said, migration flows, especially from European Union (EU) countries, have slowed down.

PROLONGED UNCERTAINTY

After a new deadline of Oct. 31 was set for Brexit last week, analysts believe the UK economy will continue to be plagued by uncertainty, and a disruptive exit could still happen.

The latest World Economic Outlook (WEO) report, the flagship barometer of the global economy

by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), last week cut the outlook for UK economic growth in 2019 to 1.2 percent, citing the negative effect of prolonged uncertainty about the Brexit outcome.

"The uncertainty up to this point has been damaging to the UK economy. Several studies have pointed to a loss of GDP of between 500 million pounds (654 million U.S. dollars) and 900 million pounds (1.178 billion dollars) per week since the referendum," said Johnes.

"In large part this is due to a collapse of business investment. This was growing at over 3 percent per year before the EU referendum (2016), but it has grown by less than 1 percent a year since - and it turned negative part way through last year," the professor explained.

The latest data by ONS showed that UK business investment fell by 0.4 percent in 2018, the worst performance since the economic downturn of 2008 to 2009. The British Chamber of Commerce (BCC) predicted last month that business investment would decline by 1.0 percent in 2019.

Adam Marshall, BCC director general, said: "It is clear that political inaction has already had economic consequences, with many firms hitting the brakes on investment and recruitment decisions as a result of ongoing uncertainty."

"Worse still, some companies have moved investment and growth plans as part of their contingency preparations. Some of this investment may never come back to the UK," he added.

At the same time, the service sector, which accounts for nearly 80 percent of the UK economy, continues to be timid. The UK Services PMI fell to 48.9 in March, below the benchmark of 50, indicating a contraction in the largest economic sector, IHS Markit research showed.

Chris Williamson, chief business economist at IHS Markit, said: "A drop in service sector activity indicates that UK GDP contracted in March, with the economy stalling over the first quarter as a whole and at risk of sliding into a deepening downturn in coming months."

Despite the recent Brexit extension, the deal is still at an impasse, and the risk of no deal remains high. "A no-deal Brexit that severely disrupts supply chains and raises trade costs could potentially have large and long-lasting negative impacts on the economies of the UK and the EU," the IMF said.

Jet Airways: India's aviation boom runs into turbulence

MUMBAI

ON the face of it, India's airline industry is flying high - the country is the fastest growing major aviation market in the world.

The airports are bursting at the seams: 138 million passengers flew last year, up from 51 million in 2010. International traffic has burgeoned. On-time performance has improved.

Not surprisingly, the future looks rosy. More than 600 planes are in service and another 859 are on order. The country is poised to become the world's third largest aviation market by 2020, and the largest by 2030, according to consulting firm KPMG.

All this, however, masks the turbulence within.

The latest evidence came on Wednesday

when Jet Airways, India's oldest private airline, temporarily suspended its operations after failing to find fresh funding. The airline used to fly 115 planes on nearly 1,000 domestic and international routes. Although Jet had lost its position as the domestic leader to low cost carrier Indigo, it commanded a leading 12 per cent share of the international market.

Yet the airline was drowning in more than a billion dollars of debt and bleeding badly. Last year's rise in fuel prices and depreciation of the rupee had increased costs. The partnership with Abu Dhabi-based Etihad Airways, which had picked up a 24 per cent stake in the airline, was fraying.

Despite having a valuable frequent flyer programme, prime airport slots, and owning more than a dozen planes, the airline sank. "The fiasco

was waiting to happen," an aviation consultant, who preferred to remain unnamed, told me.

In the short term, the Jet shutdown will hurt consumers. With 20 per cent of India's fleet suddenly out of service, air fares - especially international - will soar.

Domestic fares will rise and passenger traffic will decline if the surviving carriers are not able to bring more planes. Vendors, airports, oil companies, lessors and lenders will be hit. Foreign lenders will be wary of investing in the industry. "There's negative growth ahead," says Bhavesh Agarwal, an aviation consultant.

Something is clearly amiss in India's indisputable aviation boom story. A dozen airlines have folded since 1981.

Business tycoon Vijay Mallya's sparkly Kingfisher Airlines made annual losses for five years

in a row and collapsed in 2013 after lenders refused to give it fresh loans. Plans to sell state-run Air India, saddled with some \$8bn of debt and now run on taxpayers money, were abandoned last year after it found no buyers.

At the heart of this crisis, say analysts, is a structural problem within India's aviation industry.

The business is run on razor thin margins. High taxes, volatile aviation fuel prices and creaking infrastructure raise costs. But fares are low, and airlines compete to fill seats at the expense of profits.

Airlines also place fat orders for planes, punting on further growth. Only one private airline, say insiders, has enough cash to fund expansion and service debt. "It is profitless growth. It is the survival of the fittest," says Mr Agarwal.

Critics say there is a "toxic environment" for commercial aviation in India. Airports are stretched because of the surge in passenger traffic. Air traffic control in main airports are understaffed and overworked. An international aviation safety audit found India was one of the lowest ranked countries when it came to air safety. The aviation regulator, they say, is a technical body, but "ends up asking the airlines not to increase fares". Airports are run by a handful of private players, sparking allegations of cronyism. "Apart from the airlines, there's no real competition in the airline ecosystem," says Mr Agarwal.

Clearly, Indian aviation needs a root and branch reform to help make it truly sustainable.

AGENCIES

Nusrat Jahan Rafi: Burned to death in wake of reporting sexual harassment

BENGALI, DHAKA

HER courage in speaking out against sexual assault, her death five days after being set alight and everything that happened in-between has gripped Bangladesh and brought attention to the vulnerability of sexual harassment victims in this conservative South Asian country.

Nusrat, who was 19, was from Feni, a small town 100 miles (160km) south of Dhaka. She was studying at a madrassa, or Islamic school. On 27 March, she said the headmaster called her into his office and repeatedly touched her in an inappropriate manner. Before things could go any further she ran out.

Many girls and young women in Bangladesh choose to keep their experiences of sexual harassment or abuse secret for fear of being shamed by society or their families. What made Nusrat Jahan different is that she didn't just speak out - she went to the police with the help of her family on the day the alleged abuse happened.

At the local police station she gave a statement. She should have been provided with a safe environment to recall her traumatic experiences. Instead she was filmed by the officer in charge on his phone as she described the ordeal.

In the video Nusrat is visibly distressed and tries to hide her face with her hands. The policeman is heard calling the complaint "no big deal" and telling her to move her hands from her face. The video was later leaked to local media.

"I tried to take her to school"

Nusrat Jahan Rafi was from a small town, came from a conservative family, and went to a religious school. For a girl in her position, reporting sexual harassment can come with consequences. Victims often face judgement from their communities, harassment, in person and online, and



Nusrat Jahan Rafi was doused with kerosene and set on fire at her school in Bangladesh. Less than two weeks earlier, she had filed a sexual harassment complaint against her headmaster

in some cases violent attacks. Nusrat went on to experience all of these.

On 27 March, after she went to the police, they arrested the headmaster. Things then got worse for Nusrat. A group of people gathered in the streets demanding his release. The protest had been arranged by two male students and local politicians were allegedly in attendance. People began to blame Nusrat. Her family say they started to worry about her safety.

Nevertheless, on 6 April, 11 days after the alleged

sexual assault, Nusrat went to her school to sit her final exams. "I tried to take my sister to school and tried to enter the premises, but I was stopped and wasn't allowed to enter," said Nusrat's brother, Mahmudul Hasan Noman.

"If I hadn't been stopped, something like this wouldn't have happened to my sister," he said.

According to a statement given by Nusrat, a fellow female student took her to the roof of the school, saying one of her friends was being beaten up. When

Nusrat reached the rooftop four or five people, wearing burqas, surrounded her and allegedly pressured her to withdraw the case against the headmaster. When she refused, they set her on fire.

Police Bureau of Investigation chief Banaj Kumar Majumder said the killers wanted "to make it look like a suicide". Their plan failed when Nusrat was rescued after they fled the scene. She was able to give a statement before she died.

"One of the killers was holding her head down with his hands, so kerosene

wasn't poured there and that's why her head wasn't burned," Mr Majumder told BBC Bengali.

But when Nusrat was taken to a local hospital, doctors found burns covering 80% of her body. Unable to treat the burns, they sent her to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

In the ambulance, fearing she might not survive, she recorded a statement on her brother's mobile phone.

"The teacher touched me, I will fight this crime till my last breath," you can hear her say. She also identified some of her attackers as students at the madrassa.

News of Nusrat's health dominated Bangladeshi media. On 10 April, she died. Thousands of people turned out for her funeral in Feni. Police have since arrested 15 people, seven of them allegedly involved in the murder. Among those arrested are the two male students who organised the protest in support of the headmaster. The headmaster himself remains in custody. The policeman who filmed Nusrat's sexual harassment complaint has been removed from his post and transferred to another department.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina met Nusrat's family in Dhaka and promised that every person involved in the killing would be brought to justice. "None of the culprits will be spared from legal action," she said.

Nusrat's death has sparked protests and thousands have used social media to express their anger about both her case and the treatment of sexual assault victims in Bangladesh.

"Many girls don't protest out of fear after such incidents. Burqas, even dresses made of iron cannot stop rapists," said Anowar Sheikh on BBC Bengali's Facebook page.

"I wanted a daughter my whole life, but now I am afraid. Giving birth to a daughter in this country means a life of fear and worry," wrote Lopa Hossain in her Face-

book post. According to women's rights group Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, there were 940 incidents of rape in Bangladesh in 2018. But researchers say the real number is likely to be much higher.

"When a woman tries to get justice for sexual harassment, she has to face a lot of harassment again. The case lingers for years, there is shaming in society, a lack of willingness from police to properly investigate the allegations," said Salma Ali, a human rights lawyer and former director of the Women Lawyers' Association.

"It leads the victim to give up on seeking justice. Ultimately the criminals don't get punished and they do the same crime again. Others don't fear to do the same because of such examples."

Now people are asking: Why did Nusrat's case only get attention after she was attacked? And will her case change the way people view sexual harassment in Bangladesh? In 2009, the country's Supreme Court passed an order to establish sexual harassment cells in all educational institutions where students can take their complaints, but very few schools have taken up the initiative. Activists are now demanding the order be implemented and enshrined in law to protect students.

"This incident has shaken us, but as we have seen in the past, such incidents get forgotten in time. I don't think there will be a big change after this. We have to see if justice gets done," said Professor Kaberi Gayen of the University of Dhaka.

"Change has to come in, both psychologically and in implementing the rule of law. Awareness about sexual harassment should be raised from childhood in schools," she said.

"They have to learn what is right and wrong when it comes to sexual harassment."

AGENCIES

A Bulgarian vulture's odyssey into town in Yemeni war zone

SANA'A

WHEN he was captured, they found a satellite tracker attached to his leg, more sophisticated than much of the equipment they had in Taiz, a town on the front line of Yemen's catastrophic war.

Nelson, they decided, was transmitting military secrets. In any war it is bad news to be accused of spying. In Yemen, an isolated, dusty and desperate place, suspicions can race round groups of armed men and harden minds. Even if you're a vulture.

Nelson was a sad sight in his cell, tied up, obviously weakened and miserable.

He is a big bird, a rare griffon vulture, but he is still classified as immature.

That cut no ice with his captors, a militia loyal to the internationally recognised Yemeni government that is backed by Saudi Arabia. They saw the GPS satellite transmitter on Nelson's left leg, and assumed the worst.

He is a big bird, a rare griffon vulture, but he is still classified as immature.

That cut no ice with his captors, a militia loyal to the internationally recognised Yemeni government that is backed by Saudi Arabia. They saw the GPS satellite transmitter on Nelson's left leg, and assumed the worst.

They believed the vulture was on a mission to transmit

military secrets to the rebel Houthis, the group that controls the Yemeni capital Sanaa.

In fact Nelson's tracker was attached for innocent, conservationist reasons, to monitor where he flew, and to check whether he was still alive.

He was one of 14 vultures who had been given trackers and wing tags back in Bulgaria, where Nelson's journey began.

Luckily for Nelson, he has friends.

In Bulgaria, a conservation group that fitted the tracker, the Fund for Wild Fauna and Flora (FWFF), was following Nelson's progress as he worked his way south through Saudi Arabia.

They were not concerned about his odyssey. Young male griffon vultures often fly vast distances before they turn for home.

But back in November 2018 they lost touch with Nelson after he crossed into Yemen.

Nelson was not a spy, but this exotic Bulgarian visitor was building a network of sympathisers who had seen him flapping around Taiz, a badly damaged town with problems so severe that helping a bird, you might assume, would have been a low priority.

This month Taiz has been gripped, like much of Yemen, by the third serious outbreak of cholera since the war started in 2015. But on 5 April, as the cholera spread, the FWFF in Bulgaria received, they say, hundreds of messages and emails from Yemenis who were concerned about the welfare of a griffon vulture.

A Bulgarian phone number was on Nelson's tags. Yemenis sent pictures that helped get a positive identification.

The conservationists in Bulgaria marvel that so many Yemenis, trapped in a war that has become, the UN says, the world's most serious humanitarian emergency, have worried so much about a bird.

Nadya Vangelova from the FWFF said in an email that they were "wonderful people" caring for the bird's survival, despite the military

situation they are facing in Yemen.

But she added that they knew helping Nelson was going to be difficult in a country that was struggling to survive war, cholera and starvation.

Local attempts to help Nelson ran into trouble when the big bird with the satellite tracker came to the attention of a local militia.

They seized Nelson, and took him to a base in Taiz commanded by a man with the nom de guerre of General Salem.

Image copyright Hisham al-Hoot Image caption Hisham al-Hoot, pictured holding Nelson, lobbied for the vulture's release

News of Nelson's plight reached an NGO called One World Actors Animal Rescue.

A plucky and determined man called Hisham al-Hoot made the dangerous journey from Sanaa to Taiz. He lobbied General Salem for Nelson's release, and was allowed to feed the vulture while they waited for a decision.

In Bulgaria the conservationists lobbied the Yemeni embassy, and others in France and Ireland spread the word about Nelson.

It worked.

The Yemenis were persuaded that Nelson's tracker was not there to spy on them and he was released. The indefatigable Mr Hoot transported Nelson to Sanaa, where a vet examined the vulture.

Image copyright Hisham al-Hoot Image caption Nelson pictured inside a bag. The vulture is being fed every hour to try and build up his strength. Nelson has broken wing feathers and an old injury on his neck. He weighs 4.8kg (10.5lb); to take off and fly he needs to be at least 5kg. His feet are scuffed and the skin on his left ankle shows abrasions from being tied up.

The vulture is being fed with meat and water every hour to try to build him up. In six to eight weeks, if all goes well, he will be strong enough to be released to start the long migration back to Bulgaria.

It may seem strange, perhaps even wrong,



Hisham al-Hoot, pictured holding Nelson, lobbied for the vulture's release

to lavish attention, and fresh meat, on a bird in a country where nearly 240,000 people are facing catastrophic levels of hunger, according to the UN.

But the response of Yemenis to Nel-

son's misadventures, and the threat to his life, might be better seen as an assertion of their own humanity.

Helping others, doing small favours, worrying about a lost Bulgarian vulture

can brighten the most miserable times. Even in war, even in Yemen, even in the world's worst humanitarian emergency.

AGENCIES

Ethiopia's digital economy: Boom and bang

By Getachew T. Alemu

A FLOURISHING digital economy is a new feature in the dynamics of the new Ethiopia. Slower as this explosion might be compared to the case in other countries, marked by competitive telecom market, its growth and disruptive impact in the traditional markets identified with hierarchy, clientelism and collusion is certainly radical.

Traditional frontiers of the markets, such as music recording and distribution, financial transaction, eating out, taking a taxi and booking a seat at the cinema have all been taken to the cloud, thanks to the new techpreneurs of the nation. As a result of this budding digital takeover, names such as Hope Music, M-Birr, Deliver Addis, RIDE, and Events Ethiopia have all become household names. Unlike their brick and mortar peers, underpinned with highly bureaucratic enterprise machineries, these new businesses are flat structures of small teams operating with small capital and all the more living in the shadows of the Internet.

It is not only the superstructure of the private enterprise as we know it that is being disrupted by the new digital organisms, but also the traits and instituted culture that it has been working with for centuries. As such, the era of enterprise seclusion and passivity is ending. It is now being replaced with an interactive, increasingly responsive, open, flexible and engaging digital enterprises.

The breeds of disruptive tech enterprises that our market is witnessing vary. A small stocktaking exercise would help to show their diversity and economic reach.

Let me start by my favorite - Hope Music Ethiopia, a YouTube music channel, with 846,000 subscribers and 1,600 music videos. The chan-



nel, which generates revenue through Google's AdSense service by way of pay-per click basis, has shifted the ground of the rather traditional music recording and distribution market. Of course, Hope is not the only channel engaged in such endeavor. There are others like Minew Shewa Tube and Dire Tube doing similar stuff.

With the coming of Hope and other digital music distributors, the way music is produced, marketed, distributed and consumed has changed. Along with that, the way musicians are contracted and paid for their talent has also changed. So have also the way to target audience, analyze preferred genres, collect feedback, guide production and direct decisions have

changed. The old days where record labels are treated like gods and musicians are forced to suffer from the biases of account executives have ended. Thanks to the openness of the new internet-based music market, the wall of executive bias has been torn down, giving every other aspiring musician a chance to take her talent to the audience.

Gone are also the days that musicians are burdened with all costs of music production. Under the era of tubes, flexible cost sharing agreements are the norm. What has changed along with the cost sharing arrangement is the division of labor in

terms of production. There now are specializations within the production, wherein separate entities are responsible for producing the music, the video clip and the final outcome (the music video). This specialization has not only improved the quality of music videos, but also enhanced the outreach of Ethiopian music, in terms of both tones and themes.

Whereas Hope et al disrupted the entertainment market, the likes of M-Birr are fighting with the powerful traditional capitalists of the country. M-Birr, a mobile based financial transaction and electronic payment platform, provides subscribers the opportunity to save, send and receive payments through a digital means. A decentralized agency-based solution, M-Birr attempts to change the traditional banking system, which is based on rolling out physical branches and creating hierarchic lines of settlement approval. Wholly digital electronic payment platforms, such as Yene Pay, Jamii-Pay and DirectPay, are also positioning themselves to concur the market, although their current engagement is limited by lack of a guiding policy and law as well as supporting infrastructure.

The attempt and partial success of these enterprises relates to pushing the ground of financial inclusion to shift. They are leveraging the increasing attachment of people with mobile phones and inclination to live hassle-free life. Through the use of the powers of the internet, they have not only reduced the cost of financial transaction, but also cut the settlement risk to insignificant level. Their continuous innovation

in terms of making themselves simple and friendly for utilization by illiterate users means that they are slowly crumbling that long overdue stereotype saying, "banks are for the educated".

What is amazing of this trend is that it has grown so powerful even to push the brick and mortar banks to devise their own channels of competing with this landslide, happening under their foot. They seem to have realized that the cost of failing to catch up will be enormous. The slowly growing Ethiopian digital economic space is not limited to new entertainment and financial services.

A whole new sort of transaction space is also happening in the form of Facebook pages, Telegram Channels, and WhatsApp and Viber groups. By way of creating dedicated pages (in the case of Facebook) and Channels (for all the others), individuals or groups with tradable commodities will be advertising products. Consumers could, then, look for the type of commodities they would like to buy and communicate the buyer. While payment will be settled either through a bank account or cash, good will be delivered by the seller to an agreed up on place.

True, this may be Ethiopians' way of adapting to an environment with no integrated e-commerce service, pertaining to a regulatory hindrance for e-payment. But they are playing their part in changing the market landscape for commodity transaction. On the one hand, they are slowly shifting consumer behavior toward digital transactions. This entails an entirely digital way of marketing, price compar-

son, communication and rating of service provision. On the other hand, these activities are influencing traditional traders shift their market approaches. Many of them are employing these new mediums as integral parts of their sells strategy.

Although no consolidated numbers for the size of transactions being mediated by these agencies, estimates conducted by some agencies show that their size is growing. A recent estimate by Reliable-et, a research and strategic consulting firm, shows that annual transaction through these mediums could amount to 10 to 15 million Bf, growing at annual average rate of 23%.

Furthering the digital economic space in Ethiopia are services such as Deliver Addis, Ride, Zay Ride and others. Whereas Deliver Addis is a digital food delivery service, Ride and Zay Ride are taxi hailing services. In all cases, however, the service provision is integrated, facilitated, made easy, became accessible and proven efficient through the involvement of technology products bridging that huge gulf between suppliers and consumers. In all cases, the technology service providers generate revenue by either taking commissions from the service fee or tagging defined price for their mediation.

These are not the only players in the national digital economy, however. New media outlets, online gaming services, online betting, digital job boards, freelance professional matching and many other services catered for Ethiopians are growing in the digital space.

Getachew T. Alemu is an investment and public policy analyst

On Walter Rodney: Pan-Afrikanism, Marxism and the next generation

By Julian Lahai Samboma

THE author reports on the Walter Rodney conference, which took place in March 2019 at the London's School of Oriental and African Studies and whose theme was "On Walter Rodney: Pan-Afrikanism, Marxism and the Next Generation".

"Learn from life, learn from our people, learn from books, learn from the experience of others. Never stop learning." - Amilcar Cabral, freedom fighter.

Walter Rodney's How Europe Underdeveloped Africa had a profound influence on my ideological development growing up in Sierra Leone. It exposed neo-colonialism as a process of active, on-going underdevelopment, a process with an historical starting point and an end, i.e. a motive, which is the theft of Africa's labour and material resources for the development of Europe. Although I have re-read it on many occasions since then, I must admit that I have not paid this great teacher the proper attention he deserves.

So when I learned of a one-day conference on the work of the slain Marxist and Pan-Africanist, I knew that I would be there, if for no other reason than to plug the gaps in my knowledge about Rodney. I recalled the words of that other great African freedom-fighter, Amilcar Cabral, who implored us to "never stop learning".

The conference, which took place earlier in March at London's School of Oriental and African Studies, or SOAS, was billed as "Walter Rodney: Pan-Afrikanism, Marxism and the Next Generation". It was organised by Decolonising Our Minds of SOAS, in association with Kingston University Politics.

A press statement from Donald Rodney, Walter's brother, was read out before the commencement of proceedings. Donald Rodney reiterated that his wrongful conviction for the explosion that caused the death of his brother in 1980, was based on a "fictitious confession" - a fact, which has been reported by even the state-owned national newspaper. His appeal and the campaign to seek the truth about Walter's assassination will continue, he said.

The welcome address was given by Nima Mudey of Decolonising Our Minds. She thanked the organisers, participants and attendees, before launching into



what became my first lesson of the day - the fact that Walter Rodney, who incidentally was an alumnus of SOAS, is not even on the university reading list.

Mudey, a student at SOAS, said: "For an institution that prides itself on being experts on Africa, Asia and the Middle East, it was disappointing to see the lack of black and brown voices in the reading lists and in the lecturers themselves.

"So it is so important to have events like these where we can celebrate the voices from the global South. Walter Rodney was an alumnus of this university, but sadly you won't see him on any reading lists here. However we can try to reclaim this space by hosting such events and subverting that stale and pale narrative".

The passion and the steely determination in the voice, demeanour and bearing of Mudey were so powerful and infectious that all in the hall gave her a resounding applause. Promising start!

"Rodney's short, sharp, succinct method of analysis"

The keynote address, titled "Remembering Rodney", was delivered by Selma James, the well-known feminist activist and author of Sex, Race & Class - The Perspective of Winning: A Selection of Writings 1952-2011. She was also a friend and comrade of Rodney's. Walter, she said, "is

the kind of person we need to learn about at this point in time, when we are under threat in all the ways we know about - and ways that we don't even know about".

You only have to look at the life he led, she said, for you to realise that we need to know and learn more about him. This is because the turbulent times in which he lived have not gone away, but remain with us, and have even intensified. One of the things that she remembers most vividly about the slain Guyanese revolutionary was his clarity: "We were in awe of his clarity. Walter was very clear about who the enemy was".

She recalled a meeting on the Vietnam War, when they were discussing the "enemy's" proposal that the Vietnamese should negotiate with Uncle Sam. Walter, she said, went right to the heart of the matter when he likened the situation to someone sitting in their house, and then a troublemaker comes and causes trouble; he said the only solution was to kick the troublemaker out. Rodney, she said, asked rhetorically: "And they say I have to talk to you?"

"That's the kind of short, sharp, succinct method of analysis that Walter was good at", James said.

Rodney's working class activism was all about inter-racial solidarity between the African, Indian and other sections of the Guyanese people. The antagonism of race was the creation of the British from the early days, she said, and it exists to this day. She recalled how Rodney had defended an Indian man who had been wrongly accused of killing an African. He had said to the black people: "He is my class. I am with him, and he is with me".

Selma James's opening address was followed by contributions from a three-member panel on the theme, "Red Threads of Rodney's Thought"; the chair was Sidi Abale, a recent Masters graduate from Kingston University. The first contribution was by Alissa Trotz, an associate professor of Women and Gender Studies, and Caribbean Studies at the University of Toronto, from where she spoke via a web link. Her subject was: "How Will We Organise to Live? On Caring Work, Groundings and Movements in the Caribbean Today".

Trotz, a member of the Red Thread Women's Organisation in Guyana, began by noting the commitment of Rodney to racial unity, of the essential coming together of black and brown workers, which she said was the source of the strength of Rodney's Working Peoples Alliance (WPA). The Red Thread Organisation, she said, was in turn founded by women in the WPA.

The "red thread" of Rodney's thought was running through their organisation, which, she said, was a testament to multi-racial unity, not just between African and Indian women, but also including indigenous women. She recalled how these women became actively involved in miners' strikes in Guyana: "Women were very visible in organising against this oppression; facing armed police to release bauxite workers. They were making connections between everyday struggles and

women's lives".

"Ordinary people make revolutions, not angels"

Trotz said this was a clear reflection of the truth in Rodney's words about ordinary people as the catalysts of revolution. "The revolution", she said, "is not made by angels, but by ordinary people, by all whose labour help communities survive, by the working class - and women are an essential part of the working class".

The Red Thread Organisation, she said, engages in research not for its own sake: "The knowledge production is the base of our organising activity. We are active in pensions, domestic violence, reproductive health and reproductive rights, compensation for floods, cancellation of international debt, racism, regional solidarity work with Haiti, the Bolivarian revolution in Venezuela, with Jamaican women, etc".

She concluded as she had begun by making the connection between what their organisation is doing and what Rodney taught: "Knowing who your enemy is - that's very important. We need to make these connections in our work".

Next to speak was Amanda Latimer, an anthropologist and lecturer in political economy at Kingston University. Latimer is also an indefatigable campaigner against the neo-colonial oil exploration deal Guyana has signed with a multinational consortium led by ExxonMobil. It was not surprising that her subject was: "Hit-and-run Capitalism in Guyana's Oil Sector".

Rodney's contribution, Latimer said, was important in the context of what is happening now, precisely because he saw that "briefcase independence" - when the former colonies gained formal independence - was the beginning of neo-colonialism.

"He insisted on putting class formation on an international plane," she said. "He insisted that capitalist development in the age of imperialism was a continuation of what had gone on before independence... National capital allies

with imperialism". This continuing imperialist exploitation, she maintained, can be seen in the oil deal, which the neo-colonial leaders of Guyana have signed with Exxon-Mobil.

"Rodney was a specific kind of Marxist, a Pan-Africanist"

Twelve off-shore oil fields, estimated to hold three to four billion barrels of oil, had been discovered, she said, but the "neo-colonial profit-sharing agreement shows that the vast majority of the profits will go to the Exxon consortium". Some estimates say close to 90 percent of the value of crude oil sold will go to the multinationals.

"Rodney was a specific kind of Marxist, a Pan-Africanist," Latimer added. "And as Rodney asked, is development even possible for Guyana within the present global system?... All we see is divide and conquer between the African and the Indian in Guyana, and between regional partners, such as Guyana and Venezuela".

Latimer said: "The easiest way to show that neo-colonialism is in operation [in this oil deal] is to look at the neo-colonial profit-sharing arrangement, at the figures, which the government did not want to reveal. It was the IMF [International Monetary Fund] that shamed the government into revealing the true nature of the deal."

Perhaps we should note in passing this dialectic of imperialist exploitation whereby the IMF - the premier neo-colonial appendage for siphoning-off wealth from the "poor" to the "rich" nations - are the very ones who forced the so-called nationalist government to divulge the dirty little secret that they had sold their own people down a river chockfull of kick-backs!

The third and final panellist to speak during this first part of the conference was Andy Higginbottom, an international solidarity campaigner for movements in Colombia, South Africa and Tamil Eelam. His contribution was an introduction to Rodney's most famous work, How Europe Underdeveloped Africa.

BUSINESS



Zoom CEO Eric Yuan.

ENTERPRISING

Refused US visa eight times, Zoom CEO has become a billionaire

SAN JOSE

After hearing Microsoft Corp. co-founder Bill Gates give a speech about the internet three decades ago, Eric Yuan decided he wanted to become part of the Silicon Valley dot-com boom. Then the China-born entrepreneur hit a snag. The U.S. government denied his visa application – eight times.

After two years of rejection, Yuan, 49, finally made it to the U.S. and is now the major shareholder of video conference services firm Zoom Video Communications Inc., which raised \$751 million in an initial public offering Wednesday.

Yuan and his family sold stock worth \$57 million, based on Zoom's IPO price of \$36 a share. The company's shares closed at \$62 on their first day trading on New York's Nasdaq Global Select Market, valuing their stake at \$3.2 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

Priscilla Barolo, a spokeswoman for San Jose, California-based Zoom, declined to comment. Yuan said in an interview with Bloomberg TV that "the price is too high" and that the huge leap in the stock is piling pressure on the company.

Yuan, Zoom's chief executive officer, joins Alphabet Inc.'s Sergey Brin, Nvidia's Jensen Huang and Tesla Inc.'s Elon Musk as immigrants who became billionaires after helping create Silicon

Valley companies. The U.S. is the favored country for more than three-quarters of wealthy Chinese looking to emigrate, according to the Hurun Research Institute and immigration adviser Visas Consulting Group.

The global video conferencing market is expected to expand almost 8 percent a year through 2026, according to Transparency Market Research, as a growing number of employees work from home. Zoom reported net income of \$7.6 million on revenue of \$331 million for the year ended January, and is now worth nine times the \$1 billion valuation it secured after a funding round two years ago.

Before starting Zoom in 2011, Yuan was an early employee at WebEx Communications, an online conferencing firm, and then worked at Cisco Systems Inc. after it acquired the company for \$3.2 billion in early 2007.

Yuan came up with the idea for Zoom – which counts Uber Technologies Inc. and Wells Fargo & Co. as customers – after repeatedly traveling 10 hours to see his girlfriend while they were college students.

"Someday, if I can have a smart device and with just one click I can talk with you, can see you, that was my daydream, right?" Yuan said in a July interview with U.S. venture capital firm GGV Capital. "And every day I thought about that."



Peter Njonjo, Twiga's co-founder.

EXPANSION

Kenya fresh-produce platform aims to disrupt African retail

NAIROBI

Dar es Salaam, Lagos and Addis Ababa could be the next stop for a Kenyan fresh-produce distribution platform in its quest to disrupt food-supply chains in Africa.

Twiga Foods Ltd. aggregates farm produce and distributes it to vendors at street corners or market stalls in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, through a mobile phone-based supply platform. In the country's fragmented retail market, where 90 percent of food is sold through informal outlets, the tech startup is trying to create efficiency to lower food prices.

"A banana in a Nairobi supermarket costs more than a banana in London, while the average income of a consumer in the U.K. is 30 times compared to Kenya," Peter Njonjo, Twiga's co-founder, said in an interview in Nairobi. "This is true for many African cities and our vision is to leverage technology and organize a more efficient value chain that lowers food prices."

Many Kenyans in the Nairobi metropolitan area, which has about 6.5 million people, spend an average of 45 percent of their disposable income on food, Njonjo said. Many cities on the continent face similar challenges – urbanization outpacing infrastructure development, inefficient agriculture and a fragmented retail industry, he said.

"If it works here, the key thing is we would want to find a way to scale and get into those cities and offer the same products and services," he said.

Nairobi is growing into a tech hub creating solutions for problems common in the developing world. In the past six years, Kenya received 58 percent of reported investment deals in East Africa, according to the Africa Private Equity Venture Capital Association.

Big cities
Twiga is first eyeing other East African cities, such as Dar es Salaam in Tanzania and the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa. It plans to then move on to Africa's most populous city, Lagos, where Njonjo worked for three years as

Coca-Cola Co.'s regional head for West and Central Africa before becoming Twiga's chief executive officer.

"For us the icing would be Lagos," he said. "We will remain very centric to big urban cities, because that's where the problem is biggest." Twiga sources the fruits and vegetables from 17,000 farmers and delivers directly to 180,000 informal retailers daily in Nairobi and its environs, creating a predictable market for growers and reducing transport costs for the vendors.

To beat Nairobi's notorious traffic, the firm dispatches its trucks early in the morning so they are at its neighborhood depots where it distributes to kiosks.

Twiga will face a "formidable challenge" integrating logistics systems in the other African countries they target, and uptake may be slow in markets that don't embrace change quickly, said Gerald Muriuki, a technology analyst at Nairobi-based investment bank Genghis Capital.

In Nigeria, they'll have to contend with perennial power shortages, according to Eric Musau, head of

research at Standard Investment Bank in Nairobi. "It boils down to cost and how soon they can turn profitable," he said.

Funding expansion
Other than distribution, Twiga is also working with selected farmers to modernize food production and expects dispatches to increase to 200-300 metric tons per day by the end of the year from about 120 tons currently, he said.

The company has raised \$35 million from venture capital and convertible notes since inception in 2013. This year, Twiga will conduct a second round of financing to fund expansion in Nairobi and another round in 2020 for growth outside of Kenya, Njonjo said.

Existing investors include Wamda Capital, which had invested in the Middle Eastern ride-hailing company Careem Networks FZ that Uber Technologies Inc. bought for \$3.1 billion in a cash and stock deal last month. "We have a good captive audience of investors we can walk this journey with," Njonjo said.

BOOST

Jumia becomes first African tech firm to list on New York Stock Exchange

By Guardian on Saturday Reporter

JUMIA Technologies AG, the leading pan-African e-commerce platform, has officially announced its listing on the New York Stock Exchange.

Founded in 2012, Jumia started a mission to improve the quality of everyday life in Africa, by leveraging technology to deliver innovative, convenient and affordable online services to consumers. Jumia further empowers businesses to grow, by using its platform to reach and serve consumers across the continent.

Jumia is currently active in 14 African countries with more than 81,000 active sellers transacting online with millions of consumers. The e-commerce platform directly employs more than 5,000 team members in Africa.

According to Sacha

Poignonnec and Jeremy Hodara, co-founders and co-chief executives, this listing is the result of a team success, and all the Jumia employees across Africa rang the "bell" at the same time in each country and in New York.

"This achievement has been made possible thanks to the hard work of our teams, the trust of our consumers, as well as the commitment of our sellers and partners. All stakeholders deserve credit for this milestone, and we are just at the beginning of a long and great journey. We are going to continue to focus on our mission and to work even harder to help consumers, sellers, partners and all stakeholders benefit from this technological revolution."

Explaining the reasons behind the listing of Jumia on the NYSE, the largest stock exchange in the world, the Chief Executive Officer of Jumia Tanzania,

Zadock Prescott noted that, "by joining the NYSE and by being the first African technology company to do so, we want to show the digital innovation happening in Africa and the opportunities from Africa in terms of tech and e-commerce."

"The NYSE listing shows that innovation is happening in the African continent - it shows an innovative, dynamic and modern Africa. Raising the public profile is going to help us bring more sellers to Jumia. Many sellers or partners are yet to know about us, and once they do, we hope they will be keen to work with us," Prescott said.

He concluded that, "We also hope this will help us build even more trust with consumers, in particular those who are still not comfortable with e-commerce, may now see us as an established company and, we hope this will help our growth and consumer adoption."

Suzuki is recalling two million cars in Japan after cheating on safety tests

TOKYO

Suzuki plans to recall around 2 million vehicles in Japan after admitting it cheated on safety tests, filed false fuel-efficiency reports, and failed to conduct proper inspections.

Japan's third-biggest car company - it sold 714,000 units last year - will take back domestic vehicles sold since April 2016 that haven't received a government-mandated check-up. It expects to book a one-off loss of ¥80 billion (R9.9 billion) as a result - a large chunk of its projected annual net income of ¥220 billion (R28 billion).

An internal investigation of Suzuki's factories found evidence of faulty brake checks, tampering with fuel-efficiency data, and inspections being conducted by uncertified staff - assistant inspectors still in training.

President Toshihiro Suzuki said it was likely there was "inappropriate confirmation of conformity to the Japanese vehicle safety standards" - in other words, inspectors falsified test results. He pledged executives would take a pay cut as punishment, according to Nikkei.

"We believe that Japanese automakers like Subaru and Suzuki have been trying to squeeze out additional volumes from their factories in Japan, rather than expand production," said Janet Lewis, an analyst at Macquarie Securities, in a research note. "This effort to sweat the assets in Japan appears to have resulted in corners being cut in the inspection process."



Zoom Tanzania marketing communications manager Stephen Swai (R), hands over an Easter Festive season basket full of ingredients for a family pilau to the winner of 'MsakoWaPasaka' campaign, Raymond Mauki, at the company's offices in Dar es Salaam as part of activities to celebrate 'Pasaka.' Photo: courtesy of Zoom Tanzania.

CRISIS

Mantsho makes fashion history becoming first African label to collaborate with Swedish retailing giant

JOHANNESBURG

South African fashion label Mantsho, joins Moschino, Balmain and Versace as the latest brand to collaborate with H&M. Mantsho is the first African fashion label to collaborate with the Swedish retail giant.

Mantsho is known for its statement designs including bold prints and elaborate silhouettes. H&M says the label's "vibrant fabrics, bold and edgy designs" will introduce "fresh, fun and uniquely South African aesthetic" to H&M.

Palesa Mokubung, the founder and designer at Mantsho, announced her excitement to be collaborating with H&M.

Pernilla Wohlfahrt, assortment manager for collaborations and special collections at H&M, says: "Palesa is such an inspiring talent and personality. We love how she works with colour, print and silhouettes enhancing the female shape in a flattering and playful way."

"At the core of my inspiration it's always a woman, a type of woman. So that's what this collaboration is about women, women, women. But I put a lot of thought into textiles and fabrics because that is what I'm known for, I transformed fabric and I created my own prints to form these looks for this kind of woman," says Palesa.

She adds: "The inspiration is the woman but this woman informs everything else. She informs the kind of styles that I chose, the fabrics that I chose and I've dressed some of the leading ladies in South Africa - your Thandiswa Mazwai, Simpiwe Dana, Nomzamo Mbatha, Minnie Dlamini, everybody, you name it. She confident, she smart, she's classy, she's a go-getter, she's a ground-breaker, she is inspiring, a modern African woman."

The collection promises a combination of vibrant and neutral colours for 14 looks and 10 accessories. Palesa says she is honoured to be selected in collaborating with H&M. "It means for the first time one of our own is going to be [on] a platform to show the world what we can do with support from a huge machine, a giant such as H&M - so it is the perfect collaboration."

"We've had people in the past who come in and just take from Africa and tell the story as if it's theirs. For H&M to ask me to do that on behalf of all of us is such an honour, honestly."

The collection is expected to hit stores on 15 August, it will be available nationwide and at selected flagship stores in the U.S., the UK, France, Spain, Portugal, The Netherlands, Belgium, Mexico, Chile among others.



Palesa Mokubung, the founder and designer at Mantsho.

RECOGNITION

Ndebele artist Esther Mahlangu receives honorary doctorate

JOHANNESBURG

When South African Ndebele artist Esther Mahlangu began painting at the tender age of 10, she never thought that she would get to travel the world just by doing something that she loved.

Mahlangu received an honorary doctorate from the University of Johannesburg on Monday evening. "I am so grateful to the university management for the gifts given to me today. What they have done for me, they must do for others."

"If heaven was within reach, I would fly. I never thought that painting would work out so well. I got to travel the world just by doing something that I did out of love," she added. She was accompanied by members of her community, clad in traditional regalia. Mahlangu, whose full names are Esther Nikwambi, was born in Middelburg, Mpumalanga in 1935.

In an interview with News24 in September, shortly after she had been honoured with a mural in New York, the 82-year-old said her journey with her love for her culture and Ndebele artwork began when she was 10 years old, when she used to watch her mother and grandmother painting the outside walls of their home.

She longed to join them and when the pair took a break from painting, she would steal the paint and try her luck. But, as soon as they returned, she would be out of sight. "They always said: 'Don't ever do that again, you are ruining things,'" she told News24. The following day Mahlangu would do it again, and again she faced the wrath of her matriarchs.

Eventually, her mother and grandmother gave up and allocated Mahlangu a small space on the wall, which was away from the public, where she could practice drawing Ndebele patterns. "The next day, I would go there, sit on a tin and take chicken feathers and paint, paint and paint." Mahlangu added that her mother and grandmother inspected her work daily.



Esther Mahlangu seated centre before being bestowed with a doctorate degree.

"Eventually they told me that my work was impressive and they called me to paint the front of the house, and I never looked back until I got married. In my culture, they used to say when you get married, you have to paint your first house yourself."

On Monday evening, the university's vice-chancellor and principal Professor Tshilidzi Marwala said the university recognised Mahlangu's legacy as a cultural entrepreneur who skillfully negotiated local and global worlds as an educator.

"As a visionary individual, she traversed what to others are insurmountable political barriers.

In the late 1980s, when KwaNdebele and Moutse region erupted in anti-apartheid violence, she [broke] down barriers in her own way.

"During the time she was invited to participate in the groundbreaking Magiciens de la Terre exhibition, a significant achievement for a black female artist at the time.

"The curators asked her to paint the walls of a life-size replica of her Mthambothini home for the exhibition...she would take the language of Ndebele art to the world," Marwala added that, in order to ensure the survival of the Ndebele arts, Mahlangu taught young people at her home.

"She also shares her expertise via a project that aims to document Southern African visual culture as expression of a diversity of inherited local knowledge systems that date back to before the colonisation of Southern Africa."

"Esther Mahlangu is a living example of how authentic African knowledge systems can be articulated meaningfully and sustainably. In her we have an icon worthy of being looked upon to by the next generation of creatives," Marwala said. He said the Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture was honoured to confer the degree of Philosophiae Doctor Honoris Causa upon Mahlangu.

A-LIST

Thousands of millionaires flocked to UAE in 2018, report on wealth reveals

DUBAI

Thousands of millionaires relocated to the UAE last year, a new global wealth report has revealed. The 2019 Global Wealth Migration Report says the number of millionaires moving to the UAE increased by 2 per cent from 2017.

The report, published by AfrAsia Bank and New World Wealth, says Dubai was one of the most popular locations and attracted more than 1,000 millionaires from outside the country. It surpassed major cities including Los Angeles, Melbourne, Miami, New York, San Francisco and Sydney.

The report described Dubai as the most prominent financial centre in the Middle East, and one of the safest cities in the region, as well as a popular destination for wealthy expatriates. It said Dubai was an example of the power that business incentives have in encouraging business formation.

About 2,000 people with at least \$1 million worth of net assets moved into the UAE in 2018, boosting the local economy. Globally, 108,000 millionaires migrated in 2018, compared to 95,000 in 2017.

China had 15,000 millionaires leave the country last year, more

UAE Rank	Global rank	Billionaire	Wealth in \$ billion
1	270	Majid Al Futtaim (Emirati)	5
2	286	Abdulla bin Ahmad Al Ghurair (Emirati)	4.9
3	338	Micky Jagtiani (Indian)	4.4
4	358	M.A. Yusuff Ali (Indian)	4.2
5	527	Hussain Sajwani (Emirati)	3.2

UAE's billionaire list according to Forbes.

than anywhere else in the world, followed by Russia, with about 7,000. India had 5,000 millionaires leave, while Turkey had 4,000 and France and the UK 3,000 each.

The report reviewed the major factors that led to millionaires moving outside their country to find a home that met their needs. Key factors included security and safety, modern lifestyle, high standards of living, better education opportunities and health care.

Driven by its success as a focal point for global trade, and an important transport centre, Dubai has built a global reputation as a city with a highly developed infrastructure and world-class standards in every sector.

Based on an ethos of peaceful coexistence and tolerance, the UAE has become a worldwide model for harmony



The report described Dubai as the most prominent financial centre in the Middle East, and one of the safest cities in the region, as well as a popular destination for wealthy expatriates. It said Dubai was an example of the power that business incentives have in encouraging business formation.

between people of different religions and ethnicities. The country is home to people of more than 200 nationalities.

Its strong legislative framework provides high levels of safety and security, while its exceptional infrastructure provides high-quality tourism facilities, service and entertainment. The city offers many advantages that make it a haven for the world's wealthy including exceptional business incentives, robust foreign trade and international connectivity.

Dubai attracted more than 16 million tourists in 2018 and is aiming to make that 25 million by 2025. Dubai International Airport has held its position as the world's busiest airport, with the number of travellers passing through at 90 million last year, up one per cent from 2017.

It has been named the world's busiest centre for international travel since it outranked London Heathrow in 2014.

RISING STAR

At just 14, 'black-ish' star Marsai Martin is a Hollywood mogul in the making



Marsai Martin posing in her office, Genius Productions, in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES

You might have heard the story by now: That Marsai Martin pitched Little, a modern spin on Big, to Universal Pictures at age 10.

It's true, she did, but that precocious move was preceded by another, more impressive act of rebellion and a pivotal moment in putting her on the path to becoming the youngest executive producer ever: She fired her agents after the first year of black-ish.

The ABC show, in which she plays the Johnson's whip-smart daughter, Diane, was on its first hiatus and Martin and her family wanted to know what opportunities there were.

Luke James' 'awkward' strip scene in 'LITTLE'

"They were like, 'You should just stick to black-ish, just chill, take a break,'" Martin said. Besides, the agents explained, there weren't any roles for a young black girl out there. But the Martins persisted and suggested creating something themselves.

"They kind of just laughed at us. They didn't see the vision. But I think they didn't see it because they saw what I looked like: A little black girl

that no one would want to see," Martin said. "So, we fired them."

Four years later, it's almost ancient history for the now 14-year-old sitting in the conference room of Genius Productions, the company she founded.

The office space is a projection of Martin herself, with accent walls in her favourite colour blue, her and her baby sister's preferred snacks in the break area (Goldfish crackers, rice crispy treats, etc) and a PS4 in the lobby (as well as her NAACP Image Awards). Her own office is well on its way to having the Alice in Wonderland-feel she wants with "grand plants" and colourful throw pillows. There's also a very teen-appropriate Polaroid wall, and a perfect view of the Universal sign out the window.

"It's a creative spot for me and a place where I can express how I feel and just get my mind in a cool place where I can just come up with anything I want," Martin said. "I'm very grateful and doing it with my family is even better."

After the break with the agents, black-ish creator Kenya Barris helped nudge Martin in the right direction, securing a meeting with his friend, producer Will Packer, who's been

behind such high-profile hits as Girls Trip and Night School, to hear her idea.

"I didn't expect much, because, you know, I hear a lot of pitches and most of them aren't great. I said 'Listen, I'm sure she's sweet. I'll do it as a courtesy,'" Packer said. "And she comes in and she's got this fully thought out, really coherent, cohesive narrative, with characters and themes. I was like, 'She's how old again?'"

Her story would be about bullying and female empowerment. "We wanted it to be as authentic as possible... even though it's a fantasy, body-swap film," Martin laughed.

She stars as the young Jordan Sanders, a science-obsessed teen who is bullied so much in high school that she grows up to be an insufferable bully herself, as the head of a major tech company. The adult version of Jordan is played by Regina Hall, who Martin had worked with on black-ish. Rounding out the cast is Insecure's Issa Rae ("a creator like me"), as Jordan's undervalued assistant.

A first look deal
Martin loved the whole development process and is glad that it took a few years for filming to start, allowing

her to mature a little bit into who she is today. And then, this past February, something even bigger came along: Martin got a first-look deal with Universal, too.

"It was so exciting, but to be honest, I didn't even know what it meant at the beginning," Martin said. "I was like, 'Oh cool! What is that? Like, OK, this seems very professional. Am I in it now? Like is this some Jordan Peele-type stuff?'"

When she realised that it meant the studio gets first dibs on anything she creates, she was thrilled. "I was like, 'Oh, OK! So I can create whatever I want?' I thought that was so cool because this mind has a lot of things," she said. "I can keep creating things that people don't get to see often."

She knows it's unusual to be wielding this much creative power in Hollywood at this young age, but she also enjoys catching people off guard. "It's like, 'Oh, snap, THIS girl, created this film?' And it's kind of shocking," she laughed.

Her life is pretty crazy right now promoting Little and developing new films and television projects. She's home-schooled with a tutor, which she prefers, and she doesn't have any

regrets about missing out on the high school experience.

"I used to be the shy kid who would barely raise her hand or speak her mind," she said. Even now she suffers her own share of self-consciousness.

"That's something that I have to work on: Self-confidence and loving myself," she said. "Your girl gets a lot of anxiety. It's OK. It's a learning process. I feel like a lot of kids my age get it, whether they're in the industry or not."

When she does have a moment to unwind, she plays "gruesome" video games like Mortal Combat, gets facials, massages, cooks and sometimes just watches YouTube. But even then her wheels are spinning about possible collaborations with her favourite YouTubers. Down the line, she wants to direct and write and, basically, do all the things. Packer, for one, is convinced she will.

"She's got a long, strong career ahead of her. And if she chooses to continue in movies and television, you better watch out because she's going to make a serious mark," Packer said. "But she'll make a mark wherever she ends up."

CENSURE

Samsung's new folding phones are breaking, and it's a potential fiasco

NEW YORK

Multiple journalists are reporting that their review copies of Samsung's new folding phone have had catastrophic failures just a week before the official launch - a potential fiasco that threatens the company's fragile reputation.

On Wednesday, multiple tech reporters took to Twitter to raise concerns about the screen on the Galaxy Fold, a highly anticipated device that is scheduled to be the first major smartphone with a foldable screen.

A video posted by CNBC tech editor Steve Kovach showed the left-hand side of the screen on the outlet's review unit malfunctioning "after one day of use." Mark Gurman from Bloomberg also posted photos of the screen progressively deteriorating to a state of total unusability, writing: "The screen on my Galaxy Fold review unit is completely broken and unusable just two days in."

Dieter Bohn at The Verge, meanwhile, reported that a mysterious bulge had appeared in his review unit's screen, and Marques Brownlee, a popular YouTube gadgets review, also reported having screen issues.

While it's not yet clear how widespread the issue is, the fact that four have already broken after just two days of normal use doesn't bode well for the prospects of the device. Some back-of-the-envelope math: Assuming roughly 1,000 review units were sent to reporters, that suggests a failure rate of roughly 0.4% within just two days. That is clearly completely unacceptable for any consumer product - much less a high-end smartphone that retails for \$1,980 in the US.

And the potential crisis is especially acute for Samsung, as the company has only recently recovered from another smartphone crisis. The Samsung Galaxy Note 7 was a nightmare for the firm in 2016, with the device's batteries overheating, catching fire, and exploding, prompting a global recall and ultimately a complete cancellation of the entire product.

The company has worked hard to rebuild its reputation in the subsequent years, and another high-profile failure of a flagship device could do serious harm to its status as a maker of high-quality, premium handsets.

"If it turns out that Samsung's flagship phone, at an unprecedented price point, is breaking at a high rate, Samsung will have to postpone the launch," Avi Greengart, the lead analyst at TechSponential, told Business Insider. "After the Note 7's disastrous battery problems - and Samsung's poor initial response - I would hope that the company has better procedures in place to deal with production problems."

So what's going on?
There seem to be a few different issues occurring. There's a thin plastic layer over the screen that looks like a disposal screen protector. Both Gurman and Brownlee say they removed it, potentially contributing to their issues. However, Kovach wrote on Twitter that CNBC didn't remove the film, but that the screen on their device broke anyway. And Bohn's issue, the bulge, appears to be completely different, with an as-yet-unknown cause. He also didn't remove the film, for the record.

All this suggest multiple points of failure for the device, rather than a single issue, potentially making it harder to rectify.

It's also worth noting here that some other reporters' review units are fine. Business Insider's Lisa Eadicicco has been test-driving the Galaxy Fold and hasn't encountered any issues so far, while The Washington Post's Geoffrey Fowler did an impromptu stress-test, opening and closing it 100 times in one go, and didn't find any issues.

That's not to say these devices couldn't malfunction later, of course. It's only been two days, after all. It looks really bad. But we should exercise some caution. Samsung has yet to comment publicly about the issues, and it's wise not to jump to conclusions too early.

"The most important thing to do right now is get the facts. There's a chance that the first batch of units had some issues and the rest are fine," technology analyst Patrick Moorhead of Moor Insights & Strategy said.

"Once root cause has been established you go from there... If it's a small batch issue, inventory would likely get tested. If it's a design issue overall it would take some time to remedy." He added: "How Samsung handles the situation will determine brand impact."

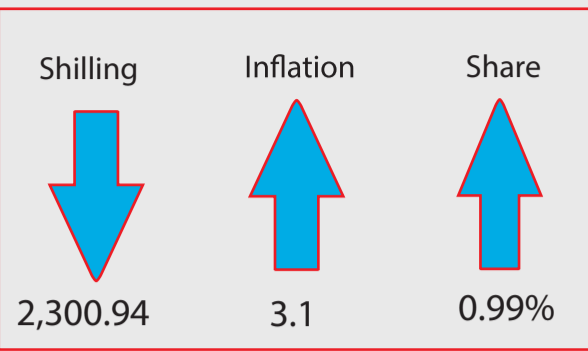
In other words: The review devices provided to journalists might not be truly representative of the finished product, meaning the devices that go on sale to consumers may be problem-free. But if that's not the case, then it's up to Samsung to fix things to avoid another reputational disaster. Samsung was heavily criticized over its initial response to the Note 7 issues; if it makes similar missteps again, it will suggest the company hasn't learned from its mistakes and likely exacerbate the crisis.



WEDNESDAY 17 April	FRIDAY 19 April	SUN 14 April	Tues 16 April	Frid 19 April
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Shamba shape up 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Korean: The Great Queen Seonduk 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Dakika 45 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino) 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi rpt 18:30 Ijue Sheria 19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TFDA 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Aibu Yako! Hata wewe? 21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco 21:40 Kipindi Maalum 22:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu mzuka 22:10 Telenovela: Destiny (Destino) 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 2:00 CNN International	23:30 The Base 00:30 CNN International 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo 11:20 Kesho leo 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Jagina rpt 13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino) 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto wetu 17:00 The Base 17:30 Ibadia ya kiislamu 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe 18:30 Shamba lulu 19:00 Uchumi na biashara 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipima joto 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 CNN International	09:00 Watoto Wetu 10:00 Isidingo 11:45 Aibu Yako 11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt 12:50 Bongo Movie rpt: Magic house 2 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo 15:00 Mwangaza 16:00 Korean drama: The great queen Seonduk 16:45 Mjue zaidi 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Mizengwe rpt 18:45 Matukio ya wiki 19:30 Igizo: Mtego 20:00 Habari 21:05 Mizengwe 21:00 Bongo Movie: It wasn't me 22:00 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino) CAPITAL Sun 14 April 08:00 CNN International 09:00 In good shape 10:00 Capchat rpt 11:00 Sports Gazette rpt 11:30 Iron chef rpt 12:00 Out n' about rpt 12:30 Bundesligga Kick Off rpt 13:00 Ripoti Maalum 13:30 Series rpt: Life is a teacher 15:15 Aibu yako 15:30 Drive it rpt 16:00 Dakika 45 rpt 16:45 Mizengwe rpt 17:00 The Decor rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt 19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights 20:00 Korean Drama rpt: Emperor of the sea 21:00 Shift 21:15 Capchat live 22:15 Series rpt: Ilijimae 00:00 Al Jazeera	06:00 Al Jazeera 08:00 CNN International News 09:00 Al Jazeera 10:00 Kumekucha 10:30 Kumekucha Michezo 11:30 Kumekucha Kishindo 12:00 The Decor rpt 12:30 Mizengwe rpt 12:45 Aibu Yako 13:00 Series rpt: Life is a teacher 13:45 Series rpt: Ilijimae 14:15 Local pgm rpt: Business Edition 15:00 Bundesligga kick off 15:30 Out and About rpt 16:00 Capchat rpt 17:00 Usafiri wako rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Innovation 19:30 Jagina 19:30 Ripoti Maalum 20:00 Series: Life is a teacher 20:45 Series: Ilijimae 21:30 Capital Prime 22:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt 22:30 Iron Chef rpt 23:30 Al Jazeera	22:00 Capchat rpt 23:00 Al Jazeera Frid 19 April 06:00 Al Jazeera 08:00 CNN International News 09:00 Al Jazeera 10:00 Kumekucha 10:30 Kumekucha Michezo 10:30 Kumekucha Kishindo 12:00 The Decor rpt 12:30 Series rpt: Life is a teacher 13:45 Series rpt: Ilijimae 14:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt 15:00 Korean Dram rpt: Emperor of the sea 16:00 CNN International 16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt 17:30 Meza Huru 19:00 Drive it 19:30 Eco@Africa 20:00 Aibu yako 20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition 20:45 Series: Ilijimae 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Malumbano ya hoja rpt 00:00 Al Jazeera
THURSDAY 18 April	SATURDAY 20 April	Mon 15 April	Wed 17 April	Sat 20 April
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SUNDAY 21 April	Thurs 18 April	Thurs 18 April	Thurs 18 April	Sun 21 April
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Samsung Galaxy Fold



Total Market Capitalization

TZS 19,091.90 bln (USD 8,338.84 mln)

Indices April 16, 2019

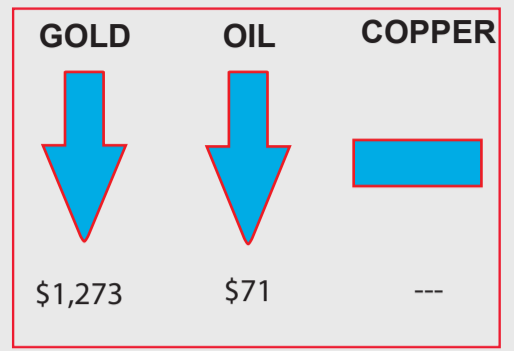
TSI	3,256.85	-68.53
DSEI	1,980.73	-45.71

AVERAGE PRICES FOR FOOD CROPS TSH/100KG

Maize	5364.00	Finger Millet	144052.63
Rice	183125.00	Wheat	129866.67
Sorghum	80476.19	Beans	175416.67
Bulrush Millet	84066.67	Round potatoes	71458.33

Exchange Rates (DSE)

Currency	Buying	Selling
EUR	2,578.38	2,605.09
USD	2,278.12	2,300.91
KES	22.57	22.75
GBP	2,986.62	3,017.64



Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange

Date: April 16, 2019

Company	Closing	Prev	Chg (%)
CRDB	125.00	125.00	0
ACA	5,150	5,600.00	-8.04
DCB	340	340	0
DSE	1,260	1,260	0
EABL	4,760.00	4,880.00	-2.46
JHL	9,150.00	9,150.00	0
KA	120.00	120.00	0
KCB	1,020.00	1,020.00	0
MBP	490.00	490.00	0
MCB	500.00	500.00	0
MKCB	800.00	800.00	0
MUCOB	400.00	400.00	0
NICO	170.00	170.00	0
NMB	1,980.00	2,340.00	-15.38
NMG	1,500.00	1,400.00	7.14
PAL	400.00	400.00	0
SWALA	490.00	490.00	0
SWIS	1,700.00	1,700.00	0
TBL	10,000.00	10,000.00	0
TCC	17,000	17,000.00	0
TCCL	600.00	600.00	0
TICL	385	385.00	0
TOL	660.00	660.00	0
TPCC	2,100.00	2,100.00	0
TTP	120.00	120.00	0
USL	10.00	10.00	0
VODA	800.00	800.00	0
YETU	600.00	600.00	0

DSE MARKET SUMMARY

TSI	3,256.85	-68.53
DSEI	1,980.73	-45.71

TRADING STATS

Market Cap (bln)	19,091.95
Equity Turnover	229,689,375.00
Total Volume	659,575
Total Deals	48

TOP MOVERS

CRDB	125	583,371
NMB	1,980	50,990
NICO	170	19,500

GAINERS & LOSERS

Company	Price	Change
ACA	5,150	-8.04%
NMB	1,980	-15.38%
EABL	4,760	-2.46%
NMG	1,500	+7.14%

Interbank Foreign Exchange Market (IFEM)

Date	Amount Traded (Mn USD)	High	Low	Weighted Average
17/Apr/2019	2.20	2,308.00	2,298.45	2,300.94
16/Apr/2019	2.10	2,308.00	2,298.40	2,300.84
15/Apr/2019	1.70	2,316.00	2,298.40	2,300.93
11/Apr/2019	1.50	2,309.00	2,298.45	2,300.94
10/Apr/2019	1.65	2,310.00	2,298.50	2,300.96
9/Apr/2019	1.30	2,310.00	2,298.40	2,300.92
8/Apr/2019	1.25	2,310.80	2,298.45	2,300.93

Inter-bank Local Money Markets

Date	Volume (million-TZS)	High	Low	Weighted Average Rate (WAR)
17/Apr/2019	41,200	5.50	5.00	5.29
16/Apr/2019	53,550	5.50	4.90	5.24
15/Apr/2019	18,450	6.00	5.25	5.44
11/Apr/2019	39,000	6.00	5.00	5.15
10/Apr/2019	43,300	6.00	4.90	5.18

Tanzania Shilling On Average bases

The USDZTS traded at 2,310.0000 on Monday April 15. Historically, the Tanzania Shilling reached an all time high of 23660 in March of 2019 and a record low of 1014.30 in December of 2004.

Gold slips to 2019 low as global economic outlook improves

* Bullion down about 1.3 percent so far this week
 * Holdings of SPDR Gold Trust near their lowest since Oct
 * Palladium trading below previous session's 2-week peak

LONDON, April 18. (Reuters) - Gold traded near its lowest level since end-December on Thursday as indications that the global economy might not be as pain-stricken as previously feared prompted investors to take risks ahead of a slew of economic data.

Spot gold eased 0.1 percent to \$1,273 per ounce by 0722 GMT, having fallen to \$1,270.99 earlier in the session, its lowest since December 27.

The metal has so far lost about 1.3 percent in the holiday-shortened week, and is on track for a fourth straight weekly decline. Most markets are closed for Good Friday on April 19.

U.S. gold futures lost 0.1 percent to \$1,275.60 an ounce.

"What we see here is the moderation of some of the extreme concerns about the global growth outlook," said Michael McCarthy, chief market strategist at CMC Markets.

"Recent data over the last 10 sessions or so have eased concerns and safe-haven assets have been under significant pressure."

Among a string of positive economic indications were data from both United States and China that tempered concerns about global growth and took the sheen off safe-haven bullion.

China's economy grew at a steady pace in the first quarter, defying expectations of further weakness, while trade deficit in the U.S. fell to an eight-month low in February, boosting the country's economic growth in the previous quarter.

The two counties have set a tentative timeline for the next round of trade talks and aim to conclude negotiations by early June, according to a Wall Street Journal report on Wednesday.

"Gold prices continue to sag on better economic data broadly while trade optimism appears poised to finally deliver a deal by early June at the latest," OANDA senior market analyst Edward Moya said in a note.

"The yellow metal is also weaker from momentum on China's surprising better-than-expected GDP, retail sales and industrial production data."

Asian shares remain close to a nine-month peak. Focus has now turned to the release of Purchasing Managers' Indexes (PMIs) for the manufacturing and service sectors in Europe later in the day to provide more cues on the strength of the euro zone economy.

Investors also await the U.S. retail sales data later in the day.

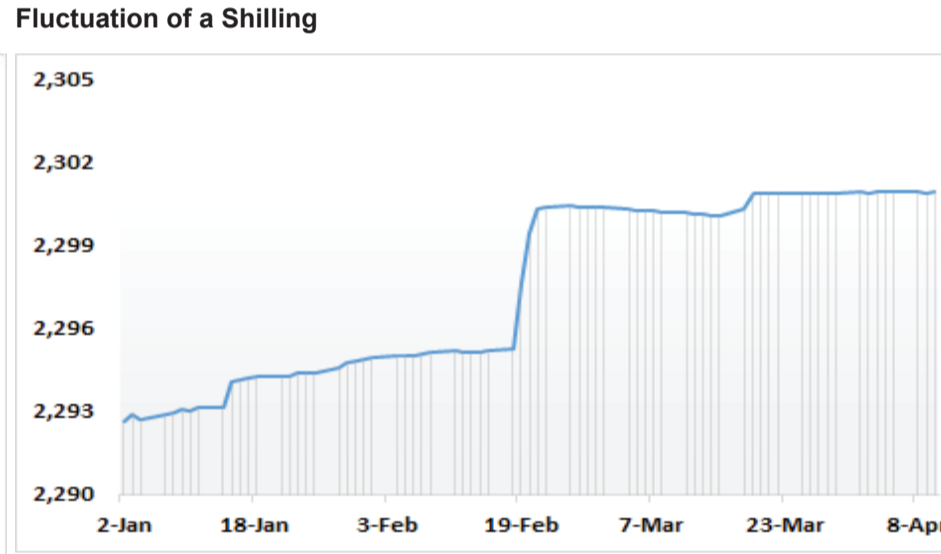
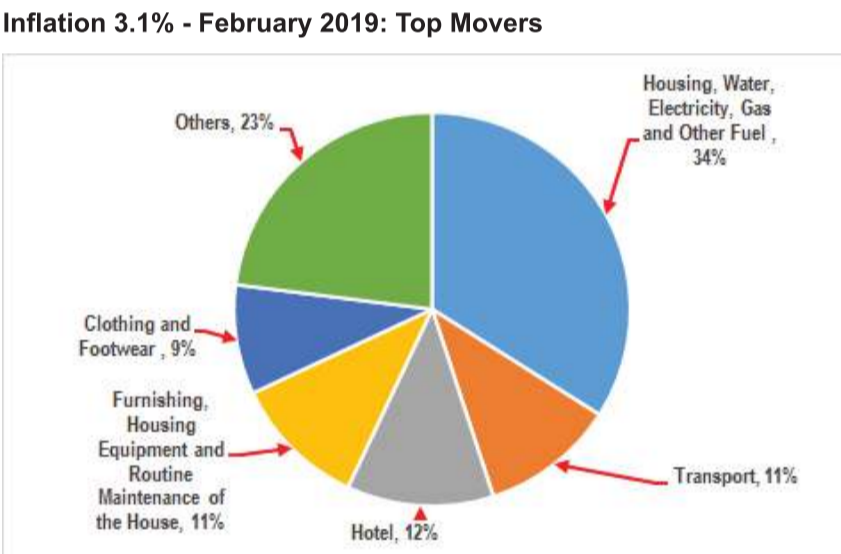
Holdings of SPDR Gold Trust, the world's largest gold-backed exchange-traded fund, were at 752.86 tonnes on Wednesday, still around their lowest levels since Oct. 27.

Elsewhere, silver was unchanged at \$15 an ounce and platinum dipped 0.1 percent to \$881.85. Palladium slipped 0.8 percent to \$1,389.68 an ounce, having jumped 3.9 percent to a two-week high of \$1,406.81 in the previous session.

All Share Index : 18 April 2019

Africa	Actual	Change	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly
NSE-All Share	29,746	250.33	0.85%	2.05%	-4.43%	-27.07%
FTSE/JSE TOP 40	52,385	204.95	-0.39%	0.43%	3.96%	2.66%
JALSH-All Share	58,665	237.43	-0.40%	0.43%	3.34%	1.65%
Egypt EGX 30	14,922	51.24	-0.34%	-1.22%	0.07%	-15.72%
Casablanca CFG 25	11,056	7.71	-0.07%	0.53%	0.63%	-14.21%
NSE All Share	158	0.29	0.18%	-0.49%	-1.58%	-14.73%
Nairobi 20	2,889	10.22	-0.35%	2.29%	-0.50%	-22.85%
DSEI	1,981	45.71	-2.26%	-4.22%	-4.84%	-19.30%
TUN	6,942	6.24	-0.09%	0.14%	1.63%	-2.15%
GSSECI	2,360	9.61	-0.41%	-0.74%	-2.12%	-31.35%
Gaborone	7,864	0.00	0.00%	-0.16%	-0.18%	-7.08%
NSX Overall	1,397	2.23	0.16%	1.18%	4.23%	-1.94%
SEMDEX	2,160	7.82	-0.36%	-0.85%	-1.39%	-5.19%
Zimbabwe Industrial Index420	0.70	0.17%	1.17%	-1.98%	-1.98%	32.69%

The DSEI decreased 52 points or 2.55% since the beginning of 2019, according to trading on a contract for difference (CFD) that tracks this benchmark index from Tanzania. Historically, the Tanzania All Share Index DSEI reached an all time high of 3686.97 in January of 2019 and a record low of 1161.30 in December of 2010.



Oil prices slip, but ongoing supply cuts support

LONDON, April 18. (Reuters) - Oil markets fell on Thursday despite a surprise decline in U.S. inventories, but the price drops were tempered by a smaller-than-expected reduction in gasoline stocks and ongoing OPEC-led supply cuts.

Brent crude futures were at \$71.43 a barrel at 0700 GMT, down 19 cents, or 0.3 percent, from their last close and further away from Wednesday's five-month high of \$72.27 a barrel.

U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures were at \$63.62 per barrel, down 14 cents, or 0.2 percent.

Both contracts had traded slightly higher earlier in the day.

U.S. crude inventories fell by 1.4 million barrels in the week to April 12, compared with analyst expectations for an increase of 1.7 million barrels, Department of Energy (DOE) data showed on Wednesday.

"The unexpected drawdown in U.S. commercial crude oil stocks was balanced by lower-than-expected withdrawals in the country's gasoline and distillate inventories," said Abhishek Kumar, head of analytics at Interfax Energy in London.

Gasoline stocks fell by 1.2 million barrels, less than analyst expectations in a Reuters poll for a 2.1 million-barrel drop.

Distillate stockpiles, which include diesel and heating oil, fell by 362,000 barrels, also not as much as forecasts for a 846,000-barrel drawdown, the EIA data showed.

Graphic: U.S. crude inventories, weekly changes since 2017, click tmsnrts/2XIX17b

Prices have been supported this year by an agreement reached by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its allies, including Russia, to limit their oil output by 1.2 million barrels per day.

Global supply has also been tightened further by U.S. sanctions on OPEC members Venezuela and Iran.

Iran's crude exports have dropped in April to their lowest daily level this year, tanker data showed and industry sources said, suggesting a drawdown in buyer interest ahead of expected further pressure from Washington.

Growing U.S. oil production and concerns over the U.S.-China trade dispute are keeping prices in check.

"A persistent rise in U.S. oil output, together with lingering demand-side concerns emerging from the U.S.-China trade dispute, is limiting price gains," Kumar said.

U.S. crude oil output from seven major shale formations was expected to rise by about 80,000 bpd in May to a record 8.46 million bpd, the U.S. Energy Information Administration said in its monthly report on Monday.

Surging U.S. production has filled some of the gap in supplies, although not all of the lost production can be immediately replaced by U.S. shale oil due to refinery configurations.

Fuel Wef. Wednesday, 6th Mar 2019

Town	Petrol (TZS/Litre)	Diesel (TZS/Litre)	Kerosene (TZS/Litre)
Dar es Salaam	2,098	2,131	2,096
Arusha	2,191	2,195	2,286
Pwani	2,102	2,135	2,101
Dodoma	2,157	2,189	2,155
Geita	2,263	2,296	2,262
Iringa	2,162	2,195	2,161
Kagera (Bukoba)	2,313	2,346	2,312
Katava (Mpanda)	2,306	2,339	2,304
Kigoma	2,329	2,362	2,328
Moshi	2,181	2,185	2,276
Lindi	2,141	2,236	2,155
Manyara	2,225	2,229	2,320
Mara	2,276	2,309	2,275
Mbeya	2,205	2,238	2,204
Morogoro	2,123	2,156	2,121
Mtwara	2,127	2,222	2,169
Mwanza	2,248	2,281	2,247
Njombe	2,190	2,223	2,189
Rukwa (S'wanga)	2,271	2,304	2,269
Ruvuma (Songea)	2,213	2,308	2,220
Shinyanga	2,227	2,260	2,225
Singida	2,188	2,221	2,187
Songwe (Vwawa)	2,214	2,247	2,213
Tabora	2,252	2,285	2,251

Foreign Exchange- April 17

	Actual	Chg	%Chg
EURUSD	1.13034	0.00234	0.21%
GBPUSD	1.30519	0.00039	0.03%
AUDUSD	0.71947	0.00197	0.27%
NZDUSD	0.67343	0.00267	-0.39%
USDJPY	111.99	0	0.00%
USDCNY	6.68275	0.02945	-0.44%
USDCHF	1.0086	0.0008	0.08%
USDCAD	1.32915	0.00575	-0.43%
USDMXN	18.8349	0.0361	-0.19%
USDINR	69.371	0.1490	-0.21%
USDBRL	3.9043	0.0012	0.03%
USDRUB	63.8986	0.1819	-0.28%
US Dollar	96.92	0.12	-0.13%
BTCUSD	5,244.58	42	0.81%

Exchange Rates for April 18, 2019

Currency	Spot Buying	Spot Selling
Kenya SHS	2,253.37	2,271.41
Uganda SHS	57.41	61.52
Rwandan Franc	251.53	254.55
Burundi Franc	218.12	219.77

OTHER SELECTED CURRENCIES

Currency	Spot Buying	Spot Selling
USD	227,815.84	230,094.00
Pound STG	297,322.45	300,410.73
EURO	257,454.68	260,121.27
Canadian \$	170,802.10	172,458.40
Switz. Franc	225,806.17	227,973.84
Japanese YEN	2,034.43	2,054.23
Swedish Kronor	24,671.95	24,907.88
Norweg. Kronor	26,898.06	27,151.02
Danish Kronor	34,494.56	34,838.97
Australian \$	163,822.37	165,506.61
Indian RPS	3,282.18	3,313.95
Pakistan RPS	1,531.45	1,620.38
Zambian Kwacha	18,373.74	18,668.88
Malawian Kwacha	289.30	308.71
Mozambique-MET	3,537.51	3,567.35
Zimbabwe \$	42.63	43.49
SDR	316,657.19	319,823.76
Gold (T/O)	290,625,352.56	293,599,230.71
S. African Rand	16,293.16	16,444.33
UAE Dirham	62,031.22	62,634.47
Singapore \$	168,440.55	170,099.80
Hong Kong \$	29,040.36	29,330.02
Saud Arabian Rial	60,747.65	61,353.49
Kuwait Dinar	749,369.57	756,589.50
Botswana Pula	21,460.25	21,858.93
Chinese Yuan	34,061.34	34,394.75
Malaysia Ringgit	55,121.18	55,632.01
South Korea Won	201.06	203.05
Newzealand	153,320.06	154,899.28

World Commodities (\$) 5 April 2019

Energy	Price	Day	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly
Crude Oil	62.0835	0.06%	3.27%	10.47%	0.07%
Brent	69.2927	-0.10%	1.32%	5.01%	3.25%
Natural gas	2.6412	-0.23%	-0.78%	-7.03%	-2.21%
Gasoline	1.9297	-0.38%	1.83%	7.89%	-1.25%
Heating oil	2.0091	-0.14%	1.83%	0.33%	2.64%
Ethanol	1.2931	-0.84%	-3.86%	-3.78%	-9.82%
Naptha	542.85	-0.25%	1.87%	3.46%	-5.01%
Propane	0.62	-0.74%	-7.11%	-9.46%	-16.69%
Uranium	25.75	-0.39%	2.79%	-8.53%	22.62%

Metals

Price	Day	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly	
Gold	1286.51	-0.28%	-0.43%	0.00%	-3.49%
Silver	15.166	0.03%	0.20%	0.62%	-7.24%
Platinum	906.8	1.02%	7.25%	9.68%	-0.63%
Palladium	1,333.15	-2.40%	-3.64%	-13.33%	48.05%
Manganese	39.5	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	-3.66%
Neodymium	372,500.00	0.00%	-0.67%	-4.49%	-16.76%
Rhodium	3,050.00	-0.65%	-8.82%	7.77%	49.51%

Agricultural

Price	Day	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly	
Soybeans	899.4717	-0.58%	1.72%	1.09%	-12.99%
Wheat	465.8774	-1.06%	1.78%	5.76%	-1.35%
Heating oil	77.58	0.34%	-0.04%	6.20%	-6.01%
Cotton	10.525	-0.24%	-3.00%	-0.94%	-15.55%



Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov

Kremlin says Mueller's report was waste of taxpayers' money

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov believes that US taxpayers have solid reasons to start asking questions why budget money was wasted on special counsel Robert Mueller's probe.

"We regret the documents of this sort are causing direct influence on the development of Russian-US relations, whose condition leaves much to be desired," Peskov said.

"Speaking less seriously I should say that in a similar situation our Audit Chamber would've certainly probed into what the taxpayers' money has been wasted on. Anyway, it's up to the US taxpayers to ask such questions."

He stated that as before Moscow dismissed the charges of intervention in the US presidential election, because there was no such interference at all.

"The latest version of the Mueller report contains nothing new. All that information had been published by different sources and mass media earlier," Peskov stated.

"The report contains no proven evidence that Russia allegedly interfered

in the election process in the United States," Peskov said. "As before, we do not accept such charges."

Peskov recalled that the Russian side kept saying from the very beginning of the Mueller-led probe "the investigators will not find any intervention however hard they may try."

He remarked that Russian President Vladimir Putin had repeatedly commented on this theme, "because there was no such intervention."

"The publication of the Mueller report is fresh confirmation of this," Peskov said.

Mueller report

The US Department of Justice on Thursday published the final version of special counsel Robert Mueller's report of the results of his investigation into Moscow's alleged meddling in the 2016 US presidential election.

Mueller claims that Russia tried to exert influence on the 2016 presidential campaign.

At the same time he recognized that the probe identified no traces of collusion between President Donald Trump and Moscow.

Agencies

New Ukrainian leader will have to build up relations with Russia

MOSCOW

UKRAINE'S new leader will not need to seek any deals with Moscow, he will have to develop mutually beneficial relations with Russia for the benefit of the two countries, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters yesterday.

"No deals with Putin or Moscow are needed. It is essential to build up normal, good, mutually beneficial relations based on mutual trust, cooperation and interaction in the interests of both Russians and Ukrainians living in Russia and Ukraine," he said.

He thus commented on remarks by Viktor Medvedchuk, Chairman of the Political Council of the Opposition Platform - for Life party, who said that Vladimir Zelensky would have to seek a deal with Russia in the event of his win at the presidential election in Ukraine.

Ukraine presidential election

The Kremlin hopes that the future Ukrainian president will have a different approach towards the prospects for relations with Russia and will not be a proponent of resolving the situation in Donbass through the use of force, Dmitry Peskov said.

"One always wants to hope for the best," he said. "Of course, we would like to hope that the person who will

be elected Ukraine's president will not be part of the 'party of war', that this person will rule out the use force to resolve the situation in Donbass. We would also like to hope that this person will have a different approach towards the prospects for cooperation between Russia and Ukraine."

Peskov stressed though that was not referring to any particular Ukrainian presidential contenders. "I told you that any individual who will be elected [Ukraine's] president," he noted. "I told you what we would like to see. I did not pin any hopes on anyone."

"In all fairness, it must be said that none of the candidates gave any consistent explanations concerning the prospects for the Minsk agreements, the prospects for Donbass, the prospects for the self-proclaimed republics, the prospects for relations with Moscow.

All that continues to be sort of a 'grey zone' for us, which is yet to be heard and understood," he concluded.

Vladimir Zelensky, a presidential contender from the Servant of the People party, garnered 30.24% of the vote in the first round of Ukraine's presidential election held on March 31.

That's almost twice as many compared to incumbent President Pyotr Poroshenko who secured 15.95%. The runoff election is scheduled for April 21.

Agencies

Malian PM, govt step down after violence in village

BAMAKO

MALIAN Prime Minister Soumeylou Boubeye Maiga and his government submitted a letter of resignation on Thursday following a motion of no confidence over the brutal violence in a village of the country, according to the presidential office.

"The president accepts the resignation of the prime minister and that of the members of the government," a statement from President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita's office said, without specifying a reason for the departure. Legislators from the ruling and opposition parties on Wednesday



offered a non-confidence vote against the government for its failure to handle violence and restore stability in the central region, especially a recent bloody attack in the village of Ogossagou that killed over 130 people.

According to the statement, a new prime minister will be named soon and

a new government will be formed after consultations with all political forces of the African country.

Mali has experienced massive attacks by armed groups since Islamist extremists linked to Al-Qaeda took control of the country's restive north since 2012.

On March 23, several attacks took place in the Fulani village. According to local Malian officials, the attacks were carried out by Dogon hunters who accused the Fulani villagers of having ties with jihadists.

Thousands of people staged protests in Bamako early April, urging the government to stop the surge of violence.

Agencies



President Xi to address Belt and Road forum next week

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping will deliver a keynote speech at the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF) to be held from April 25 to 27 in Beijing, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi announced yesterday.

With the theme of "Belt and Road Cooperation, Shaping a Brighter Shared Future," the second forum aims to bring about high-quality cooperation under the BRI framework.

More side events are planned for this year's forum, including 12 sub-forums focusing on practical cooperation. Also, a conference will be organized specifically for the business community for the first time.

A total of 37 heads of state or government and other leaders from Austria, Egypt, Italy and Laos will attend the forum. France, Germany, the UK, Spain, Japan, South Korea and the EU will send high-level representatives to the forum.

The BRF is the highest level platform for international cooperation under the Belt and Road framework and is the most important event China will host this year, the foreign minister said.

Wang said that 126 countries and 29 international organizations have signed cooperation agreements with China to jointly build the Belt and Road.

He revealed that the total trade volume between China and participating countries has surpassed US\$6 trillion, investment has exceeded US\$80 billion and the 82 cooperation parks built by China and relevant countries have created nearly 300,000 jobs, bringing enormous development opportunities for the countries involved and laying a solid foundation for China to host the second forum.

"Over the past two years with concerted efforts, the Belt and Road is becoming a clean road for cooperation, prosperity, openness, green development and win-win outcome that will benefit people of all countries," he said.

Xinhua



The BRF is the highest level platform for international cooperation under the Belt and Road framework and is the most important event China will host this year

Xinhua

Release of Mueller report fuels partisan wrangling in US

WASHINGTON

A REDACTED version of special counsel Robert Mueller's investigative report on the Russia probe was made public Thursday, adding new fuel to bitter partisan wrangling that has been dividing Washington.

The 448-page report, released by the Justice Department, is the culmination of Mueller's nearly two-year inquiry into whether US Donald Trump's campaign conspired with the Russian government during the 2016 US presidential election and whether the president had obstructed justice.

CONCLUSIONS

The investigation found no evidence that Trump's campaign team engaged in a criminal conspiracy with Russia, while Mueller was unable to draw a conclusion on whether the president committed obstruction of justice, according to the report.

"The evidence we obtained about the President's actions and intent presents difficult issues that prevent us from conclusively determining that no criminal conduct occurred," the report said.

"Accordingly, while this report does not conclude that the President committed a crime, it also does not exonerate him," it added.

Attorney General William Barr, who held a press conference at the Justice Department shortly before the report's public release, said Mueller did not make a "traditional prosecutorial judgment" regarding allegations that Trump had obstructed justice.

Instead, the special counsel recounts 10 episodes in his report involving the president and discusses potential legal theories for connecting these actions to elements of an obstruction offense.

Barr said that, though he and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein disagreed with some of Mueller's "legal theories" about obstruction of justice, they concluded that the special counsel did not have "sufficient" evidence to establish that Trump committed an obstruction of justice.

The report also claimed that there is a Russian campaign of hacking



Attorney General William Barr speaks alongside Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, right, and acting Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General Edward O'Callaghan, left, about the release of a redacted version of special counsel Robert Mueller's report during a news conference, on Thursday, at the Department of Justice in Washington. (AP)

and propaganda to sow discord in the United States, boost Trump, and denigrate his Democratic rival, Hillary Clinton. Russia has repeatedly denied any meddling in the US elections.

The release of report came nearly a month after Mueller concluded his wide-ranging inquiry, which had led to felony charges against 34 people, including six Trump associates and advisers, and three entities, and has shadowed the White House.

According to Mueller's report, the special counsel referred 14 investigations to other US attorney's offices.

REVELATIONS

Mueller, whom Rosenstein appointed in May 2017, took over the investigation after Trump abruptly fired former FBI Director James Comey, a move that raised questions about his potential obstruction of justice.

According to the report, Trump was frustrated by the special counsel's appointment. "Everyone tells me if you get one of these independent counsels it runs your presidency," Trump said, cited by the report. "It takes years and years and I won't be able to do anything. This is the worst thing that ever happened to me."

Trump also had tried to seize control of Mueller's investigation and force his removal after media reports

indicated that the special counsel was looking into whether he had obstructed justice, the report revealed.

In June 2017, Trump reportedly directed then White House Counsel Don McGahn to call a Justice Department official and say that Mueller "had conflicts of interest and must be removed," which McGahn refused and threatened to resign.

"The President's efforts to influence the investigation were mostly unsuccessful, but that is largely because the persons who surrounded the president declined to carry out orders or accede to his requests," Mueller wrote in the report.

Rudy Giuliani, Trump's lawyer, defended the president when speaking to Fox News on Thursday, saying that he "did not have a guilty motive."

The special counsel also wrote that he had the authority to issue a grand jury subpoena in order to interview Trump but decided against doing so because it would delay the investigation.

He said his team "had sufficient evidence to understand relevant events and to make certain assessments without the president's testimony."

Trump did provide written testimony on "certain" Russia-related topics, but not on "obstruction topics," said the report.

Xinhua

Envoy: Britain can take giant strides on China's 'new silk road'

LONDON

THE Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), designed to revive the ancient trade route, is becoming the mainstream of China-Britain co-operation, Chinese Ambassador to Britain Liu Xiaoming said on Wednesday in a signed article published on London newspaper the Evening Standard.

In the article titled "UK can take giant strides on China's 'new silk road,'" Liu recalled that the UK Government has appointed a BRI special envoy, established an expert board and participated in the Belt and Road Forum Advisory Council.

The all-party parliamentary group on the BRI Initiative and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is looking into policy support and legal guarantees. Joint principles have been issued



Chinese Ambassador to Britain Liu Xiaoming

to address the environmental and social risks of BRI and encourage green investment.

"China-UK business co-operation is thriving. Latest figures show trade in goods exceeding US\$80 billion for the first time in 2018 and mutual investments increasing, with direct investment from China up 14 per cent year on year," Liu said, added that people-to-people exchanges have flourished, evidenced by 1.5 million mutual visits

per year, with 190,000 Chinese students in Britain and more than 10,000 British students in China, while eight new direct flights were launched last year between Chinese and British cities.

As the second Belt and Road Forum will be held in Beijing later this month, the Chinese diplomat said it will be a chance to deepen Britain's participation and achieve more results in China-Britain co-operation.

The first opportunity is rule-making. Britain has played a leading role in the establishment and management of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. In BRI development, Britain could have a big role to play in ensuring that the projects are of higher quality, at a higher standard, with higher return, he said.

The second opportunity is explo-

ration of third-party markets. The forum will include a CEO conference and meetings on business co-operation. This points to immense potential for third-party involvement in BRI development. The UK, with its unique strengths in professional services, project-management and financing, could tap into this potential, he added.

The third opportunity is green development. The forum will unveil key projects aimed at implementing the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

China and Britain, having laid the groundwork for co-operation on green finance, environmental protection and sustainable development, could expand it to wider areas, concluded the Ambassador.

Xinhua

ADDIS ABABA

BRI cooperation proved more fruitful than expected - ambassador

OVER the last six years, cooperation under the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has seen major progress and been proven more fruitful than expected, Chinese Ambassador to Ethiopia Tan Jian said.

The initiative has laid its groundwork and entered the stage of all-round growth, bear-

ing fruits that will create more opportunities and cooperation for countries, he said to the press Thursday on the premises of the Chinese embassy in Addis Ababa, capital of the eastern African country.

He underlined that the BRI is not a talk-shop, but an action-oriented initiative that delivers tangible outcomes, and the

second BRI forum to be hosted by China in late April will serve as an important platform to drive further cooperation under the BRI.

A total of 125 countries and 29 international organizations have so far signed BRI cooperation documents with China.

The upcoming BRI forum will also create an important



platform, whereby China along with other parties takes stock of what has been achieved and draws a blueprint of future co-operation, Tan (pictured) said.

"The BRI is an important initiative for international cooperation to enhance China's co-operation with global partners. The BRI represents a major breakthrough in both theory and practice, and it carries far-reaching significance," he said.

The world is experiencing profound changes with uncertainties and destabilizing

factors, while the BRI demonstrates China's commitment to sharing development opportunities and outcomes with more countries, the ambassador noted.

"The BRI is guided by the principles of consultation and cooperation for shared benefits. It represents an approach to international cooperation

featuring mutual respect, justice, equity and cooperation for win-win outcomes. And it is a commitment to multilateralism and an open global economy," he said.

Representatives from over 100 countries, including at least 37 heads of state or government, have confirmed attendance to the second BRI forum in Beijing later this month.

Xinhua



In these photos provided by the Niagara County Sheriff's Office shows Bill Kapri, also known as Kodak Black, who was arrested with three others at the Lewiston-Queenston International Bridge, Wednesday, April 17, 2019 in Niagara Falls, N.Y. (Photo: AP)

Kodak Black arrested on drug, gun charge at Canadian border

LEWISTON, N.Y.

KODAK Black was arrested on drug and weapons charges as the rapper tried to cross from Canada into the United States near Niagara Falls, law enforcement officials said Thursday.

Black, whose legal name is Bill Kapri, was driving two other people in a Cadillac Escalade with temporary California registration across the Lewiston-Queenston International Bridge at 7:20 p.m. Wednesday, according to New York state police.

It was unclear where the men in the Escalade and a second car were headed, but Black had been scheduled to perform that night in Boston, about 400 miles (640 kilometers) east.

The men told border agents that they had marijuana and firearms, U.S. Customs and Border Protection said in an emailed statement. State police, who were called in, said that Black was found to have marijuana, and a loaded Glock 9mm pistol was discovered in the vehicle. No one in the car had a permit for the pistol.

The 21-year-old rapper from Miramar, Florida, was arrested on charges of second-degree criminal possession of a weapon and unlawful possession of marijuana.

Black, who also faces a charge in South Carolina of first-degree criminal sexual misconduct on allegations he raped a woman after a 2016 concert, was arraigned in a town court and remanded to county jail.

A phone message seeking comment was left with Black's attorney. Representatives at Black's

record label and Live Nation didn't reply to emails seeking comment from The Associated Press.

Prosecutors said Thursday afternoon that Black was released from jail after posting bail, which was \$20,000 cash or \$40,000 bond. Video taken by WKBW-TV of Black walking to a car after posting bail shows him hiding his face with what appears to be a fan of \$100 bills.

The two passengers in the Escalade face a weapons charge. The driver of the second car, a Porsche, faces marijuana and weapons charges after attempting to cross with three loaded handguns in the car, police said.

The four men are due back in town court May 8.

Black's hits include "Tunnel Vision," "Wake Up in the City" with Bruno Mars and Gucci Mane, "No Flockin'," and "Zeze," which peaked at No. 2 on Billboard Hot 100 chart. His last album, 2018's "Dying to Live," debuted at No. 1 on the charts.

In Boston, police responded to what they described as "generally unruly behavior" Wednesday night after Black's scheduled shows at a city club were canceled.

Department spokesman Officer Stephen McNulty said police responded to the House of Blues on reports of a disturbance. One man was arrested for allegedly assaulting a member of the club's security staff and two people required medical assistance.

Police say there were about 200 people outside the club and it took about 30 minutes to disperse the crowd.

AP

India fortunate to have Dhoni behind stumps, says captain Kohli

MUMBAI

INDIA are lucky to have someone with Mahendra Singh Dhoni's ability and experience in the side and the long-serving wicketkeeper-batsman is going to be crucial to their chances at the Cricket World Cup, captain Virat Kohli has said.

Dhoni has played 341 one-day internationals, scoring 10,500 runs at an average of just under 51, and his sharp glovework makes him first-choice wicketkeeper in the limited-overs format.

However, he will turn 38 during the World Cup and while he remains supremely fit a sub-par 2018 helped fuel suggestions that age has diminished his batting ability.

Dhoni, India's 2011 World Cup winning captain, seems to have turned things around with the bat this year. He has scored over 300 runs in nine ODIs, hitting four half-centuries, including three in a row during the tour of Australia.

"He is one person who knows the game inside out, who understands the game from ball one to 300 on the field," Kohli told India Today. "I won't say it is a luxury to have him, but I am fortunate to have a mind like that behind the stumps."

Dhoni was once considered India's best finisher and no target was deemed out of reach with the boundary-hitting right-hander at the crease.

While some were calling for Dhoni to be dropped during his dip in form, Kohli said he had

earned the right to try to turn his form around.

"It was important to give him space, for which people did not have much patience at that time," he added. "Now after 12 months people are saying he is the most important factor in the World Cup, which is true. We knew deep down all along."

While Dhoni's improved batting form has eased concerns, the lack of clarity over the number four spot could still prove to be headache for Kohli during the May 30-July 14 World Cup.

India have included top-order batsman KL Rahul, wicketkeeper-batsman Dinesh Karthik and all-rounder Vijay Shankar in the squad, who could all fill that role but as yet there has been no clear choice.

"We tried a lot of things," he said. "There were a few combinations that we tried. Eventually, when Vijay came in, it was three dimensional - he can bowl, he can field, he can bat. He is a proper batsman."

"That just gave us an option, saying why not have that kind of balance, which other teams have had all these years. From that point of view, we all agreed on it."

"We are pretty sorted with how we want to go about the World Cup. Obviously, who bats where is the decision for later."

India begin their World Cup campaign against South Africa in Southampton on 5 June.

REUTERS

Simmons now scores 31 points, 76ers beat Nets without Embiid



Brooklyn Nets' Rondae Hollis-Jefferson (24), Caris LeVert (22) and D'Angelo Russell (1) react to a dunk by Philadelphia 76ers' Ben Simmons (25) during the second half in Game 3 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series Thursday, April 18, 2019, in New York. The 76ers won 131-115. (AP Photo)

NEW YORK

JOEL Embiid took off his warmup gear and changed into street clothes, his left knee feeling too sore to play. Even with the All-Star center sitting down, the Philadelphia 76ers were flying high in Game 3.

Ben Simmons scored a career playoff-high 31 points, Tobias Harris added 29 points and 16 rebounds and the 76ers shook off the absence of their leading scorer to beat the Brooklyn Nets 131-115 on Thursday night for a 2-1 lead in the first-round series.

The 76ers relied on Simmons slashing to the basket, and Harris and JJ Redick shooting from the perimeter.

"We have the pieces to get games, to complete games and I think everybody in the organization knows that," Simmons said.

Simmons was 11 for 13 from the field, repeatedly getting to the rim even with the Nets sagging well off him in hopes he would shoot a

jumper. He added nine assists and eventually quieted a crowd that loudly booed him every time he touched the ball early.

Harris had his playoff highs in both points and rebounds, and was 6 for 6 from 3-point range. Redick was 5 of 9 behind the arc and finished with 26 points.

"Listen, I think their big players came to play," Nets coach Kenny Atkinson said. "Ben had a great game, I thought JJ was great, Tobias also hit some big 3s."

Embiid warmed up before the game but the 76ers announced shortly before the start that the All-Star center wouldn't be available because of a sore left knee. Greg Monroe started in his place and had nine points and 13 rebounds.

"Just came in, obviously with Joel down that's a big scoring loss that we had there," Harris said. "So just had to be aggressive from the start."

D'Angelo Russell and Caris LeVert each scored 26 points for the Nets, who host Game 4 on

Saturday afternoon. They have dropped the last two games after surprising the No. 3 seed in the opener in Philadelphia.

Energized by a lively Brooklyn crowd seeing playoff basketball for the first time since 2015 and perhaps by the absence of Embiid, who averaged 22.5 points and 12.5 rebounds in the first two games, the Nets started well but then stalled. They went about 4 1/2 minutes without a basket and Philadelphia took advantage to lead 32-24 after one.

"When, arguably, their best player sits out, you have to take advantage of that and we just couldn't perform on it," Nets center Jarrett Allen said.

The lead quickly went into double digits in the second before LeVert got going. He scored six straight points and had Brooklyn's first 14 of the period to tie it at 38. The 76ers regained control and opened an 11-point lead with about 2 1/2 minutes remaining before halftime, but LeVert had another

burst to cut Philadelphia's lead to 65-59 at the break. He finished with 19 points in the period.

Redick hit a pair of 3-pointers sandwiched around Harris' three-point play, pushing it to 81-67, and another 3 by Redick had the Sixers leading 97-81 with 1:16 left in the third. But a four-point play by Spencer Dinwiddie highlighted Brooklyn's run of nine straight points to end the period and trim it to 97-90.

The Nets cut it to six in the fourth on Russell's 3-pointer, but the 76ers soon pulled away again.

It was another poor defensive effort by the Nets, who allowed just 102 points in Game 1 but an average of 138 in the last two games.

"We didn't do a good enough job of getting stops," guard Joe Harris said. "You can't have three guys go for 30 and expect to win games."

Jimmy Butler scored 16 points for the 76ers and backup big man Boban Marjanovic finished with 14 points and eight rebounds.

AP

Durant, Curry shut down Clippers in Warriors' 132-105 win



Golden State Warriors guard Andre Iguodala, right, shoots as Los Angeles Clippers forward Montrezl Harrell defends during the second half in Game 3 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series Thursday, April 18, 2019, in Los Angeles. The Warriors won 132-105. (AP Photo)

LOS ANGELES

HE'S Kevin Durant, and the Los Angeles Clippers got reminded of it.

Durant scored 38 points, Stephen Curry added 21 playing with five fouls, and the Golden State Warriors dominated from the opening tip to win 132-105 Thursday night and take a 2-1 lead in their first-round playoff series.

"He came out super-aggressive, in kill mode," teammate Draymond Green said of Durant. "That was all the difference for us. We took control of the game

right there in the first quarter and never lost control of it."

The Warriors began the game on a 22-9 tear and went on to shoot 73% from the floor in the first, taking the crowd out of it early.

Durant was perfect, making all five of his field goals and both free throws for 12 points. He and Curry picked up two fouls each, but the Warriors still built a 19-point lead.

"As much momentum as we lost in the final 16 minutes of Game 2, we got it all back early," Curry said. "Everybody was aggressive, decisive, getting good

shots on every possession. The way we went about our business was the sign of a resilient team."

Game 4 is Sunday at Staples Center.

Kevon Looney, again filling in for injured DeMarcus Cousins, shot 4 for 4 in the first, dunking three times in a row.

Durant had 27 points at halftime despite not making a 3-pointer.

Golden State coach Steve Kerr had said he wanted Durant shooting much more than the eight times he did in Game 2. When relayed his coach's comment earlier in the week, Durant

replied, "I don't play like that. I'm Kevin Durant. You know who I am."

The Clippers won Game 2 on the road after trailing by 31 points in the third quarter, stunning the Warriors with the largest comeback in NBA playoff history.

But they couldn't find the basket this time, shooting 37% from the floor.

"They dissected us," Clippers coach Doc Rivers said. "You kind of felt they were going to come in and throw a punch, and we just didn't respond."

The Clippers' only starter in double figures was rookie Ivica Zubac, who finished with 18 points after playing most of the fourth. Patrick Beverley, a defensive pest guarding Durant in Game 2, was limited to six points, four fouls, one rebound and no assists in 18 minutes.

Lou Williams had 16 points, and Montrezl Harrell and JaMychal Green added 15 each off the bench.

Los Angeles never led and failed to put together any kind of sustained run.

"We just got our (rear) kicked," Williams said. "That's it."

Golden State's biggest run came in the third at the same time Curry was whistled for his fourth foul. The Warriors scored 14 straight points to lead 88-57. Durant and Green got hit with offsetting technicals during the spurt. Durant laughed it off and sank a jumper from the left corner seconds later.

"We were conversing about the play that happened before. Somebody came out of nowhere and checked us both," Durant said. "That was pretty quick. Hopefully they recind that one because I don't want anybody to think that somebody's in my head, that's why I got that tech."

The Warriors extended the margin to 35 on Alfonzo McKinnie's 3-pointer late in the period.

AP

Milner counts on Liverpool's style of play to beat Barca

LONDON

LIVERPOOL's James Milner is confident his side can beat Barcelona in the Champions League semi-final and said the Premier League club's style of play can cause the Spanish champions problems.

Liverpool, who comfortably eased past Porto to reach the semi-finals, will travel to the Nou Camp for the first leg on May 1 with the return leg at Anfield a week later on May 7.

"We can beat Barca but we know it will be very tough," Milner told reporters. "They're a strong team and it is a tough place to go but I don't think they will have played too many teams with the style we play either."

"I've been there a couple of times in the knockout stages with (Manchester) City and not got the right result, so hopefully it is third time lucky for me. They're a team full of great individual talent and a great side too."

"The Camp Nou is a fantastic stadium and a fantastic place to play with a great atmosphere. It will be very tough and we'll have to be at our best but (it's) tough for them too."

Barcelona, who eliminated Manchester United with a 4-0 aggregate score to advance, are eyeing the treble this season. The Catalans have a nine-point lead in the La Liga standings and are also in the final of the Copa del Rey.

Milner is counting on Liverpool's European experience over the last two seasons to get them over the line. They beat Porto, Manchester City and AS Roma in the knockout stages last season to reach the final where they lost to Real Madrid.

"Over the last couple of seasons, with the teams we've beaten in the Champions League, we should go there with confidence no matter how tough it is going to be," Milner added.

"I'm sure you can see in this year's run and in games when things haven't been going well that we've

got the experience. We have been there before and know how to get results."

Premier League leaders Liverpool travel to relegation-threatened Cardiff City on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Liverpool have taken a cue from Manchester United and hiked prices for away supporters when they host Barcelona in the Champions League semi-finals to subsidise tickets for own fans travelling to the Nou Camp, the Premier League club have said.

Manchester United had hiked prices for their quarter-final tie with Barcelona when the Spanish club charged 102 pounds (\$132.50), which British media reported was the most expensive ticket to a United game outside of a final.

Liverpool have been allocated 4,620 away tickets priced at 119 euros (\$133.70) each for the first leg in Spain on May 1.

In response, the Merseyside club raised their ticket prices for Barcelona supporters travelling to Anfield to the same amount and will use the extra revenue to ensure Liverpool fans pay only 88 euros for the first leg.

"All away tickets are priced at 119 euros, which is in line with Barcelona's pricing structure for the knockout stages of this season's Champions League," Liverpool said in a statement here.

"As a result, LFC will charge Barcelona supporters a reciprocal ticket price of 119 euros in the return leg at Anfield on Tuesday, May 7.

"The additional revenue from this higher ticket pricing will be used to subsidise Liverpool supporters for their tickets, reducing the price by 31 euros to 88 euros."

Tottenham Hotspur play Ajax Amsterdam in the other semi-final with the final scheduled at Atletico Madrid's Wanda Metropolitano stadium in the Spanish capital on June 1.

(£1 = 0.8901 euros) (\$1 = 0.7698 pounds)

Salah demands change in treatment of women

LONDON

LIVERPOOL forward Mohamed Salah, who was named one of the world's 100 most influential people by Time magazine, has said women must be treated with more respect.

Salah, who is a practising Muslim, said he has changed the way he thinks about women and called on men to treat gender relations differently "in my culture and in the Middle East."

The Egypt international was named on the new Time list alongside world leaders, global tycoons and celebrities including U.S. president Donald Trump and Pakistan prime minister and former cricketer Imran Khan.

"We need to change the way we treat the woman in our culture," Salah said.

"I support the woman more than I did before, because I feel like she deserves more than what they give her now, at the moment. That has to be; it's not optional."

Salah made Time's list under the category of "Titans" and was one

of six prominently featured cover stars in the index.

He was singled out for his importance to Egyptians after guiding his country to the World Cup finals for the first time since 1990.

"People always have big, big expectations from you," Salah said. "You see the kids, they're wearing your shirt and they say they wish they could be like you one day."

"So they put you under pressure a bit, but that is something that makes you proud about what you have reached until now."

"To be the first Egyptian in [this] situation and no one has done this before ... it's something different."

Salah has scored 19 goals in the Premier League this season and has helped propel Liverpool into a title race with champions Manchester City.

Among the other sports stars on the list are U.S. women's soccer player Alex Morgan, Masters champion Tiger Woods and NBA legend LeBron James.

(AGENCIES)

Costa refuses to train after Atletico fine him for verbal outburst - media

MADRID

ATLETICO Madrid striker Diego Costa refused to train on Thursday after being told that his club was to fine him for a verbal outburst in a recent defeat by Barcelona, Spanish newspapers including AS, El Pais and Marca reported.

An Atletico source confirmed to Reuters that the Spain international did not train, citing "personal reasons". Costa's representatives did not respond to a request for comment.

He has been banned for eight La Liga games by the Spanish Football Federation for verbally abusing referee Jesus Gil Manzano when he was sent off during the 2-0 loss at Barca on April 6, meaning he will play no part in the rest of the season.

AS, El Pais and Marca and other media said Costa had learned on Wednesday that he was to be fined by the club for the misdemeanour, and reacted to the news by refusing to train on Thursday despite being fully fit.

Atletico's general manager Clemente Villaverde criticised Costa after the Barca defeat, which effectively handed the Liga title to the Catalans.

He said the striker's behaviour was "reprehensible and seriously damaged the club", although coach Diego Simeone was more forgiving.

"Costa is an animal who can do things that make us suffer like what happened at the Nou Camp when he really needed him," Simeone told Goal.com in an interview published on Thursday.

Welcome to the era of the 'provisional goal'

MANCHESTER, ENGLAND

THERE are great goals, lucky goals, own goals, winning goals and now, in the era of VAR, we have the 'provisional goal'.

No game has so far highlighted the new situation more than Wednesday's extraordinary Champions League match between Manchester City and Tottenham Hotspur.

A late winner from Raheem Sterling sent the Etihad stadium into delirious celebration and City manager Pep Guardiola raced up and down the touchline, leaping into the air, punching the sky in wild jubilation.

City thought were in the semi-finals of Europe's premier competition and their outlandish dream of a quadruple of titles was still very much alive.

Then – as Turkish referee Cüneyt Çakır signalled the goal had been over-ruled following video review – Guardiola fell to his knees, head in hands, in utter despair.

The Spurs players who had moments before been on their knees, dejectedly acknowledging their exit from the competition, were suddenly resurrected, embracing in the knowledge that they, not City, were heading to a last-four clash with Ajax Amsterdam.

The new system worked. It did what it was introduced to do.

"VAR was 100 percent correct in its decision making. Everyone thought it was a goal, the change in emotions in a split-second was incredible to see," said former Spurs captain Gary Mabbutt.

So, instead of television studios discussing how Sergio Aguero had been offside before he crossed to Sterling to complete a famous hat-trick and rather than Spurs boss Mauricio Pochettino trying to watch his words while lamenting such an injustice, VAR ensured the correct decision was eventually made.

Distraught City fans, who had not seen the replay, turned to journalists in the press box, to ask whether it was the right call.

Yes, they were told, Aguero was indeed offside.

End of story. No bitterness, no hate



City boss Pep Guardiola, punching the sky in wild jubilation moments earlier, fell to his knees, head in hands, in utter despair after VAR over-ruled Raheem Sterling's late winner during their UEFA Champions League quarterfinal match against Tottenham Hotspur at Etihad Stadium in Manchester, Britain on Wednesday. (Agencies)

campaign against the referee, no decades-long sense of injustice.

LAST-MINUTE WINNER

And yet, for all the drama of those minutes and the accuracy of the final verdict, it was also hard not to wonder how City fans, or any other team's supporters, will ever be able to celebrate a last-minute winner with such wild abandon again?

Sure, a long-range thunderbolt is unlikely to need a review. Nor would a curling free kick into the top corner.

But any situation where offside might be a factor, or handball, or a push in the penalty area and fans are going to want to see if the dreaded TV signal from the referee is displayed before they are sure the game has been won.

We are now in the era of the provisional goal.

It is something that NFL fans have become used to – the partial celebration before the wait for confirmation. Then either a second celebration, without the spontaneity of the original, or the deflating over-ruled.

Spurs manager Mauricio Pochettino has been one of the few bosses to question whether the technology is a risk to the spirit of the game and to his credit, he still maintained a degree of scepticism even after his team benefited so much from VAR.

"The decision to include VAR in football is going to change the game a little bit. I am pro the basis and trying to help the referees and maybe one year ago I was a little bit worried," he said.

"Today my feeling is the same, when it is for you you need to accept."

When it is against you, you need to accept."

English fans will have to get used to the provisional goal experience as VAR will be introduced in the Premier League next season.

On the evidence so far – it will reduce the number of unjust goals, help get more decisions right and will inject its own drama into the game.

But it will be fascinating to see how fans, players and coaches react to goals.

Will they modify their behaviour and hold back their emotions, waiting for the ultimate verdict?

Or will they, like City and Spurs fans on Wednesday, commit themselves to the torturous wave of emotion VAR can provide?

REUTERS

After all that, City face Spurs again with title pressure on

MANCHESTER, ENGLAND

LITTLE over 60 hours after their extraordinary Champions League drama, Manchester City and Tottenham Hotspur will face each other again at the Etihad Stadium today, this time in the Premier League.

City's dream of a quadruple of titles ended with their away-goals loss after Wednesday's second-leg ended with a 4-3 win, but a 4-4 aggregate score.

The destiny of the Premier League remains in the hands of Pep Guardiola's side, however, and they know that if they win their remaining five games they will retain their title.

Yet this is now a major test of their character after what was a crushing exit from Europe – with a late goal from Raheem Sterling, which would have sent City through, ruled out for offside following a VAR video review.

"We have to react, close time, same team. But don't think too much right now, sleep as much as possible and then we will prepare for the game," said Guardiola.

City have won the League Cup and are in the final of the FA Cup, meaning a treble remains a realistic objective.

"We fought a lot, nine, 10 months for the Premier League. It's in our hands," added Guardiola.

"It's tough, of course, but we have to do it."

City are two points behind leaders Liverpool, but have a game in hand – although that fixture is against local rivals Manchester United at Old Trafford next Wednesday.

If they can remove the emotion from the Champions League loss, City will draw heart from the fact that they dominated large parts of the game, enjoying 66 percent possession and 20 shots to Spurs' 11.

While Mauricio Pochettino's options are limited by injuries, including to attacking fulcrum Harry Kane, Guardiola has plenty of fresh alternatives to call on, including German winger Leroy Sane, who did not fea-



Mauricio Pochettino

ture until the 84th minute on Wednesday.

Third-placed Spurs have plenty to play for as well – the battle for a top-four finish and qualification for the Champions League is tight with Arsenal and Chelsea just a point behind and sixth-placed Manchester United only three points adrift.

Liverpool will expect to pick up three points at 18th-placed Cardiff City on Sunday, although Neil Warnock's team have been boosted by Tuesday's win at Brighton, which kept their survival hopes alive.

Brighton, who are now just two points above the Welsh side, although with a game in hand, are at Wolverhampton Wanderers today.

Arsenal will expect three points from a home fixture with Crystal Palace and Chelsea will want the same from their meeting with Burnley on Easter Monday.

United, smarting from their Champions League exit to Barcelona, have a tricky trip to Everton tomorrow.

REUTERS

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Welcome to the era of the 'provisional goal'

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Amla in World Cup squad, Hendricks, Morris miss out

CAPETOWN

AFTER months of speculation around his form and place in the ODI side, Hashim Amla has been included in South Africa's 15-person squad for the World Cup in England and Wales. Amla's inclusion, along with Aiden Markram, means that top-order batsman Reeza Hendricks missed out on selection for the tournament.

With South Africa opting for Amla's experience, and Markram's imposing domestic form, there were no major surprises when the squad was announced on Thursday afternoon.

"We're looking for players who are prepared to die on the field for their country," Cricket South Africa president Chris Nenzani said. "We're looking for quality. We're looking for integrity. And we're looking for players who are prepared to entertain the country."

As expected, Faf du Plessis will captain the side that includes only one specialist wicketkeeper in Quinton de Kock, with David Miller available for back-up should de Kock be injured during a game. Miller was trialed in the role during Sri Lanka's visit earlier this year.

"Everyone has been on our case for not having a back-up keeper, but as a panel we felt it was important, when looking at the batting and bowling we have, some of the keepers we've been looking at, their performances weren't quite there in terms of looking at our bowling back up and the batters we currently have," National Selection Panel Convener Linda Zondi said. "Hence we went with David Miller. In the Sri Lanka series we gave him the gloves to make sure that if anything happens to Quinton de Kock within the World Cup, Miller can fit in and play that role."

There was no place in the squad for all-rounder Chris Morris, who is currently playing for the Delhi Capitals in the IPL, and who is one of several South Africa players taking part in the league, with Kagiso Rabada and Imran Tahir currently topping the wicket charts there.

Lungi Ngidi and Anrich Nortje, who would also have been at the IPL were it not for late-season injuries, have been included in the squad. Zondi explained that both were on the mend, and are expected to be fit to join South Africa's pre-tournament camp on May 12.

CSA confirmed that if any of the South Africa players featuring in the IPL should be required to play in the league final on May 12, they will be available and will join the national squad immediately afterwards. "The plan is for guys who make the final to join us on the 13th," a CSA official said.

Five of the players - du Plessis, Amla, JP Duminy, Imran Tahir and Dale Steyn - made their World Cup debuts at the tournament in the sub-continent in 2011 and will be playing in their third World Cup. De Kock and David Miller made their debuts in the 2015 tournament in Australasia and will be going to the World Cup for the second time.

"We feel that Faf's team is well equipped to handle whatever conditions are presented to them, bearing in mind the weather extremes one can encounter in the British Isles," Zondi said. "We have also been highly encouraged by the form shown by those of our players who are currently in action in the Indian Premier League and there is no doubt that there is a great sense of anticipation and determination among our players."

"When CSA appointed Ottis Gibson, he came with his own philosophy. Part of that was playing confident cricket. For years as South Africa we were playing conservative cricket. It was important for us as a panel to make sure that you can then take a team where everyone from [No.] 1 to 6 is going to play confident and attacking cricket. We're confident, looking at his philosophy and the kind of players we've picked. They are winners in their own right."

"I am also very happy to announce that two of our fast bowlers currently on the injured list, Lungi Ngidi and Anrich Nortje, are well on the way to recovery and we expect them to be ready for our pre-tournament camp next month".

AGENCIES

MIS swimmers hold sway in National Club Championships

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Dar es Salaam

MOROGORO International School (MIS) swimming team, aka Piranhas, put scintillating performance in this year's National Club Championships, which took place at the (IST) Upanga Campus pool in Dar es Salaam this week.

Participating teams in the championships, organized by Tanzania Swimming Association (TSA), include Taliss-IST, Mwanza Swim Club (MSC), Dar Swim Club (DSC), Bluefins, International School Moshi, Champion Rise, FK BM and Zanzibar Wahoo.

Thobias Mwangunga, MIS team's coach, said the institution gears towards empowering students in both classroom and extra curricula activities.



Morogoro International School (MIS) swimming team's member, Denis Mhini (front row, R) poses for picture with team mates shortly after the completion of this year's National Club Championships in Dar es Salaam early this week. The squad, popularly known as Piranhas, won over 40 medals in the event. PHOTO: MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

Mwangunga was adamant the club will keep on producing good swimmers, after having produced 17-year old Dennis Mhini and Collins Saliboko.

The budding swimming team, which has put impressive showing in several tournaments and won accolades for their team spirit, won 48 medals in the championships.

Saliboko and Mhini won most of the medals for the MIS team.

The two youngsters, who previously studied at MIS, re-

ceived scholarships to study at prestigious St Felix School in the UK, thanks to their accomplishments in swimming and outstanding academic performance.

Saliboko walked away with five gold medals and recorded five personal best times in the championships whereas Mhini recorded eight personal best times and won gold medal in 200m Backstroke.

Mwangunga was happy to see Saliboko and Mhini compete for

their former school, the boys are a great role model for some of the team's junior swimmers.

He also pointed out that the championships brought many memorable moments which include impressive showing by MIS team in Free Style and Medley Relay events, which saw the outfit's swimmers put amazing finishes.

"We look forward to continuing working on building our team and improving our swimmers' understanding of the

sport's techniques," he said.

Mwangunga noted the MIS will hold open tryouts for children to join the MIS swimming team in Morogoro on May 4 at 10am.

He said the event is open to any ambitious and talented swimmers of all ages within the region.

He noted it will be a great opportunity for swimming enthusiasts in the country to cooperate with the well-established and reputable team.

Sevilla FC set to finish season in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter & Agencies

SEVILLA FC have confirmed that they will finish off the season in Tanzania during their La Liga World Challenge tour.

The club will take part in a post-season game against a local club in Dar es Salaam on May 23.

Sevilla, one of soccer giants in Spain also known as 'The Nervionenses', will play one of the two most popular teams in Tanzania, Simba SC or Yanga, at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

The match is part of La Liga World powered by SportPesa, a strand of the La Liga World Challenge project which seeks to expand the Spanish brand throughout the world.

"As a global competition, La Liga must be close to its fans. It's a great opportunity for everyone that our Tanzania fans can see a great club in Sevilla FC up close," Oscar Mayo, Director of La Liga's International Development, disclosed after sealing the deal that will see Sevilla play in Africa.

"We are working with some of the most prestigious footballing institutions in the world so we considered it necessary to bring an experience of this magnitude to Tanzania, allowing us all to enjoy one of Europe's



Sevilla FC

most emblematic clubs in Sevilla FC," SportPesa Director of Administration and Compliance, Tarimba Abbas, said.

"Thanks to this agreement with La Liga, the best league in the world, we can show the quality we have in our country and help the level of local

football here grow."

Sevilla FC will be the second European club to visit Tanzania after English soccer giants Everton FC did so in 2017.

Sevilla will return to Africa less than a year after their last time, when they played the Spanish Super Cup

final in Tangiers.

They also played in Morocco four years ago, playing a post-season match against Hassania Union Sport d'Agadir.

Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Harison Mwakymbe, mentioned SportPesa as part of the country's success in sports.

Mwakymbe issued the statement at the Parliament in Dodoma when he was tabling the ministry's budget.

Mwakymbe disclosed his ministry will continue to closely cooperate with its stakeholders that include private sector in an effort to promote sports.

He noted SportPesa, apart from promoting sports, have been part of success in improving infrastructure including laying artificial turf at Dar es Salaam's Uhuru Stadium and overseeing maintenance of the facility for two years.

The minister noted

SportPesa have also overseen successful hosting of SportPesa Cup which has been taking place in Tanzania since it was launched in 2017.

"There is plenty of success in sports in this term and they have come about thanks to the ministry's good relationships with the private sector and some of companies," Mwakymbe said.

"SportPesa that has overseen successful hosting of SportPesa Cup in Tanzania since 2017 is among the companies,"

"SportPesa have moreover facilitated the setup of better sports infrastructure, for instance the laying of artificial turf at the Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam as well as spending two years maintaining the venue."

"SportPesa have as well overseen successful tour done by England's Everton FC in Tanzania and the firm announced it will bring Sevilla FC."

Flexibles by David Chikoko

