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Solar mini-grids to light rural homes

By Guardian Reporter

CROSS Boundary Energy Access (CBEA), Africa's first project financing facility for mini-grids has announced plans to finance 60 mini-grids in rural Tanzania.

A statement released yesterday by the Rockefeller Foundation said the project is being implemented in partnership with PowerGen Renewable Energy, one of the sector's leading mini-grid developers and operators.

"CBEA's initial \$5.5 million investment will fund 60 mini-grids providing grid-quality power for the first time to 34,000 people in rural homes and commercial entities in Tanzania. It is the first time that a long-term project finance structure - traditionally used to fund large-scale infrastructure projects - is being used in the rural mini-grid sector in Africa," the statement noted.

Mini-grid developers like PowerGen have so far struggled to attract long-term financing for their projects because mini-grids are too small to be individually financed.



To address this, CBEA established a special purpose entity in Tanzania that will purchase PowerGen's existing and future operating mini-grids, it said

To address this, CBEA established a special purpose entity in Tanzania that will purchase PowerGen's existing and future operating mini-grids, it said.

PowerGen will continue to provide long-term customer and asset management services to mini-grid customers, minimizing transaction costs and allowing investors and lenders to provide long-term financing based on the cash flow generated by the assets themselves.

It is similar to how most for the world's 1,000 gigawatts of wind and solar projects have been financed, the company noted.

"As part of this transaction, CBEA has signed a loan agreement with the Renewable Energy Performance Platform (REPP)," it said.

Founded in 2011, PowerGen has connected over 50,000 people to smart, clean mini-grids.

CBEA was established earlier this year with investments from the Rockefeller Foundation and Ceniarth to provide long-term funding for mini-grids on a project finance basis, delivering first-time grid-

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Why Simbachawene, Bashe must run while others walk



Dar es Salaam Water and Sewage Authority (Dawasa) environment officer Modesta Mushi briefs Uhuru Torch Race leader Mzee Mkongea Ali (2nd-L) on the city's water treatment and distribution system at Mtoni in Temeke District yesterday. Left is Temeke district commissioner Felix Lyaniva. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Zinj Tower launch: Jubilant PM sees all humans as Tanzanians

By Guardian Reporter, Ngorongoro

A NEW landmark erected at a junction linking Ngorongoro Crater, Serengeti National Park and the Olduvai Gorge archaeological site is set to boost tourism in the northern circuit.

Dubbed Zinj Tower and unveiled by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa yesterday, it is an edifice comprising of high-pillar topped with two giant sculptured skulls.

It has been built in honour of the Zinjanthropus Boisei, the skull of the earliest man, believed to have lived in Olduvai Gorge nearly two million years ago.

"I want this Zinj Tower enclosed to shelter people who visit this edifice, because there are



It has been built in honour of the Zinjanthropus Boisei, the skull of the earliest man, believed to have lived in Olduvai Gorge nearly two million years ago

strong winds," the premier said. The structure is strategically placed along the road connecting Ngorongoro, Serengeti, Loliondo and Olduvai, which implies that it is now going to be a favourite stop-over site for visitors.

"We are now making the first global announcement that every human being walking on earth today originated from Tanzania which means all people on earth are 'Tanzanians by nature!' said Majaliwa.

Gracing the climax of the 60th Anniversary of the discovery of the rare skull of 'Nutracker Man,' the premier also inaugurated the Leakeys Museum, the working station which Dr Mary Leakey and her husband and fellow scientist

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Enhance preparedness against Ebola, EAC member states told

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community (EAC) Secretariat has called on member states to enhance their preparedness measures against the deadly Ebola fever which is wreaking havoc in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

This follows conformation of yet another case in Ituri province which is only 70 km from the border with South Sudan and even closer to the Ugandan border. The first three cases of Ebola in the EAC region were diagnosed in Uganda last



month and triggered strong response measures by the Ugandan government.

In the light of the recent Public Health Emergency of International Concern declared by the World Health Organization, Dr Michael Katende, the acting Head of Health at the EAC Secretariat has urged EAC Partner States to strongly engage communities in border regions, traders and trade associations on risk and crisis communication measures.

"This is particularly important, as most of the border line is porous and difficult to control,"

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Simbachawene resigned as Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) in September 2017 a few hours after President Magufuli ordered officials who were implicated in reports of committees formed by the House Speaker Job Ndugai to investigate tanzanite and diamond mining, as the reports were handed over to the head of state

By Guardian Reporter

NEWLY appointed Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) George Simbachawene and deputy minister for Agriculture Hussein Bashe must go an extra mile in undertaking their duties due to unique circumstances surrounding their appointments.

The two cabinet members who were sworn-in yesterday by President John Magufuli at the State House in Dar es Salaam join the cabinet in exceptional circumstances - Simbachawene for the second time and Bashe as a noted fierce critic of the government as a backbencher.

While the former faces the challenge of proving the president right in giving him renewed functions at top ministerial level, the latter must now prove that he is not only good at pointing out mistakes but solving problems.

And President Magufuli told them more or less the same during the swearing in ceremony. A statement released yesterday by the Directorate of Presidential Communications



As for Bashe, the president has been following his contributions in the National Assembly, especially on issues of agriculture, and decided to let him implement them as deputy minister

said the Head of State told Simbachawene to ensure that billions of shillings pumped into environmental programmes bring value for money, that licences issued by the National Environment Management Council to investors do not hinder investments.

"I recall the issue of plastic ban took too long - almost four years. I signed but it was not implemented. Vice President spoke about it but it was not implemented, Prime Minister spoke about it but nothing happened until recently when I gave an order. Don't be like that," the statement quoted the president telling Simbachawene.

As for Bashe, the president has been following his contributions in the National Assembly, especially on issues of agriculture, and decided to let him implement them as deputy minister.

"The president told Bashe to put into action the constructive contributions he has been making in the legislature about the agriculture sector to tackle numerous challenges facing it, to improve productivity through modern

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Why Simbachawene, Bashe must run while others walk

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farming methods and to get reliable markets for coffee and cotton," the statement underlined.

Simbachawene resigned as Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) in September 2017 a few hours after President Magufuli ordered officials who were implicated in reports of committees formed by the House Speaker Job Ndogai to investigate

tanzanite and diamond mining, as the reports were handed over to the Head of State.

The Nzega Urban lawmaker Bashe who is a first term MP has been among a handful of ruling party MPs who fiercely criticised the government.

The appointment of the duo was announced on Sunday in a minor cabinet shake-up which saw former Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) January Makamba being sacked.

Zinj Tower launch: Jubilant Majaliwa sees all humans as Tanzanian by nature

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Louis operated from since they started their research work in 1931.

Dr Mary Leakey discovered the 'Zinjanthropus Skull' in July 1959.

"Tanzania is also credited with preserving these rare findings as well as officially approved documents and data for the benefit of mankind," the premier further noted.

The government in association with scientists around the world are working to find better ways of preserving the other sets of Laetoli footprints said to date back nearly four million years ago, told the gathering.

The 'Zinj' skull is globally acclaimed proof that the origins of mankind can be traced in Africa, but especially in Tanzania and specifically in the

northern parts of the country, mapped within Olduvai, Laetoli and Natron Plains of Ngorongoro District, Arusha Region.

The Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr Khamis Kigwangalla said the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, known for its 'cradle of mankind' status, is being challenged by increasing population.

The NCAA had only 8000 native residents when it got established in 1959 but now the area is staggering under the weight of 100,000 Maasai pastoralists with their thousands of cattle, goats and sheep.

Earlier on the Commissioner Conservator at Ngorongoro, Dr Fred Manongi, said NCAA spends over 8 billion/- annually to cater for the needs of the pastoralist population.



President John Magufuli swears in Nzega Urban legislator Hussein Bashe as Agriculture deputy minister at State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday in the wake of the weekend's mini-reshuffle of the Cabinet. Photo: State House

Solar mini-grids to light rural homes

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quality power to rural households and trading units.

REPP is a UK government-backed funding platform managed by Camco Clean Energy, focused on helping renewable energy projects attract and access private and institutional investment.

REPP's innovative facility will provide a long-term senior loan, structured as project finance debt, supporting this new asset class to be financially sustainable.

CBEA's innovative blended finance

structure has the potential to unlock the more than US\$11 billion for mini-grids needed from investors to connect at least 100 million people.

A core feature of CBEA's pioneering business model is the creation of a long-term sustainable structure through the close alignment of incentives between PowerGen as the developer/operator and CBEA as the long-term owner of the mini-grid portfolio. The sale of the mini-grids to CBEA soon after completion allows PowerGen to recycle capital and focus on developing more projects.

A developer premium in the form of

a share of the distributions from the portfolio, and an operating fee that includes a performance bonus where the grids' revenues exceed projections will allow PowerGen to benefit as it operates grids more efficiently and provides customers with better service. As a result, both CBEA and PowerGen's profits come from the grids performing well and providing long-term value to the most important stakeholders - their customers.

CBEA and REPP are part of a group of investors with more than \$2.0 billion under management who signed a position paper in June that endorsed

mini-grids as a key solution to ending energy poverty in Africa, and strongly urged governments and donors to support unified results-based financing (RBF) programs to mobilize private capital. CBEA's and REPP's investment in Tanzania is an immediate proof point of how RBF programs can mobilize private capital.

The Shell Foundation (UK Registered Charity) and UK Aid, through the Transforming Energy Access programme, provided support for the structuring and launch of CrossBoundary Energy Access, the statement added.



Tanzanian and UK-based surgeons perform surgery at Tumbi hospital in Coast Region at the weekend as part of a long-term strategic partnership meant to improve delivery of plastic surgery and orthopaedic services in Tanzania. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Enhance preparedness against Ebola, EAC member states told

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he said, noting that informal and formal traders need to know the risk and be able to take informed decisions to minimise it and to actively take precautions.

EAC Partner States have put in place precautionary measures to stop the spread of EVD into the EAC region. This includes vaccinating frontline health workers, screening all travellers at points of entry including airports, and training the first responders in case of an outbreak. However, these measures might not be sufficient. Dr Katende

was especially concerned about EVD spreading into South Sudan with its still rather weak health system.

Trade is vibrant between DRC and the EAC region and can exacerbate the spread of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) due to the high mobility of people and goods.

The current outbreak in parts of eastern DR Congo has so far killed more than 1,600 people. Last week, the first case was detected in Goma, home to more than one million people.

The EAC Secretariat calls upon the Partner States to increase risk and crisis communication by involving

community, religious and other leaders as well as the media in public awareness raising. At the same time, the Secretariat calls upon traders and trade associations and those travelling across the border with DRC to take extra precaution, as the EVD threat is real.

"All people crossing the border should cooperate with immigration, health and security officials who are conducting screening at the points of entry and should strictly follow their advice," Dr Katende intoned.

People in affected regions should avoid unnecessary 'body to body'

contact as this is the main way of disease transmission, he pointed out.

The public should be vigilant and immediately inform the nearest health workers when spot a person with signs of EVD, which are fever, severe headache, body weakness, fatigue, diarrhoea, vomiting and unexplained haemorrhage (bleeding or bruising) from various body outlets like the nose, ears and mouth. This is particularly important along the "green border" where no screening measures are in place, the Secretariat top medic added.

More than three in 10 in East Africa undernourished, says new UN report

By Guardian Reporter

THE United Nations on yesterday said the number of people going hungry has increased for the third year running.

A report from the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the UN Children's Fund, the World Food Programme and the World Health Organisation said reaching the target of zero hunger by 2030 is "an immense challenge".

The new edition of the state of food security and nutrition in the world annual report released yesterday indicates that more than 820 million people worldwide are not getting enough food, with the situation most alarming in Africa.

Africa "has the highest rates of hunger in the world" and the rates are rising in some of the continent's sub-

regions. The report says that in East Africa more than three in 10 of the population are undernourished.

The annual UN report also found that income inequality is rising in many of the countries where hunger is on the rise, making it even more difficult for the poor, vulnerable or marginalized to cope with economic slowdowns and downturns.

"Since 2011, almost half the countries where rising hunger occurred due to economic slowdowns or stagnation were in Africa," it added.

This year's report introduces a new indicator for measuring food insecurity at different levels of severity and monitoring progress towards SDG 2: the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity. This indicator is based on data obtained directly from people in surveys about their access to food in the last 12 months, using the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES).

China makes appeal to Africa to promote cooperation in water resource development

WINDHOEK

CHINA yesterday encouraged Africa to promote specific cooperation in the development and utilization of water resources to solve water shortage problems.

Speaking at the China Africa Water Forum in Windhoek, Chinese Ambassador to Namibia Zhang Yiming said the shortage of water resources had become a big problem concerning human survival and development.

"China has the experience, resources and technology, more importantly, we have the good will to work with African countries for mutual benefit and win-win cooperation.

"Our increasingly mature artificial rainfall and desalination technologies, underground water exploration, water recycling, rainwater purification and water saving irrigation technologies are

all good choices for African countries to solve water shortage problems," Zhang said.

He said the forum can be a bridge for bilateral and multilateral practical cooperation between China and African countries.

"The China-Africa Water Forum should not only be theoretical but also practical. It is expected that this forum is committed to put their theoretical research into real programs which could benefit more and more people as soon as possible," he said.

The two-day forum will include presentations and discussions from Chinese water resource experts, scholars, professors and engineers.

Chinese leading companies such as PowerChina Resources Limited and China Energy Engineering Corporation Limited are also taking part in the forum.



Tanzania Information Services director general and Government Spokesman Dr Hassan Abbas (R) and Xinhua News Agency's Dar es Salaam Bureau chief, Li Sibo, sign an MoU at the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) headquarters in the city the weekend. The agreement is meant to enhance bilateral relations in the information sub-sector, including exchange of skills and expertise for more effective delivery of information. Looking on (from-R) are Information, Culture, Arts and Sports minister Dr Harrison Mwakyeembe, Xinhua editor-in-chief He Ping and China's Ambassador to Tanzania, Wang Ke. Photo courtesy of TCRA

Tanzania and Rwanda to have the highest subscription rates in EAC by year 2025

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA and Rwanda are expected to have the highest subscription rates by 2025 in the East African Community (EAC), according to the report launched last week during the just-concluded GSMA meeting in Kigali, Rwanda.

The growth in subscription presents an ideal opportunity to increase service delivery as well as map out new markets that were previously inaccessible such as healthcare services, insurance, financial services among others.

Kenechi Okeleke, lead analyst at GSMA Intelligence said that the growth in mobile phone penetration creates an ideal opportunity for east African countries to increase service delivery especially of basis services such as education and healthcare.

This, he said creates an ideal opportunity to address social economic challenges such as curbing unemployment and growing returns of emerging small and medium enterprises. The GSMA report for instance singled out Rwandan start-ups ARED and Kasha among those that are innovating around growth of mobile subscription to facilitate social and economic progress.

Kasha is an e-commerce platform that among other products has eased access to female hygiene products while ARED develops mobile solar kiosks mostly run by women and people living with disabilities.

Babyl Health Rwanda is another firm with that is riding on mobile phone penetration to roll out Rwanda's largest digital health services.

With Sustainable Development Goals being a major point of attention for countries, the GSMA report authors say that mobile phones can be a pathway towards goals such as access to education, healthcare, reduction of poverty, hunger, provision of decent work among others.

Mobile Phone penetration, Okeleke said can enable countries serves

towards increasing financial inclusion by creating alternative avenues to banks and Mobile Money platforms.

For instance, insurance penetration currently stands at less than 3 per cent in Rwanda which the experts said could benefit from innovation and ease of access guaranteed by mobile phones.

Mobile phones the experts say can also can increasingly have huge impact in bridging unemployment gaps and market access challenges.

However, in the way of such ambitions, experts say is low tech literacy levels especially among would be beneficiaries. Local tech enthusiasts and entrepreneurs say that growth in mobile phone subscription and access presents an opening for emerging entrepreneurs with opportunities ranging from content creation, marketing products and services to availing basic services.

Yasmina McCarty the Head of Mobile Development at GSMA said that to make the most of the growing phone subscription rates, countries need to figure out ways ensure that a wider section of the public has necessary digital skills.

McCarty explained that there are several models to increase digital literacy including tapping into existing businesses and networks to identify skills they may be lacking that could increase their productivity.

This she said is not a task solely for government and requires input of the private sector and development partners.

Goodluck Akinwale, the head of GSMA in Sub-Saharan Africa also noted that to make the most of the opportunities presented, the cost of data out to go down and the quality ought to improve.

Among other things, to allow firms to make the most of the opportunity, he noted the need for the country to maintain its ecosystem for investment and innovation which will allow more firms to consider entering the market.

By Guardian Correspondent, Tarime

NEMC says 'NO' to North Mara Gold Mine on sterling storage facility use

THE National Environment Management Council (NEMC) has halted the use of sterling storage facility at Acacia North Mara Gold Mine amidst flowing of poisonous water.

Speaking to journalists shortly after the tour of the mine in question, the NEMC Director General, Dr Samuel Gwamaka said the company has failed to control poisonous substances in the waste water.

"We have halted the sterling storage facility and asked the company to control poisonous substances or build up a new facility which will control flow

of water in a bid to protect environment and people's health," he said.

Dr Gwamaka who was accompanied by officers from Mineral Commission and National Chemist Office said NEMC would not go easy to any person who violates environmental laws.

"For example, experts took samples from the sterling storage facility in September last year and February, March, May and June this year whereby

all the samples indicated poisonous contents," he said.

On his part, a representative from the Government Chief Chemist Office, Boniventure Masambu lamented that all the samples taken have indicated the presence of poison.

"We are glad to see that our advice has been taken serious and implemented by the responsible authority," he said adding that environment conservation

is crucial to protecting people from health risks.

The Acacia Acting Manager, Reuben Ngusaro promised to work on the instructions in a bid to protect environment from chemicals flowing to sterling storage facility.

"We will work on the instructions because we care for environment and people's health. We will rectify everything," he said.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Embassy of Sweden in Dar es Salaam represents the Swedish Government in Tanzania through Political Dialogue, Development Cooperation and Promotion of Trade. The Embassy is also covering Burundi and the East African Community. Swedish development cooperation with Tanzania aims to contribute to creating conditions for sustainable growth and increasing opportunities for people living in poverty. The successful candidate will be an important part of a team of 4 people. In total the Embassy employs 40 staff members.

POLITICAL AFFAIRS, PROMOTION & COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

We would like to invite applications from suitably qualified candidates for the position of Political Affairs, Promotion and Communication Officer. The role is subject to a 6-month probation period, after which it can become a continuing position with the Embassy. The job holder will report to the Head of Section for Political and Commercial Affairs.

Duties and responsibilities:

The role involves advising and supporting the Embassy's Political and Commercial Section with analysis of political and economic developments in Tanzania and the East African Community (EAC), as well as organising events to promote and strengthen awareness of Swedish interests in Tanzania. Furthermore, the role includes actively contributing to the Embassy's external communication in English and Kiswahili.

Specifically, the officer will be responsible for;

- Following, analysing and reporting on political and economic developments.
- Maintaining an excellent network among political, media and civil society actors as well as the private sector.
- Planning and execution of external activities (i.e. seminars, conferences, receptions etc.).
- Assisting with information and contacts to support strengthened trade relations between Sweden and Tanzania.
- Following social media trends and proactively provide input to the Embassy's communication work.
- Together with the Embassy Communication Officer, manage the Embassy's communication in Kiswahili.
- Supporting other functions at the Embassy as required.

Qualifications, Skills and Experience:

- Master's degree in political science, economics, journalism or relevant field.
- Excellent command of written and spoken English.
- Minimum 5 years relevant professional work experience.
- Strong interpersonal and teamwork skills.
- Proven ability to write qualified texts used for reporting and/or external communication.
- High level of professional integrity.

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We regret the vacancy is not ideal for fresh graduates.

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Tanzania International Container Terminal Services (TICTS) corporate affairs director Donald Talawa (L) symbolically presents 1,200 bags of cement and 1,200 pieces of corrugated iron roofing sheet worth 56m/- in total to Miele district commissioner Rachel Kasanda in Katavi Region at the weekend. The firm, which operates the container terminal at the Dar es Salaam Port, donated the items to support the construction of a girls' hostel at Ilea Secondary School. The hostel is expected to accommodate 200 girls at the school, which has a total of 485 students. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Seven million tourists from China's Zhejiang province expected to visit Tanzania this year

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE cooperation between Tanzania government and the Zhejiang province in China is expected to bring up to seven million tourists in the country when the nation infrastructure modification is over.

The Foreign Affairs and East Africa Cooperation Minister, Prof Palamagamba Kabudi, said that to reporters in Dar es Salaam when welcoming the Chinese entrepreneur's delegates in the country.

He said the tour was part of the implementation reached by the two governments through travel Africa programme aimed at promoting bilateral business cooperation.

He said Zhejiang Province that has a population of 57 million people is among four well developed provinces.

He said through travel Africa, the Zhejiang Province business persons have shown interests to invest in tourism, vocational, industrial pack (value added chain) and fishery sector.

"I call on Tanzanians business community to utilize the possible business cooperation from the Zhejiang Province to fast-track the nation development," he said.

Prof Kabudi said tourists from Zhejiang Province will be in lined with the plan by the local flag carrier Air Tanzania Cooperation Limited (ATCL) slated to start its route to Guangzhou in China September this year.

The minister challenged business community from Tanzania to use the opportunities to promote business such as coffee, horticultural and fruits.

"Recently, there has been a tendency among Tanzania businesspersons travelling to world exhibitions to promote wood handcraft business only. I call upon them to promote other goods and businesses," he noted.

The ministry boss hinted that the business forum with Tanzanians was important platform to build network.

During the forum, Tanzanians business community through Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) will showcase possible areas for cooperation.

For her part, the Chairwoman for Zhejiang Provincial Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative conference said together with her there are twenty entrepreneurs from twenty five enterprises.

"We are looking for more cooperation opportunities in investment and business from our counterpart in Tanzania" he said.

On May 19, this year, it was reported that efforts to attract tourists to destination Tanzania appear to be paying off as the number of tourists increases.

A group of 330 tourists from China for example had arrived in the country. This was the first group out of 10,000 Chinese tourists expected to visit before end of this year, thanks to the Tour Africa-New Horizon project.

Tour Africa New-Horizon is a marketing approach promoting Africa to prospective tourists from China. This is done by the Chinese Touch Road International Holding group.

Tanzania Tourist Board, the Tanzania Embassy in China and Chinese Touch Road International Holding Group are the stakeholders in this initiative between China and Tanzania, according to TTB Managing Director, Devotha Mdachi.

One of the things that made Tanzania attract more Chinese nationals, besides the growing bilateral ties, include assertive campaigns to woo more tourists from China and other parts of the world.

"We are looking for more cooperation opportunities in investment and business from our counterpart in Tanzania"

Govt launches action plan in effort to reduce environmental pollution

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has launched the Health and Pollution Action Plan (HPAP) in effort to help reduce environmental pollution and give a push in the right direction.

HPAP together with its five projects proposals focus on air quality management in urban cities and municipalities, Wami-Ruvu water quality improvement by enhancing resource productivity of industries and strengthening water quality monitoring networks.

It also aimed at reducing exposure to toxics in small scale mining, reducing indoor air pollution due to domestic cooking and sound management of pesticides to protect health of people while improving

crop yields.

The process focused on five pollution risk factors with known health impacts. They include indoor pollution, outdoor air pollution, contamination of water, soil pollution from heavy metals and toxic chemicals as well as occupational exposure to pollutants.

The plan was facilitated by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) in collaboration with the Cleaner Production Centre of Tanzania (CPCT) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) with funding from the European Union (EU) and the United States Agency International Development (USAID) was launched here on Friday.

"This is the start of the process, a rallying point for domestic stakeholder and development partners to address

the health impacts of environmental pollution by pooling their knowledge and experience" said Deputy Director of UNIDO's Environment Department, Nilgün Tas.

On his part the UNIDO Representative to Tanzania, Mauritius and EAC, Stephen Kargbo, noted that HPAP results from a series of stakeholder engagements, which included the identification and prioritization of Tanzanian pollution issues as well as the preparation of project proposals to address the critical issues.

Officiating at the launch, the Director of Environment at the ministry of State in the Vice President Office-Environment, Prof William Mwegoha, noted that environmental pollution impacts the health of people and is a burden on the economy in terms of

productivity losses and healthcare costs.

"HPAP will strengthen our efforts to reduce environmental pollution and give them a push in the right direction" he added.

He observed that the plan complements the 2013 Joint Plan of Action for the implementation of the Libreville Declaration and has motivated health and environment institutions to work together on the most pressing health and pollution challenges.

The HPAP process was led by the Vice President's Office-Division of Environment (VPO-DoE) in collaboration with the ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MoHCDGEC).

Rwanda introduces policy to save children from online risks amid fast ICT development

KIGALI

RWANDA has rolled out a policy designed to protect children from online risks and harms as ICT development bring children both benefits and potential risks.

Having come into force in July 2019, the Rwanda Child Online Protection Policy is in response to risks of minors being exposed to unsuitable content on the internet such as indecent images, adult pornography, violence, risks of human trafficking and unwanted sexual advances, according to Ministry of ICT and Innovation of Rwanda.

Rwanda is among the countries with fast-growing ICT development on the continent and the central African country has embraced ICT development across all sectors, Rwandan ICT minister Paula Ingabire said.

Internet penetration in Rwanda currently stands at over 52.1 percent from 7 percent in 2011, and phone penetration has grown to over 80.6 percent currently from 33 percent in 2010, according to the ministry of ICT.

The rapid growth of internet and phone penetration inevitably comes with general risks to children related to cyber bullying, online sexual exploitation, child trafficking, radicalization, blackmail and sexting, said Ingabire, adding that there are moderate cases related to online risks to children that had been registered and investigated before.

According to the policy brief, businesses are required to show procedures and special considerations undertaken to ensure child safety and respect for children's rights as they extend their online services into Rwanda.

It also requires service providers to put in place mechanisms to identify and report upsetting or unsuitable content by having transparent and robust monitoring systems for all online services.

Under the policy, government would establish high level data protection, having specific provisions for children with world-class reporting and takedown mechanisms.

The takedown procedures shall apply to Internet service providers, communication service providers, entertainment and media industry, and deliberate effort shall be made to conduct surveillance of internet to detect content that is harmful to children.

Access to host websites that fail to take down notified harmful or risk content would be legally blocked.

The online policy to protect children is "timely", said Rajat Madhok, chief of Communications, Advocacy and Partnerships at the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Rwanda.

The protection policy provides guidance on evidence generation as well as preventive and response mechanisms, he told Xinhua, saying the threat of children being exposed to unsuitable content online is real in Rwanda.

Over 45 percent of Rwanda's population is under 18, according to UNICEF.

Such a policy designed to protect them online is a welcome gesture as technology has become a powerful tool in shaping the behavior of children, said Jeannette Ishimwe, a parent of a primary six pupil.

The changing nature of the digital environment requires specific action to protect children, an industry expert of a Rwandan Internet provider spoke on condition of anonymity.

The policy brief estimated it would cost over 1.5 billion Rwandan francs (about 1.7 million U.S. dollars) on the enforcement of the policy over a period of 5 years.

The government would build capacity of law enforcement agencies in issues related to online children protection such as understanding offending behaviors, according to the minister.



Bank of Tanzania deputy governor Bernard Kibesse (3rd-R) joined by CBA Bank chief executive Gift Shoko (3rd-L), director of M-commerce Epimack Mbeteni (2nd-L) and group managing director Issac Awuondo in presenting a dummy cheque for 15m/- at a ceremony held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend to Andrisa Mathias, M-Pawa's Fifth Anniversary winner. at a ceremony held in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Lindi gains from campaign on use of SP tabs in pregnancy

By Henry Mwangonde, Lindi

A programme to sensitise pregnant mothers to undertake Sulfadoxine-Pyrimethamine (SP) tablets as part of antenatal care services to immune expected mothers and their unborn babies against malaria has helped Lindi region to cut deaths caused by the deadly disease to almost zero.

The drug is given during pregnancy to reduce maternal malaria episodes, maternal and fetal anaemia, placental parasitaemia, low birth weight, and neonatal mortality.

According to the Regional Medical Officer for Lindi Dr John Sijaona in 2016 when the programme started malaria prevalence in the region was 17percent and now it has dropped to 12percent.

He said almost 80- percent of

pregnant women in Lindi have received at least two doses of SP

Intermittent Preventive Treatment in pregnancy (IPTp1) (IPTp2) therapy since 2016 through the programme by the name Boresha Afya Southern Zone - a five year program funded by the United States Government through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

"We have done a lot on behavior change campaigns which has made 80-percent of pregnant women attend clinic from the 60- percent that we had in 2016 at the same time we have recoded zero deaths in 2018/ 2019 period," he said.

He however said there still exist some social barriers in the uptake of the drugs for pregnant women including cultural practices, poverty

and insufficient knowledge about malaria.

Lindi is endemic to Malaria with a prevalence of 12-percent against a national prevalence of 7.3percent, according to the 2017 Tanzania Malaria Indicator Survey. An estimated 43 -percent of pregnant women in Lindi attending antenatal clinics have received three or more doses (IPTp3+)

of this preventive therapy. As the case in many other countries in Sub-Sharan Africa, malaria is the leading cause of death in Tanzania among children under age five. Malaria transmission is high throughout the year, contributing to development of partial immunity within the first two years of life.

Malaria prevalence in the country decreased by half from 14.4 per cent

recorded in 2016 to 7.3 in 2018.

The Coordinator for Mother and Child healthcare in Lindi Zinab Mathradas said through the programme healthcare providers have been trained on how to attend to a pregnant women and the tests to undergo during pregnancy.

The programme also uses others ways in prevention of malaria in pregnancy includes the use of long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs), prompt diagnosis and effective treatment of malaria infections.

Tanzania has adopted the World Health Organization (WHO) policy to administer at least three doses of the drug (SP) during pregnancy at least one month apart at each scheduled antenatal care (ANC) visit, beginning from the second trimester.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa unveils a plaque to inaugurate a tourism service centre at Karatu in Arusha Region at the weekend. Right is Arusha regional commissioner Mrisho Gambo. Photo: PMO

Insurance firm, NBTS partner in blood donation campaigns

By Guardian Reporter

AAR Insurance Tanzania in partnership with the National Blood Transfusion Service (NBTS) had donated blood in Dar es Salaam's Ukonga area as part of its corporate social responsibility to assist the needy in the country.

Addressing journalists soon after the blood donation, AAR Tanzania's business development manager, Hamida Rashid said: "This is part of our commitments towards assisting the community in healthcare services delivery."

"As key players in health sector, we are determined to practically participate in blood donation to rescue lives of people who are in need of blood," said Hamida.

"We're aware of the country's high demand of safe blood and it's our responsibility to ensure that blood is available in the country's health

facilities," she said.

"People need to be well-informed on ways to reinforce their health status so as to reduce number of patients suffering from non-communicable diseases (NCD)."

For his part, Blood Donor Recruiter with National Blood Transfusion Service, Mariam Juma said that the two institutions also offered education on health-related services to residents of Mombasa-Ukonga areas.

She also called on local and public firms including ordinary people to donate blood to the needy to save lives and improve the economy of the country.

"We request public and private companies, and ordinary people to join in the campaign to donate blood which would save lives of millions of lives of Tanzanians," she said.

Lister Gilbert, one of the residents who took part in blood donation, and resident of Mombasa-Ukonga

commended the two institutions for organizing blood donation event.

In June, this year Ministry of Health through NBTS said that Tanzania was in need of 42 percent of blood which is equivalent of 307,835 bottles, while the country's demand is 526,000 bottles.

AAR is the largest and most successful private healthcare company in East Africa with operations spanning Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Zambia. Our services extend to Rwanda and Burundi through our affiliate partners.

Operating in Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Mwanza, Dodoma and Zanzibar, AAR has been in existence for over 33 years providing healthcare solutions to clients ranging from large corporate organizations to individual family units.

Over 300,000 members are covered by AAR across the region with more than 60,000 of these members based in Tanzania.

AgDevCo expands portfolio through support to avocado farming in K'manjaro Region

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

AGDEVCO has announced a multi-million-Euro investment in Africado, a successful avocado company based in Kilimanjaro Region.

Africado grows avocados on its own farm and purchases high quality fruit from surrounding farmers for export to Europe with full supply chain traceability.

Established in 2007, Africado is a pioneer of the avocado export industry in Tanzania. Early investors included Africa Agriculture Capital and Norfund. The company has two avocado farms and an international standard pack-shed. It also operates an outgrower scheme, incorporating over 2,000 farmers. The new investment from Finnfund and AgDevCo will create and sustain more than 800 full time and seasonal jobs.

AgDevCo's investment will allow Africado to grow its estate operations, expand the outgrower scheme and increase its pack-shed capacity to accommodate higher production from its own estate and from outgrowers.

Africado supports its outgrowers with extension services such as training on cultivation, harvesting and storage of avocados, and access to Global GAP certifications.

"AgDevCo's funding of Africado has enabled Africado to pursue new investment opportunities. In addition to expanding production areas, Africado will introduce new avocado cultivars and expand the outgrower programme," says James Parsons, CEO of Africado.

"We are pleased to support Africado's continued expansion. The direct benefits for the local community are clear to see. We believe the company will help drive the development of a viable avocado industry in Tanzania, helping create jobs and bringing in export revenues," says Sean Carey, Associate Director at AgDevCo.

AgDevCo is an impact investor specialising in agribusiness investments in Sub-Saharan Africa with a portfolio consisting of over 40 active investments in production, processing and distribution companies. Across Sub-Saharan Africa, AgDevCo has invested over \$130 million with more than 40 companies linking over 480,000 smallholder farmers to profitable markets and creating over 11,000 jobs.

African telecoms out to inspire youth to become Agri-food entrepreneurs





By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

PAN-African telecommunications, media and technology group, Econet and global crop nutrition leader, Yara International ASA have launched "Generation Africa", a partnership initiative to inspire young African entrepreneurs to join the agri-food sector for its viable business opportunities.

Generation Africa will reach thousands of young people through its "GoGettaz" competition, which will award US\$100,000 in prize money to two exceptional business ventures in the agri-food sector. The partnership initiative will support a cohort of 12 budding young agri-food entrepreneurs to scale and prosper their ventures.

"Africa's agri-food sector presents a US\$ 1-trillion business opportunity by 2030, especially when connected with the current technology revolution. Across Africa's agri-food chain, innovations can be found in how we grow, harvest, process, store, transport, package, sell and consume food. Together with the pioneers of Africa's next generation, we want to seize these opportunities. Generation Africa will help youth entrepreneurs launch, grow and mature agri-food businesses that will drive job creation, inclusive growth, and better food supply," says Svein Tore Holsether, President and CEO of Yara.

Africa has about 600 million hectares of arable land, yet it imports food for US\$35 billion a year - a figure that is estimated to rise to US\$100 billion by 2025. At the same time, over 60% of young people across Africa are unemployed. Innovative entrepreneurship could retain more value on the continent, helping to counterbalance rural-urban migration, professionalize farming, generate employment and provide affordable, healthy food to Africa's growing population.

Community Health and Social Welfare Systems' Strengthening Program

MOBILE LEARNING CONSULTANCY

World Education Inc. (WEI) is an international not-for-profit organization operating in Tanzania. The Bantwana Initiative is a division within WEI with expertise in social welfare systems strengthening, case management, violence prevention and response, and comprehensive programming for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) and adolescent girls and young women. Bantwana is the social welfare technical lead for the Community Health & Social Welfare Systems Strengthening Program (CHSSP) funded by USAID/PEFFAR and led by JSI.

CHSSP supported the Government of Tanzania to design and implement an HIV sensitive National Integrated Case Management System (NICMS) to meet the comprehensive protection, social welfare and HIV prevention and response needs of children, adolescents, and families. Community Case Workers (CCWs) form the backbone of the NICMS by providing services and making referrals at the grassroots level. CHSSP will work closely with the Department of Social Welfare and PO-RALG to integrate digital learning strategies as part of the ongoing supportive supervision and continual learning and capacity strengthening of CCWs.

WEI seeks a **Mobile Learning Consultant** for short-term technical assistance on the integration of mobile learning in its programming. The Mobile Learning Consultant will be based in Dar es Salaam with the primary responsibility to support Bantwana's initial market research, needs assessment and pilot design. Start date is 1st August, 2019. Position open until filled and applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. We encourage candidates to apply as soon as possible.

Primary Responsibilities and Key Deliverables

- Conduct market research on digital platforms and tools for case management and capacity;
- Support design of user-centered surveying and needs assessment tools with CHSSP M&E teams and technical staff;
- Under the supervision of the EdTech center and Senior Project Staff, implement and lead all field research activities, consultations with key stakeholders, partners and users, workshops, FCDs, etc;
- Document and organize all data collected from interviews, assessments, surveys and other research methods;
- Produce final scoping mission report that includes:
 - Market landscape for digital learning products and tools;
 - Key considerations and requirements for the most appropriate functions and features for the mobile learning platform in the TZ context given CHSSP work;
 - Recommendations and scope of work for next phase including the most suitable Regions and Councils for implementing the pilot.

Qualifications

- A Master's degree in Social Sciences, or any related field with work experience in donor funded OVC/MVC projects as a plus;
- Advanced oral and written English and Kiswahili skills;
- Strong knowledge of mobile learning landscape in Tanzania and experience working on Edtech-related projects;
- Strong knowledge and experience in at least one of the following areas: protection, social welfare, community based HIV services, gender-based violence prevention and response;
- Excellent communication and outreach skills;
- Strong organization skills with attention to detail;
- Ability to interact with Government and Implementing Partners.

Instructions

Candidates should send a recent CV with at least three referees, cover letter detailing relevant project work experience and writing samples as demonstration of previous related works to the Country Director, World Education Inc., at: info@tz.worlded.org no later than **Tuesday the 30th July 2019**.

Note: Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

World Education is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer committed to workplace diversity.

Women and minority candidates are encouraged to apply.

All candidates will be expected to comply with World Education's Child Protection Policy.



National Environment Management Council director general Dr Samwel Gwamaka (2nd-L) and other officials accompanied by Acacia North Mara Gold Mine manager Reuben Ngusaro (L) when inspecting a poisonous chemical residue swamp at the mine's Nyamongo site in Tarime District at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Stiegler's Gorge hydropower project economically and environmentally feasible, new report shows

By Correspondent Mashaka Mgeta

STIEGLER'S Gorge Hydropower project will provide affordable, reliable and sustainable electricity to the country's immediate energy needs, the newly report on responses and mitigation beyond the true cost power has revealed.

According to the report released in Dar es Salaam this weekend, the reasons underlined by the 'world bodies' in objecting the project does not have any tangible effects that will call for second thoughts, and as such the decision taken by the government to proceed with the project was by far the correct one.

The report which was produced by a team of five local experts, Dr Abubakar Rajabu, Saleh Pambam

Dr Magnus Ngoile, Abdulkarim Shah and Dr Thomas Kashililah was released last weekend, just a week before the inauguration of the respective project.

In an interview with our reporter, the team leader, Pamba noted that the capacity of 2,115 MWs to be produced through Stiegler's Gorge Hydropower was the first in history of the country's energy development, connected to the national grid and bringing almost 5,000 MW.

Pamba highlighted that the 2,115 MW will reduce the persistence power cuts with the reliable supply of electricity, hence complementing the current capacity of about 1,700 MW.

"The world bodies did not foresee

this opportunity because in the planning context and that being the case, the natural calamities may be contingencies forecasted," the report revealed.

The report added, "on that context, the reliability over long term climate change will be answered by the size of the dam and its discharges over a yearly period enough to adjust with any climate variability."

In case of financial risk of the project, the report shows that the preventive measures can be utilized through the government's annual budget allocations for implementation, and the cost will be the initial capital investment that will be settled by the project itself.

Also, the report pointed out some

unwanted effects of the project to the extent of concluding that, the undertaking will eventually impact on a big number of habitats and as such the proposed water use system to accommodate floods occurrences will be irrelevant.

"On the contrary, the dam will bring about many opportunities to the communities and the country... there will be flood control since the water flows will be regulated physically," the report expressed.

Commenting on the findings, Pamba exposed that the Stiegler's Gorge Hydropower project was financially, economically and environmentally viable and therefore, the government with the capacity on hand was now implementing the project to its scale.

Tanzanian, British surgeons to improve plastic, orthopaedic services delivery

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIAN and UK surgeons, have set up a joint and strategic partnership geared towards improving plastic and orthopaedic services delivery in the country.

As part of the arrangement, UK surgeons visited the country last week to help their local counterparts develop their skills in performing plastic and orthopaedic procedures.

During the project, the surgeons operated on 19 patients, who had different health problems in Temeke Hospital (Dar es Salaam) and Tumbi Hospital (Coast Region) – with UK experts providing professional and technical guidance.

Among other things, their joint work seeks to set up the foundations of an envisaged long-term partnership between Tanzanian and UK surgeons for the improvement of plastic and orthopaedic services across the region, and ultimately across the country.

The UK specialists' visit and the partnership aim at exposing local surgeons to standardised and high quality technical skills and training in performing plastic and orthopaedic reconstructive surgery more effectively and efficiently.

"We want them (local surgeons) to learn how to handle complicated and simple surgical cases properly. The main focus is to build the capabilities of our friends (local surgeons)," said Dr Naveen Cavale, Consultant and Plastic Reconstructive surgeon, who led a week-long visit by five UK surgeons from the British Foundation for International Reconstructive Surgical Training (BFIRST).

According to Dr Cavale, the UK surgeons have worked in collaboration with the local surgeons to try to impart knowledge, skills and training to Tanzanian surgeons to perform procedures which will have profound benefits for the local patients.

Some of the surgeries performed jointly by both Tanzanian and UK specialists related to secondary-burn reconstruction, finger-burn scar-release, congenital ear deformity, congenital finger deformity, hip-

fracture, bone cancer reconstruction, and flap reconstruction of large areas of burn scarring.

Dr Amaani Malima, the Medical Officer In-Charge of Temeke Hospital, commended the UK surgeons for their support, noting that local surgeons had gained a lot of knowledge and fine-tuning of their existing technical skills, and added confidence in terms of handling different plastic, orthopaedic and other related cases.

"The visit by UK surgeons has opened the eyes of local surgeons on how to perform surgeries more efficiently, and other new skills and knowledge related to plastic and orthopaedic surgeries," added Dr Malima.

Tumbi Hospital Health Services Director, Dr Edward Wayi, said UK experts equipped local surgeons with new approaches of attending to different plastic and related cases, describing joint operations as the beginning of a strategic and long-term initiative for the improvement of plastic and orthopaedic services delivery countrywide.

"Of course, our UK partners started with training of surgeons based in Dar es Salaam and Coast regions, but later on the knowledge and skills can be disseminated to other health facilities and hospitals across the country," he noted.

Under this partnership, UK and Tanzania surgeons plan to consult the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children so that their expertise could eventually be shared and extended to other regions, according to the Temeke Medical Officer in-Charge, Dr Malima.

The partnership, among other things, will involve regular training programmes for local surgeons and other specialists, sharing and exchange ideas on technical and professional issues and frequent communications. It is hoped that there can be a pathway to facilitate donation of equipment (from the UK and other sources) in the context of improving and enhancing efficiency, effectiveness and professional handling of plastic and orthopaedic reconstructive cases in Tanzania, according to Dr Malima.

Hope reigns on re-writing of African narrative on agricultural ecosystems

ABIDJAN

AN exporter of Kenyan fresh fruits and vegetables has won this year's youth AgriPitch competition alongside a young South African farmer specialising in the design, provision and management of indoor and outdoor hydroponic systems.

The contest was organised by the African Development Bank in partnership with the Western Cape Government in South Africa.

Kenyan national Alex Muli, CEO and co-founder of Goshen Farm, won \$25,000 for his best agribusiness in the mature start-up category. South Africa's Paul Sheppard, co-founder of Future Farms, meanwhile took the \$10,000 prize for the early start-up category.

The theme of the 2019 youth AgriPitch Competition, which took place in Cape Town, was "Climate Smart Agriculture: Business and Employment Opportunities for Africa's Youth".

"It was a great event. I met many pioneers in the various agri-tech spaces with many potential and exciting projects, with the renewed hope of access to finance models coming to the fore," said Sheppard.

"The prize money will help our company to upscale to the size we want to grow to, as well as meeting potential investors and learning more about the industry," he added.

Muli, who co-founded Goshen farms with his mother in 2011, said it was exciting to be shortlisted as agripreneur in the Mature Startups category.

"The boot camp was a great learning experience for me and helped me to know how to better tell the story about my business," he said.

"I was humbled to meet fellow agripreneurs from other African countries who are doing great stuff out there hence rewriting our continent's story – a story of hope, transformation and sustainability by young Africans for Africa," he noted.

Over 400 agribusiness proposals from across the continent participated in the African Youth Agripreneurs Forum (AYAF) competition, which culminated in

an award gala dinner where six winners from the two categories received a total of US\$74,000.

This competition was part of the larger AYAF, an annual forum of AfDB flagship Enable Youth Programme, which focuses on youth employment and food insecurity.

"At the African Development Bank, we believe that the future of the continent's youth lies in more rapid and inclusive economic growth which creates quality jobs," said Dr Edward Mabaya, manager of the continental bank's Agribusiness Development Division.

He elaborated: "This is why the bank has developed a number of key programmes, such as Enable Youth and the Jobs for Youth in Africa Strategy. To date, the bank has committed over \$350 million to Enable Youth investments in 12 countries on the continent."

The forum provided a platform for youth agripreneurs and key stakeholders to brainstorm with experts, business leaders, investors and policy makers on issues commonly affecting youth employment and key solutions to addressing these.

It also served as a call to action to support innovative agriculture growth through intense engagement and mentorship for small and medium enterprises, emphasizing that greater support and opportunities towards the setting up of agribusiness enterprise would help youth become the driving force of Africa's agriculture transformation.

Sponsors of the 2019 AgriPitch Competition and African Youth Agripreneurs Forum include AfDB's Youth Entrepreneurship and Innovation Multi-Donor Trust Fund (funded by The Netherlands, Denmark, Italy, Sweden, and Norway), the Western Cape Government's Department of Agriculture, the Korea-Africa Economic Cooperation Trust Fund, and the Africa Climate Change Fund.

"We strive to disrupt the African agricultural ecosystem the way we do best by creating resilient markets for our agricultural produce. We will be there soon," said Muli.



From-R: Kapil Garag, H. E. Shri Sanjiv Kohli, Dr Fredy Msemwa and Charles Masabo at the book presentation event. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Dar chapter of ICAI donates books to NBAA library

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Dar es Salaam Chapter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India has donated 210 books to the reference library of Tanzania's National Board of Accountants and Auditors.

Most of the books are on advanced Accounting, Cost Accounting and Management Accounting and have been donated in partial implementation of an MoU between ICAI and NBAA and ICAI, which was signed on September 6, last year.

Kapil Garag, the Chairman of the ICAI's Dar es Salaam Chapter, said they have doing their utmost for

the betterment of accountancy in Tanzania.

"Within less than a year of MoU signing, we have helped NBAA in the review and evaluation of its syllabus and curriculum with assistance from our head office in New Delhi," he said.

"This will make our CPA course in Tanzania more robust and technically advanced, which in turn will equip our fellow students with more skills and expertise," he added.

Garag expressed hope that the books would boost the morale of students and motivate them into learning, and promised that the chapter would do "everything

possible for the betterment of the profession in the future".

Dr Fredy Msemwa, the NBAA representative at Friday's book presentation ceremony in Dar es Salaam, thanked the ICAI chapter, the Indian High Commission in Tanzania, the ICAI headquarters and the Government of India for the support.

"NBAA will ensure that these books are used for its students through their library and every effort shall be made to ensure the best use of these books for our fellow Tanzanian students," noted the NBAA vice chairperson in charge of membership, ethics and compliance.

ICAI President Prafulla P. Chhajed meanwhile sent in a message from India, commending the chapter, the high commission and the NBAA leadership "for working closely to achieve set objectives". He said ICAI India was committed to doing its utmost for the improvement of accountancy in both countries.

Also at the event were NBAA acting executive director Charles Masabo and India's High Commissioner, His Excellency Shri Sanjiv Kohli.

The recently arrived high commissioner stated that his office would, "as always in the past, be ready to offer any assistance possible to the ICAI chapter and NBAA".

Environmental interventions boosting school performances in Kilolo District

By Correspondent John Ngunge, Kilolo

HUNDREDS of pupils at Mbawi Primary School in Kilolo District, Iringa region have a reason to smile after the school bought a solar power panel which is expected to improve education service delivery in the hilly and mountainous area.

Mbawi's head teacher, Raphael Matembo said this recently when speaking to journalists who visited the school. The school is one of the institutions supported by the Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund (EAMCEF) with tree planting project to improve teaching and learning facilities.

With 500 pupils, the schools have started seeing improvement of students' academic performance contrary to the past. Matembo said in recent years the number of students passing the exams has gone up from three to 50.

With the support from EAMCEF, he said they were trained on tree planting techniques by establishing tree nurseries sometime in 2010 when they started planting an acre of pine trees.

Currently, he said they have about 15 acres of pines which help them solve long-standing challenges related to services offered to pupils.

Before harvesting, he said, they always organize a meeting with school's committee where they establish areas for money to be used for.

For instance, he said they agreed to buy a solar power plant, build a modern kitchen, cooking and serving utensils and rehabilitation work to some devastated buildings.

He said by having a solar power panel they have adjusted timetables for standard seven pupils to give them more extra time for preps during the night.

"But we have gone further by allowing finalists pupils to spend a night here at school so that they get ample time for preps during the night and this is normally done a month before their examinations," he said adding that a move helps some of pupils who have to walk 16 kilometres to and from school.

On his part, Danny Eugene Nzavike, a teacher who supervises school's projects, said each pupil is given at least 12 tree seedlings to plant at their home.

He said they train pupils to be lovers of forests and the trees they get from school would be of much help in quenching their thirst for education in the future.

Some pupils Evanel Shdrack Lubida (12), Abeid Gabriel Kalomo (14), confirmed to have received 12 seedlings each.

"I have planted them at home and expect that when I go for further studies, I will sell a few for school fees and other personal needs," said Evanel.

Southern zone project officer, Rosemary Boniface, from EAMCEF, said, they came with tree planting project at Mbawi Primary School in order to impart awareness of environment and conservation of forests when they are still young.

"We want communities around the nature forests get this knowledge of planting trees as an alternative source of income so as serve forests like this one Uzungwa Scarp Nature Reserve from destruction," she said.

African Union to deploy more experts in response to Ebola crisis in the DRC

ADDIS ABABA

THE African Union (AU) is to deploy more members of the African Voluntary Health Corps (AVoHC) to support the response to the Ebola virus disease outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the second largest outbreak in the history of Ebola since it was discovered in 1976.


Dr John Nkengasong, the Director of the African Union's Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) confirmed that the AU will re-activate the African Voluntary Health Corps and deploy them not just in the DRC but also in other countries within the region. The decision to increase the number of volunteers is in response to the declaration by the WHO, categorising the outbreak as a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC).

"This is a declaration that is issued when an event is extraordinary, serious and has a potential to cross beyond the country where it is and have a regional or international effect from the public health perspective. It is an important declaration because it changes the way the Africa CDC will support the Democratic Republic of Congo to respond to this outbreak," said Dr Nkengasong.

Africa CDC has been supporting response efforts in the DRC since August 2018 and already has 41 experts deployed in the field, some of whom are members of AVoHC. "AVoHC is a group of volunteers that we deployed effectively in West Africa to respond to the outbreak that occurred in 2014 to 2015, they will also be very useful in the current outbreak" said Dr Nkengasong.

Insecurity and attacks on health centres and health providers has been a major challenge to response efforts in the affected provinces. The African Union will be engaging with the United Nations security system to improve security for deployed experts and facilities so that response efforts can continue without interruptions.

Dr Nkengasong further added that following a briefing to the leadership of the African Union Commission the Africa CDC will also engage the AU Peace and Security Council and the Permanent Representatives Committee of the African Union. "We will be working with the Government of the DRC very closely to better coordinate our efforts with other partners like the WHO", he added.



DCB COMMERCIAL BANK PLC

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CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30TH JUNE 2019

	(Amounts in million shillings)	
	Current Quarter 30TH JUNE 2019	Previous Quarter 31ST MARCH 2019
A. ASSETS		
1 Cash	1,674.04	870.85
2 Balances with Bank of Tanzania	9,656.93	7,452.29
3 Investments in Government securities	12,926.21	17,105.02
4 Balances with other banks and financial institutions	493.03	432.20
5 Cheques and items for clearing	84.43	121.30
6 Inter branch float items	33.04	138.23
7 Bills negotiated	-	-
8 Customer's liabilities for acceptances	-	-
9 Interbank Loans Receivables	8,075.30	10,569.60
10 Investments in other securities	-	-
11 Loans, advances and overdrafts (net of allowances for probable losses)	77,619.48	75,808.07
12 Other assets	14,146.17	12,501.04
13 Equity Investments	1,804.20	1,804.20
14 Underwriting accounts	-	-
15 Property, Plant and Equipment	7,969.08	8,154.12
16 TOTAL ASSETS	134,481.92	134,956.92
B. LIABILITIES		
17 Deposits from other banks and financial institutions	15,900.99	19,688.17
18 Customer deposits	79,948.17	75,077.83
19 Cash letters of credit	-	-
20 Special deposits	53.34	53.34
21 Payment orders/transfers payable	-	-
22 Bankers' cheques and drafts issued	22.51	16.61
23 Accrued taxes and expenses payable	601.15	846.49
24 Acceptances outstanding	-	-
25 Interbranch float items	-	-
26 Unearned income and other deferred charges	1,009.71	1,058.91
27 Other liabilities	866.25	908,994.73
28 Borrowings	7,750.00	8,250.06
29 TOTAL LIABILITIES	106,152.13	113,986.12
30 NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)(16 minus 29)	28,329.79	20,970.80
C. SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS		
31 Paid up share capital	23,459.01	16,956.97
32 Capital reserves	4,104.05	4,104.05
33 Retained earnings	(1,607.37)	(1,607.37)
34 Profit (Loss) account	1,190.79	334.24
35 Other capital accounts	1,183.30	1,183.30
36 Minority Interest	-	-
37 TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	28,329.79	20,971.20
38 Contingent liabilities	2,170.47	1,189.98
39 Non performing loans & advances	16,803.29	17,126.25
40 Allowances for probable losses	14,102.67	14,235.67
41 Other non performing assets	142.97	142.97
D. SELECTED FINANCIAL CONDITION INDICATORS		
(i) Shareholders Funds to total assets	21.1%	15.5%
(ii) Non performing loans to total gross loans	18.3%	18.7%
(iii) Gross loans and advances to total deposits	95.6%	95.0%
(iv) Loans and Advances to total assets	57.7%	56.2%
(v) Earning Assets to Total Assets	75.0%	78.3%
(vi) Deposits Growth	2.3%	1.7%
(vii) Assets growth	-0.7%	6.6%

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY AS AT 30TH JUNE 2019

	(Amounts in million shillings)						
	Share capital	Share premium	Retained Earnings	Regulatory Reserve	General Provision Reserve	Others	Total
Current Year 2019							
Balance as at the beginning of the year	16,956.97	4,104.05	(1,607.37)	-	704.36	478.94	20,636.96
Profit for the year	-	-	1,190.79	-	-	-	1,190.79
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transactions with owners	6,502.04	-	-	-	-	-	6,502.04
Dividends Paid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Regulatory Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
General Provision Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at the end of the current period	23,459.01	4,104.05	(416.57)	-	704.36	478.94	28,329.79
Previous Year 2018							
Balance as at 1st January 2018	16,956.97	4,104.05	(954.69)	6,961.74	685.81	478.94	19,643.83
Profit for the year	-	-	955.13	-	-	-	955.13
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transactions with owners	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dividends Paid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Regulatory Reserve	-	-	6,961.74	(6,961.74)	-	-	-
General Provision Reserve	-	-	-	-	18.55	-	18.55
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at the end of the Previous period	16,956.97	4,104.05	(1,607.37)	-	704.36	478.94	20,636.96

SELECTED EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE 2019

In preparation of the quarterly financial statements, consistent accounting policies have been used as those applicable to the previous year audited Financial Statements (if there were changes during the quarter, the changes be explained as per IAS 34 & IAS 8)

NAME	Signed	Date
1 Godfrey Ndalaha (Managing Director)	Signed	19/7/2019
2 Zacharia Kapama (Head of Finance)	Signed	19/7/2019
3 Deogratius Thadei (Chief Internal Auditor)	Signed	19/7/2019

We, the undersigned directors, attest to the faithful representation of the above statements. We declare that the Statements have been examined by us and, to the best of our knowledge and belief, have been prepared in conformance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the requirements of the Banking and Financial Institutions Act, 2006 and they present a true and fair view.

Name	Signed	Date
1 Zawadia J Nanyaro Board Member	Signed	19/7/2019
2 Pamela nchimbi Board Member	Signed	19/7/2019

MINIMUM DISCLOSURES OF CHARGES AND FEES

No.	ITEM/TRANSACTION	CHARGE/FEE TZS	CHARGE/FEE USD/EURO/GBP
1	(a) Required minimum opening balance		
	Current account	100,000	100
	Personal saving account	20,000	10
	Student account	5,000	n/a
	Young Saver account	5,000	n/a
	Joint account	100,000	100
	Instant account opening	5,000	n/a
	(b) Monthly service fee (breakdown per customer type)		
	Current account	15,000	10
	Saving account	2,500	1.2
	Student account	free	n/a
	Young saver account	free	n/a
	Joint account	2,500	1.2
	(c) Cheque withdrawal over the counter	free	free
	(d) Fees per ATM withdrawal	1,300	n/a
	(e) ATM mini statement	300	n/a
	(f) Interim statement per page	500	3
	Current account	500	3
	Saving account	1,000	1.2
	(g) Periodic scheduled statement	5,000	2.2
	(h) Cheque book	500 per leaf	0.5 per leaf
	(i) Dishonoured cheque	1% of value min. 30,000 max. 300,000	1% of value min. 30 max. 300
	(j) Certificate of balance	25,000	25
	(k) Counter cheque	40,000	40
	(l) Stop payment	25,000	25
	(m) Standing Order	free	free
	(n) Balance enquiry at banking hall	1,000	1
	(o) New ATM card issuance	8,000	n/a
	(p) ATM card renewal or replacement (indicate costs for different card type)	10,000	n/a
	(q) Overdrawn account interest charge	2.25% per month	n/a
	(r) Unarranged overdraft (penalty)	2.25% per month	n/a
	(s) Interbank transfer	10,000	50
	(t) Bill payments through ATM	free	n/a
	(u) Deposit fee	free	free
	(v) Inward cheque clearing	6,000	6
	(w) Outward cheque clearing	12,000	12
	(x) Special cheque clearing	50,000	50
2	Internet banking		
	(a) Registration	free	free
	(b) Balance enquiry/mini statement	free	free
	(c) Monthly charges	2,000	2
	(d) Funds transfer	1,500	1.5
	(e) TISS, MT Transfer	10,000	n/a
3	Mobile Banking		
	(a) Registration	free	free
	(b) Balance enquiry	200	n/a
	(c) Monthly charges	free	n/a
	(d) Funds transfer	1,200	n/a
	(e) Instant account opening balance	5,000	n/a
4	Foreign Exchange Transaction		
	(a) LC acceptance/settlement/payment commission	n/a	free
	(b) LC opening commission	n/a	1.5% (negotiable)+swift charges
	(c) LC amendment	n/a	150
	(d) LC documents for collection	n/a	100
	(e) Purchase/sole of T/Cs transactions over the counter	n/a	n/a
	(f) Purchase of foreign cheque	n/a	n/a
	(g) Sale/purchase of cash passport	n/a	n/a
	(h) Telegraphic transfer	10,000	50
	(i) Telex/SWIFT	10,000	50
	(j) Transfer from foreign currency denominated account to local current account (within bank and to other bank)	free	free
5	Lending		
	(a) Loan Processing fee	3% of loan amount	negotiable
	(b) Unpaid loan instalment	2.25% per month	negotiable
	(c) Early repayment	50% of future interest	negotiable
	(d) Valuation fees	negotiable with valuers	negotiable with valuers
	(e) Loan Insurance fee	1% of loan amount	negotiable with insurer
	(f) Interest rate - Business loan	22% per annum	negotiable
	(g) Interest rate - Salaried loan	17% per annum	negotiable
	(h) Interest rate - SGL (Group Loans)	2.4% per month	negotiable
	(i) Interest rate - SGL (Group Loans)	2.4% per month	n/a
6	Fixed Deposit (FDR)		
	(a) FDR 3 months	Up to 8%	Negotiable
	(b) FDR 6 months	Up to 9%	Negotiable
	(c) FDR 9 months	Up to 10%	Negotiable
	(d) FDR 12 months	Up to 11%	Negotiable
	(e) FDR above 100 million	Up to 14% (negotiable)	Negotiable

KEY: n/a - not applicable
p.a. - per annum

We, the undersigned have examined the above information and hereby declare that the information is true and correct to the best of our knowledge and information

Name	Designation	Signed	Date
1 Mr. Godfrey Ndalaha	Managing Director	Signed	19/7/2019
2 Mr. Zacharia Kapama	Head of Finance	Signed	19/7/2019
3 Mr. Deogratius Thadei	Chief Internal Auditor	Signed	19/7/2019

HAINAGA STRESS, LAMBA KWANZA.

Lamba kwanza riba ya hadi asilimia 14% papo hapo, fungua Akaunti ya muda maalum ya DCB Lamba Kwanza.

Fursa ya kuwekeza hadi miaka 2. Lamba riba yako kila mwanzo wa mwezi.

#Changomkia fursa wekeza na DCB

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* Vigezo na masharti kuzingatia

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The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757154767
General line: 0745700710
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Manager Sales and Marketing: KAUTHAR DSOUZA
0767223311
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: www.ippmedia.com
epaper.ippmedia.com

The satellite industry plays significant role in communication reach in Africa

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) is an inter-governmental organisation headquartered in Gaborone, Botswana. Its goal is to further socio-economic cooperation and integration as well as political and security cooperation among 16 southern African states.

The Union of Comoros was admitted into SADC at the 37th SADC Summit of heads of state and government held in Pretoria, South Africa in 2017, bringing the total number of Member States to 16. Additionally, Burundi has requested to join.

The origins of SADC are in the 1960s and 1970s, when the leaders of majority-ruled countries and national liberation movements coordinated their political, diplomatic and military struggles to bring an end to colonial and white-minority rule in southern Africa. The immediate forerunner of the political and security cooperation leg of today's SADC was the informal Frontline States (FLS) grouping. It was formed in 1980.

The Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) was the forerunner of the socio-economic cooperation leg of today's SADC.

SADCC was transformed into SADC on 17 August 1992, with the adoption by the founding members of SADCC and newly independent Namibia of the Windhoek declaration and treaty establishing SADC. SADC has 27 legally binding protocols dealing with issues such as Defence, Development, Illicit Drug Trade, Free Trade and Movement of People.

The SADC Free Trade Area was established in August 2008, after the implementation of the SADC Protocol on Trade in 2000 laid the foundation for its formation. Its original members were Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, with Malawi and Seychelles joining later. The African Free Trade Zone effective has been more than a hundred years in the making—a

trade zone spanning the whole African continent from Cape to Cairo and envisioned by Cecil Rhodes and other British imperialists in the 1890s.

SADC countries face many social, development, economic, trade, education, health, diplomatic, defence, security and political challenges. Some of these challenges cannot be tackled effectively by individual members. The socio-economic and political and security cooperation aims of SADC are equally wide-ranging, and intended to address the various common challenges.

One significant challenge is that member states also participate in other regional economic cooperation schemes and regional political and security cooperation schemes that may compete with or undermine SADC's aims.

Tanzania has appealed to two regional institutions, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the East African Communications Organization (EACO) to make concerted efforts, taking communication services to rural areas of respective countries.

The majority of people in Africa live in rural areas and the population is dispersed. There have been many efforts from different organizations such as Google, Facebook and others to ensure that these people are connected with the rest of the world. Such efforts should be up-graded," he said.

We should give special attention and consideration to WRC-19 agenda items which seek spectrum for cost effective connectivity solutions in rural areas.

Wireless communication is among cost effective means to connect dispersed populations in rural and underserved areas. Let us use this opportunity to come up with agenda that will address the African environment and worked upon for the four years WRC cycle for improving the communication industry in Africa," he further noted. The satellite industry plays significant role in communication reach especially in Africa where the population is dispersed.

It's vital to promote public awareness of basic rights of the hearing impaired

HEARING loss, also known as hearing impairment, is a partial or total inability to hear. A deaf person has little to no hearing. Hearing loss may occur in one or both ears. In children, hearing problems can affect the ability to learn spoken language and in adults it can create difficulties with social interaction and at work. In some people, particularly older people, hearing loss can result in loneliness. Hearing loss can be temporary or permanent.

Hearing loss may be caused by a number of factors, including: genetics, ageing, exposure to noise, some infections, birth complications, trauma to the ear, and certain medications or toxins. A common condition that results in hearing loss is chronic ear infections. Certain infections during pregnancy, such as cytomegalovirus, syphilis and rubella, may also cause hearing loss in the child. Hearing loss is diagnosed when hearing testing finds that a person is unable to hear 25 decibels in at least one ear. Testing for poor hearing is recommended for all newborns. Hearing loss can be categorized as mild, moderate, moderate-severe, severe or profound. There are three main types of hearing loss: conductive hearing loss, sensorineural hearing loss, and mixed hearing loss.

About half of hearing loss globally is preventable through public health measures. Such practices include immunization, proper care around pregnancy, avoiding loud noise, and avoiding certain medications. The World Health Organization recommends that young people limit the use of personal audio players to an hour a day in an effort to limit exposure to noise. Early identification and support are particularly important in children. For many hearing aids, sign language, cochlear implants and subtitles are

useful. Lip reading is another useful skill some develop. Access to hearing aids, however, is limited in many areas of the world.

As of 2013 hearing loss affects about 1.1 billion people to some degree. It causes disability in 5 per cent (360 to 538 million) and moderate to severe disability in 124 million people. Of those with moderate to severe disability 108 million live in low and middle income countries. Of those with hearing loss, it began during childhood for 65 million.

The Tanzania Association of the Deaf (CHAVITA) is on September 29, this year is expected to host World Deaf Day, which at the national level will be held in Iringa region. The day is celebrated every year in the last Sunday of the month of September to draw the attention of general public, politician and development authorities towards the achievements of the deaf people as well as deaf people community. Throughout the celebration of the event, all the deaf people organization worldwide are encouraged greatly to fulfill the demands and needs of the deaf people as well as increasing their rights all over the world.

CHAVITA Iringa secretary, Shaibu Juma Shaibu told journalists recently that the commemoration is aimed at creating awareness of the rights of deaf people, especially the official recognition of sign language as a means of communication to the deaf and the children's opportunities in academic development, to develop talent and to achieve their dreams as part of country.

We should also be able to gather the deaf people and various professionals to discuss the challenges they face through the media, and to provide opportunities for the community to see how they can overcome the challenges of accessing the full information from the media for interpreting.



By Julius Amin

THE longer the Cameroonian "Anglophone Crisis" goes on, the more deeply entrenched the bitterness among citizens becomes. I spent part of June in Cameroon where I observed, learnt, and tried to make sense of the nationwide impact of the on-going Anglophone Conflict. Unlike last year when I was all over the place, this time friends advised that I not go to the Anglophone regions because there the conflict has degenerated into kidnap for ransom, vicious killings, score-settling, and the practice of "short-sleeve," or "long-sleeve," a brutal form of torture used in the Sierra Leonean and Liberian wars. [i]

Rather my attention was focused on trying to understand the impact of the crisis on Douala and Yaoundé, Cameroon's economic and political capital respectively, and the nation's largest cities. Friends and relatives visited with me in those cities. "People in the Anglophone region are suffering," they repeatedly said, adding that the world seems to have forgotten them. They were right. At a maximum hour of need, global attention has shifted away from the Anglophone Crisis. The region remains a very dangerous place. Nightly gunshots and killings are routine. Each day, there are new stories of torture. Each day, locals wonder when all these will end.

Going into its fourth year, the Anglophone Crisis has had a nationwide impact. Cameroonians in other parts of the country are feeling the effect of the crisis. A visit to the central market in Douala was revealing. There are shortages and prices of foodstuff such as tomatoes, plantains, cocoyam, and bananas have skyrocketed because those goods are no longer coming from the Anglophone regions. [ii] The impact of the Crisis is felt at every level. A fundamental question, which must be asked, is: What will Cameroon be without its English-speaking regions and people? At the University of Yaoundé I, a leading professor and administrator noted that the crisis has had an impact on university-level education, stating that while they support the administration, the time has come for the president to have a genuine dialogue to resolve the crisis. "No more games," he concluded.

The Anglophone Crisis has deepened the divide in the country. In Yaoundé when our bus rented from an Anglophone travel agency as shown by its name and license plate pulled into a fuelling station people there shouted: "Go buy petrol for Buea," "People for here no de go Kumba," "We no want Amba for here," and so on. It was the typical anti-Anglophone street rant by Francophones, yet this time the context was different. Anglophones based in Yaoundé nursed feelings of nostalgia, uncertainty, and fear. [iii] The crisis has created more tension and deepened the divide

The nationwide impact of the on-going Anglophone conflict

in the country. And, unfortunately, media outlets including Cameroon Radio and Television rarely focus on those challenges. The celebration of Cameroon as "Africa in miniature" with superb cultures may turn out to be among the nation's biggest challenges. [iv] Unlike other African nations, Cameroon is not bound together by a common language, religion, or culture. The Anglophone Crisis brought awareness to this problem.

Along with other national security challenges, the Anglophone Crisis has taken its toll. The City of Yaoundé, for example, once a vibrant forward-looking metropolis, way ahead of other cities in the continent, has fallen behind. The wheels of progress in that city seemed to have gone flat. Things are more disorganised, with trash lying all over the place, major streets filled with potholes, dead bulbs on streetlights go un-replaced, and so on. There is a general sense of decay. When asked why things are the way there are, the typical response is: "Ca ne va pas." The state of the City of Yaoundé reflects the various crises in the country.

Internally displaced persons

An important and perhaps not well-covered topic is the category of people now known as Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). These are people who escaped from the violence created by the Anglophone conflict to Francophone Cameroon. While some relocated to safer Anglophone areas such as Limbe, the bulk of the IDPs ended up in the major cities of Douala, Yaoundé, Bafoussam, and Nkongsamba. In Douala they are crowded in the neighbourhoods of Bonaberi, Elf, Ndokoti, Bonamoussadi, and Mabanda. Yaoundé is no different where they are in Biyemassi, Mendong, Essos, Obili, and Meleu.

The conflict, indeed, depopulated communities in the Anglophone region. While exact figures of IDPs are non-existent, estimates put the numbers in the hundreds of thousands. [v] Many relocated from the towns of Kumba, Bamenda, Buea, Mamfe, and several local communities. They are angry, frustrated, and in pain. Many are resigned to their faith. While some see themselves as the true victims of the conflict, others consider their condition as temporary. The conflict dramatised the magnitude of injustice in the country.

They provided terrifying accounts of why they escaped from the Anglophone region, and the challenges they face in their new location. Each story was decisive. One lady, in her late twenties, and a former high schoolteacher in Bamenda, noted a member of the

Ambazonia "boys" came to her class disguised as one of the students. He wore the school uniform and sat quietly in the back. At the end of the class the student approached her with a warning: "why are you coming to school? You must obey our orders. I know you... I know where you live... This is the only warning you will get." It was nerve-racking, she said, more especially as some of her colleagues had already been tortured. For a moment she considered escaping into the bush but decided to get out of the region. "Those boys do not joke," she said. She packed-up a few belongings, left her child with family, and headed to Douala. She imagined it would be a temporary move but already in her second year in town, she has doubts about returning to Bamenda. She has applied for several jobs but is still to be invited for a single interview. Her life, she said, has been turned upside down. At times, she cries, noting God will guide her through the hard times.

Her story was typical of the IDPs I spoke with. Many who had never gone far away from their hometown now live in Douala and Yaoundé. "Things are not moving," they stated. Survival in the big city entails much, and while some have delved into petit trading, others have ended-up in prostitution and other vices. It is a loss of innocence of a generation. They were uprooted from the life they knew, from the tranquillity of their community, and their present is bleak, and their future is uncertain.

To many, things may get a lot worse before the tide is turned. Another lady noted that in Douala she has been forced to do what she never imagined just to make it. In Yaoundé, IDPs are homeless sleeping wherever they could find space. They blame [President Paul] Biya for their problems noting the crisis is a result of "human wickedness and greed," adding they will be no breakthrough crisis until he rescinds his declaration of war he made on Anglophones. Another was blunter: "Biya has destroyed Cameroon," adding that is why secession is justified. Despite the complaints, most stated that enough was enough and were prepared to return to their home.

A tale of two nations

At the Bois d'Ebenne Restaurant in Yaoundé, members at our table, all from different parts of Cameroon engaged in an interesting discussion about the impact of the conflict. With a life band, Bois d'Ebenne was a good place to relax. [vi] On that day, the band was at its best playing tunes from famed musicians such as Lady Ponce, Davido, Eboa Lottin, and more. When a member of the group from Kumba

ordered a Brasseries drink, another asked when he last had one. Because of the conflict, Brasseries products were banned in Kumba and other parts of English-speaking Cameroon. The exchange opened the door to a larger conversation about the impact of the conflict on the way of life in the Anglophone region. Bois d'Ebenne, with all its ambience was typical of evening life in Cameroon but the conflict robbed the Anglophone region of such places.

In the pre-conflict days, the Anglophone region was the site of nightlife, cabaret, clubs, dance parties, and the outdoors. People went to Seme Beach [vii], Saddle Hill Ranch [viii], and other resorts. The Mount Cameroon Race, which attracted people from all over the world, is now very sparsely attended [ix]. In short, the conflict has cost the Anglophone region a key part of its culture. The same situation applies to education. While students in Francophone schools worry about their studies and other extra-curricular activities, those in Anglophone schools worry whether there will be gunshots in their community. There is more. In Francophone Cameroon, while people went around freely, life in Anglophone Cameroon is restricted by one curfew after another. It is truly a tale of two nations in one.

The way forward

The Anglophone Crisis has taken a toll, and President Biya's one-track military solution has only intensified the crisis. Surprisingly, the regime has ignored perhaps the simplest request from Cameroonians that President Biya goes on television and speaks directly to the people. From day one they have been waiting to hear from him. His long silence and absence from the public has people questioning whether he is in-charge. While Prime Minister Joseph Dion Ngute delivered a message to the region about the possibility of dialogue [x], the reversion to military attacks soon after that created doubts about the sincerity of the message. The longer the crisis goes on, the more deeply-entrenched the bitterness becomes. Already some are talking about the creation of a truth and reconciliation commission.

Let an IDP have the last word: "Cameroon is as beautiful as the colours of the rainbow, and its leaders must have a passion for honesty, compassion, and respect for human dignity."

Julius A. Amin is Professor and Alumni Chair in Humanities, Department of History, The University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio, United States of America.

Quality of Voluntary National Report wins Tanzania accolades from HLPF

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

TANZANIA has been commended at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York by the International Community and the CSOs for preparing the first good Voluntary National Report (VNR). The VNR shows the high level of commitment that Tanzania as a nation has been doing to address her own development challenges through self-assessment in an honest way.

Minister for Finance and Planning Philip Mpango said that the congratulations on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals were a great honour for Tanzania and those who contributed their views and participants in the preparation of the report.

He said Tanzania has integrated the SDGs into, and are implemented through national medium-term plans, namely, the National Five-Year Development Plan 2016/17 - 2020/21 in the Mainland and the Zanzibar Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty 2016-2020, which also adheres to the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environment).

There are areas where we have done good such as education, health, peace and governance. We have challenges in environment and Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs). We also face the challenge on financial resources and expertise on how to implement some of these goals. That's why we have requested the international community to support in different areas such as the Illicit Financial Flows," he said.

The Minister also pointed out that the VNR identified challenges that impede achievement of SDGs to include climate change resulting from deforestation, with over 60 percent of the population reliant on firewood for cooking. Citing an example of Iceland, the country has developed a latest technology that turn CO2 into rock saying that could be a big breakthrough for carbon capture and it can also be applied in Tanzania as far as environmental conservation is concerned.

He further noted data for tracking SDGs still remain a challenge. Therefore, in addressing the challenges; Minister Mpango noted that Tanzania



Finance Minister Philip Mpango 3rd from left, Forum CC Executive Director Rebecca Muna (1st left) and other officials at the High Level Political Forum. File Photo

plans to use citizen-generated data and will seek support from international financial institutions to strengthen the National Statistical Office.

Executive Director for ForumCC Rebeca Muna who also attended the HLPF said that Tanzania was also commended for the efforts to put in place the Blue Print and efforts to improve business environment and investment environment.

Despite the fact that the country has been implementing the international environmental and other sustainable development commitments, achievements of such efforts have been constrained by various factors. Such factors include, among others, inadequate environmental management awareness among key stakeholders, insufficient resources to adequately address environmental issues as well as lack of efficient and effective source of energy.

To reduce dependency of forest resources, as the main source of energy and inadequate awareness on sustainable agriculture and livestock keeping practices. Awareness raising among the local communities regarding the environmental management is thus of crucial importance.

According to Muna, the countries that commended Tanzania's efforts include Finland, Lesotho, Denmark, Canada, Kenya, and Democratic Republic of Congo.

Tanzania was encouraged to put in place action plan, put in place strong

and inclusive structures that encompass all stakeholders. They commended deliberate efforts to solicit resources from development partners especially in solid waste management," she said.

However, Tanzania was challenged to put in place plans to address the problem of liquid waste. Canada representative specifically showed commitments to support Tanzania efforts and asked the Minister to just say one thing which Tanzania would think it is a 'magic bullet' for achieving the SDGs and gaps that are identified in Tanzania VNR. Minister Mpango came out very loud and clear that Tanzania needed support from the international community to tackle Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs).

In general HLPF discussion cited climate change as one the major threat in achieving SDGs; citing the alarming findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. Adding to it Mary Robinson, former Ireland president described climate change as "grotesquely unfair", with the poorest, who have contributed the least, paying the highest price, she urged industrialized countries to show more ambition and ensure access to climate finance.

In this context the global actors need to take urgent measure for high material and energy efficiency; low greenhouse gas-intensive food consumption; equity and effectiveness; and international cooperation to address climate change, while creating new opportunities for the economy, society, and the environment.

Inclusion, the VNR process for the Tanzania raised a bar for stakeholders involvement and inclusion; thus as CSOs we are looking forward for a more systematic engagement of key actors at all levels to ensure that all actors play an active, substantive and meaningful role in decision making, planning, implementation, monitoring and assessment related to the SDGs to ensure accountability and leave no one behind

Muna said that the ForumCC and partners such as PACJA commended the government of Tanzania for taking a bold decision to conduct her first Voluntary National Report. This shows the level of commitment that we have

as a nation to address our own development challenges through self-assessment in an honest way. It is progressive to openly say we have done well in these areas and we are struggling in these other areas; this is what basically Tanzania has done through the VNR. Tanzania VNR process has also demonstrated the importance of partnership for achievement of Sustainable Development Goals where stakeholders including CSOs, private sector and development partners took deliberate efforts to make sure the Tanzania VNR is credible and useful in the sense that it will inform our planning and contribute to the achievement of 2030 Agenda. The level of involvement of stakeholders was so deep to the extent that private companies like Vodacom became part of this process. CSOs were organized under CSOs SDGs Platform where more than 500 CSOs provided inputs to Tanzania VNR report and FORUMCC contributed on the side of climate change.

UN Resident Coordinator in Tanzania Alvaro Rodriguez sent out his felicitations to Tanzania for presenting her first VNR at the United Nations Head Quarters in New York. He said that "Achievements have been made in education and health care for the girls and boys to achieve their full potential. We are also very happy with the moves that have been taken to deal with the environment, to deal with the challenges of unemployment, poverty and to address the inequality between men and women.

"But many challenges still remains, as the Minister highlighted, we need to address the challenge of illicit financial flows where the resource of Africa are reaping instead of being invested to support men and women, boys and girls," he added.

Preparation of the VNR was inclusive and participatory, involving stakeholders ranging from Members of Parliaments to Non-government organizations, a situation, stakeholders said it reflects the participatory nature, strong partnerships and commitments that emphasize the implementation of national and global development goals.

ForumCC and partners were some of the CSOs's team that provided valuable contribution to the report presented at the UN's high-level political forum from the beginning.



Research shows goats and sheep populations in Kenya have increased as the country's temperatures have increased, in some places above 1.5°C. Photo: IPS

Climate change: Parts of Kenya already above 1.5°C

NAIROBI

KENYA'S getting hotter. Much hotter than the 1.5°C increase that has been deemed acceptable by global leaders, and it is too hot for livestock, wildlife and plants to survive. Thousands of households, dependent on farming and livestock, are at risk too.

This is according to researchers who presented the Kenyan government with the findings of their study titled 'Harnessing opportunities for climate resilient economic development in semi arid lands: Adaptation options in key sectors (with focus on livestock value chain)'.

According to their findings, the thermometer has been climbing steadily upwards across this East African nation's entire 21 arid and semi-arid counties, with the temperature in a few counties already surpassing the 1.5°C above pre-industrialised levels that research that has predicted would be reached between 2030 and 2052.

The counties are: West Pokot and Elgeyo-Marakwet, which have both recorded an increase of 1.91°C;

Turkana and Baringo, which both recorded a 1.8°C increase;

Laikipia county which showed a 1.59°C increase and;

Narok which had a 1.75°C.

All the increases were recorded over the last five decades.

During the 21st round of climate change negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris in 2015, all countries committed under the Paris Agreement to "holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C."

In 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released a special report warning that without urgent changes to slow down the global warming, the world would face the risk of extreme heat, drought, floods and poverty at a temperature rise of 1.5°C.

The Kenyan study today noted that humans were already feeling the impact of these increased temperatures as over the last four decades the livestock in some counties have declined by almost a quarter of the overall livestock population because of the temperature increase over this time.

"In all the 21 counties, we observed a 25.2 percent decline in cattle population between 1977 and 2016, and this is directly linked to the increased heat," Dr Mohammed Yahya Said, the lead investigator and a consulting scientist at Kenya Markets Trust, which conducted the research, tells IPS.

The research was commissioned by the Canadian-based International Development Research Centre and the United Kingdom's

Department for International Development through the Pathways to Resilience in Semi-arid Economies.

"This is a very disturbing statistic especially for a pastoral community whose main livelihoods are derived from livestock," remarks Said.

It is statistic that Eunice Marima, a pastoralist from Kenya's Narok County has lived through.

"This is something I have witnessed over the years," Marima tells IPS. She vividly recalls how her father, who then lived in Kajiado County which borders Tanzania, and lies 21 kilometres south of Nairobi, lost a herd of 3,000 cattle in December 1962.

And she clearly remembers how many more people have lost thousands and thousands of animals in the subsequent years. Her cattle have not been spared either because in the 1984 and 1994 droughts she lost 210 and 88 animals respectively.

"I have learned my lesson, and now, I have 90 acres of land where I usually plant Boma Rhodes grass whenever it rains," she tells IPS. She explains that she harvests the grass to make hay, which she uses to feed her animals during drought. "This is my new adaptation method, and as a result, following the 2017 drought, I did not lose any animal," she says.

According to the new study, the most affected county was Turkana, which recorded a temperature increase of 1.8°C over the last half century with a resultant sharp decline in its cattle population, which by almost 60 percent between 1977 and 2016.

"However, our study found something else these communities could hang on to," Said explains.

The same study reveals that the changing climatic conditions have at the same time presented opportunities that could be explored to realise the government's development agenda.

During the same period, all the Arid and Semi Arid Land (ASAL) counties recorded a 76.4 percent increase in goat and sheep populations, and 13.1 percent increase for camels.

"These are very important findings for the country especially now that we are working towards the realisation of the 'Big Four' development agenda," said Mwangi Harry Gichoe, the Director of Agriculture Research and Innovation at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Fisheries and Irrigation, who received the findings on behalf of the Principal Secretary for Agricultural Research, Professor Hamadi Boga.

The 'Big Four' is a four-point agenda by President Uhuru Kenyatta, outlining what he will be focusing on in his last presidential term, which ends in 2022, to improve the living standards of Kenyans, grow the economy and leave a lasting legacy. The agenda items include food security, manufacturing (mainly focusing on job creation in this area), affordable universal health care and affordable housing. **IPS**

OPEC Fund sets its sights on sustainable growth, maximum development impact

VIENNA

THE highest policy-making body of the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID), the Ministerial Council, has approved the general principles of the Fund's new Strategic Framework.

The new strategy, endorsed here last week, affirms the Fund's commitment to providing support to developing countries - especially low-income ones - in an increasingly complex and challenging development landscape.

OFID Director General Dr Abdulhamid Alkhalifa told the meeting: "OFID's vision is to be a relevant, agile and efficient development finance institution that can deliver maximum development impact to its partner countries, while becoming self-sustainable in financing its operations."

Over the coming months, OFID will embark on a journey to diversify its financial resources and to implement a coherent and consistent set of actions aimed at creating greater efficiency throughout the institution and equipping it with more innovative and responsive operational and financial instruments.

As part of its new strategy, OFID will renew its focus on partnerships. OFID works closely with organisations such as the World Bank, regional development banks and the bilateral and multilateral agencies of OFID member-countries as well as specialised agencies of the United Nations.

In addition to strengthening existing partnerships, OFID is determined

to form new relationships to revitalise the global partnership in support of sustainable development.

In keeping with previous years, a highlight of the Ministerial Council's public session was the presentation of the OFID Annual Award for Development.

The 2019 Award was bestowed on Vida Duti, Country Director of the IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre in Ghana, in recognition of her work and engagement in ensuring sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services for the population of Ghana.

OFID has affirmed its readiness to continue supporting global efforts to overcome development challenges, as it has done since 1976, by extending concessionary financial assistance, participating in the financing of private sector activities in developing countries, and contributing to the resources of other development institutions.

The organisation has over the years improved its capabilities and operational reach to support South-South development and social and economic growth in partner countries around the world.

It says public sector lending, including to low-income countries, will continue to represent the largest portion of its loan portfolio, going forward.

Meanwhile, US\$100,000 award winner Vida Duti attended a presentation ceremony at the OFID headquarters (Vienna) during the 40th Annual Session of the organisation's Ministerial Council.

Duti leads a 12-strong 'coalition' in



Ghana, the thrust of their endeavours being on advocating greater financial and political support for WASH, while also supporting national government policies, standards and guidelines.

The team's priority in its partner district, Asutifi North, is to support the roll out of a WASH 'master plan'. This plan seeks to provide universal WASH services for the entire population of the Asutifi district by 2030. Currently, only around half of the district's 62,816 people have access to adequate water facilities and just 15 per cent to decent sanitation.

Duti said at the presentation ceremony that the award would motivate and strengthen her resolve to work harder to improve the quality of life of people in the developing world.

"I dedicate this award to the people of Ghana and the Asutifi North district

for whose quest I gained this recognition. I assure you of my resolve to work harder towards improving the quality of life for people in the developing world, especially Ghana," said Duti.

OFID chief Dr Alkhalifa said: "OFID recognises the important role women play in the WASH sector, advancing solutions and encouraging behavioral change. Vida Duti's engagement in this sector is exemplary and is helping to deliver access to safe, reliable and affordable water services to numerous people in Ghana."

"OFID hopes that bestowing this year's Annual Award for Development to Mrs Duti will help accelerate action in sub-Saharan Africa, encourage the many women working in development, and highlight the important issues of safe water and hygiene," he added.

South Africa proves its mettle on the UN Security Council

BY GUSTAVO DE CARVALHO

SOUTH Africa is six months into its third term on a highly divided United Nations Security Council (UNSC). How has it fared and where can improvements be made?

Coinciding with President Cyril Ramaphosa's election in May, and the appointment of new foreign minister Naledi Pandor, expectations around South Africa's role are high. A more assertive and principled foreign policy stance is hoped for but whether this is possible in the politically charged halls of a council where pragmatism and consensus are needed, remains to be seen.

South Africa has certainly played a visible role, taking some risks, blocking some actions and intervening in key discussions. In one instance, during the tense debate on the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) earlier this year, South Africa blocked the council from releasing a statement that it deemed premature.

New York-based think tanks told the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) that early impressions were that South Africa was developing close relationships with Russia and China (the P2), distancing itself from France, the United Kingdom (UK) and United States (US) (the P3). South Africa sided with China and Russia on the DRC's contested election results, and supported Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro.

More recently though, South Africa's position seems to have become nuanced, UN analysts told the ISS. The country is increasingly becoming a 'swing' state, they said; neither consistently aligned to the interests of the P3 nor the P2.

Two situations highlight this. In April during the debate convened by Germany on sexual violence in conflict, South Africa joined Belgium, France and the UK in opposing US requests to exclude language in the draft resolution on sexu-

al and reproductive health.

South Africa issued a strongly worded statement showing its commitment to human rights: 'The council is therefore telling survivors of sexual violence in conflict [by denying survivors essential services when they need them the most] that consensus is more important than their needs.' This was directly opposed to the position taken by Russia and China.

The situation in Sudan in June provided perhaps the strongest example of how South Africa can take an independent stance against other council members, especially permanent members. South Africa pushed back against pressure from Germany and the UK and prevented the UNSC from issuing a public statement before the African Union Peace and Security Council (PSC) could meet on Sudan.

Consensus among the three African members (the A3) has historically been weak and difficult to achieve. But South Africa brought the A3 (which includes Côte d'Ivoire and Equatorial Guinea) together in a strong, unified position on Sudan. Together the three states advocated that the UNSC follow the PSC decisions on Sudan.

When the PSC suspended Sudan on 14 June from the AU, it became easier for South Africa to bring the A3 together and resist Russia and China's opposing position on the renewal of the UN's peacekeeping mission in Darfur. One source told the ISS that the A3 approach was key, as it 'left Russia and China isolated in their sovereignty argument, which certainly shakes things up in the council'.

Earlier, on 23 May, the A3 had presented a joint draft statement on the protection of civilians in armed conflict - the first such statement from the A3 in a long time.

Later this month South Africa's Department of International Relations and Cooperation will review its role on the



In the rest of its term, can SA deliver tangible results and continue unifying an African position? File photo

UNSC and identify opportunities for the remaining 18 months. The country assumes the rotating chair of the council in October - a crucial chance to set the agenda and shape South Africa's foreign policy priorities.

It's not unusual for states to use their presidency month on the council to increase visibility rather than pursue more strategic aims. South Africa should take a different approach. Its presidency month should not be seen in isolation from the rest of its term on the council.

October will see debates on the DRC, Western Sahara and Sudan - all of which are priorities for South Africa. The council is expected to discuss an independent review of the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO).

South Africa deploys most of its peacekeepers to the DRC. MONUSCO has been under pressure in the current context of budget cuts and mission drawdowns. South Africa should ensure that the discussions on the DRC are not simply a cost-cutting exercise, but that there is a clear understanding of the potential exit benchmarks that would allow MONUSCO's departure.

South Africa can also provide leadership on women, peace and security. Secretary-General António Guterres will present his report on Resolution 1325 in October. South Africa has for some time

been developing a national action plan for implementing this resolution, and now has a clear deadline to complete it, and the chance to shape UN planning.

Finally, the important issue of financing AU peacekeeping operations through contributions by UN member states will be on the table. The UNSC and PSC will have their annual meetings in October - an opportunity to bring the two councils closer as they tackle this difficult issue.

The question of how to finance peacekeeping is unlikely to be resolved quickly. However African states and South Africa in particular can engage with other council members until October on how to break the financing deadlock. The US has been strongly opposed to using UN-assessed contributions for AU peacekeeping.

Since its first UNSC term in 2007, South Africa has sought to advance the UN-AU partnership - so this is a major challenge for the country. South Africa certainly has played an important role on the council in the first six months of 2019. To meet the high expectations though, tangible results will be needed in the remaining 18 months.

Gustavo de Carvalho, Senior Researcher, Peace Operations and Peacebuilding, ISS Pretoria

US should respect facts and reject bias on freedom of religious belief in China

CHINESE government protects citizens' right to freedom of religious belief, which is a fact that any conscientious and impartial person recognizes.

However, such fact has been denied by some U.S. officials.

On July 18, U.S. Vice President Mike Pence and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo slandered the religious policy and the freedom of religious belief in China at a U.S. conference to "advance religious freedom".

They even collaborated with cult members, which exposed to the world their ugliness and hypocrisy.

Some U.S. politicians have long been slandering China with fabricated stories, and are even undermining ethnic harmony and interfering in the internal affairs of China.

Fortunately, lies cannot stand long. The reckless endorsement of Pence, which was full of self-contradictions, has become a butt of a joke for the world.

On one hand, he said China "persecuted" religions; on the other hand, he claimed that in China, he actually saw the fastest growth in the Christian faith that world has ever seen in the last 2,000 years. How could this have happened without freedom of religious belief?

To know what it is that you know, and to know what it is that you do not know - that is understanding. However, these U.S. politicians are being hypocritical by acting wise or foolish. It seems like they are interested in the freedom of religious belief in Xinjiang, but indeed they know nothing about the facts there.

Xinjiang is home to over 24,800 venues for religious activities such as mosques, churches and temples. Among them, there are about 24,400 mosques, over twice as much as those in the U.S., the UK, Germany and France together. A mosque is built for every 530 Muslims.

A total of 109 religious sites in Xinjiang, including Id Kah Mosque in Kashgar, Shengyou Lamasery in Zhaosu, and the Kizil Thousand-Buddha Caves have been designated as major cultural heritage sites under the protection of the autonomous region and the state.

China's efforts to care for the Muslims were commended at the 46th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and the organization said it is willing to enhance cooperation with China.

Of course, for those who have evil intentions, such facts that prove China's freedom of religious belief would only cause obstacles for them to slander China. Therefore, they have to hide such reality.

As for the vocational education and training centers in Xinjiang, which have been frequently cited by the U.S., they are just another trick played by the U.S. to distort China. Any righteous and responsible member of the international society can see through the trick and choose not to follow the U.S.

Setting up the vocational education and training centers in Xinjiang, China is making every effort to protect the fundamental human rights of citizens from violation by terrorism and extremism. For nearly 3 years, no violent terrorist attacks have taken place in Xinjiang since the establishment of these centers, and the fundamental human rights of the people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang have been effectively protected.

Xinjiang's human rights achievements, as well as its progress made in anti-terrorism and de-extremization have been recognized on multiple occasions amid the 41st session of the UN Human Rights Council.

The representatives from Cameroon, Cambodia, North Korea and Myanmar noted that China's preventive counterterrorism approaches, including setting up vocational education and training centers in Xinjiang and other places, are a great combination of anti-terrorism and human rights protection, and deserve support and praise.

The representatives from Laos, Serbia, Burundi, Somalia and Nepal said that it is total slander that the west calls these centers "re-education camps", and China's experiences in anti-terrorism and de-extremization are worth learning from.

There is a Chinese saying that justice naturally inhabits man's heart. China has made remarkable achievements in human rights protection in Xinjiang, and the progress of anti-terrorism and de-extremization is serving as an important guarantee for the flourishing social development and livelihood in the region. These are undeniable facts.

These envoys praised China's practice of inviting ambassadors of 37 countries to the UN office at Geneva recently sent a joint letter to the President of the UN Human Rights Council and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to show their support for China on its remarkable achievements in the field of human rights, as well as counter-terrorism and de-radicalization measures in Xinjiang.

The letter stressed that the people in Xinjiang enjoy a stronger sense of happiness, fulfillment and security, saying that China has undertaken a series of counter-terrorism and de-radicalization measures in Xinjiang, including setting up vocational education and training centers, which effectively guaranteed the fundamental human rights of the people of all ethnic groups in the region.

These envoys praised China's practice of inviting ambassadors of 37 countries to the UN office at Geneva recently sent a joint letter to the President of the UN Human Rights Council and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to show their support for China on its remarkable achievements in the field of human rights, as well as counter-terrorism and de-radicalization measures in Xinjiang.

Why is the U.S. turning a deaf ear to such righteous voices?

China is willing to open its arms and welcome the discussion on religious and human rights issues with friendly countries and experts. The country has been taking an active part in the UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review, and has decided to accept 284 recommendations, or 82% of the total in the third round of the review that took place in March this year. The number and proportion of recommendations accepted by China were among the highest in major countries.

China, working in concert with the world, including developing countries and beyond to advance development through cooperation and promote human rights through development, is demonstrating its sense of responsibility as a major country.

People's Daily

Here's how the world can be better prepared to handle epidemics

ABUJA

THE 2019 G20 Summit was held recently in Osaka, Japan. The Summit ended with the "G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration", which identifies health as a prerequisite for sustainable and inclusive economic growth, and the leaders committed to various efforts to improve epidemic preparedness.

These efforts are commendable, but the G20, comprised of 19 countries and the European Union with economies that represent more than 80 percent of global Gross Domestic Product (GDP), also must do more to lead by example in epidemic preparedness by ensuring they all have a ReadyScore.

This is managed by preventepidemics.org, the world's first website to provide clear and concise country-level data on epidemic preparedness. It measures a country's ability to find, stop and prevent health threats. Then, they need to demonstrate they are ready to take steps to improve their score, as needed.

This is an important issue because within 36 hours, an infectious disease can travel from a remote village and can be carried to major cities worldwide, according to the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). If anything kills over 10 million people in the next few decades, it would most likely be a highly infectious virus rather than a war. The next disaster is not missiles, but microbes, said Bill Gates in his 2015 TED Talk.

As Gates was giving his 2015 TED Talk, the Ebola outbreak in West Africa was coming to an end after causing the deaths of over 11,300 people, reducing the GDPs of Guinea, Liberia & Sierra Leone by \$3 billion and devastating the health workforce in the three countries. Overall, the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa cost global economy an estimated \$53 billion.

Outbreaks are not a thing of the past, however. In 2019, there are measles outbreaks in the US and Europe; Ebola outbreak in DRC and Uganda and several other infectious disease outbreaks in Nigeria, Vietnam and South Africa.

To be assigned a ReadyScore, countries should undergo a Joint External Evaluation (JEE) which is a voluntary, collaborative, multisectoral process to assess country capacities to prevent, detect and rapidly respond to public health risks whether occurring naturally or due to deliberate or accidental events.

Right now, only 100 out of 195 countries (51 percent) have conducted the JEE. Until all 195 countries conduct the JEE, it would be difficult to assess global preparedness for prevention, detection and response to epidemics.

Based on records on preventepidemics.org, the following G20 countries have an unknown ReadyScore: Brazil, China, France, India, Italy, Russia and Turkey. An unknown score implies that a country has not volunteered to have a JEE. On the other hand, the ReadyScore of Argentina, Canada, Germany and Mexico is pending.

This means that they have committed to have a JEE, but data are unavailable. Some G20 countries that do have a ReadyScore include United Kingdom (84 percent), USA (87 percent), South Africa (62 percent), Indonesia (64 percent) and Japan (92 percent).

To be better prepared for epidemics, a country must have a ReadyScore of 80 percent and above, otherwise the international community cannot categorically say that all G20 countries can prevent, detect and rapidly respond to infectious disease outbreaks. So, what needs to happen next?

First, the G20 should work with the World Health Organisation and other partners to conduct JEE to make our world safer. JEE is a voluntary activity and no nation can be compelled to conduct one and very few G20 countries have their ReadyScore. The WHO on its own must strengthen advocacy to the G20 countries that have no ReadyScore. The advocacy should make these countries acknowledge that when it comes to epidemic preparedness, the world is as strong as its weakest.

Second, universal health coverage and global health security must both be addressed together. Billions of people do not have access to healthcare, and



In 2019, there are measles outbreaks in the US and Europe; Ebola outbreak in DRC and Uganda and several other infectious disease outbreaks in Nigeria, Vietnam and South Africa. Photo: IPS

this poses serious risks for global health security. As long as there are communities globally in which people are unable to access healthcare because of their inability to pay or due to other inequities, the risks of infectious diseases remain.

A number of G20 countries already fund different health interventions in low- and middle-income countries. It is time for the G20 to push for integrated health programs instead of the current vertical system in recipient countries. Universal health coverage is heavily dependent on political will.

Therefore, the G20 should use its influence to advocate to countries without universal health coverage to gradually move to one. Development aid to such countries earmarked for health should be conditional - to be used to develop a publicly-funded universal health coverage health system which is accessible to all.

Third, G20 countries can invest in networks of reference and specialised laboratories as part of disaster prevention. Detection and control of infectious diseases is delayed if bio samples have

to be taken to other countries located thousands of miles away in order to get definitive diagnoses.

For example, during the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa, to confirm Ebola in Nigeria, blood samples had to be taken to Senegal (more than 3 hours by flight). This obviously delayed the response efforts. Although the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) has since increased its diagnostic capacity, national public health institutes such as NCDC still require financial and technical support to ensure global health security.

G20 countries should lead by example and get a ReadyScore by being open for joint external evaluations and meet all Osaka Leaders' global health commitments. If other countries follow suit, then the world would move closer to being better prepared to handle epidemics.

Dr. Ifeanyi Nsofor is a medical doctor, the CEO of EpiAFRIC, Director of Policy and Advocacy for Nigeria Health Watch

Hope as more villagers venture into commercial tree farming in Mufindi

By Correspondent James Kandoya

FOR Aidan Fitavangu, tree farming is everything to him and other people in Nzinyi village, Mufindi District located nearly 600km from the country's commercial capital of Dar es Salaam.

He views tree farming as an important tool towards addressing poverty in the hilly and mountainous area of Mufindi.

"In those years, I never thought that tree farming will be one of the important farming ventures in this village," he says.

"We used to tea, and cereal crops as our source incomes, but now trees have started showing us the way," says Fitavangu, while busy with farm chores in his 3.5acre of his tree farm.

Starting out

"I started growing trees few years ago and the hope is alive. I am expecting a lot from this new farming venture. It wasn't easy for me to get into this activity, until I was informed on the use of improved tree seedlings, which matures earlier than the traditional trees," he says.

A father of three reveals that the use of improved seeds is vital because it enables them to get high quality woodlots and therefore generate good income.

Fitavangu views tree farming as a lucrative business, particularly when someone planted improved seedlings.

"I'm expecting to harvest trees in the next few years because I have used improved seeds," he

says, calling other tree growers in the area to venture into using improved seeds to get high quality woodlots, which can win the competitive markets.

"Tree seedling production is a key step in the forestry value chain, just as you cannot produce bread with spoil flour; you need good quality tree seed material to grow proper forests."

The best tree seedlings are from professional tree seed orchards that produce improved tree seeds. These seeds come from known sources of plus trees that grow with full potential.

And therefore, the use of improved tree seeds is always recommendable, as it guarantees better quality tree, higher growth rate and purity of seeds.

However, improved seeds clear the bad notion hangs in most tree growers that it is not paying business because it takes longer time between 15 and 20 years to harvest.

"Planting materials, skills and knowledge services for tree growers of all sizes, can raise of high quality woodlots," this is according to representative from Jambe Agro, Steven Salum.

According to Salum, it enables tree growers to generate incomes for household as compared to use of the local seeds.

Having based on southern highlands, their target is to marved and develop channel distribution to small and medium scale growers in the region.

For decades, many tree grow-

ers believed that growing trees was not paying because it takes longer time up between 15 to 20 years.

Presently, with improved tree seeds and better silvicultural practices, tree growers can plant and harvest their trees at an average of within shorter time ranging between five and seven years for electric poles for example. Time varies with end products and species

Moreover, with quality seeds, there is a lot of potential for better growth volumes to the household incomes.

He however added that improved seeds should be coupled with application of good farming practices such as spacing and use of fertilizer.

"We take a task of extending the supplies of improved seeds varieties project and related good farming practices to increase the better woodlots quality where on so doing increase also the households income,"

When other factors remain constant; he said tree growers are in position to give high woodlots quality from best trees being eucalyptus or pines.

Salum noted that currently, the company had embarked distribution of tree seeds on the southern highlands where there was high potential especially in Iringa, Njombe and Mbeya regions.

But standing trees in the vicinity of local farms can provide a ready and excellent source of high quality seed for aspiring



tree farmers.

In view of the fact, choosing the right seed source is one of the most important aspects of forest establishment.

It has huge implications for the early growth and survival of a plantation, and in later years on its productivity and wood quality.

"If the genetic quality of the planting stock is not correct from the outset, then there is little that can be done to improve a plantation other than costly replacement", he said.

Commercial forestry in Tanzania is still hampered by limited production of, and access to, quality genetic material which severely limits

plantation productivity and quality.

He expressed fears that there possibility of independent nurseries provided with seed through informal distribution channels of poor quality seed, producing and selling unimproved seedlings.

"Most small and medium tree growers are unaware of the existence or the benefits of improved tree planting materials, and there is no quality assurance of seedlings," he added.

Charles Tizeba, a former minister for Agriculture describes good quality seed as fundamental for agricultural productivity. "It's the government's responsibility to ensure the agricultural

supply chains are working well," he says.

According to the Tanzania Brief 2017 of The African Seed Access Index (TASAI), the seed industry in Tanzania consists of two systems: the informal sector and the formal sector.

The informal sector is the system where farmers produce, obtain, maintain, and distribute seed resources, from one growing season to the next.

Due to factors such as limited knowledge, lack of a wide variety of seeds, limited resources to purchase seed, and poor access to agro dealers, most small holder farmers in Tanzania still rely on the informal system.

Kenya's top treasury chiefs to be charged over dams scandal

NAIROBI

KENYA'S chief prosecutoryesterday directed the police to arrest and charge Treasury cabinet secretary Henry Rotich and his principal secretary Kamau Thugge over a scandal in dam projects in the country.

Noordin Haji, Director of Public Prosecution said Rotich, Thugge and 25 other government officials flouted procurement rules and committed illegalities in the Aror

and Kimwarer dams scandal.

Haji told a news conference in Nairobi that the persons to be prosecuted flouted many procurement rules and circumvented to ensure Italian firm, CMC di Ravenna got the project.

"The officials who should have pointed this out failed to do so and went ahead to award the contracts to CMC De Ravenna of Italy to run concurrently while aware that the firm was, at the time of award, straining and getting into

voluntary liquidation back in Italy," Haji told journalists in Nairobi.

"We also note that the same firm had been awarded three other mega dam projects that are either incomplete or are yet to commence," he added. Rotich has since been arrested.

The chief prosecutor said the offences committed by those implicated include conspiracy to defraud, willful failure to comply with applicable procedures and guidelines relating to procure-

ment and engaging in a project without prior planning.

Haji said whereas the alleged commercial contract signed between Kerio Valley Development Authority and CMC Di Ravenna/Itinera JV clearly states that Kimwarer Dam would cost 204 million U.S. dollars while Aror Dam would cost 252.19 million dollars totaling to 456.21 million dollars, the National Treasury negotiated a commercial facility increasing the amount to about 630 million dollars which

is about 170 million dollars more than necessary or required payable on a timely basis without regard to performance or works. He said the Italian company submitted draft technical designs in February four years behind schedule.

Haji also ordered the arrest of CMC di Ravenna top directors. "We borrowed, the loan had an interest, borrowed more money to pay for the interest, this is massive loss of public finance," he said.

He said the loan for the two

dams had matured and that the government was required to start serving it without a project on-site. "Being cognizant that corruption always fights back and that there may be elements who may seek to exploit these indictments to instigate social unrest we have put in place mechanisms to monitor any such attempts, which will be countered with whole of government response," Haji said.

He said the officials will also be charged with abuse of office, com-

mitting an offence of financial misconduct, fraudulent acquisition of public property, knowingly giving a misleading document to Principal and willful neglect to perform official duty.

The authorities started the investigations in December 2018 and because of the complex nature of the case, sought help from foreign countries including the Italian and British governments including state organs to help unravel the scam.



Production of paper 'shopping bags' in progress at Dar es Salaam's Azam Papercraft International factory at the weekend, chiefly to fill the gap due to the nationwide ban that took effect last month. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

17 killed in car bomb attacks in Somalia

MOGADISHU

AT least 17 people were killed and 28 wounded when a bomb went off outside a hotel near the international airport in Somalia's capital yesterday, medical officials said.

The city's Madina hospital received 17 bodies and 28 people with injuries, 12 of them in a critical condition, said Mohammed Yusuf, the hospital's director.

Capt. Mohamed Hussein said at least 15 others were injured when the car packed with explosives and parked near a busy security checkpoint by the city's airport was detonated by remote control yesterday morning.

The powerful explosion which rocked Mogadishu occurred in the morning when many people were on the road going to work and others were travelling to attend the Hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia's Mecca.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast but Somalia's home-grown Islamic extremist rebels, al-Shabab, often carry out such attacks. Al-Shabab is allied to al-Qaida.

Meanwhile, the former South African President and head of the African Union high-level implementation panel for

South Sudan and Sudan, Thabo Mbeki arrived in Mogadishu yesterday.

Mbeki and his delegation were received by Somali Foreign Minister, Ambassador Ahmed Isse Awad and others including UN Special envoy in Somalia, James Swan.

The African Union High-level delegation is expected to meet senior Somali government officials including, President Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo for talks.

Mbeki has held talks with Kenyan President, Uhuru Kenyatta in Nairobi to discuss regional peace and security.

The relative calm that was experienced in the country in recent years has led to the arrival of high profile delegation in Somalia in the past years.

AU chair, Musa Faki Mohamed arrived in Mogadishu on February 2017 whereas UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres and Ban Kii Moon respectively arrived in the same year Somali security forces on Friday evening killed at least three suspected al-Shabaab militants in an operation outside Baidoa town.

According to locals, the forces launched an operation to hunt down Al-Shabaab operatives in Madow village near Awdinle town of Bay region.

Infant rescued from human traffickers at Kenya-Tanzania border

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

CUSTOMS officials have burst a human trafficking ring where infants are taken to Tanzania for registration soon after birth.

In the weekend incident, two Kenyans and a Tanzanian were arrested at the Isebania on Saturday night while transporting a month-old baby to the neighbouring country for birth notification, in an elaborate scheme which authorities believe tie together immigration and security officials from both countries.

Commissioner of Customs and Border Control Kevin Safari said the three even tried to bribe officials during a search to be freed after failing to explain the ownership of the infant. "The suspects attempted to offer a bribe while being searched," he said.

Safari said results of a preliminary investigation has revealed that suspects are part of an elaborate cross-border syndicate where Kenyan babies are taken to Tanzania, issued with birth notification documents and returned back.

The suspects were found with several National Identity Cards and mobile phone sim which, customs officials said,

will form part of the investigation.

The suspects were set to be arraigned on Monday morning, with the baby having been taken to the customs office.

"The infant appeared to be in good health and is currently in the care of the Customs Office pending further investigations by the police," Safari said.

Part of the investigation, authorities said, will be seeking to establish the baby's parents with police already linking the scheme to baby swaps at maternity hospitals where mothers are often handed dead babies.

BoreshaLishe project benefits women and children in Ikungi District

By Correspondent James Kandoya, back from Singida

REGINA Ernest a resident of Iseke village in Ikungi District Council, Singida region delivered her child with 1.5 kilogramme, putting her child at a risk of being stunted.

Even after delivery, Regina, a mother of two children did not feed her child undiversified food as a result her weight dropped below the weight recommended by the nutrition officers.

"I used to feed my first child undiversified food as a result my son became weaker, his weight did not increase and was most of the time attacked by diseases," she narrated.

However, after sensitization seminar, and nutrition support, Regina is now used to prepare a diversified meal. The health of her child has doubly improved.

In her second pregnancy, she used diversified meals as recommended by the nutritionist, and deliver 3.5 kilogramme child.

Her child is now eight months old and has eight kilogramme. He isn't suffering from diseases and grows well compared to the first born.

In the same village, Joyce Mmasi says that she was not aware of exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months of child's life as a result her child became weak and was attacked by diseases.

"The health of my son is now improving day to day after getting the sensitization knowledge about nutrition and adopted the practice. I'm now able to prepare diversified and suitable food for my sons," she said.

"In my garden, the family is assured of getting vegetables to improve health and sell the surplus to get money to buy other essentials like cooking oil and soap," she said.

Regina and Joyce are not alone, there are many women and children benefiting from the 'BoreshaLishe Project', thanks to the World Food Programme (WFP) for implementing it.

Funded by European Union, the project is implemented by WFP in collaboration with other implementing

partners: Save the Children, Sustainable Environment Management Activity (SEMA) and Research Community & Organisation Development Associates (REKODA).

According to the WFP Nutrition Officer, Neema Shosho, BoreshaLishe project (2017-2021), aims to improve access to and use of nutritious food to women and children.

It works through social behavior change communication, diversification of food production and distribution of specialized nutritious foods in Ikungi and Singida Rural District Council in Singida region and Bahi and Chamwino districts in Dodoma region.

Besides that, the project has so far distributed specialized nutritious foods to pregnant and lactating women and children under two years, support the production of diverse crops, small scale livestock and dietary diversity.

"In line with Sustainable Development Goal 2, the overall object of the project is to improve food and nutrition security and ultimately contribute to reducing all forms of malnutrition in the country," she said.

The project has created behaviour change towards the production of nutritious foods and consumption of an adequate, diversified diet promoted and increased at community level.

Similarly, through the production of nutritious crops, small scale livestock and access to nutritious diversified diets is enhanced.

In view of the fact, she said the foundation of a healthy future for very child is the 1000 days between a mother's pregnancy and her child's second birthday.

In addition, the right nutrition during this critical period puts a child on track to be stronger, healthier and ready to learn.

Commenting on the success achieved, she said the project provided 33,000 pregnant and lactating women and children under two years with nutritious foods and nutritious education to forty government health facilities.

During its implementation, a total of 146 saving groups established and trained, sixty four chicken rearing units established and chicken distributed as

Iseke Village women demonstrate before others how to prepare diversified food for their families to prevent malnutrition.



well forty eight community gardens and home kitchen gardens established.

"So far, the pregnant and lactating women and children under 2 years have benefitted from nutritious foods and their health improves day to day," she stated.

According to her, the project was implemented in 43 villages in Ikungi District Council and 29 villages in Singida District Council whereby the stunting growth in the region is 29.2 percent.

The Nutrition Coordinator at Ikungi District Council, Agnes John hinted that her district works in collaboration with WFP and other implementing partners; Save the Children, SEMA

and REKODA to reduce all forms of malnutrition.

In her district for instance, the community had been trained to establish kitchen garden and saving groups adding that there was big change noted in the community since the project was established.

"Each one in the community is taught how to save money and use it for specific uses as well as establishing gardens to assure the family the availability of vegetables and on so doing improve their health," she said.

There is behaviour changes noted among the community especially in nutrition status since the clinic attendance for children

under five years shows there was drop in the problem.

She added that the beneficiaries of the project are pregnant and lactating women, children under the age of two years, households with minimal assets (livestock, land or access to other income sources).

For her part, an officer from the Sustainable Environment Management Activity (SEMA) Asha Maulid highlighted the need for increased awareness on nutrition to the community to influence behavior change.

She said behavior change and attitude was very important for the community adding that the project empowered and supported the production of diverse crops, small scale livestock and dietary diversity.

"The ultimate goal is to ensure that the community is assured of diversified and revenues to bolster their development as individual and the entire community," she said.

Country situation

Tanzania has high prevalence of chronic malnutrition with 34 percent of children under the age of five years stunted.

Poor nutrition is also a serious problem among women of reproductive age with 45 percent anaemic, of which one percent is severe anaemic (TDHS 2015).

The high rates of chronic under-nutrition among children in Tanzania are driven by poverty and food insecurity, but also largely by poor infants and young child caring and feeding practices at the households level.

At least 2,600,000 children under five years in the country are stunted this was according to the National Nutritional Survey (2014-2018).

The Nutritional Officer from the Tanzania Food and Nutritional Centre (TFNC) Deborah Charles disclosed that recently when presenting the paper entitled "Nutri-

tional Land Landscape in Tanzania".

She said the highest number was recorded from eleven regions in Tanzania mainland including Dar es Salaam, Kagera, Kigoma, Mara, Dodoma, Geita, Tanga, Ruvuma, Mbeya, Morogoro and Tabora.

"Although the survey shows that between 2014 and 2018 the stunting rates dropped from 34.7 to 31.8 percent, the situation is still too worse according to the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommendation that advise it to be less than 20 percent," she said.

Some of the region's leading in stunted growth are Njombe (53.6 percent), Iringa (47.1 percent), Songwe (43.3 Percent), Kigoma (42.3 percent) and Ruvuma (41.0 Percent).

"Most people do not know that babies not growing normally can be a result of stunting. Parents do not know the kind of food they should give their babies," she said.

In the case of wasting/acute malnutrition, the prevalence has dropped from 3.8 to 3.5 percent where the number of affected children increased from 445,000 to 480,000 children.

She however said that the worse situation was recorded in Singida region with 5.2 percent while the less affected region were Kilimanjaro with 1.5 percent and Mtwara 1.6 percent.

Moreover, the prevalence increase was recorded in Singida region (0.7 to 3.7 percent) Shinyanga (4.7 to 5.2 percent) and Mwanza (2.7 to 4.3 percent), Katavi (1.5 to 3.6 percent) and Geita (1.7 to 3.9 percent).

Global Situation.

The World Bank estimates that countries blighted by stunting and other consequences of malnutrition lose at least 2-3 percent of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP), as well as billions of dollars in forgone productivity and avoidable health care spending each year.

Why is the violent far right still able to organise online?

By Madeline Roache

"SHOOT. Pause. Shoot. Pause. I remember thinking it had to be one shooter," says Ole Martin Juul Slynstadi.

The then 17 year old had been hiding beneath a cliff with a girl who he had seen get shot four times.

He had wrapped his T-shirt around her chest and placed rocks on the wound to stop the bleeding.

"I remember the shooter saying 'I'm the police, come out, you're safe'. One boy walked out and he shot him," says Slynstadi, who survived the Norway massacre.

Eight years ago, on July 22, 2011 - a day known as 22/7 - Anders Breivik set off a car bomb at the main office complex of the Norwegian government, leaving eight people dead and several seriously injured.

Less than two hours later, he arrived at the Labour Party's youth summer camp on the Norwegian island of Utoeya.

In 72 minutes, between the start of the attack and the police arriving, he killed 69 of the 564 people on the island, mostly teenagers.

On the day of the attack, Breivik sent a 1,500-page manifesto to more than 1,000 email addresses, in which he claimed the Nordic race was being replaced by Muslims and accused Norway's Labour Party of failing the country on immigration.

Breivik was formally charged in March 2012 with mass murder and terrorism, and was given a maximum prison sentence of 21 years, extendable by five-year increments.

Following the attacks, Jens Stoltenberg, then prime minister and Labour Party leader, allocated more resources to police and security services, and established a special security department in the Ministry of Government Administration and Reform.

But survivors worry that the public discussion around the event has been limited - particularly why did Breivik, a Norway-born middle-class citizen, commit the worst atrocity in peacetime Norway.

"We still don't understand where he came from and why he did this," says one survivor, Tarjei Jensen Bech.

Breivik was convicted in Norway as a "lone wolf", but he was not alone.

As early as 2008, he has participated in online circles advocating for the forced deportation of migrant communities to create an ethnically and culturally homogeneous society.

On the day of the attack, he broadcast the shooting on Utoeya via a Facebook live stream. In the next 24 hours, the video was uploaded at a rate of once per second.

It could still be found on YouTube for as long as eight hours after it was first posted.

According to one report, the footage was still circulating across Facebook and Instagram 36 days after the attack.

Breivik remains one of the "most-referenced individuals in radical right groups online", amid a rise in far-right hate speech online, says Julia Ebner, a radicalisation expert at the Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD).

"They see him as a martyr who sacrificed himself for the same cause."

A July 2019 study by ISD found that "great replacement", a conspiracy theory which argues that Europeans are being replaced by Muslims, has gained significant traction across social media.

The number of tweets mentioning the theory nearly tripled in four years from just over 120,000 in 2014 to more than 330,000 in 2018.

The baseless idea was at the centre of Brenton Tarrant's "manifesto", which he released minutes before open firing on two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, killing more 51 Muslim worshippers last April. The Australian wrote that he took "true inspiration" from Breivik.

It was not until Christchurch that governments and major tech companies, including Google, Facebook, Twitter and Amazon, collaborated to produce a "Call to Action", committing them to do more to "fight the hatred and extremism that lead to terrorist violence".

But the US government declined to



People attend a vigil for victims of the mosque shootings in Christchurch, New Zealand March 24, 2019. File photo

join, citing the need for "freedom of speech".

Following the May initiative, tech companies created a nine-step plan to try to counter online "extremism".

Facebook has permanently banned the accounts of some individuals and groups, including the far-right British National Party in the UK.

YouTube said it launched changes to its recommendations systems in January 2019, which it claims have reduced the spread of harmful misinformation and what it calls "borderline content" by 50 percent.

A 2018 report by the UK advocacy group Hope Not Hate found that while social media compa-

nies are increasingly removing leading far-right propagandists figures from their platforms, there remains an upward trend in online hate.

Russell Foster, a lecturer in Britain and European Integration from King's College London, said the Call to Action amounts to "nothing" and only "plays into the hands" of the extreme right.

Far-right organisations are adept at portraying themselves as victims of an uncaring, international elite, he said, adding that they exploit the debate around freedom of speech.

"Not only does it not eliminate them, it justifies their sense of [being aggrieved] and pushes them further into underground

forums," says Foster.

ISD writes that although the extreme right traditionally uses larger platforms such as Facebook, YouTube and Twitter to disseminate material to broader audiences, fringe websites remain safe havens for them to "radicalise" people further.

Ebner says policy-makers must focus on algorithms as they haven't been "tackled anywhere close to the extent [that they should]".

Algorithms, says Ebner, play an important role in directing users on mainstream social media to more worrying content on smaller platforms.

"The architecture of recommended content is playing into

the hands of extremists' groups. They automatically have an advantage and it's really hard to counter that."

While Ebner says she has flagged dangerous far-right content to tech firms, they often do not respond.

She says this is because most resources of the security forces are still dedicated to combating "jihadist extremism".

There have been far more policies on the removal of propaganda associated with groups behind this movement, in part because they feature on United Nations-designated terrorist lists, she says.

Even though far-right groups are similarly internationally networked, they do not feature on such lists.

As a result, there are more legal grey zones in terms of removing online content by dangerous elements of the far right.

"Far-right groups are a loose network and don't have the same strategies as some of the defined traditional terrorist groups," says Ebner.

In her view, the UN may need to revisit its definition of terrorism to incorporate the growing threat of online groups.

Foster's main concern, meanwhile, is that far-right "extremist" ideas are becoming increasingly popular.

"Traditionally, we used to think that the alt-right were motivated by poverty or sheer racism, by people who felt abandoned - 'the left behinds'. That's no longer the case," he says.

Breivik and Tarrant, economically comfortable, middle-class people with job security, show how the movement has a "broader demographic" than ever, says Foster.

"And what we don't know is why. That's what alarms me. Without this, we can't form a strategy to counteract it."

Agencies



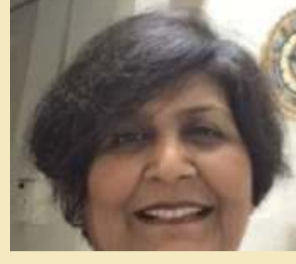
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Tanga Cement CEO sees Kilimanjaro, Tanga economic boom after railway 'resurrection'

By Smart Money Reporter

RESUMPTION of train services between Tanga Port and Moshi Municipality will boost economic growth of Tanga and Kilimanjaro regions as industrial activity and real estate will likely pick up.

Tanga Cement Public Limited Company's Managing Director, Reinhadt Swart said in Tanga this week after resumption of train services between the two northern regions that Tanga Municipality will likely restore its former glory as an industrial base and gateway to global markets.

Swart whose company is a major client on the revived train services which were stopped over 12 years ago, said Tanga Cement will also boost its sales because of reliable cargo transportation unlike trucks. The maiden cargo train carried 800 metric tons of cement or an equivalent of 30 truckloads.

"I believe the smooth movement of goods on both destinations will also increase cash generation for the regions. And for us, we need more people to have cash in their pockets that will allow them build decent shelters (houses) which will definitely need cement, thus increase our sales and grow revenue for our shareholders' dividend," Swart said.

He also noted that the resumption of the cargo train services will also boost government revenue needed to support the country's development process. The port city of Tanga is a strategically located area with all the major means of transport which include the port, rail and road network.

The Tanga Cement chief further noted that he foresees a region rejuvenated by an efficient transport network and abundant of resources needed by manufacturers such as sisal which once made Tanga as one of the very famous regions in East Africa.



Tanga Regional Commissioner, Martine Shigela (R), listens to Tanga Cement Plc Plant Manager, Engineers Ben Lema (2nd L) during a resumption ceremony of cargo train services between Dar-Tanga-Kilimanjaro in Moshi Municipality at the weekend. Looking on from left are Tanga Cement Communications and External Affairs Manager, Mtanga Noor and Rombo District Commissioner, Agnes Hokororo. Photo: courtesy of Tanga Cement.

signed a memorandum of understanding with the then Tanzania Railways Limited in 2016, to facilitate the use of rail services for efficient transportation of cement to customers in Kigoma and Mwanza regions.

The MoU was signed to facilitate the implementation of transportation of more than

35,000 tonnes of cement per month with Pongwe based company allocated five locomotives and a shunting locomotive to transport some 20,000 tons of cement per month from Pongwe to Kigoma and 15,000 tons to Mwanza.

"This was an achieved milestone to find

cement transportation solution. We have established a very good cooperation with TRC whereby we frequently meet to make sure all goes well especially in implementation of the MoU and give some suggestion on where we need to do some adjustments when need arises," added the MD.

The real estate boom envisaged by the Tanga Cement MD is not a far-fetched dream, as the use of the railway will cut down transportation costs which will lead to price reduction of building material.

Speaking at the event to resume the Kilimanjaro-Tanga train services, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said global analysts estimate that substituting rail for road transport cuts down transportation cost by between 30 -40 percent.

According to transport industry insiders, it costs 40,000/- per ton to transport cement from Tanga to Moshi by road, while by rail it costs only 28,000/-. Tanga Cement expects to transport 1,600 tons of cement per week and 80,000 tons per year on the route.

"Railway transport is a great catalyst to economic growth in the country because with railway transportation, one is capable to transport a lot of goods at a time. I am eager to see that people capitalize on the resumed train services to engage in profitable businesses," Majaliwa stated.

According to TRC Director General Masanja Kadogosa, the last freight train to ply the Tanga-Moshi route, some 438kms from Tanga, was in 1993 with last passenger train in 1994.

Rehabilitation of the railway line which started in 2017, involved over 1,000 workers who included 12 engineers and 43 equipments of various types.



January Makamba (2nd L), immediate former Minister of State in Vice President's Office responsible for the Union and Environment, being briefed on the manufacturing of alternative shopping bags at Azam Paper Craft International Limited in Dar es Salaam last weekend. Others are Azam Group officials and Export Processing Zones Authority Director General, Joseph Simbakalia. Photo: Getrude Mpeya.

New digital currency targets Africa trade and remittances

JOHANNESBURG

DURING the winter of 2017 in South Africa, a family was casually discussing the future of the country's e-commerce business. But in the process, some important topics came up.

The discussion graduated to brainstorming stage, and the idea of creating a cryptocurrency not only for their country but for all African countries, was conceptualised. A digital coin was born and named Safoin. It is an e-commerce crypto payment gateway that offers free transactions to merchants, and was launched on July 1, 2019.

The digital currency is among those that are targeting Africa where Kenya, Botswana and South Africa are listed by cryptocurrency monitoring sites as the leading markets on the continent. Neil Ferreira became the chief

executive, his brother Tony Ferreira, the chief operating officer and his wife Michela Ferreira, the chief communications officer of the company.

The trio have come up with an African cryptocurrency that has been merged with e-commerce to help small businesses and individual traders excel in the Fourth Industrial Revolution while enjoying the power of blockchain technology.

"We will soon launch an exclusive crypto market place where African micro jobs and small businesses can all be listed and combined. "When we created Safoin, we had a vision to disrupt the market with a digital currency, wallet, and exchange platform that was developed by Africans, for Africans," said CEO Neil Ferreira when he spoke to Business Daily.

The whole idea around Safoin is to eliminate the middleman who make

online trading costly, and are mostly located outside Africa, and this coin seeks to give the continent crypto autonomy in digital payments.

Although Africa experiences similar challenges to developed markets, like financial instability, economic downturns, with a large portion of the population being excluded from formal financial systems, it has to deal with hefty shockwaves in fintech.

But how different is it from global cryptos like Bitcoin, Ethereum and Ripple? "Safoin is an exclusive African crypto; our focus is solely on Africa, to be a payment digital coin on the e-commerce industry and also giving crypto traders a chance to trade on our exclusive African exchange, sending remittances on a peer-to-peer platform without charges," says Mr Ferreira.

Chinese Sichuan Group to build 300 five-star hotel at Karatu

By Beatrice Philemon

AS the country braces for the arrival of millions of Asian tourists led by the Chinese, Sichuan Tourism Investment Group is planning to invest US 100m in construction of a 300 rooms five star hotel in Karatu district of Manyara region.

Tanzania Tourist Board's Managing Director, Devota Mdachi said in Dar es Salaam last week that Sichuan's Managing Director, Zheng Gui Lin is already in the country to for more discussions with investment authorities but and

also visit the project area.

"As TTB we are very glad to have this investor who we met last week and had face to face discussions on how we can collaborate to market destination Tanzania to Chinese potential tourists," Mdachi said.

She said construction work will commence immediately after the investor finishes processing necessary permits and picking the contractor with a possible opening of the hotel later next year.

"This investor will also buy a fleet of 100 game viewing special vehicles and six shuttle buses that

will carry tourists from Kilimanjaro International Airport to Karatu," said the TTB chief executive who also revealed that Lin also plans to invest in a gold course around the hotel.

Tanzania which targets to receive two million tourist arrivals by 2020, mainly with a boost from Asian emerging markets of China and India, is facing serious shortage of hotel rooms especially in the four and five stars categories.

"This investment is a result of our recent tour to China to promote destination Tanzania for both tourists and investment during which we visited Beijing, Shanghai, Nanjing and Changsha last June," she added.

Lin is leading a delegation of

Chinese and local tour operators and hospitality investors who include those from Serena Hotels, Zara Tours, Samless Adventure, Excellent Guides Company Limited, Masailand Safari Company, Mount Meru Hotel, Melia Hotels, Afriland Tours, Xperience Tours and Kili Promotion Company and others. They visited several places in the Northern tourist enclave.

According to PricewaterhouseCoopers published 8th edition of its "Hotels outlook: 2018-2022" report that stated that South Africa, Nigeria, Mauritius, Kenya and Tanzania are expected to experience huge investments with 900 additional rooms during the period.



TTB's Managing Director, Devota Mdachi. File photo.



StanChart Tanzania CEO, Sunjay Rughani speaks at a past event. File photo.

Global Brands names StanChart's CEO Tanzania's best banking leader

By Smart Money Reporter

IN recognition of his outstanding performance in the banking industry, Global Brands has bestowed Standard Chartered Tanzania Limited's CEO, Sunjay Rughani a 'Best leader banking, Tanzania 2019' award.

Global Brands Awards were established with the aim of honouring excellence in performance and rewarding companies and individuals across different sectors. In addition to company awards, the Global Brands Awards also are aimed at acknowledging key individuals who strive for fitness and reward their performance with the ultimate global recognition under the leadership awards category, the organisers, Global Brands Magazine based in UK, said in a statement.

"To identify the nominees, and ultimately, the winner, an external research team was constituted by the Global Brands Awards team to evaluate the nominees. Data was collected by the research team from different sources, including third party data providers, providing a robust leadership system," the statement said.

Based on the thorough research that was conducted, Rughani was singled out for showcasing excellence in the leadership field of the banking sector in the country. "I am humbled by this recognition and I attribute it to the people

that I work with at Standard Chartered Bank Tanzania," Rughani said after receiving news of his global success.

"I also attribute it to the rest of my counterparts in the banking sector with whom I work closely under the Tanzania Bankers Association umbrella. This is our victory and I thank them all," Rughani added.

Rughani was appointed as the first Tanzanian CEO for Standard Chartered in the country in January, 2016 after working for the bank since 1999 and has held various key positions on his way to the top.

Among other position held by Rughani include heading the bank's Global Finance Shared Services in Chennai, heading Finance Operations and Change Management for the Africa Region, being an Executive Finance Director for Ghana and Area Chief Finance Officer for the Western Africa Region covering Ghana, Gambia, Sierra Leone and Cote d'Ivoire.

He was also a Regional Finance Manager for Africa based out of London and an Executive Finance Director for the Bank in Tanzania. In addition to his role as the CEO of Standard Chartered Bank in Tanzania, Rughani holds important governance representations which include Chairman of the CEO Roundtable in Tanzania and Vice Chairperson for Tanzania Bankers Association.

He is also the Vice Chairperson of the Professional Accountants in Business Committee (PAIBC) for International Federation of Accountants (IFAC).

Under his leadership, StanChart Tanzania has also won 'Best in Customer Service' award by The Banker, Africa in 2016 and last year, the bank won the 2018 Bank of the Year Award by the Banker, Financial Times, for the ninth time.

Regarded as 'The Oscars of the Banking Industry', the Banker Award is handed out to only one bank in every participating country.

Huawei reasserts its smart Africa ambitions

BEIJING

MULTINATIONAL ICT company Huawei has reaffirmed its strategy in Africa - specifically its role in smart city infrastructure development and rollout, and has lauded South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa for what it referred to as a "statement of confidence in Huawei," as well as Nigeria's Vice President Yemi Osinbajo for his public support.

In a statement Huawei claims Ramaphosa backed the company on 5 July 2019 at the 4IRSA digital economy summit in Johannesburg. The company also quotes Nigeria's Osinbajo as having said: "We practically welcome every company that wants to do business in Nigeria. Huawei is in Nigeria and so are all the other technology companies."

US relations

According to Huawei, Ramaphosa said the US action banning Huawei was an example of protectionism which would affect South Africa's telecommunications sector.

Ramaphosa is quoted by the tech company as saying: "This standoff between China and the US where the technology company Huawei is being used as victim because of its successes is an example of protectionism that will affect our own telecommunications sector, particularly the efforts to roll out the 5G network, causing a setback on other networks as well."

On 22 May 2019 CNN online reported that mobile networks in Asia and Europe were suspending orders for Huawei smartphones, following the re-



Zheng Zhibin, president of the global smart city business department at Huawei Enterprise.

cent decision by the US to restrict the company's access to American technology.

CNN added that Huawei can no longer source software or components from US suppliers without a license, and that while existing devices are unaffected, the restrictions "threaten future Huawei products and its leading position in building super-fast next generation 5G networks."

In May 2019 the company said although it cannot officially comment on the intentions of South African networks, it did not anticipate any major impact from the US ban and reports of mobile networks in Asia and Europe cancelling orders, on the South African market.

The company issued a statement which read, in part: "After the US Department of Commerce announced its decision to add Huawei to its entity list, our production and supply chains have been complying with all applicable laws and regulations, and everything remains business as usual. At the moment,

our supplier ARM is reviewing and evaluating the impact of the Commerce Department's decision, and is actively communicating with the US government. We completely understand and support them."

"Recently, many of our partners have chosen to stick with us and weather this storm together. We are immensely grateful for this. Moving forward, Huawei will continue working with our partners to protect the interests of our customers and consumers around the globe, maintain order in the market, and ensure the healthy development of our industry."

Impact on Africa

Will the volatile relationship between the US and the company have any impact or influence on its ambitions in Africa - particularly in terms of smart city infrastructure development? Huawei's response is that it already has "a complete set of robust and effective business continuity management systems" and "with these systems in place,

the majority of our products will continue to serve our customers even under extreme conditions."

"The key to smartness is combining open technology infrastructure with a unified platform that can keep up with the relentless supply of data from tens of thousands of diverse systems and data formats, such as video, image and text."

At Huawei Connect 2018 in Shanghai, China, Zheng Zhibin, president of the global smart city business department at Huawei Enterprise said: "Huawei is committed to becoming a smart city enabler and promoter by providing a city nervous system."

"Currently, Huawei is developing a '+AI Smart City Digital Platform' which is built upon the strategy of 'Platform + Ecosystem'. Based on its ICT infrastructure, Huawei integrates the IOT, big data and AI, video cloud, Geographic Information System, and converged communications resources through the industry enablement platform," he added.

Kenya farmers start miraa exports to Israeli market

NAIROBI

KENYA'S miraa (qat) farmers have received a major shot in the arm with the start of exports of the produce to Israel, helping to cushion against loss of key European markets three years ago.

Miraa traders have started exporting the produce to Tel Aviv, opening up a new market for Kenyan farmers after the stimulant was banned in other markets like Britain and the Netherlands. The exports to Israel come after a year-long stalemate that saw Kenyan-grown khat seized and destroyed at the country's airport for failing to meet set requirements. Kenya currently exports khat to Puntland in Somalia, Somaliland, Mozambique and Angola.

Five-year permit

Through Israeli-based importer Teffcom Dasa, Kenya received a five-year permit in late May 2018 to export unlimited khat to Israel. Miraa from Kenya however failed to reach the Israeli market until recently when the farmers were able to meet the stringent licensing and documentation requirements.

The permit from Israel's Plant Protection and Inspection Services signed by the Director Abed Gera stated that the crop originating from Kenya had to adhere to various Israeli plant import regulations including having a phytosanitary certificate, which confirms the origin of the plant material.

Farmers have had to work closely with the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) to meet the stringent food safety requirements.

"The consignment will arrive in closed containers, and, packaging should be un-used and a non-organic material," said Gera in the permit which also stated that exporters needed "to declare in the phytosanitary certificate whether parent plants were inspected during active growth and found to be free of virus diseases and plant parasitic nematodes."

Nyambene Miraa Traders Association Chairman Kimathi Munjuri said the farmers had many shipments intercepted at the Ben Gurion Airport before the break-through to smooth shipping on July 8. "It has not been an event, rather a process which is continuing," said Mr Munjuri.

Resolved

The interception of shipments was resolved when Igembe North Member of Parliament Maoka Maore held discussions with Israeli officials. "On meeting Ben Gurion Airport officials we were able to know the reasons why miraa was not being allowed into Israel and most of the issues were about the right documentation and especially around the right permits and licencing.

"From that informed perspective we were able to help the farmers get the right certification from Kephis and Kenya Agricultural Livestock and Research Organisation (Kalro) to help them sell miraa to Israel," said Mr Maore.

Farmers have in the past two weeks exported about 400 kilograms every week, said Mr Munjuri, with the volumes expected to grow to about 200 tonnes in weekly exports to Israel as farmers embrace the new market.

Ethiopia remains one of the key khat exporters into the Israel market. Israel is one of the prime miraa markets owing to the rising intake of khat juice, especially among party-goers, mostly the Yemen immigrants.



Nyambene Miraa Traders Association Chairman Kimathi Munjuri protesting against a UK ban of Kenya's miraa earlier this year.

Part of VAT could be used to strengthen social security in Mozambique - researcher

MAPUTO

MOZAMBICAN researcher António Francisco has suggested that part of Mozambique's Value Added Tax (VAT) income could be channelled into social security, with a view to reducing poverty and inequality in the country.

"We should be aware that there are people who do not pay [Social Security] directly [through wages], but contribute to the economy through VAT. Part of that VAT could be indirectly returned to those over 60 years of age," Francisco, a professor at Eduardo Mondlane University (UEM), Mozambique's largest and oldest, explained.

Speaking in Maputo yesterday at the conference on "Poverty, inequalities and development models for the country", Francisco explained that the state collects direct revenue through salaries, and indirect revenue through VAT.

The overwhelming majority of Mozambicans have no wages to contribute to social security, but do contribute to the economy through VAT. "VAT is already being collected, so why not take 2% or 3% to capitalise and give back to the elderly when they stop working?" he asks.

António Francisco also explained that Mozambique's social protection system was built after a model designed to suit formal economies, which is not the case here. "To develop the social protection system adapted to this country, we have to create indirect mechanisms, so as to deliver (social benefits) to people who do not pay in, because they have no salary," he said.

The current system, he says, "abandons" and "humiliates" the elderly. And he leaves a question: "Do you really give 300 meticals [US\$4.82] from time to time to an elderly person who has contributed to the economy by paying VAT?"

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030) urge us "not leave anyone behind", but Mozambique leaves the majority behind, he added. "The only ones who are protected are those who have wages. The system is discriminatory and non-inclusive, we should devise an inclusive system adapted to the economy we actually have," said the UEM professor.

TANGO to host SADC CSO Forum to discuss civil liberties, integration



SADC CNGO's Executive Director, Hints Farred.

By Smart Money Reporter

AS the country braces to host Southern Africa Development Community Summit to be held in Dar es Salaam in early August, Tanzania Association of Non Governmental Organization will be hosting SADC's Council on Non Governmental Organization Forum.

The SADC CNGO Forum targets to achieve goals of having a citizen's mandate and legitimate indigenous civil society which is rooted and connected to communities - self-regulated, ethical and accountable, reviving solidarity- Pan-African and internationalism.

By reclaiming the language and discourse of development with, by and for the people and reaching a new level of social mobilisation driven by youth and not by 'power' that the TANGO and SADC CNGO are convening the 15th SADC CSO Forum alongside the heads of state summit which takes in August.

The 15th Southern African Civil Society Forum (CSF) takes place in Dar es Salaam from 13th to 15th August and will bring together various CSO actors under the banner theme, 'The SADC we want.'

So as to achieve greater inclusiveness SADC-CNGO has for the last 15 years entered into a formal alliance with faith-based (FOCCISA - Fellowship of Christian Councils of Southern Africa) and trade union (SATUCC - Southern African Trade Union Coordinating Council) bodies in the region, with whom it jointly convenes the annual Southern African CSF.

The goal of the forum is to provide a platform for the civil society in the region to analyse current developments, elaborate common strategies and foster solidarity between the civil society actors in pursuit of greater and more impactful engagement with SADC at regional and national levels.

The forum has been organized against the understanding and conviction that, "Civil society is not only likely to build regionalism from below, but also that some processes within the civil society arena can lead to meaningful contestations of existing regionalism paradigms and contribute to reshaping regions in line with alternative agendas," said TANGO and SADC CNGO's Chairperson, Anna Kulaya.

The forum helps to actualize the state and inter-governmental institution's commitments towards

participation by non-state actors as is provided for in the SADC Charter. Therefore SADC CNGO and the Apex Alliance members are working on ensuring that the disconnection between citizens and states are not only understood but are appropriately addressed.

"This will require collaborative effort between civil society, states, SADC and its institutions. SADC CNGO is very concerned about this because very often the SADC and its institutions forget that as much as the SADC is a product of governments, it is also an institution of all citizens, stakeholders and actors in the region and that citizen's participation is a necessary condition for peace," said SADC CNGO's Executive Director, Hints Farred.

"Justice and sustainable development and people are active change agents and role-players in achieving these outcomes," Farred added. According to the SADC CNGO Director the CSF is essentially a platform for dialogue and reflection on issues affecting the region of the region. It is a critical voice in prompting accountability on the part of SADC and strengthening people-centred regional development and also adds that the 15th CSF builds on the previous forums that have over the years developed distinct value-adding dimensions which are unique.

He further stated that the civil

society expects that the 15th CSF will build consensus and unity on the burning issues facing CSO in the region and address itself in particular to the challenges and opportunities facing regional integration hence contributing towards a common and shared plan of action on agreed priorities for CSO in Southern Africa.

"A call for the forum to go beyond merely reporting on issues, but to define its strategic thrust more clearly. This was important for the alliance to ensure that civil society engaged shared the same vision, as well as helpful in minimizing conflict and potential challenges in addressing emerging issues," stresses the SADC CNGO Executive Director.

In specific terms the 15th CSF will therefore address itself to the key question of purpose and cohesion amongst civil society formations; how these relate to the SADC institutional architecture and regional integration and development agenda.

"The focus of the 15th CSF is internal and honest reflection in respect of defining the coordination and cooperation mechanism between the components of civil society, clarification of the principles guiding the engagement and partnerships between these actors and participants of the civil society and defining the values and ethics that unite civil society and the CSF," hinted the SADC CNGO CEO.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Bipolar disorder at the workplace

CORPORATE WELLNESS



By Bhakti Shah, MPH

BIPOLAR disorder is a brain disorder that causes unusual shifts in mood, energy, activity levels, and the ability to carry out day-to-day tasks. Bipolar disorder is an illness that is biological in its origin. A paper published in 2015 in the British Journal of Psychiatry indicated that there is possible link between intelligence, creativity and bipolar disorder.

People with bipolar disorder experience periods of unusually intense emotion, changes in sleep patterns and activity levels, and unusual behaviors. These distinct periods are called "mood episodes." Mood episodes are drastically different from the moods and behaviors that are typical for the person. Extreme changes in energy, activity and sleep go along with mood episodes.

Sometimes a mood episode includes symptoms of both manic and depressive symptoms. This is called an episode with mixed features. People experiencing an episode with mixed features may feel very sad, empty, or hopeless, while at the same time feeling extremely energized. These mood shifts from high moods to extremely low moods, along with other symptoms of bipolar disorders can create a unique set of challenges in someone's personal and social life. Maintaining a healthy lifestyle can help reduce work stress. Regular exercise, healthy eating, sufficient sleep and sticking to treatment plan goes a long way.

Bipolar disorder and other mental health conditions have the potential to make it difficult for the person to find and keep a job or to function at work, especially if symptoms are currently affecting day-to-day functioning. People with the condition should look for work that suits them such as:

- A quiet and relaxed workspace that can help maintain regular scheduling which can improve overall functioning
- Overnight and night shifts, or jobs that require to be on call at night may not be a good idea because sleep is very important. Maintaining a normal sleep/wake pattern is beneficial with bipolar disorder.
- Having supportive co-workers is helpful for feeling understood and coping during stressful situations.

Proper diagnosis and treatment help people with bipolar disorder lead healthy and productive lives. Talking with a doctor or other licensed mental health professional is the first step for anyone who thinks he or she may have bipolar disorder.

The doctor can complete a physical exam to rule out other conditions. If the problems are not caused by other illnesses, the doctor may conduct a referral to a trained mental health professional, such as a psychiatrist, who is experienced in diagnosing and treating bipolar disorder.

A careful medical history is needed to ensure that bipolar disorder is not mistakenly identified as major depression.

Treatment helps gain better control of mood swings and other bipolar symptoms.

An effective treatment plan usually

includes a combination of medication and psychotherapy (also called "talk therapy"). Bipolar disorder is a lifelong illness.

Episodes of mania and depressions typically come back over time. Long term, continuous treatment and support at work and home helps control these episodes.

Managers can play a pivotal role in supporting employees with bipolar disorders - a caring, supportive manager can make a huge difference. Undertaking mental health training is crucial for managers not only to alleviate stigma but also for him/her to realize the importance of noticing symptoms that may indicate that all is not well, so that they are not frightened to ask employees "are you ok?" and ask simple questions about wellbeing such as "are you sleeping well etc?". Good management should promote an attitude of general caring for the individual and not just assessing if they are delivering or not.

What the organization can do:

- Provide and encourage a culture that de-stigmatises mental health issues and places an importance on having good mental health;
- Ensure mental wellbeing policies and procedures are in place and implemented;
- Provide training to managers and employees on mental health awareness
- Put in place training and procedures in place for managers to combat workplace stress;
- Ensure managers activity encourage dialogue with the individual and understand the importance of early intervention;

• If sickness absence occurs, ensure action planning is implemented early to support a positive return to work

What the line manager can do:

- Undertake mental health training;
- Implement good management - take an interest in the person as an individual not just their output;
- When a person is experiencing early symptoms of a possible episode, discuss with them what temporary adjustments may assist them through a difficult period - flexibility and a little creative thinking can have a very positive impact on outcome;

What the employee can do:

- Maintain medication as advised by psychiatrist and ensuring attendance at reviews, talk therapy, blood tests etc;
- Psychoeducation - find out more about bipolar disorder, key triggers and approaches to manage episodes;
- Mood monitoring - to elicit when mood is swinging - apps are now available to assist;
- Mood strategies - to help prevent mood swinging into a full blown manic or depressive episode;
- Develop general coping skills;
- Aim to maintain a good work/life balance - have time for work, rest, leisure and relationships.

Employees with bipolar disorder can be high achieving and of considerable value to an organization, as long as their talents are channeled appropriately with the right support in place.

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

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

Website: www.impactafya.com | Facebook, Instagram & Twitter: @impactafya



Coal's demise quickens in Europe as market shift idles plants

BRUSSELS

COMMODITY markets are stripping away the case for coal in Europe, moving quicker than government efforts to close the most polluting power plants.

A plunge in natural gas prices along with an increase in the cost of releasing carbon dioxide emissions shifted the profitability of generating electricity away from burning coal, according to data compiled by BloombergNEF. The trend is evident in Italy, Spain, Germany and the UK, each of which have cut the proportion of coal in their power mixes this year.

Shifting economics in the power business are complementing the efforts of the European Union to slash greenhouse gases and make good on commitments in the Paris Agreement on climate change. It's made utilities from RWE AG in Germany and Italy's Enel SpA change their calculations about the pace the region will be able to reduce carbon pollution.

"It's a magical alignment that's igniting and accelerating a transition that, without the economics, would be much harder," said Antonello Cammisecra, who is in charge of Enel's gas, coal, oil and green power generation worldwide. "We have an

alignment of economics, of saying switch to gas and most importantly switch to renewables because it's cheaper, safer and easier." The shift in Europe is part of a global trend.

Abundant supplies of cheap gas are cutting in on coal's market share in the US, where plants burning the dirtiest fossil fuel closed at near record rates last year.

New export terminals are exporting cheap American gas worldwide, prompting countries across Asia, especially China and Pakistan, to buy LNG as an alternative to coal for power generation.

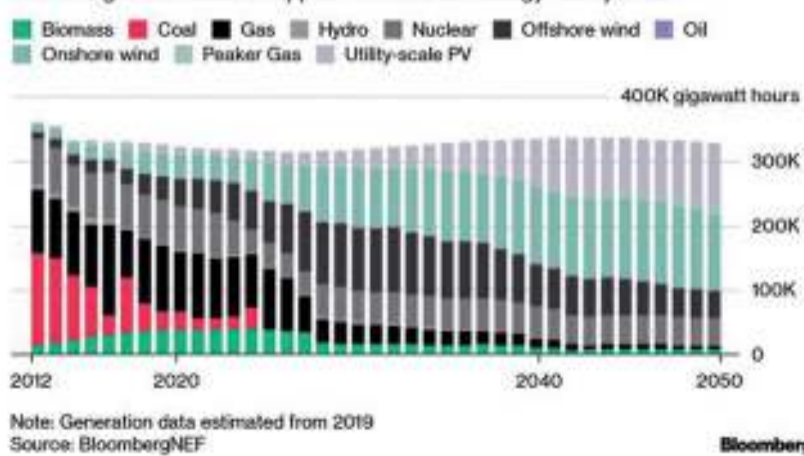
"The exit from coal is finally driven by the market," said Claudia Kemfert, a professor of energy economics at the DIW research institute in Berlin. "The repair of emissions trading has worked."

Coal output across Italy, France, Germany, Spain, Portugal and Britain fell 40% from a year ago in the second quarter, according to S&P Global Platts Analytics.

While the drop-off has been

Life Beyond Fossil Fuels

Coal and gas will all but disappear from the U.K. energy mix by 2050



Note: Generation data estimated from 2019
Source: BloombergNEF

nowhere near as dramatic in other leading European economies, the phaseout is starting to take hold both because of policy moves and shifts in the market.

Gas is trading near its weakest levels in a decade, and EU carbon allowances are double the price they were a year ago.

The benchmark year-ahead coal contract has tumbled from \$100 a ton to as little as \$62 a ton.

The result is that the case for switching off coal plants in favor

of gas has rarely been stronger. For almost all of this year, it has been far more profitable to switch on gas-fired generators and halt ones burning coal, according to BNEF. That marks the longest period that the cost of energy has remained in that "fuel-switching" territory.

On some short-term power contracts the margin for running gas plants has been as much as 14 euros a megawatt-hour more than coal this year. There's evidence that some companies are responding.

WORLD

'Apologise to America,' Trump tells Democratic congresswomen

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump on Sunday stepped up his attacks on four Democratic congresswomen who have criticized his policies, calling on them to apologize as he himself faced charges of racism.

"I don't believe the four Congresswomen are capable of loving our Country. They should apologize to America (and Israel) for the horrible (hateful) things they have said," Trump said in a Twitter post.

Trump ignited controversy last weekend when he tweeted that the four lawmakers, who are all women of color, should "go back" to where they came from if they do not like the United States.

Three of the lawmakers - U.S. Representatives Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts, and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan - were born in the United States.

Representative Ilhan Omar of Minnesota came as a refugee from Somalia and is a naturalized citizen.

The first-term congresswomen, known as "the squad," have been highly critical of Trump and have also challenged their own Democratic leadership. Tlaib and Omar have been outspoken critics of Israel's government.

U.S. Representative Elijah Cummings, the Democratic chairman of the House of Representatives Oversight Committee, denounced Trump's latest attack and said he had "no doubt" that Trump was a racist.

"These are folks and women who love their country and they work very hard and they want to move us towards that more perfect union that our founding fathers talked about," Cummings, who is African-American, said on ABC's "This Week."

"So when you disagree with the president, suddenly you're a bad person. Our allegiance is not to the president.

Our allegiance is to the Constitution of the United States of America and to the American people."

The Democratic-led House of Representatives passed a resolution on Tuesday that said the House "strongly condemns President Donald Trump's racist comments." The symbolic measure was aimed at shaming Trump and the Republicans who stood by him.

Unbowed, Trump launched a blistering critique of Omar during a rally in North Carolina on Wednesday night, pausing when the crowd erupted into chants of "Send her back."

After some fellow Republicans denounced that language, Trump said the next day he did not agree with the chants. On Friday, however, he defended the North Carolina crowd as "incredible patriots."

Following Wednesday's rally, Omar accused Trump of "spewing fascist ideology." Ocasio-Cortez said he intentionally egged on the vitriol.

"Roll back the tape ... He relished it. He took it in and he's doing this intentionally," she said on Saturday at a town hall meeting on immigration in New York. She retweeted Trump on Sunday with a list of things "we fight to guarantee," including healthcare, student loan forgiveness, living wages

and basic human rights. "You: Jack up drug prices, appoint (Education Secretary) Betsy DeVos to scam student loans, hurt immigrant kids," she wrote.

Trump has repeatedly tried to tag Democrats as backing policies that he and Republicans in Congress portray as "socialist" and out of step with much of the country. At the same time, he has relied on racially divisive rhetoric as he girds for a tough re-election battle in November 2020.

U.S. Senator Cory Booker, who is seeking the Democratic presidential nomination, said on Sunday Trump was "worse than a racist."

"He is actually using racist tropes and racial language for political gain," Booker said on CNN's "State of the Union."

Stephen Miller, Trump's top immigration adviser, countered that the president had made clear he disagreed with the "Send her back" chants.

"The core issue is that all the people in that audience, and millions of patriotic Americans all across this country are tired of being beat up, condescended to, looked down upon, talked down to by members of Congress on the left in Washington, D.C., and their allies in many quarters of the media," he said on "Fox News Sunday." **Agencies**



Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., left, joined by Rep. Ayanna Pressley, D-Mass., and Rep. Rashida Tlaib, D-Mich., listens during a House Oversight and Reform Committee meeting, on Capitol Hill in Washington (File photo)

Chinese firm donates solar system to Kenyan school

NAIROBI

CHINT Group, a Chinese smart energy solution provider, on Saturday donated a 10 kilowatts solar photovoltaic system to a charitable school in Kenyan capital Nairobi.

The solar system donated to Starehe Boys' Centre and School is expected to cut down its electricity cost and boost adoption of green energy in the country.

Cai Jianhua, the deputy general manager of West Asia and Africa for CHINT Group, expressed the company's commitment to providing clean, safe reliable, stable and advanced industrial electrical energy system solutions and equipment across the world.

"CHINT, 'Turn on the Love' Solar Donation Project has continuously brought new energy experience to schools, hospitals and welfare institutions in many countries around the world since 2017," said Cai.

"Today, the donation comes to Starehe Boys' Centre & School, presenting CHINT 10 KW solar photovoltaic system and world leading green energy technology," added Cai. He expressed the smart energy provider's commitment to continue donating to institutions across the world.

"We hope in the future more Chinese companies will integrate themselves into the local community and actively participate in fulfilling public welfare responsibilities, CHINT remains committed to contributing more to local society as we always do," he noted.

The donated solar PV system is expected to reduce electricity use in the school that is equivalent to reducing almost 13 tons of carbon dioxide emissions and 3.5 tons of coal consumption, according to Cai.

Fred Okono, the head operation director of the school, lauded the Chinese company for the generous gesture, saying the donation will help in keeping at least four students in school every year.

"We are very delighted for this donation which makes a big difference in the work Starehe is doing. We hope to have an even long term relationship with CHINT," he said.

Guo Ce, Chinese Embassy Economic & Commercial Counselor, said Kenya and China had established strong diplomatic relationship and called on more Chinese companies to extend a hand in corporate social responsibility (CSR) and support good courses within the community.

"There are so many Chinese companies in Kenya, Chinese embassy in Kenya has always encouraged the companies to do CSR programs in Kenya," said Guo.

Stemming from its founding charter as a charitable school, Starehe Boys' Centre and School educates at least 70 percent of its students free, and the rest at a reduced rate. **Xinhua**

South African president challenges public protector over election donation scandal

CAPE TOWN

SOUTH African President Cyril Ramaphosa challenged Public Protector Busisiwe Mkhwebane over her allegations that he violated the Executive Ethics Code.

Mkhwebane's report to this effect "contains numerous factual inaccuracies of a material nature," Ramaphosa said on Sunday.

On Friday, Mkhwebane released the report about her investigation into a controversial donation worth 500,000 rand (about 36,000 U.S. dollars) to the president's election campaign fund.

The donation was made by Bosasa company, also known as African Global Operations, to Ramaphosa's campaign team in 2017 to fund his African National Congress (ANC) presidential campaign.

Ramaphosa was deputy president then. Mkhwebane found that Ramaphosa deliberately misled Parliament in November last year when he said in the House that he did not know the details of the donation his campaign office received.

Ramaphosa said at that time that the donation was in fact payment for services to his son's company.

But in the report, Mkhwebane rejected Ramaphosa's claim, saying the president is duty-bound to declare funds deposited into his campaign account because he personally benefitted from the Bosasa donation.

Mkhwebane said Ramaphosa ought to have declared all the funds received for his campaign as some of the money collected through Ramaphosa's campaign account was transferred to the Cyril Ramaphosa Foundation account.

Ramaphosa's explanation that he did not know about the donors and donations "is false," Mkhwebane said.

In a statement issued on Sunday, Ramaphosa said Mkhwebane's findings "are wrong in law, are irrational and, in some instances, exceed the scope of the powers of the Public Protector."

Her report "is fundamentally and irretrievably flawed," Ramaphosa said. Furthermore, the president said, Mkhwebane failed to provide him with an opportunity to comment on proposed remedial action, thus violating provisions of the Public Protector Act, the Constitution and principles of common law. **Xinhua**

UK minister quits before Johnson becomes Prime Minister

LONDON

A BRITISH minister quit yesterday, the latest resignation before the country's presumed new prime minister Boris Johnson takes office and could launch a policy to lead Britain out of the European Union without a deal.

The resignation of Alan Duncan, a junior foreign office minister who has long been critical of Johnson,

underlines the strength of feeling in the governing Conservative Party and parliament against a no-deal Brexit which many businesses say would be catastrophic for the economy.

His move follows last week's resignation of Margot James, a culture minister when she described Johnson's do-or-die promise to leave the EU by Oct 31 with, or without, a deal as "quite incredible" for going



Alan Duncan, a junior foreign office minister who has long been critical of Johnson, against business organisations. On Sunday, finance minister Philip Hammond also said he would re-

sign rather than be sacked by Johnson, promising to fight with others in parliament to stop a no-deal Brexit. A Foreign Office spokeswoman confirmed that Duncan had resigned.

If the polls and bookmakers are right, Johnson will become Britain's new prime minister on Wednesday and will immediately face the riddle that is Britain's Brexit negotiation. Johnson, a former London

mayor, has said he will ramp up preparations for a no-deal exit to try to force the EU's negotiators to make changes to the agreement that Prime Minister Theresa May sealed and British lawmakers voted down three times.

But opposition in parliament to leaving without a deal is growing and the EU is refusing to budge over the withdrawal agreement. **Agencies**

President Putin lauds wisdom, vision of deceased IAEA Director General Amano

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has offered his condolences to the wife of Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Yukiya Amano, whose passing was announced yesterday, the Kremlin press service reported.

"The Russian leader underlined in the telegram sent that Amano would be remembered in Russia as an outstanding diplomat and a principled supporter of strengthening international security and stability," the message reads.

The Russian president also praised Amano's great contribution to



increasing the IAEA efficiency, his ambitious efforts as the head of the organization to develop peaceful nuclear energy and strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

"I had conversations with Yukiya Amano on a number of occasions and was always impressed by his wisdom and vision, his capability of making informed decisions in the toughest of conditions," Putin said offering his condolences.

Yukiya Amano has

died at the age of 72, the IAEA press service reported yesterday.

The IAEA Secretariat also published Amano's statement, where he planned to notify the Board of Governors of the agency that he had decided to step down.

"During the past decade, the Agency delivered concrete results to achieve the objective of 'Atoms for Peace and Development', thanks to the support of Member States and the dedication of Agency staff.

I am very proud of our achievements, and grateful to Member States and Agency staff," Amano wrote. It was earlier reported that Amano might resign in March 2020 before his term expired due to an illness.

The 72-year old Japanese diplomat headed the IAEA since December 2009. In September 2017, Amano's candidacy was approved for the third four-year term in a row to lead the organization until November 30, 2021.

Amano's term in the office saw the signing of the historic Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on the Iranian nuclear program. The JCPOA agreed by Tehran and six world powers (five permanent members of the UN Security Council and Germany) was signed on July 14, 2015 in Vienna. **Agencies**

Kenya finance minister to be arrested and charged over graft

NAIROBI

KENYA'S finance minister will be arrested and charged over allegations of corruption related to the construction of two dams, Kenya's chief prosecutor said yesterday.

The charges against Henry Rotich stem from a police investigation into the misuse of funds in a dam project overseen by the Italian construction company CMC Di Ravenna. Rotich denied any wrongdoing in a large newspaper advertisement in March. The company has also denied any wrongdoing.

Rotich will be charged alongside a host of other senior officials, including his number two at the ministry, Kamau Thugge, who is



the principal secretary.

"They broke the law on public finance management," Noordin Haji, the director of public prosecutions, told a news conference. The indictment of Rotich is likely to send shockwaves through the Kenyan political elite, who are accustomed to lurid graft scandals resulting in little official action.

The auditor general says his reports on corruption are routinely ignored. A previous auditor general said up to a third of the budget was unaccounted for. **Agencies**

China's reform and opening-up benefits world

By Bakhtiyor Saidov

I came to China for the first time in 2017 when I was appointed the Uzbek Ambassador to this country. So far, I have visited 19 Chinese provinces.

The economic and technological development here is energetic. When I learnt that many of the modern airports and high-speed railway stations were newly constructed, I felt truly happy for the accomplishments, and I respect the efforts made by the Chinese government and people.

Forty years ago, China launched

reform and opening up. Now, it has already grown into the world's second largest economy with its total trade volume increasing by over 700 times. What drives China to make such a rapid progress?

As I observe, the strong leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC) is a decisive factor. The CPC has always been committed to its key tasks and goals, and paid attention to the balanced distribution of social wealth. That's why people support them.

The Uzbek government is also conducting a massive reform. We learn



from other countries especially China as it had faced similar issues with us before the reform and opening up. We have a lot to study from the country, such as how to promote the balanced

development between urban and rural areas, build the new model of industrialization, innovate economic development mode, and improve the government's role in market economy.

We attach great importance to the economic cooperation with China. Uzbekistan and China have achieved preliminary success in the cooperation on the Belt and Road Initiative. We also enjoy great cooperation potential in such areas as energy, agriculture, and tourism.

At present, over 1,000 Chinese enterprises have invested in Uzbekistan,

and more than 100 set up offices in our capital Tashkent. A batch of infrastructure and industrial projects have been completed or under construction.

There's no doubt that Uzbekistan-China comprehensive strategic partnership will achieve greater development under close bilateral cooperation. It will further prove that China's reform and opening up benefits the whole world especially the developing countries.

Now, the socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era.

As Uzbek Ambassador to China, I need to know how Chinese leaders and government govern and administrate their country.

The book Xi Jinping: The Governance of China has helped me in this regard. It has already been translated into Uzbek and published in my country. I believe this book will become the best window for my people to understand China in the new era and its successful experience.

(Bakhtiyor Saidov is Uzbek Ambassador to China)



A work tests a Haval car produced during trial operation of the company.

Chinese automaker to go for production in Russia

TULA Region, adjacent to the Russian capital Moscow, is not only the hometown of the eminent writer Leo Tolstoy, but also famous for its durable military products and sweet and delicious pies.

Now, China's largest investment project in Russia's manufacturing sector, Haval Russia Automotive Manufacturing Co., Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as "Haval Factory"), has been built in Tula. At present, the first phase of the project has been completed and will soon be put into operation, with an estimated annual output of 80,000 automobiles and thousands of job opportunities to be created. The factory's local staff said that Haval SUV will become a new name card of the city.

The national flags of China and Russia flying in the wind, the eye-catching logo of "Haval" and the huge plant make up an impressive scene at the Uzlovaya Industrial Park, which is more than 30 kilometers away from the capital of Tula.

Dong Xueyong, director of the manufacturing department of the Haval Factory, said that the factory, covering an area of more than 200 hectares, is the largest investment project between the two countries in the manufacturing sector.

While going overseas, China's Great Wall Motor Company Limited (GWM), a major SUV maker and parent company of Haval, reached an intent of cooperation with the Tula Region Government that enjoys advantageous geographical location.

After the two sides signed an investment agreement in May 2014 witnessed by the heads of state of China and Russia, the project entered rapid development.

According to the agreement, GWM would invest and build the Haval Factory, which mainly produces Haval SUVs, and would invest \$500 million in the first phase of the project.

Zhang Junxue, vice president of GWM and general manager of the Haval Factory, said that all production stages including pressing, welding, painting and integrated assembly are finished at the factory. It indicates GWM's resolution to take root in the region.

Sergey Artemyev, head of the investment department of Tula Region Development Corporation, said the factory, the largest foreign investment project to date in Tula, will bring thousands of job opportunities and drive up tax revenue, and therefore they will spare no efforts to support it.

Local media commented that the factory would allow Russian people an ac-

cess to more cost-effective vehicles in the future.

The local government has issued a package of preferential policies for the factory including tax and fee reduction and exemption, and provided one-stop customs service. Alexey Dyumin, governor of Tula Region, supervised the project in person.

At the peak time of the factory construction, all of the 300 engineering machineries of the region were operating at the project site. So far, many of the infrastructure construction projects have been completed.

At a recent rollout ceremony, Dyumin tested a vehicle that was produced during the trial operation. He gave a high comment on the performance of the car, saying that he would be the first customer when the model hits the market.

At present, the factory hires over 800 employees and 90 percent of them are locals. Dong introduced that as Tula had no auto industry before, the factory has sent staffs on key positions, such as workshop leaders to China for training. And those who acquired professional skills in China would pass on their knowledge to the others when they went back home. This mode has worked very well.

"The workers are studying very hard and are vigorous in the work, which has facilitated the smooth operation of the factory," Dong said.

Olga Belevtseva, vice mayor of Uzlovaya, where the Haval Factory is located, said Haval not only employed a large number of local workers, but also renovated local school buildings, doing a lot to fulfill its social responsibility and provide public welfare benefits.

"All our citizens are in high spirits as the construction of the factory progresses day by day. The factory will bring encouraging changes to our lives and guarantee the prosperity and development of our city," said the vice mayor.

Tula Region enjoys strong industrial strength, but it also needs to upgrade such industries as chemical fertilizer manufacturing, chemical engineering, and traditional handicrafts.

The Tula Region Government hopes that the construction of the Haval factory will drive the development of its automobile industry. Now, the government is actively participating in various automobile exhibitions and engaging in cooperation discussions with automobile companies. The automotive industry will be Tula's new growth point of fiscal revenue, said Artemyev.

People's Daily

The workers are studying very hard and are vigorous in the work, which has facilitated the smooth operation of the factory

South Sudan orders forces to report to military camps for unification

JUBA

SOUTH Sudan army chief has ordered armed forces and rebel fighters to report to military camps as part of efforts to form a unified army of 83,000 personnel to support implementation of the peace deal.

Gabriel Jok Riak Makol, chief of general staff of South Sudan People's Defense Forces and the chair of the Joint Defense Board issued an ultimatum to all sectors and division commanders including opposition's commanders to assemble forces into cantonment sites before the end of

July.

"You are hereby directed to commence the assembly of all forces under your respective command to the nearest cantonment sites or barracks with immediate effect," Makol said in a statement issued in Juba yesterday.

He directed all the security institutions to notify the Joint Defence Board on the completion of the process not later than July 31.

Makol observed that cantonment will allow other activities of the security arrangements such as registration, screening for eligibility for future service, disarmament, demobilization

and rehabilitation to start.

South Sudan descended into civil war in late 2013, and the conflict has created one of the fastest growing refugee crises in the world.

The United Nations estimates that four million South Sudanese have been displaced internally and externally.

In September 2018, South Sudan's conflicting parties signed a final peace deal in Ethiopia after negotiations brokered by the Sudanese government and mandated by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development. -

Xinhua

Israel demolishes Palestinian homes near West Bank barrier

SUR BAHER, West Bank

ISRAELI forces began demolishing Palestinian homes near a military barrier on the outskirts of Jerusalem yesterday, in the face of protests and international criticism.

Bulldozers accompanied by hundreds of Israeli soldiers and police moved in to Sur Baher, a Palestinian village on the edge of East Jerusalem in an area that Israel captured and occupied in the 1967 Middle East War.

Palestinians fear that the razing of village buildings near the fence will set a precedent for other towns along the route of the barrier, which runs for hundreds of kilometres around and through the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

The demolition is the latest round of protracted wrangling over the future of Jerusalem, home to more than 500,000 Israelis and 300,000 Palestinians, and sites sacred to Judaism, Islam and Christianity. Israeli forces cut through a wire section of the barrier in Sur Baher under cover of darkness early on Monday, and began clearing residents.

Bulldozers and mechanical diggers began tearing down homes on both sides of the barrier as security forces prepared a partly constructed nine-storey building for demolition.

"They have been evacuating people from their homes by force and they have started planting explosives in the homes they want to destroy," said Hamada Hamada, a community leader.

Israel's Supreme Court ruled in June that the structures violated a construction ban. The deadline for residents to remove the affected buildings, or parts of them, was Friday.

But Palestinian owners said their buildings lay within areas run by the Palestinian Authority, which exercises limited self-rule in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

"I built this house stone by stone. It was my dream to live in this house. Now I am losing everything," said Fadi al-Wahash, 37, his voice breaking as a bulldozer destroyed his unfinished three-floor house.

"I had a permit to build from the Palestinian Authority. I thought I was doing the right thing," he said.

Israeli Internal Security Minister Gi-



Israeli forces destroy a building in a Palestinian village of Sur Baher, east Jerusalem, yesterday. Israeli work crews have begun demolishing dozens of Palestinian homes in an east Jerusalem neighborhood. (AP)

lad Erdan said 700 police and 200 soldiers were involved.

"Despite an order from the military commander, the residents there are making their own law, building. There are hundreds of illegal structures," he told Israel's Army Radio.

"To my regret there is no sufficient governance there. But it is not just that there are hundreds of structures there - several dozens of them sit almost on the route of the separation fence, endangering the security forces that operate there."

Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh said the Palestinians would complain to the International Criminal Court about the demolitions in Sur Baher.

"The cabinet condemns this grave aggression. This is a continuation of the forced displacement of the people of Jerusalem from their homes and lands - a war crime and a crime against humanity," Shtayyeh said.

Demolition preparations

Sur Baher's political geography is complicated. Parts of the sprawling village lie inside the municipal boundary of Israeli-occupied East Jerusalem and parts outside the barrier, in the West Bank. But some lies in between: just outside the Jerusalem line but still on the Israeli side of the barrier.

Palestinian officials said some of the threatened structures lie within their areas of control.

The Palestine Liberation Organiza-

tion issued a statement in the build-up to the demolition accusing the Israeli court of aiming "to set a precedent to enable the Israeli occupying forces to demolish numerous Palestinian buildings located in close proximity" to the barrier.

Jamie McGoldrick, the United Nations humanitarian coordinator, and other U.N. officials called on the Israeli authorities last week to halt the demolition plans. They said 17 Palestinians faced displacement from the plans to level 10 buildings, including dozens of apartments.

The European Union issued a statement saying: "The continuation of this policy undermines the viability of the two-state solution and the prospect for a lasting peace."

But the Israeli Supreme Court's three-judge panel ruled unanimously in favour of demolition. "The petitioners took the law into their own hands when they began and continued building structures without receiving a special permit from the military commander," it said.

The court said construction close to the barrier could provide cover for attackers.

Israel credits the obstacle - projected to be 720 km long when complete - with stemming Palestinian suicide bombings and shooting attacks. Palestinians call it a land grab designed to annex parts of the West Bank, including Israeli settlements.

Agencies

S. African political and civil societies commit to fight corruption, state capture

JOHANNESBURG

THE South African Communist Party (SACP) and some civil societies have launched a campaign dubbed "hands off our democracy", vowing to defend the country's democracy and fight state capture and corruption.

The SACP Second Deputy General Secretary Solly Mapaila

said there is a fight back by those in the state capture against those given the task to clean the mess they caused. "The plundering of our resources has led to the almost collapse of our state owned entities.

We will not allow the continuation of this and are fully committed to confronting the state capture fight back. Looting and

corruption cannot continue to be order of the day," said Mapaila on Sunday.

He stated that there will be victimization and the intimidation on them and called on their compatriots to remain steadfast. Mapaila said "No matter our backgrounds, we have come together as patriotic South Africans."

The Ahmed Kathrada Foundation board Chairperson Derek Hanekom stated that those leading state-owned enterprises must show ethical leadership.

He pointed out that President Cyril Ramaphosa stands for a new dawn and a new chapter in the history of the country. He called on people to unite and

"ensure that the dark chapter is closed.

The dark forces of state capture are not giving up without a fight. Our democratic gains should not be eroded." He encouraged the youths to be the last line of defense of the democracy, Constitution and against state capture.

Xinhua

Turkey vows counter-measures if US imposes sanctions over S-400 deliveries

ANKARA

TURKEY is ready to take counter-measures, if the United States imposes sanctions over the delivery of Russian-made S-400 air defense missile systems, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said in a live broadcast of the TGRT television channel yesterday.

"If the United States takes measures against us, we will respond with counter-measures. Of course, we would like our relations to continue as two NATO partners. But if they display a hostile attitude towards us, we will take counter-measures," the Turkish foreign minister said.

According to Cavusoglu (pictured), S-400s are more advanced air defense systems compared to US Patriot surface-to-air missile launchers.

"The Russian-made S-400s are more advanced air defense systems compared to the American Patriots," the Turkish foreign minister said. According to Cavusoglu, Ankara plans "to deploy S-400 surface-to-air missile systems before 2020." Meanwhile, Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar earlier said that the deployment of S-400s would begin in October 2019.

The Turkish foreign minister also noted that "S-400s are the systems intended to ensure peace

in the region."

Speaking about the US decision to remove Turkey from the program of creating F-35 fifth-generation fighter jets, Cavusoglu said that Ankara was seeking "to produce its own fighters."

"We treat seriously the production of national armaments. But the F-35s are new technologies and that is why we contributed \$1.4 billion and became partners in the program of their development.

However, if they do not transfer them to us, we will meet our requirements for fighter jets in a different place: this was the case with S-400 systems as well," he added.



Situation around S-400s and F-35s

The first reports about the talks between Russia and Turkey on the deliveries of S-400 air defense missile systems emerged in November 2016. Russia confirmed in September 2017 that the relevant contract had been signed.

Turkey is the first NATO member state to purchase such air defense missile systems from Russia. The deliveries of S-400 air defense systems to Turkey began on July 12, 2019.

The United States has been making attempts to prevent Turkey from purchasing Russia's

S-400 missile systems. Washington has warned on many occasions that it may impose sanctions on Turkey, if Ankara presses ahead with the S-400 deal.

Turkey has ordered 30 out of planned 100 F-35 fighter jets from the United States. The F-35 is a fifth-generation multirole fighter jet designed using the stealth technology and is capable of carrying nuclear weapons.

By now, eight countries have taken part in the project of developing the F-35 alongside the United States: Australia, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Italy, Canada, the Netherlands, Norway and Turkey. Also, Israel and Japan are purchasing these fighters.

The US White House announced on July 17 it was removing Turkey from the program of the F-35 production. The Pentagon specified that this move was not part of sanctions that could be imposed in addition to the decision on the F-35s.

The S-400 "Triumph" is the most advanced long-range air defense missile system that went into service in Russia in 2007. It is designed to destroy aircraft, cruise and ballistic missiles, including medium-range missiles, and can also be used against ground installations. The S-400 can engage targets at a distance of 400 km and at an altitude of up to 30 km.

South Korea detains six for illegally entering Japan consulate

SEOUL, South Korea

SOUTH Korean police yesterday detained six people for allegedly illegally entering a Japanese diplomatic facility in South Korea and staging an anti-Tokyo demonstration there.

The incident came amid growing anti-Japanese sentiments in South Korea as the two countries are locked in trade and political disputes. Last Friday, a 78-year-old South Korean man died after setting himself on fire near the Japanese Embassy in Seoul.

The six men and women were given temporary passes to enter the Japanese consulate in the southeastern city of Busan earlier yesterday after they told staff there they would visit a library inside the building, according to Busan police officers.

They initially stayed at the library. But they later abruptly dashed out to a consulate yard, shouting that "Japan must apologize" and holding a placard that criticizes Japan's recent decision to tighten its export controls of some high-tech materials, the police officers said.

No violence or clash was reported. But police were detaining the six people for trespassing because they were admitted to the building to visit the library, not stage a rally, the police officers said, requesting anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to media on the matter.

While the six were being detained, activists were holding anti-Japanese rallies outside the consulate. It wasn't immediately known whether the six people were connected to those protesters, police said.

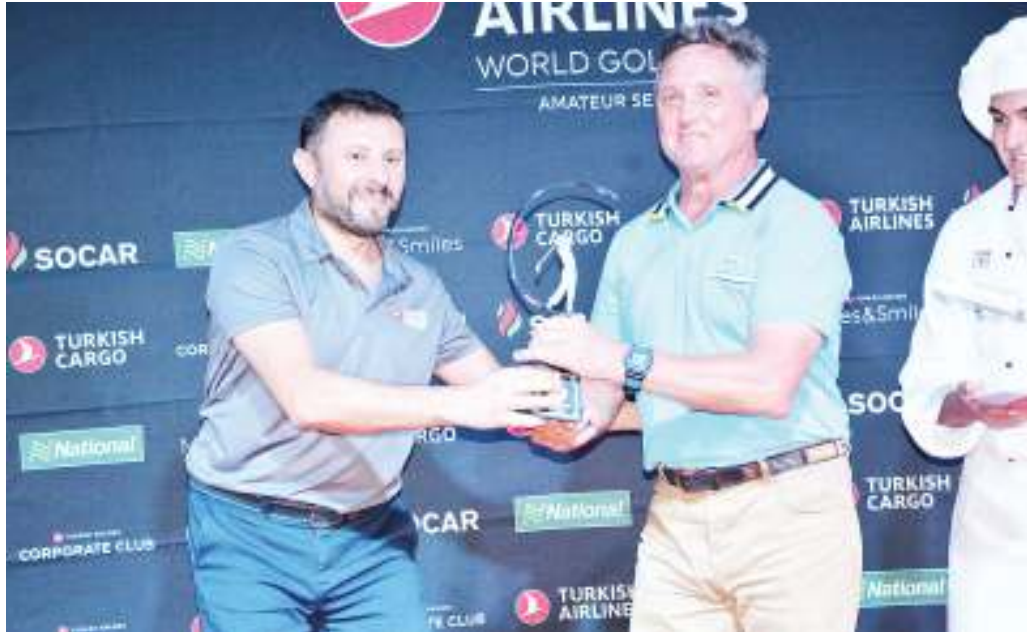
South Korea and Japan are both key US allies in Asia that are closely linked to each other economically and culturally. But they have often been embroiled in historical and territory disputes stemming from the Japanese colonial occupation from 1910-45.

South Korean officials say the Japanese trade controls are retaliation for local court rulings ordering Japanese firms to pay compensation to former Korean forced laborers during the colonial period. Japan denies that, saying the strengthened export controls were taken out of national security concerns.

Agencies



South Korea and Japan are both key US allies in Asia that are closely linked to each other economically and culturally



Turkish Airlines' General Manager, Tanzania, Ahmed Sahin (L), presents a trophy and two air tickets for a trip to Turkey to Turkish Airlines World Golf Cup (TWGC) qualifiers' winner, Stewart Brogden, after the completion of the event at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) course over the weekend. Brogden will participate in the TWGC grand finals slated for November 2 to 10 in Antalya, Turkey. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT MIRAJI MSALA

Lowry learns from bitter past to savour Open glory

PORTRUSH, Northern Ireland

SHANE Lowry described his British Open win on Sunday as like an "out of body experience" and for once the cliché of victory being "unbelievable" appeared utterly sincere.

As his closest opponent, England's Tommy Fleetwood, put it, Lowry had "controlled" the final round at Royal Portrush and he did so despite the pressure, the wild weather and his own history.

Three years ago, he had blown a four stroke lead in the final round of the U.S. Open at Oakmont but if that memory haunted him, he showed no signs of it, with his controlled and efficient one-over final round of 72, securing a six-stroke win over Fleetwood.

"I had to fight to the bitter end today, and that's what helped me – that's where I struggled in Oakmont," said Lowry.

"I always said after Oakmont, if I could have got the last four holes back, I'd give anything to be standing on the 14th fairway again.

"So I knew today that I was going to have to fight to the very end, and I did."

If Oakmont seems a long time ago, even more recent traumas can now be packed away in the box labelled 'learning experience'.

At last year's Open Championship at Carnoustie, Lowry shot an awful 74, fired his caddy on the spot and then missed the cut.

"I sat in the car park in Carnoustie on Thursday, almost a year ago right to this week and I cried. Golf wasn't my friend at the time, it was something that become very stressful and it was weighing on me and I just didn't like doing it. And, look, what a difference a year makes, I suppose," he said.

"But that just shows how fickle golf is. Golf is a weird sport and you never know what's around the corner. That's why you need to remind yourself, and you need other people there to remind you. You need to fight through the bad times."



Ireland's Shane Lowry wipes away a tear as he makes a speech holding the Claret Jug trophy after winning the British Open Golf Championships at Royal Portrush in Northern Ireland, Sunday, July 21, 2019. (AP)

SELF-BELIEF

The burly, bearded Irishman has clearly been gifted with a talent for the sport and with an engaging personality that won over all who witnessed him at Portrush – none more so than the fans who raced on to the fairways and rushed to the galleries to share his moment of glory.

But one suspects he hasn't always been blessed with the self-belief that some in golf are fortunate to possess.

"I didn't even know going out this morning if I was good enough to win a major. I knew I was able to put a few days together. I knew I was able to play the golf course. I just went out there and tried to give my best. And look, I'm here now, a major champion. I can't believe I'm saying it, to be honest," he said.

"I think the people around me really believed that I could, which helped me an awful lot. So I suppose when the people around you really believe in you, it helps you an awful lot."

Lowry was careful to avoid getting entangled in some of the grand narratives about Irish history and identity that always run the risk of upsetting or alienating someone.

But when it comes to the history of Irish golf, Lowry now has his place among the greats and he takes his place alongside fellow Open winner and countryman Paddy Harrington.

"I'm Irish. I grew up holing putts back home to win The Open. It was always The Open, wasn't it? I watched Paddy win his two Opens," he said.

"To have him there on the 18th... like you go into Paddy's house and the Claret Jug is sitting on the kitchen table, and I'm going to have one on my kitchen table, as well. I said that to him, as well, that's going to be quite nice."

REUTERS

Why Samatta may not be fully prepared for taking up tourism ambassador's role

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

TANZANIA Tourist Board (TTB) has named Taifa Stars captain Mbwana Samatta as tourism ambassador, implying that he joins other personalities on the ground in canvassing for tourists in his playing country - Belgium - and its immediate vicinity. He put up solid performance in the Belgian premier league for KRC Genk and was on the score sheet as Taifa Stars battled Harambee Stars in the AFCON second group fixture for the Tanzanian side. He is already a celebrity on the local soccer scene so there is nothing surprising about his being cited for an envoy's assignment.

Perhaps it needs a little expertise to reflect on a tourism ambassador's job and how such titles are handed out, as they are of kindred affinities for instance a country's Honorary Ambassador in another country.

There are two aspects that go into nominating such a person, that is, first his or her acceptability with appointing authorities, that it is a person they know and appreciate, in which case there is no issue here as to the suitability of the Taifa Stars captain, or his readiness to take up that function. It is the other part of the equation that may bring up some unsettled issues.

To liaise between one country and another, it is not enough that a person has an appreciable standing for instance in a professional role as a soccer player in Belgium, but rather that such a person also has a sort of social role there.



Mbwana Samatta

In that sense, Mbwana Samatta can play an exhaustive role as TTB or other organ's envoy within the country as he is socially appreciated, but in Belgium he tops the charts for the local league. Their real heroes are professionals playing in the English Premier League, Serie A, Bundesliga, La Liga, and Mbwana is nowhere in that category.

Superficially and at the local level, Mbwana compares with Mohammed Salah for Egypt and Sadio Mane for Senegal, with the singular exception that they both turn out for Liverpool, a hard hitting English Premier League side that this year clinched the UEFA Champions League.

It is that sort of achievement which instantly makes a player a celebrity in a generalized sense of the term, not a local celebrity as such, and makes an envoy's job easy, as everyone knows him if he decides to visit this or that youth centre, etc. But Mbwana would have to visit Tanzanian outfits.

This nomination is another example of how our inward looking outlook makes it difficult to penetrate many hearts and minds abroad, as we select individuals who we perfectly know and appreciate - whereas the trick is to pick individuals known in those countries and appreciated among youths there. In that case a player like Danish national side striker Yussuf Poulsen who plays for RB Leipzig in the Bundesliga, easily mixes with Dutch and German youths owing to his dual standing at national and club levels one of them. He is thus a minimal sort of celebrity.

Similarly, if TFF had liaised with TTB and they put their disappointments aside, the outgoing Taifa Stars head coach

Emmanuel Amunike would especially fit the bill. It is a matter of being outward minded instead of inward looking, to get an envoy liking us, and they appreciate him fully, when hearing his message.

In any case, a little background into history would demonstrate this view, in the sense that honorary ambassadors are people from the country he is supposed to conduct his work, not from the country he or she is supposed to represent.

In that sense former Housing Bank general manager and later ambassador, Daniel Yona became honorary consul for Ghana before becoming a cabinet minister in the third phase, and Ami Mpungwe for the business sector of South Africa in Tanzania, as ordinarily a well placed foreigner fits more than one of us.

For a person who has demonstrated his abilities at the local level to a resounding level but in the outside world he is just above the ordinary, namely a leading scorer in but a second tier premier league run in the UEFA Champions League context, Samatta is not predisposed to be an envoy for the country in the outside world, especially in Europe.

He is not in a different situation from fellow player Simon Mtsuwa who in the past year turned out for a Moroccan premier league side, and after one or two seasons is back in Dar es Salaam. Such individuals are renowned at home for the little exploits they have realized outside, Samatta being at a higher level, but not radically different when it comes to the wider societal image. He should not be excessively burdened, yet.

Five things learned as KCCA FC dethrones Azam in Kagame Cup 2019 final

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

UGANDA champions, KCCA FC ended a 41-year regional title drought by running out I-O winners over Azam in a closely matched CECAFA Kagame Cup final in Kigali, Rwanda.

The championship was ultimately decided in the second half when the ever enterprising defender Mustapha Kizza created a piece of history.

His effort was enough for the Kampala Capital City Authority sponsored side who matched their heroics from 1978 to compound Azam to a second final defeat having suffered the same fate back in 2012 when they lost 2-0 to Young Africans.

As the dust settles here are five things we learned from the Sunday showdown in Kigali.

1. KCCA are deserved champions

KCCA have been the best team at this CECAFA Kagame Cup tournament, and in that sense were worthy champions. They scored 11 goals and conceded six.

Under their long term coach, Mike Mutebi, KCCA were exciting throughout the tournament and scored in every game to end up with a joint best record number of goals.

2. KCCA show the way in youth

The relative lack of money in Ugandan club football means KCCA have learnt to rely on their youth academy more than most big clubs across the regions. In this tournament they had two teenagers, Allan Kello and Anaku Sadat.

The two teenagers scored a combined five goals out of the team's tally of 11. Okello who scored three goals and assisted two was arguably the player of the tournament. Anaku was making his competitive debut and managed to showcase his class when he scored the winner against Azam in the group stage match.

3. Azam need goals

Azam have a big season ahead of them so preparing against continental teams is a



Azam FC fullback Said Gaddafi (L) challenges Kenya's Bandari FC player during this year's Kagame Cup match which was played in Rwanda. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

good way to prepare. As a coach, however, goal will be Etienne Ndayiragije main concern ahead of a season which starts against Ethiopia's opponents in the CAF Confederation Cup less than three weeks.

Given Obrey Chirwa and Donald Ngoma current form, where will Azam's goals come from? The question hung heavily in the air as the team scored a mere three goals in six matches.

Ngoma scored 11 goals in all competitions for Azam last season but he has struggled in this tournament. After another lackluster performance, he was dropped in favour of teenage striker, Paul Peter, who did not offer much.

Of course, you cannot draw much from pre-season games, but the Burundi gaffer has surely noted down this problem which

could affect him if he does not find a quick solution.

4. Razak Abalora is a modern goalkeeper

Razak Abalora is a good goalkeeper, but last season he had inexcusable howlers. In a tournament which he only conceded three goals he reminded us of his ability.

In many ways, despite being on the losing side in the final, Abalora was a winner. He has everything a modern keeper needs: good feet and good hands. He showed it all against KCCA.

5. Uganda football triumphs with locals

It was a week which saw former Tanzania Football Federation (TFF)

boss, Leodegar Tenga, lose to Ugandan boss, Moses Magogo who was elected to represent the Central East Zone during the CAF Ordinary General Assembly held at the Marriott Hotel in Cairo, Egypt on Thursday.

However that was a small matter that can be easily swept under the carpet. The big issue is how does KCCA do with local players only while our top clubs field average foreigners and still struggle?

The KCCA squad has no foreigner but has qualified for the group stage two times in the last three seasons and are now crowned region champions.

What does it reveal about our football when we need 10 foreigners to compete while our neighbours are doing it with a local youthful squad?

Rohr debate misses the point about Nigerian shortcomings

ABUJA

FOR a record eighth time in their history, Nigeria came away from an African Nations Cup campaign brandishing bronze medals around their necks.

It is not just a record for Nigeria, but also for the tournament. No other country has more third-place finishes in the history of the competition.

When in the past this final podium place has been celebrated as a "golden bronze", this time emotions have been more varied. Nations Cup winner Segun Odegbami vehemently refused to celebrate it.

There are those, like Odegbami, who feel the Super Eagles should have done better than bronze with the quality of talent at their disposal, believing the team was held back by a conservative coach. Then there are those who argue the coach can do only so much given the broken structures in the country.

There is no "one size fits all" solution, but should Super Eagles coach Gernot Rohr's position be the major issue of concern?

Calls for the German to be sacked have not exactly been muted. The major reason seems to be his perceived "lack of tactical nous" or, in other words, an "inability to read matches".

The argument here lies in an unfavourable comparison with the late Stephen Keshi, who is said to have led a more limited Super Eagles squad to the Africa Cup of Nations title in 2013.

That comparison loses some steam in the face of context. Keshi had an almost ready-made squad with just a few additions to be made. Rohr has had to build his squad from the ground up.

Keshi's knockout stage opposition in 2013 was Ivory Coast, Mali and Burkina Faso. Rohr had to battle against Cameroon, South Africa and Algeria. The Fenecs, who were described as "deserved Afcon champions" by Nick Ames reporting for ESPN, were taken within seconds of extra-time by the 2019 Super Eagles.

All of these considerations might explain why Rohr himself has told close associates that he is uncertain if he wants to carry on.

"A lot of things have been going on but he has taken it all because he does not want to cause any controversy," sources have told ESPN.

"But now, he is not sure if he will continue."

Rohr was noncommittal when asked if he would continue, simply telling ESPN with a wry smile: "I go away to rest now, and then we think about it and see what happens."

"I have a clause in my contract, I made sure I put it there, that it is possible I go any time if we agree."

Rohr is due to meet Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) president Amaju Pinnick this week as part of that assessment. And if both parties come to an agreement, a parting of ways might come sooner than most expect.

If that were to happen, there will be many who will celebrate. But that would mean losing sight of what should be the more important conversation, one which should go beyond Keshi, Rohr or any other coach.

Nigeria have had six coaching changes in the past five years. Samson Siasia, Keshi, Sunday Oliseh, Siasia again in a stand-in capacity, Salisu Yusuf (also in a temporary capacity) and then Rohr.

Oliseh aside -- he resigned due to issues with the NFF -- the rest have been fired. And the same story goes back even further.

Clemens Westerhof, now acknowledged as one of Nigeria's greatest coaches, was hounded out and did not even bother to return home with the team after they were eliminated from the 1994 World Cup. His former assistant, Jo Bonfrere, who won the 1996 Olympic gold medal with the under-23 team, was fired as Super Eagles coach.

Phillippe Troussier was fired. Amodu Shaibu was fired multiple times, despite qualifying Nigeria for two World Cups. Christian Chukwu was fired. Austin Eguavoen was replaced by Berti Vogts, who ended up being hounded out. Same with Swede Lars Lagerback, who opted not to renew his contract with the NFF after the 2010 World Cup. It is a long, unending cycle of celebrating new appointments, then bemoaning their (in)competence before sending them on their merry way.

This unending coaching merry-go-round seems to mask -- however unintentionally -- the real issue. That the complete grassroots development of Nigerian football has been, and continues to be, totally ignored. There are no articulated programs to scout, identify, develop and train talent from a young age. No structured tournaments for children to take part in. No playing philosophy, nothing beyond a hit-and-miss approach relying on an entitled "we have abundant talents" narrative. It's an approach that relies on said talents flocking off to Europe before being called into the Super Eagles, or, even worse, the cadet teams.

The domestic league, which should provide a conveyor belt of ready-made talent, is running on life support, as club administrators push back against much-needed reforms.

As it stands, two influential players retired after Afcon: Captain John Obi Mikel and forward Odion Ighalo; John Ogu may have been a bit part player, but he is also almost certainly looking at the door.

Goalkeeping remains a major issue. Nigeria have struggled in that department since the departure of Vincent Enyeama. Francis Uzoho showed some stability at the 2018 World Cup in Russia, but was shaky after. Ikechukwu Ezenwa is in his 30s, and rarely gets playing time in the Nigerian domestic league, and Daniel Akpeyi does not inspire confidence among the fans. Some say even among the coaches.

Nigeria can sack Rohr now or hound him out. But precedent has shown they are unable to attract any real big-name coaches. The ones they do attract, they take months just to hire. When a coach is eventually hired, whoever he is, what is the guarantee he will spend more than two or three years before being hounded out like others before?

And after popping around in a fresh hire-celebrate-hound-fire cycle, the country returns once again to blaming the coach for another campaign that fails to meet entitled expectations, expectations without a grounding in fundamentals.

Rather than debating whether or not to fire a coach who has done more than most since Westerhof in 1989 to reboot the national team, conversation should be focused instead in a different direction.

How to reset the entire national football ecosystem in a manner that begins to produce and develop talent deliberately and consistently, one that will eventually lead to a playing philosophy that takes advantage of the in-bred self-expression of the Nigerian footballer as well as their natural physical attributes.

(Agencies)

Herve Renard quits as Morocco coach

CASABLANCA

HERVE Renard has left his post as Morocco coach after their shock early exit at the Africa Cup of Nations.

"It's time for me to close this long and beautiful chapter of my life, not without some emotion and sadness, but it is an inescapable decision made well before the 2019 Cup of Nations," the 50-year-old Frenchman wrote on Twitter on Sunday.

Morocco were among the pre-tournament favourites with Renard seeking to claim an unprecedented

third Cup of Nations title with three different countries - after successes with Zambia (2012) and Ivory Coast (2015).

But after winning all their group matches without conceding a goal, the Moroccans were bundled out following a penalty-shootout in the last-16 by outsiders Benin.

"I made that decision after having, obviously, considered it carefully. Thanks to the players, to the staff, the fans, the honest journalists and all those who demonstrated their support," he added.

REUTERS

Africa Cup of Nations review: Algeria deserved winners but Egypt leave much to be desired

By Nick Ames, ESPN.com writer

THE 2019 Africa Cup of Nations concluded on Friday night with Algeria defeating Senegal 1-0 to claim their first title since 1990. ESPN FC's Nick Ames, who covered the tournament across Egypt all summer, gives the highs and lows of the competition.

THE GOOD

- It was a fine tournament for bright, up-and-coming coaches and none more so than the victorious Djamel Belmadi. Algeria's tactical mastermind conducted himself with class throughout and showed an admirable number of strings to his bow, moulding a team that could sweep opponents aside through sheer technical quality one moment while completely shutting a game down the next. His team's triumph came only 11 months after he took the reins and the former Manchester City, Southampton and Marseille midfielder is definitely one to watch.

The same can be said for Aliou Cisse, his old friend and Senegal counterpart, who guided his side with class and panache to the narrow final defeat. It seems that African federations are coming round to the realisation that developing local coaches -- or, to be more precise in these cases, coaches with deep knowledge of the countries they represented as players -- can give them an edge.

- The new 24-team format could be filed under both "good" and "bad." It certainly meant that after a strong start, the group stage descended into mass conservatism as teams sought draws that would keep them in contention. That said, it also provided an extended knockout round that, from the last 16 to the semifinals, brought some genuinely thrilling football.

There was Nigeria's seesaw 3-2 win over Cameroon; South Africa's shock dumping out of the hosts; Madagascar's epic penalty defeat of DR Congo; a tense quarterfinal faceoff between Ivory Coast and Algeria; the magical last-gasp free kick from Riyad Mahrez that sent the latter into the final. The list could go on, and it is long enough for this tournament to be remembered positively, on the football side at least, overall.

- Every tournament needs a good underdog story and they don't come much better than Madagascar, who swept a path to the last eight in their Africa Cup of Nations debut. The manner of their progress was remarkable, too: they suffered stage fright in the first half of their opener with Guinea, but from then on, it was as if a switch had flicked. They drew that game, beat Burundi, stunned Nigeria, outgunned DR Congo and fell short only when a practiced Tunisia side proved too strong in the second half of their quarter-final.

What also stands out is how they did it, playing rapid, no-holds-barred attacking football, exhibiting no fear against more vaunted sides and approaching games in a manner other minnows might learn from. They were an excellent example and so was their coach, Nicolas Dupuis, who was plucked from France's lower leagues and created a team that, while Madagascar's football infrastructure is in chaos back home, captured everyone's hearts.

THE BAD

- Did Egypt really want to host? The soft-power optics of riding in at the last minute to save the continent's showpiece tournament were certainly appealing, and the occasion went off with little fuss for the most part. As a televised spectacle it must have made fine viewing, but there was little suggestion that fans were particularly welcome at games.

The security presence around the stadia was smothering, and that, in fact, was a concern only for those who had been successful in buying tickets. Prices were high, relatively minor fixtures were mysteriously categorised as "sold out," the Fan ID system was complex and intrusive, and the sense was that the state's desperation to keep order ensured most supporters were kept at arm's length.

Egyptian football has a tragic recent history, of course, and the paranoia partly stems from that. But surely there were better ways to maintain control than ensuring that virtually every game, bar those involving Egypt, and including the final, was contested to banks of empty seats. Some fans with valid tickets were even locked out of Senegal and Algeria's big night on Friday, with no explanation offered. It's a shame that giving people easy access to a month of footballing enjoyment was too much to ask.

- Mahrez's sensational flourish aside, the tournament's bigger names were rather peripheral. Mohamed Salah did score two fine goals early on for Egypt, and Sadio Mane was on target three times for Senegal, also missing two penalties. But none of them really produced a performance for the ages, or one to define this tournament.

The real heroes were players like Baghdad Bounedjah and Youcef Belaili, a relatively obscure Algeria pair who provided excellent proof that AFCON can still turn up intriguing new stars. But why did the big guns only flicker? The heat was oppressive for the majority of the games and it was hard for any player, especially those who rely on explosive speed and energy, to be influential for sustained periods.

Perhaps it was also a tournament too far for players who, in the cases of Mane and Mahrez, hadn't taken a break for an entire year. Salah has had virtually no rest in the past year either, and you wonder whether CAF's eagerness to give AFCON a summertime slot has made this one big event too many for those who want to see the brightest talents at their best.

- File this one more under "frustrating," but it was a shame to see Morocco, a lavishly gifted side managed by one of the continent's best and most charismatic



Riyad Mahrez and Algeria were deserving winners, but the final was a letdown given the world's attention while many of the tournament's biggest stars seemed too worn out to make an impact. --AFP

coaches in Herve Renard, fall flat against unfancied Benin. That they did so owed largely to the failure of another established star to find his range: Hakim Ziyech missed a penalty in added time and effectively denied Morocco a mouthwatering quarterfinal with Senegal.

While Benin's achievement was laudable they added little to the tournament. Morocco have only themselves to blame for their profligacy but, having watched them put in one of the most exciting displays of the month when they beat Ivory Coast during the group stage, you wonder what kind of final we might have seen if the continent's most gifted side had gone all the way.

THE UGLY

- "Ugly" is virtually the only way to describe the final we got. It was set up to be a classic: not often have AFCON finals in recent years contained two sides as accomplished as Algeria and Senegal. So it was disappointing that they contrived a mucky, almost unwatchable scrap, largely brought about by Algeria's eagerness to hold on to the early (and decisive) lead given them by

Bounedjah.

We all know better than to expect fireworks in major finals by now; it wasn't long ago that Liverpool and Spurs slogged through a dreary Champions League showpiece, after all. But AFCON does not get much of an opportunity to hog the limelight and, with a relatively clear sporting calendar on the day of the final, this was a chance to show its wares to a captive audience. Instead the world saw the worst of the tournament.

- The way in which Egypt's players handled the situation surrounding Amr Warda, their teammate who was initially cut from the squad during the group stage after allegations of sexual harassment, was shameful and a stain on the tournament. It also meant a large percentage of their compatriots, appalled that Salah and other senior players had successfully demanded Warda's reinstatement, shed no tears when they were eliminated in such chastening fashion in the last 16. If there was one sliver of a positive it was that there was a serious discussion about such matters in a wide-open, public forum. The bottom line,

though, is that Salah and co made a grievous misjudgement.

- The soap opera being played out at the Confederation of African Football, largely in a web of intrigue behind the gilded doors of Cairo's Marriott hotel, was messy and highlighted that African football is systematically in crisis. CAF has effectively been placed under special measures by FIFA as the global body conducts a full audit of its confused, chaotic governance. That meant Gianni Infantino was present for its ExCo and General Assembly meetings this week as the lame-duck reign of CAF's president, Ahmed Ahmed, staggers on.

During a news conference on Thursday, Ahmed half-joked that the confederation's slapdash announcement of the wrong referee for the final via Twitter was proof that FIFA needed to be involved. CAF certainly didn't look remotely ready for this tournament, as the plight of several journalists who had to wait until days into the group stage for their accreditations to be awarded confirmed, and will probably be thankful that Egypt ran such a grimly tight ship to keep things in order.

Solskjaer gets tough on tour with focus on fitness, youth

SINGAPORE

THE contrast between the start of Manchester United's last two summer tours cannot have been more stark.

A year ago in Los Angeles, the first words out of Jose Mourinho's mouth were: "The preseason is very bad." This time in Perth, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer set a much more positive tone.

"It's been very good so far," he said with a smile -- something that always seemed to be missing from the United camp this time last year. Already it has been a tale of two tours. More intense on the pitch but more relaxed off of it.

Last summer's preparations didn't work for Mourinho and he was gone five months later. Solskjaer will only discover whether he has got it right once the serious games begin, starting with Chelsea at Old Trafford on Aug. 12 but he is, at least, trying something different.

For the players, it has been tough. Solskjaer and his coaching staff put the post-March slump down to a lack of fitness with the sports science department reporting that running stats -- including distance covered during games and the number of short sprints -- dipped sharply after the impressive start to Solskjaer's reign.

Fourteen wins from 17 games was followed by two from 12. High-intensity pressing and front-foot football only works when there is energy to do it. Three muscle injuries in the space of 20 minutes during the goalless



draw with Liverpool at the end of February was a warning sign that the squad had hit a wall after switching their style of play halfway through the season. Simply put, Solskjaer says he believes they ran out of steam.

He has looked to remedy that with a preseason built around improving fitness. During nine days of training at the WACA cricket ground in Perth, the players took part in 14 sessions -- including one the morning of the first tour match against Perth Glory. Each session has started with injury prevention exercises to guard against a repeat of last season's problems and each player has been given an individual programme to follow in the gym devised by head of athletic training services Richard Hawkins and strength and conditioning coach Charlie Owen. Some of the players have admitted privately the changes "were needed."

Jesse Lingard's stats -- monitored by head of sports science Ed Leng -- have been particularly impressive. He reported back to Carrington early having trained while on holiday. The training has been more intense than 12 months ago but the atmosphere away from the pitches has been far from it.

(Agencies)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Africa Cup of Nations review: Algeria deserved winners but Egypt leave much to be desired

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Iringa Regional Commissioner, Ali Hapi (4th R), presents a trophy to Ahmed Huwel after the latter had emerged as the winner of the Mkwawa Motor Rally 2019 Championship's fourth round that took place in region last weekend. Looking on (2nd R) is Huwel's navigator, Rahim Suleiman. PHOTO: KENNETH SIMBAYA

Australia's Ashes race heats up at camp Pat Howard built

SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA coach Justin Langer has been reassured that the Ashes squad can include a 17th member if required, as the likes of Matthew Wade, Kurtis Patterson, Joe Burns, Marnus Labuschagne, Jackson Bird and Peter Siddle prepare to duel for the last few remaining spots in the touring party at Southampton this week.

About 50 players and Cricket Australia staff are all on site at the Rose Bowl in Hampshire for a trial match between teams coached by high-performance coach Brad Haddin and batting coach Graeme Hick, with Langer and the selection chairman Trevor Hohns to oversee the contest and make their final deliberations.

The acting head of team performance Belinda Clark is also here, while the new head of national teams Ben Oliver - one of two roles Clark recommended to oversee the sprawling high-performance area - is also expected to be present.

This camp was the vision of the oft-criticized former head of team performance Pat Howard, who looked for lateral solutions to tour preparations after a series of underwhelming results from 2014 to 2016, including the 2015 Ashes series.

Among his other gambits had been an extended camp at the ICC academy in Dubai ahead of the 2017 tour of India, a plan that reaped a highly competitive showing from the team then led by Steven Smith.

Two years on, with Langer and Tim Paine in charge, the huge assembly in Hampshire was devised to provide sharper warm-up than the sorts of underwhelming county fixtures wheeled out by the ECB four years ago.

"Great respect to Pat Howard before us, we talked about it and they've made it happen," Langer said. "It was a good vision back then but time will tell. I can't think of a better preparation. We've got great facilities, we've got 25 of the best cricketers in Australia here, they're going to go head to head, they'll play tough cricket."

"We just had a World Cup so a lot of them, there's six or seven who are battle-hardened already, we've had some Australia A cricket, hopefully this is as good a preparation as we can get."

In looking over the 25 players present, all of whom are set to play apart from Usman Khawaja as he recovers gradually from a hamstring strain, Langer stated that Clark had informed him the squad would have the flexibility required should the selectors want a 17th player, most likely Alex Carey as the back-up gloveman to Paine.

Another factor that will come into play is the fact that Cameron Bancroft (Durham) and Labuschagne (Glamorgan) have county deals that will keep them on hand in England regardless of selection, an avenue not available to Patterson or Wade.

"I think there is a couple of bowling positions up for grabs, probably a couple of batting positions," Langer said. "There will be a lot of discussion about whether we have an extra spinner, a lot of discussion about whether we have an extra wicketkeeper."

It won't necessarily be a straight shootout but there will certainly be good opportunities for guys. I've got no doubt we'll have the flexibility we need. I had a good discussion with Belinda this morning. We'll have the flexibility required.

"Ultimately you've got to pick the best Ashes squad. I know that every player wants to be in the Ashes squad. The softer landing, I guess, and the fortunate landing is they've got a county deal then that's great. It's great for them, they're playing cricket in England, and it also gives us the advantage if something does happen at least they're in the country."

"This is unprecedented, to have 25 players here plus a few more who aren't in this game - Ashton Agar, Glenn Maxwell, there's a lot of good players who are in the country."

It'll be the same when we cut it from 25 to 16 or 17 then we'll still have some of the guys here I assume. That's a really positive thing for us."

Langer also flagged that Mitchell Marsh and Labuschagne were essentially competing for one spot as an allrounder, the former offering seam and swing, the latter bouncy wrist-spin as well as a prolific recent run for Glamorgan.

Angola name young squad for 2019 COSAFA Women Championship

PRETORIA

ANGOLA coach, Lourdes Lutonda, has named a squad for the 2019 COSAFA Women's Championship as the country makes a return to the regional competition for the first time in 11 years.

Lutonda, the former Under-20 national team coach, has selected a young squad, with 12 aged 20 or under, and the youngest being 16-year-old midfielder Margarete Salvador.

The oldest member of the squad is defender Ilda Pedro, who is still only 25, which illustrates the plan of Lutonda to use the competition in Nelson Mandela Bay to build for the future.

Angola have been drawn in Group C and will play the opening game of the tournament on July 31 when they face Zimbabwe at the Wolfson Stadium.

Their second match will be against Eswatini on August 3, before they close out their pool play against Mozambique two days later.

Angola will be appearing at their first COSAFA Women's Championship since they finished second at the 2008 finals they hosted.

On that occasion they lost 3-1 to a Noko Matlou-inspired South Africa, but they have not been back since and so will be a welcome addition to the line-up in 2019.

Their only other finals appearances came in 2006 when they lost to Zimbabwe in a first-round tie that ended up being played over two legs.

It was initially a three-team group, but when Mozambique withdrew, Angola and Zimbabwe played two games against one-another, that were won 3-1 and 1-0 by the Mighty Warriors.

Angola have twice before been to the African Women's Championship. In 1995 they reached the semifinals but lost 6-4 on aggregate to South Africa.

They appeared again in 2002 but drew two and lost one of their three pool matches and finished third in their pool. They have not entered the preliminaries since 2010.

Angola squad:

Goalkeepers: Domingas Monteiro Kananga, Rita Gabriela Luis José, Jacinta Danilo António

Defenders: Manuela João Simão, Helena Nguve Nachiuissa Sassoma, Ilda Luzia Da Costa Pedro, Indira Vissolela Fernandes Luis, Vanuza António Francisco

Midfielders: Sara Bilumbu Luvunga, Francisca De Azevedo José Gaspar, Beatriz Dos Santos, Teresa João Evaristo, Margarete Mendes Salvador, Cristina Alegria Makua

Strikers: Arminda Paulina Lopes, Laurinda Verónica Quinguengo Maonte, Zeferina Elsa Caupe, Germana Lurena Lopes Fernandes, Edith Chissola Afonso Luis



Jaat Blasters' Jumanne Mohamed fields against Union Sports Club in the GP Gymkhana Shield tournament's match, played at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) oval recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NIKHIL PUJARA

Jaat Blasters maintain winning ways in GP Gymkhana Shield

By Guardian Reporter

JAAT Blasters cricketers have maintained their winning ways in this year's GP Gymkhana Shield tournament after cruising to an eight-wicket drubbing of Tarangini at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) venue on Sunday.

Tarangini cricketers failed to make full use of the opportunity to start batting in the Group B match, as they went on to score 105 runs in the innings with three batsmen so far offering meaningful contribution with the bat.

Tarangini were pegged back early on in the innings considering opener Bhanu Prasad was dismissed with five runs to his name.

Fellow opener Chitu somewhat showcased resilience at the crease with several solid knocks and recorded 13 runs.

Nassoro Zahoro, batting at number three, to some extent bolstered the outfit's quest for a massive total, scoring 40 runs that included three boundaries.

Nageswara Rao chipped in with 11 runs. The rest of the outfit's batsmen failed to live up to expectations given they were dismissed in quick succession.

Gaurav Chaudhury and Yash Desai had a field day with the ball for Jaat Blasters as they ended their bowling spells with three wickets apiece.

Jaat Blasters, in response, got down to a smooth chase of Tarangini's score and dropped two wickets in 15 overs.

Much as they experienced a wobbly start after openers, Amit and Ankit Baghel, had faced dismissal with the duo notching 19 runs apiece, Jaat Blasters put their batting tenacity to show to chase Tarangini's score.

Chaudhury forged a solid third wicket stand with Anil Dobani to see the squad sail through to the victory.

Chaudhury was Tarangini's top run getter, posting 43 runs not out, and Dobani notched 15 runs not out.

Jaat Blasters had an impressive start to their campaign in the event, commanding a four-

wicket win over Union at the same venue.

The competition, which is organized by DGC Cricket Section, has General Petroleum and Premier Refinishes as main sponsors.

ASAR Limited, SBC Tanzania, Mgen Insurance, AFRO Turk, Catridge World, PS Limited, I&M Bank and Jaykey Trading are the event's co-sponsors.

The T20 -formatted competition, as disclosed by DGC Cricket Section captain, Ashish Nagewadia, will run for 14 weeks with matches taking place at the club's oval.

Teams which are participating in the GP Gymkhana Shield tournament have been put in Groups A, B, C and D.

Young Muslims, TNCC, Lions Club and Kanbis make Group A, Group B has been made up of Union Sports Club, Jaat Blasters, Jain Sangh and Tarangini.

Punjabi Kings, Dar es Salaam Cricket Club, Shree Kutchi Leva, Annadil Burhani and Karnataka Kings are Group C competitors, Group D has Surat Stars, Sandy Super Strikers, MCC, Caravans and Ismaili Community.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

WHAT'S THIS COPY RIGHT LAW?



SOMETHING TO DO WITH 'COPY N' PASTE'

TONIGHT @21:00

EATV **NIRVANA**

TUESDAY

11:00 DADAZ (live)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 Dakika 10 za Maangamzi
15:00 FUNGUKA
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music
19:00 EATV SAA I
19:30 MJADALA
21:00 Nirvana
21:30 Wakilisha
22:00 Grace Na Asili Yangu
22:30 Bongo Hits

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13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

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