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Experts from Saudia, JKCI operate on 64 children

By Getrude Mbago

HEART specialists from Saudi Arabia in collaboration with their counterparts at the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) have performed heart surgeries on 64 children from low income families thus bringing back smiles to the kids and their families.

Financial support from the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre enabled the Volunteer Medical Campaign camp to perform open-heart surgeries and cardiac catheterization operations.

Closing the camp in Dar es Salaam yesterday, JKCI executive director Prof Mohamed Janabi said operated patients were improving and some had been discharged from the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), currently doing physical exercise in their respective wards.

"We commend this humanitarian organization for its generous support. The 64 surgeries has cost 465.6m/-, which is a lot of money and it could have been so hard for the families of the children to

World Bank lauds lower poverty rates

But many still living precariously, says new report

IT is important for the country to accelerate the trend, as the number of poor people is still high and the majority of Tanzanians are vulnerable to falling back into poverty at the slightest shock

By Guardian Correspondent

POVERTY in Tanzania has diminished by two percentage points in four years from 28.2 per cent to 26.2 per cent this year.

This observation has been made in a new report evaluating poverty in Mainland Tanzania prepared by the World Bank.

Launching the report in Dodoma yesterday, the minister for Industries and Trade, Innocent Bashungwa said these results arise from various efforts made by the fifth phase government.

Research for the study was conducted by the Tanzania Statistics Bureau (TSB) in consultation with other stakeholders, including the World Bank.

The report dwells on social and economic growth in the past few years, where it says that the rate of basic needs poverty has been falling.

It attributes this to gradual improvements in access to basic services and infrastructure, in the ownership of assets and in human capital.

The assessment says a slow but sure pace of a structural transformation with employment shifts from agriculture towards more productive industries and services also contributed.

The pace of poverty reduction has been less responsive to economic growth, the report noted.

It says the country recorded sustained economic growth and poverty reduction over the past decade, but the poverty reducing impact of economic growth has been slowing down.

An analysis of the government's 2018 Household Budget Survey (HBS) confirms the report's findings that the basic needs poverty rate declined from 34.4 per cent in 2007 to 28.2 per cent in 2012, and to a further 26.4 per cent last year.

"Further reduction in poverty is welcome

Increasing access to productive employment opportunities is key to sustaining the momentum picked up during the last decade



Abdulaziz Hamad Alasim (in headscarf), Saudi Arabia's Deputy Ambassador to Tanzania, shares a light moment at the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) in Dar es Salaam yesterday with Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner Paul Makonda (in jacket) shortly after their meeting with a team of cardiac surgeons from Saudi Arabia's King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre. The specialists, who have performed 64 successful operations on 64 patients at JKCI assisted by Albalsam International experts, have also just completed an open-heart surgery and catheterisation sensitisation campaign meant to benefit children from low-income families in Tanzania. Others include JKCI executive director Prof Mohamed Janabi (2nd-L), the Saudi team's head of mission, Dr Loay Abdulsamad (R), and some of the children attended to at the Dar es Salaam-based medical facility. Photo: John Badi.

Govt, city business groups, port users in consultations

By Henry Mwangonde

DAR ES SALAAM is expected to undergo major changes following revelations that the city's master plan preparing it to grab available opportunities and uplift its role in national development will be ready early next year.

The Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, William Lukuvi made this observation

We are done with the master plan but another final stakeholders meeting is scheduled so that we can discuss it before it is formally approved

during a consultative meeting with investors and traders in Dar es Salaam.

"We are done with the master plan but another final stakeholders meeting is scheduled so that we can discuss it before it is formally approved," he said.

He urged all those with interest especially in the allocation of places to deliver their final views.

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TPA improves lake ports' operations

By Guardian Correspondent, Musoma

CARGO transport to and from other East African countries has started speeding up as the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) reorganises its Lake Victoria ports of Mwanza, Musoma and Bukoba.

The TPA says investments of over 16.5b/- have been made in Lake Victoria ports as part of an overall strategy to develop ports in the zone.

Speaking here yesterday, Lake Victoria Ports



Manager Morris Machindiuza said TPA has strengthened one berth and a goods warehouse at Musoma Port.

As a result it is speeding up its operations in unloading, loading and warehousing of cargo as more ships use the port, he said.

Machindiuza said as of now TPA is working to revive the bridge connecting ships and the railway line that is set for completion next April at a cost of 650m/-.

"The construction of Musoma port started

in 1966 and completed in 1968 but for the last 10 years failed to operate due to economic stagnation. However we have been looking for new markets and now there is one customer who has started using the port for cargo handling. And next month two more will start using the port."

He said TPA has invested heavily in the improvement of essential infrastructure,

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Govt, city business groups, port users in consultations

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"I expect by March next year the plan will be ready for launch," he declared.

Those who have been manipulating and changing prescribed land use were going against the law and the government was watching, the minister intoned.

"All those who bought land in industrial areas and have secretly changed its use will have their land confiscated," he said, insisting that everyone should use land in accordance with the law.

Local government officials who do not have the authority to clear land use applications should not do so, he cautioned.

"Local officials do not have the mandate to validate anything concerning land use," he pointed out.

He warned surveyors and land planners to complete and submit evaluation to clients, "and those who do not do so by the set deadline will be disqualified."

Concerning taxes, the minister said it is forbidden for landlords to force their tenants to pay rents of one year.

However, he stated that the duration of rent can be agreed between the tenant and landlord, affirming further that the ministry is in the process of creating regulatory guidelines that is fair to both sides of rental housing.

Several ministers and senior government officials, investment bodies and members of the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) attended the meeting. Business leaders asked the government to set up a subcommittee to monitor the trading process in Kariakoo market to rescue the market from disintegrating.

TPSF acting chairman Angelina Ngalula asserted that Kariakoo is an international market but the situation there was discouraging.

Business at Kariakoo was collapsing mostly because there are no international trading systems in the market, she stated.

"We ask that a subcommittee is set up to address the issue," she appealed, citing other concerns as including multiple taxes on the traders there.

Traders have been sending their complaints to respective authorities on issues hindering business there but no responses have been received, she stated.

In another development, the Tanzania Freight and Forwarding Agency (TAFFA) has submitted three proposals to the government.

TAFFA president Edward Urio proposed at the meeting that some provisions in the law governing the Tanzania Shipping Agency Corporation (TASAC) were a hindrance to other port activity stakeholders.

The private sector was not involved in the enactment of the law, and as a result business in the port of Dar es Salaam is slowing down, he affirmed.

"Our request is that we return to the process of listing the products that TASAC will administer in accordance with its guiding law," he told the gathering.

Oil companies pay TASAC money for oil while they already have an agreement with other agencies in the area, he said in illustration.

There was a large number of waiting ships and cargo at the port of Dar es Salaam because TASAC does not want to cooperate with the private sector in providing services, he stated.

"There is no port that boasts of filling their docks with cargo as the port is supposed to be empty. Cargo is supposed to come in and go out rapidly as this shows the port works efficiently," he added.



President John Magufuli pictured yesterday presenting three Chato primary school pupils with exercise books he had just bought at Chato in Geita Region yesterday. Photo: State House

Saudi specialists, JKCI operate on 64 children

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He also praised the government for investing in improving healthcare provision including modern equipment for cardiac operations.

"Availability of these modern machines, skilled experts and quality specialised services at JKCI have promoted the institute internationally," he asserted.

He vowed to continue cementing relations between Tanzania and Saudi Arabia in all sectors.

In his remarks, Dar

es Salaam Regional Commissioner Paul Makonda pressed on the government's gratitude to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its continued support in the health sector.

"The government has a huge role and is really determined to improve the provision of specialized care in the country while enhancing the training of medical specialists. With this support, we hope that our vision will be more easily realized," he declared.

He further called upon Saudi Arabia to continue

extending its support to towards saving the lives of more children and Tanzanians who are suffering from various serious diseases.

RC Makonda stated that for years now, teams of experts from Saudi Arabia have been coming in Tanzania to provide free support covering pediatric surgery, neurological and cardiac interventions, among others.

For his part, Dr Loay Abdulsamad, the head of mission said operations took place from December 2 to 6,

where on the first day the volunteer doctors at JKCI performed five open-heart operations, all of which were successful.

The Volunteer Medical Campaign targeted 30 Tanzanian children for open-heart operations as well as approximately 60 free cardiac catheterization operations for children, participated by 30 medical volunteer specialists from Saudi Arabia's elite medical staff, he pointed out.

Dr Abdulsamad further said that the beneficiary

children from low-income families, who can't pay for such operations in private hospitals, will benefit from free medicines and medical supplies to alleviate their suffering and that of their families.

"This medical campaign is part of voluntary work carried out by the centre to achieve the Vision 2030 of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and comes within the series of voluntary campaigns funded and implemented by the royal centre in many countries," he added.

World Bank applauds lower poverty rates

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The assessment shows emerging signs of a structural transformation which can be seen in the increasing share of industry and services in total employment. Agriculture is employing fewer workers and those who remain in the sector are diversifying towards non-farm wage and self-employment.

"With an increase in economic returns outside agriculture, there is a growing need for investments in human capital, especially among the poor and the vulnerable," the director noted.

"Increasing access to productive employment opportunities is key to sustaining the momentum picked up during the last decade," she emphasized.

Among other key findings, the assessment shows a rise in ownership of communication and transport assets as well as in access to basic services like improved water and sanitation facilities, energy and road network.

School enrolment rates have also increased, and a higher proportion of the labour force is working in secondary and tertiary sectors.

Despite these improvements, overall education level and access to basic services remain low, particularly for the poorest and for those living in rural areas. This is reflected in recent growth being less pro-poor, widening the welfare gap

between the rich and the poor.

Even though there are emerging signs of increased participation of the poor in the growth process, the assessment shows that they continue to suffer from lack of capacities as well as limited access to better job opportunities.

It also shows that persistent high population growth is a major challenge for poverty reduction efforts in the country but it can also be a huge opportunity with the right investments and policy initiatives.

The assessment further shows that the government can help reduce vulnerability to poverty through well-targeted social assistance programmes, most of them already in place.

The government can invest in improvements in both the quantity and quality of education and enhancement of productive employment opportunities, it asserts.

These initiatives combined with investments made by the government and the country's development partners to better measure and understand the determinants of poverty reduction in Tanzania are important towards designing more effective policies to accelerate poverty alleviation and promote shared prosperity in the future, the report underlines.



Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Prof Palamagamba Kabudi attends a meeting of the Council of Ministers of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, yesterday. The council of is the Group's main decision-making body. Left is Tanzania's High Commissioner to Kenya, Dr Pindi Chana. Photo: Foreign Affairs ministry

PS lauds campaign for supporting children with education, life skills

By Guardian Reporter

PERMANENT Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology Dr Leonard Akwilapo said the government is aware of the contribution of stakeholders in improving the country's education sector calling for interested parties to complement government's efforts.

Dr Akwilapo made the remarks in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday when opening the Campaign for Female Education (CAMFED) annual general meeting themed; "Young women a new force for sustainable development".

"What CAMFED is doing sup-

plements government's efforts towards improving the sector, their job is in line with the Education Sector Development Plan (ESDP), but they also support us in youth development and creation of employment," said the PS.

He said the government will in future involve the Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) and Vocational Educational and Training Authority (VETA) in the life skills course offered by the organisation so as to empower many youth.

The Permanent Secretary applauded the organisation for improving school learning infrastructures such as construc-

tion of classrooms, pit latrines, laboratories, dormitories, water wells, libraries and teachers houses.

CAMFED National Director, Lydia Wilbard said the annual general meeting was convened to among other things discuss the organisation's ending strategic plan (2015-2019) as well as analyse the successes attained during the specific period.

According to Wilbard, CAMFED has been working to complement government's efforts in improving provision of education. She said the organisation has so far supported thousands of marginalised children, among them, 82,676 are in primary and 49,981 from

secondary school.

"Considering that most of the children live far from the schools, we also provide bicycles to facilitate student's transportation to and from school. We have provided 8,884 bicycles worth over 500m/-", said the national director adding the organisation also provides additional support to children with special needs.

She noted that supported children are also trained on children's rights and protection where 288 students benefited. She said under the learners' guide programme, CAMFED provided life skills training to 1,875 through 403 sessions conducted in secondary schools.

Among the success recorded during implementation of the ending strategic plan is the involvement of 8,426 CAMFED alumni association (CAMA) in decision-making meeting at various levels.

CAMFED was launched in Tanzania in 2005, working with the government to boost secondary school enrolment. It started working in Iringa Region before spreading to eight other regions across the country. It works with 819 partner schools in 32 districts.

It has also supported more than 3.3 million children to go to school in Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Ghana and Malawi.

TPA improves lake ports' operations

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including warehouses for cargo and waiting rooms for passengers.

In regard to Mwanza Port, modern infrastructures are being erected including a railway line that enables wagons to reach inside ships, he stated.

"We want to convey the message to business people that our port systems are now better. For example if you transport goods from Dar es Salaam by rail the consignment will reach Mwanza in 48 hours," he elaborated.

The total number of ships handled for the 2018/2019 period was 1,097 whereas in the last five years only 530 ships were handled. Revenue from cargo handling increased by 58 percent from 800m/- to 1.4bn/- per year, he further noted.

"Lake Victoria ports are being further improved to attract more cargo from neighbouring regions and countries bordering the Lake," the manager added.



Tanzania Railways Corporation acting director general Amina Lumuli and Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) board chairman Dr John Ndunuru wave flags in Dar es Salaam yesterday, effectively signalling the resumption of the long-abandoned passenger and cargo train services between Dar es Salaam and Moshi in Kilimanjaro Region. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Muhimbili scans digital healthcare innovations

By Henry Mwangonde

EXPERTS are scratching their heads on how to come up with robust innovative approaches to fully utilize digital technology in healthcare practices.

Concerned experts acknowledge its complexities such as hacking which triggers fears of removing doctor to patient confidentiality as key ethical component of the profession.

At the 3rd Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) scientific conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday, practitioners met to critically analyze, discuss and share experiences on the promises and threats posed by technology development to the profession.

This comes at a time when already the government, a month ago, launched the National Healthcare Digital Strategy, a guidance format to the healthcare profession on the application of technology in healthcare practices.

"While acknowledging the benefits of digital technology advancement such as quick access to patient information and records, we need to keep in mind also that the systems be safe in the sense that there should be no third party access," said Dr John Rwegasha, head of the Department of Medicine at MNH.

Dr Rwegasha said technology will now

be at the middle of the doctor and the patient and the fact that the systems are handled by non-medical practitioners makes it likely that confidentiality will be affected.

Dr Rwegasha said technology also removes the piling of files as well as the risks of manually carrying files from one department to another which makes non-medical workers access patients' records.

Opening the conference, MNH Board of Trustees deputy chairperson Dr Helen Mkonnya said it is time for MNH to adopt the newly launched national digital health strategy and localize it to its environment.

Dr Mkonnya who is also Executive Director for the Benjamin Mkapa Foundation said technology if well applied can help in the availability of quality data as well as improve service delivery.

It is time to integrate digital health in university and college learning syllabuses so that students can be aware of the practices from the first stage of the profession, she asserted.

The head of teaching, research and consultancy at MNH, Dr Faraja Chiwanga said the theme of the conference 'Healthcare delivery in the digital era' was structured for experts to discuss experiences in the use of digital technology.

Minister addresses market pains at SUA agro-livestock sector meet

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE Ministry of Agriculture has assured farmers and livestock keepers that it is doing all it can for them to get reliable markets for their products by mobilizing investment in agro-industry.

The minister, Japhet Hasunga gave this assur-

ance during the launching of an Agriculture Exhibition Forum at the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) main campus in Morogoro.

He said the government has started taking various steps by offering opportunities to private stakeholders including commercial firms and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to fully participate in en-

suring reliable markets are secured for the farming and livestock sectors.

The ministry has been investing enough resources including manpower and funds to ensure agriculture develop-

ments. He said that is the foremost issue for the ministry, keeping in mind the size of the livestock sector as development cannot be attained by

just one institution. It involves many organizations, he emphasized.

On his part the forum coordinator, Prof Sebastian Chenyambuga said it was the third forum held annually at the university, organized by the Faculty of Agriculture. It aims at bringing together stakeholders in farming and livestock rearing.

He said through the forum, stakeholders put

joint strategies for the improvement of their sectors to increase GDP and the attainment of an industrial economy.

This year's theme is "Towards Tanzania's Industrial Development: Responsibilities and Contribution of Farming and Livestock Stakeholders."

Prof Chenyambuga, from SUA Department of Animal, Aquaculture and

Range Sciences at the Faculty of Agriculture, said for this year various districts have sent extension officers, farmers and herders to receive training on the use of modern technology in farming and livestock keeping.

One participant, a senior technologist from SUA Department of Plants and Horticulture Science, Jackson Bagili-

sha said the exhibition was important for those wanting to do commercial farming as the country's aim is to become industrial.

The Department of Plants and Horticulture Science has a crosscutting role in the production of quality seeds for high agricultural production, the technologist added.

LOSS OF CERTIFICATE



JACQUELINE F. KOMBE do hereby announce the loss of her O-Level Certificate with index number P.0728/0268 which was issued on 2000 by JITEGEMEE Secondary School. Whoever finds it, kindly report to the nearest Police Station. REF NO: DAR/KIJ/RB/538606/2019.

HALMASHAURI YA JIJI LA DODOMA



TANGAZO LA UUZAJI WA VIWANJA

Mkurugenzi wa Halmashauri ya Jiji la Dodoma anawatangazia Wananchi wote kuwa zoezi la upimaji wa viwanja limekamilika na kuanzia TAREHE 3/12/2019 viwanja vitaanza kuuza kila siku za Jumatatu hadi Ijumaa katika eneo la wazi la Manispaa ya zamani (karibu na Sabasaba) kuanzia saa 2 Asubuhi hadi saa 9.30 Alasiri.

Viwanja vinavyouzwa ni katika maeneo ya:

ENEO	MATUMIZI NA BEI TSHS KWA (SQM1)
NALA (Karibu na Chuo cha IFM na Kituo cha kupaki Malori)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Makazi 4,000/= Makazi na Biashara 5,000/=
CHAHWA (Karibu na Ikulu)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Makazi 3,000/= Makazi na Biashara 5,000/=
Mahoma Makulu (Nyuma ya Mji wa Serikali)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Makazi 3,000/= Makazi na Biashara 5,000/=
KIKOMBO (Karibu na Bandari kavu na Makao Makuu ya Ulinzi ya Taifa)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Makazi 2,000/= Makazi na Biashara 3,500/=
MTUMBA (Karibu na Mji wa Serikali na Ikulu)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ZONE I Makazi 8,000/= Makazi na Biashara 8,500/= ZONE II Makazi 6,000/= Makazi na Biashara 7,500/= ZONE III Makazi 3,000/= Makazi na Biashara 5,500/=

NB: Malipo yote yafanyike ndani ya Siku 90 baada ya kupata hati ya madai.

Kwa mawasiliano zaidi piga simu namba 0714 785513.

Tangazo hili limetolewa na:
Mkurugenzi wa Jiji,
DODOMA

215541801

HALMASHAURI YA JIJI LA DODOMA



MNADA WA UUZAJI WA VIWANJA

Mkurugenzi wa Halmashauri ya Jiji la Dodoma anawatangazia Wananchi wote kuwa zoezi la uuzaji wa Viwanja kwa njia ya Mnada litafanyika tarehe 14 Disemba, 2019 siku ya Jumamosi. Mnada utafanyika katika eneo la wazi la Manispaa ya zamani (karibu na Sabasaba) kuanzia saa 4:00 Asubuhi.

Viwanja vinavyouzwa ni Maeneo ya:

ENEO	MATUMIZI NA BEI TSHS KWA (SQM1)
IYUMBU (New Town Centre)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viwanja vya Nyumba za kupangisha (Apartments) Viwanja vya Biashara Viwanja vya Viwanda Vidogo
NALA (Industrial Area)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viwanja vya Viwanda vya aina mbalimbali
NJEDENGWA (Investment Centre)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viwanja vya Nyumba za kupangisha (Apartments) Viwanja vya Biashara
NZUGUNI (Jirani na Uwanja wa Mpira, Soko Kuu na Stendi kuu mpya ya mabasi)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viwanja vya Hoteli Viwanja vya Biashara Viwanja vya Maduka makubwa (Shopping Malls)

NB:

- Asilimia 50 ya Malipo italipwa siku ya Mnada
- Asilimia 50 inayobaki italipwa ndani ya siku 14 baada ya Mnada.

Tangazo hili limetolewa na:

Mkurugenzi wa Jiji,
DODOMA

215541801

Dar school children being equipped with skills to help them in fighting off violence

By Getrude Mbagi

OVER 10,000 pupils from ten primary schools in Dar es Salaam Region have been capacitated with skills and knowledge on their rights and how to fight violence in school and home areas.

Provided by the Women's Legal Aid Centre (WLAC), the training is part of the programme to prop up the war against Gender Based Violence (GBV) in various schools in Dar es Salaam.

Speaking at the training event in Dar es Salaam on Thursday WLAC executive director, Theodosia Muhulo said that the awareness event was also part of the ongoing celebrations to commemorate the 16 days of activism against GBV.

She named the beneficiary schools as Mburahati, Tandale Magharibi, Mzimuni (Ubungo district), Kawe B, Hananasif, Kingugi (Kinondoni district), Temeke, Tandika Mbagala and Mbagala Annex primary schools in Temeke district.

"Our aim is to ensure that we furnish the children with proper information and power to enable them report and fight violent actions whenever they notice them," she said.

She also said that the programme involve training teachers and social welfare officers as well as police gender desks on how to deal with children violence cases.

Muhulo noted that teachers have a great role in the fight against violence in schools as they are the ones who spend much time with children than parents or relatives.

She said that discrimination and violence was not only confined to women but children as well thus needed intensive efforts to fight it as it had adversely impact to the community and the country as whole.

"The problem is very serious. For example over 90 percent of the 3350 cases we received this year at our centre involved violence on women and children. So we need to strengthen efforts to ensure that we save our children for a better nation," she added.

Meanwhile, assistant inspector at Mburahati Police Station mentioned poverty as among the major factors which holds back fight against violence targeting children.

According to her, most of the parents end up negotiating with suspects of violence thus killing the whole case.

"For example, despite taking all the needed efforts to ensure that a child who is a victims of rape gets his/her right, parents fail us by taking bribe from suspects forcing them to close the cases," she said.

She called on parents, teachers and the public in general to offer needed cooperation to police during solving violence cases for justice to be provided.

Mburahati Primary School head teacher Rejea Samwel noted that violence against children remains one of the most serious human rights violations in the country which calls for determined efforts to curb it.

He stressed on the need for more education and awareness programmes especially to under-served communities in various parts in the country.



Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister Umyy Mwalimu speaks at the 9th graduation ceremony of suburban Arusha's Tengeru Institute of Community Development's yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Police in Kilimanjaro impound eight stolen vehicles

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

POLICE in Kilimanjaro Region have impounded eight vehicles, two Bajajs and one motorbike stolen from different areas within the past eight months.

Speaking to reporters yesterday here, the Kilimanjaro Regional Police Commander (RPC), Salum Hamduni explained that, between April and November 2019, the law enforcers recovered a total of 8 different vehicles including Toyota Noah, Toyota Rav 4, Toyota Vitz, motorbikes, and bajajs,

among many others.

"During the operation, police arrested a suspected vehicle bandit Seraphin Valerian Moshi alias Bonge (45), and his fellows suspected vehicle thieves in connection with the series of stolen vehicles' incidents in Kilimanjaro Region," RPC Hamduni explained.

The Kilimanjaro police chief further explained that, during the special operation, police officers also succeeded to arrest a motorbike with registration number MC508 BKX that was used by the suspected vehicle bandits for rack-

ing the vehicles before stealing them.

RPC Issah told the reporters that the stolen vehicles in Kilimanjaro Region are transported illegally through some routes in Same, Mwangi, Rombo and Siha districts to other regions.

He named the stolen vehicles that police recovered between April and November, 2019 as four Toyota Noah with registration number T 104 DDG, T706 DEE, T 983 DGJ, and T 409 DDE.

The Kilimanjaro RPC named other suspected stolen vehicles as

Toyota IST with registration number T 894 AJT, Toyota Rav 4 with registration number T 742 AAK, Toyota Noah with registration number T 826 DER, and Toyota VITZ with registration number T 1150 BMS whose owners failed to provide legal ownership documents.

"During the operation, police also impounded two bajajs, one with registration number MC 496 BNR and the other one with no registration numbers, and one motorbike with registration number MC 813 ABF.

He added that, they have also noticed that there are increased incidents of stealing vehicles especially Toyota Noah in Kilimanjaro Region in recent months, and his appeal to the innocent people is to volunteer the information to the police officers to curb the problem as the criminals are within societies. "Police in Kilimanjaro Region are working wisely on the investigations of such incidents appealing to wananchi to volunteer information that will lead to the arrest of suspected criminals to curb the problem," he explained.



A grader levels Dar es Salaam's Sewa Road, which was rehabilitated only months ago but is already pot-holed, as spotted yesterday just next to the offices of The Guardian Limited and ITV/Radio One in the city's Mikochei Light Industrial Area. Photo: John Badi

Residents of Mbinga District urged to establish industries

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

MBINGA district authority has promised to give priority to all loan seekers who want to establish industries so as to create more employment opportunities within the area.

The statement was issued by Mbinga District Commissioner Cosmas Nshenywe when opening a seminar for producers, processors and sellers of food and cosmetics which was held at the council's hall.

Nshenywe said at the moment, loans given to various youth and women groups do not have interest rates, but from now on the priority would be directed to those intending to establish coffee processing plants, flour and other manufacturers.

"Those who have responded to the industrial drive by establishing industries we commend them since the rate of employment will rise and the saying 'Mbinga Mbinguni' will come true due to the success from industries," he said.

He said with the efforts done by producers to establish industries, producers have to adhere to standards in order to get reliable markets of their products within the district and outside.

He said the education awareness which is provided by TBS plays a crucial role for their development since they can access the certification service free of charge for three years.

Also, speaking with processors of local brew, the DC asked management of TBS to look on the possibility of supporting them to certify their products so as to access the East African market.

Earlier, the acting director of Quality Management, Research and Training Hamis Sudi while welcoming the DC said, the organisation would continue educating Tanzanians on standards issues so as to enable them understand the industry.

He said the training has enabled consumers, producers, sellers and distributors of various products to understand procedures to be followed in order to avoid challenges when they fail to certify goods.

Sudi further noted that the changes of financial act of 2019 which mandated TBS to register buildings, food and cosmetics which was earlier carried by the former Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority.

He said they are compelled to educate Tanzanians on the changes so as to become aware and follow all directives issued.

"At the moment TBS is tasked to register food premises and cosmetics and certification which has brought relief to producers and sellers since in the past they were forced to be served by the two institutions at once," he explained.

The Songea District Commissioner Paolet Mgeme, opening similar seminar in Songea, said that it has come at a right time since most traders do not understand the new changes.

Since July this year, the organisation has been educating various stakeholders including processors, producers in Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Kigoma, Katavi and now Ruvuma whereas similar seminars would be conducted countrywide.

Youth urged to be digital savvy to cope with 4th industrial revolution

By Correspondent Daniel Sembereya

The government and other key stakeholders have been urged to utilise the youth manpower which make up over 70 per cent of the Tanzanian population to ensure the fourth industrial revolution in technology takes place.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the Annual Youth conference that has been

organised by TGNP Mtandao, TGNP's Executive Director Lilian Lihundi said "The youth is a crucial group expected to bring positive development for any country."

She further urged that a country can appropriately raise its economy if it would only suitably utilise this huge group of the youth it has.

"The government has the ca-

capacity of getting positive contribution of the youth on economy if there will be policies and conducive environment for this group to invest," she noted.

Liundi said further that TGNP Mtandao believes that measures should be taken to empower this group to be aware on the policies and plans touching their daily lives.

The theme of the conference

is "participation of the youth in leadership and fourth industrial revolution."

"We believe empowering the youth to be able to participate in leadership and in economic activities, would improve their good relationship with the government."

She said it was unfortunate that many projects targeting the youth were being prepared

from the beginning without fully involving the youth. And that restricts the participation of the youth in those projects.

According to Liundi, the annual youth conference was to ensure that youth have the ability to see opportunities at their disposal and participate in the fourth industrial revolution.

Professor Honest Ngowi of Mzumbe University, speaking

on the meaning and importance of the fourth industrial revolution technology, has urged the youth to be future ready, daring and risk takers.

"You have to change to be able to go with the rapid technological changes taking place globally now. You have to be digital natives," he urged.

He said the world was now digital, thus, youth have to be

digital natives.

Prof Ngowi, said that since the youth were forming a larger part of the Tanzanian population and the national manpower, the government should not let it go, because it will be an opportunity lost.

He urged them to be fast learners so as to cope with coming fourth industrial revolution technology.

Public institutions urged to source raw materials from planted forests

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

GOVERNMENT institutions have been urged not to use raw materials from natural forests reserves for construction activities instead use materials from planted forests.

Deputy Commissioner for conservation from Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS) Mohamed Kilongo made the statement early this week in Dar es Salaam saying the agency has reached the decision after witnessing huge utilisation of natural forest raw materials thus affecting the nature.

He was speaking during the meeting with officials from government institutions that execute construction projects of government buildings.

According to him, government institutions have huge demand of forest resources especially for making timber.

"This is why we saw the necessity of having a meeting with them to help them know where to get raw materials from planted forest."

Kilongo named the institutions including (SUMA JKT), Tanzania Building Agency (TBA), Mzinga Corporation, Tanzania Prison Services, Tanzania Forest Research Institute (TAFORI), Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) and National Housing Corporation (NHC).

"As the government agency, we are so concerned with the ongoing constructions being carried out by government institutions by using materials like timber and others from natural forests reserves," he said.

"We have decided to have audience with you in order to let everyone know where such materials are available, how to access them basing on the volume you want, and what procedures are used to get them, this is essentially meant to protect the available natural forests reserves," he explained.

The commissioner said that natural forests reserves are not in the use for construction activities or other alike, they are conserved for tourism only.

The commissioner further said that, TFS is having farms for hard and soft timber with quality standard, and if the government institutions will make use of it, will reduce the cost for purchasing raw materials, will also help to reduce export of huge consignment of forest products, and will open rooms for job creation and income generation. "It is our responsibility to protect, conserve and develop forest resources and beekeeping, and that is why we established 23 tree farms in order to protect natural forests reserves," he insisted.

According to him, it is the right time for government institutions to make use of raw materials from planted

forests, because we are about to ban harvesting of several species of trees in the few days to come," Kilongo elaborated.

Meanwhile, acting director for Tanzania Forest Research Institute (TAFORI) Dr Chelestino Balama said it is the right time for stakeholders who has a huge tender for construction of government buildings to start using timbers which are produced from government forest farms especially hard trees like teaks which can be used in any place that needs hard timber for construction.

Environmental management advisor for Prison Services - mainland Pius Saimon said it is better for the community to stop the use of natural resources especially those which are in the risk of disappearance, they need to shift to use of teak trees and other available in the planted forest in order to add value in the construction activities and quality of products.

According to the report from the agency, the government own 105,625 ha equivalent to 18 per cent of planted forest, while about 422,396 ha equivalent to 73 per cent of planted forest is owned by individuals.

Major species planted include pines, cypress, eucalyptus and teaks. The forest provides wood for building and construction, energy, revenue generation and local livelihoods.



Zanzibar Education and Vocational Training minister Riziki Pembe Juma has a word with Chumbuni Secondary School students in Zanzibar yesterday. She was at the school for a first-hand account of the ongoing Form Two national examinations. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

TPCF to dispatch 75 paralegals to aid nomadic pastoral communities

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

A TOTAL of 75 new paralegals will be dispatched to provide legal services to the rural districts of Monduli, Karatu and Ngorongoro targeting mostly nomadic pastoralists' communities.

That follows the successful recruiting, training and empowerment of fresh, young legal assistants who will be expected to provide free law oriented advocacy services to rural communities, whose members can neither afford legal services nor understand them.

"Yet these are the same people who suffer most when it comes to breached human rights, property loss, gender-based violence and crushed rights of children, precisely the girl child," stated the Arusha Regional Community Development Officer, Blandina Nkini, who also serves as deputy registrar of paralegals here.

She was speaking at the climax of

one of such paralegal training and empowerment sessions organised by the Tanzania Pastoralists Community Forum (TPCF) and used the occasion to handle the working tools to the new recruits that will be dispatched to serve the communities of Karatu, Monduli and Ngorongoro districts.

The Executive Director of Tanzania Pastoralists Community Forum (TPCF), Joseph Ole Parsambe explained that a total of 25 paralegal service providers will be dispatched to each of the three districts.

"These are going to fill the vacuums left by dropouts who left the services either after migrating to other regions, sickness, deaths or change in profession," stated Ole Parsambe, adding that the TPCF has been running the special five-year programme entailing the recruiting, training as well as empowering young paralegals.

"We mostly support nomadic pastoralists communities that usually

face problems of land rights, human rights, women and children abuse, as well as good governance; a challenging task because even the beneficiaries themselves can turn out to be hostile," he pointed out.

While the TPCF motto is 'Our life, Our Patriotism,' according to the coordinator of Paralegal training, Ismail Juma, when trying to assist victims the service providers have been facing life threats, attacks and even captures from perpetrators.

"And at the same time the victims may become very uncooperative when the paralegal services go contrary to their rigid traditional beliefs," he said.

Joyce Parmoat, the director of the Ngorongoro Paralegal Foundation (NPF) stated that, the district, which is the largest in Arusha Region can hardly be accessed due to poor communication infrastructure, wild animals and the fact that most paralegals are essentially doing voluntary services with little if any funds or equipment.



ASA MICROFINANCE (TANZANIA) LIMITED
A Company for Poverty Alleviation



Vacancy Announcement

ASA Microfinance (Tanzania) Limited, incorporated under the Companies Act 2002 (No. 93819) of Tanzania and an affiliate of ASA International (www.asa-international.com), one of the largest microfinance companies in the world. We are hereby inviting qualified citizens of Tanzania to be part of our team for the following positions. ASA Tanzania is an equal opportunity employer who requires dynamic, loyal and committed young men and women who have passion for people's socio-economic development to fill in the following positions for immediate appointment.

Position: Chief Finance Officer (CFO)-01 Post

Job Responsibilities:

- Oversee the monthly, quarterly and annual financial statement preparation and analysis and ensure the financial statements are prepared in compliance with generally accepted accounting principles and company policies.
- Provide advice and counsel to direct reports, senior managers and others relating to broad scope of responsibilities noted above. Provides financial analysis to a wide range of assignments, often under tight deadlines, to support numerous business processes and initiatives.
- Ensure the company-wide implementation of superior accounting, financial reporting and financial processes and internal controls. This includes developing appropriate processes, procedures and tools to ensure that deficiencies are identified and corrected in a timely fashion.
- Evaluate on an ongoing basis the accounting system, so that it reflects an accurate assessment of the operating revenues and expenses of the organization.
- Ensure compliance with all Federal / Government regulations, including taxation.
- Evaluate on an ongoing basis the purchasing system in coordination with department heads so that acceptable controls, approvals and time frames are responsive to the requirements of the organization and generally accepted accounting principles.
- Serve as a key member of the senior leadership team providing leadership and input to management peers regarding the financial implications of all major business decisions.
- Manages annual operating and capital budget process, through review with senior management and Board. Assists with the annual business planning process.
- Directs insurance portfolio for all property and casualty insurance, workers compensation, employee health and welfare benefit programs, player disability and contract guarantee insurance, etc.
- Manage relationships with bankers, auditors and league officials, as appropriate.
- Responsible for cash management system, including daily cash management and cash forecasting.
- Other duties as assigned.

Academic Qualification & Experience Requirements:

- Minimum bachelor's degree in accounting, Finance or related subjects.
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA) is a MUST.
- MSc/MBA is a plus.
- Minimum 7 years professional experiences as CFO or relevant role is a MUST.
- Preferably Experience in working with NGOs/Financial Institutions/Banks/Consultancy firm.
- In depth knowledge of corporate financial law and risk management practices.
- Excellent knowledge of data analysis and forecasting methods.
- Proficient in the use of MS Office and financial management software (e.g. SAP).
- Ability to strategize and solve problems.
- Strong leadership and organizational skills.
- An analytical mind, comfortable with numbers.

Position: Assistant Chief Finance Officer (ACFO)-01 Post

Job Responsibilities:

- Ensures that ASA Microfinance meets regulatory and compliance needs.
- Provides direction, leadership, and educational needs to line managers.
- Provides financial expertise in the planning of new services and the expansion of existing services promoting revenue growth.
- Participating in ASA Microfinance monthly operation reviews as well as participating in corporate office and Operation meetings as deemed necessary
- Assumes a lead role in analyzing and exploring means of reducing costs including participation in performance improvement activities and committees.
- Participates in the oversight of the functions of the Accounting Department to ensure completion of work in specified time frames according to departmental, division or corporate policies.
- Select, train and evaluate performance of Accounting personnel to ensure quality of service and technical expertise.
- Oversight of nonfinancial department(s).
- Responsible for the completion of Financial Reporting documents on a weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual basis such as financial operating and volume trending reports.
- Reviews and coordinates weekly and monthly financial projections and forecasting.
- Performs net revenue analysis including the review of the standard monthly accrual (SMA).
- Reviews and coordinates tax work-papers and filing requirements.
- Reviews and provides input on recommended capital expenditures.
- Coordinates the completion of the annual budget and tracks the progress on a periodic basis.
- Coordinates internal and external audits.
- Ensures the internal controls are sound and internal controls documentation is completed.

- Maintains accuracy of the balance sheet; completion of monthly Balance Sheet Review Guide and Financial Attestation.
- Other duties as assigned.

Academic Qualification & Experience Requirements:

- Minimum bachelor's degree in accounting, Finance or related subjects.
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA) is a MUST.
- MSc/MBA is a plus.
- Minimum 5 years professional experiences as ACFO or relevant role is a MUST.
- Preferably Experience in working with NGOs/Financial Institutions/Banks/Consultancy firm.
- In depth knowledge of corporate financial law and risk management practices.
- Excellent knowledge of data analysis and forecasting methods.
- Proficient in the use of MS Office and financial management software (e.g. SAP).
- Ability to strategize and solve problems.
- Strong leadership and organizational skills.
- An analytical mind, comfortable with numbers.

Position: Company Secretary-01 Post

Job Responsibilities:

- Organizing, preparing agendas for, and taking minutes of board meetings and annual general meetings (AGMs).
- Dealing with correspondence, collating information and writing reports, ensuring decisions made are communicated to the relevant company stakeholders.
- Contributing to meeting discussions, as and when required, and advising management of legal, governance, accounting and tax implications of proposed policies.
- Monitoring changes in relevant legislation and the regulatory environment, and taking appropriate action.
- Liaising with external regulators and advisers, such as lawyers and auditors.
- Taking responsibility for the health and safety of employees and managing insurance and property issues.
- Developing and overseeing the systems that ensure the company complies with all applicable codes, as well as its legal and statutory requirements.
- Accomplish day to day activities regularly and on time.

Academic Qualification & Experience Requirements:

- Must possess a Law degree with professional experience.
- Post Graduate Diploma in Legal practice will be an added advantage.
- Strong communication skills, written and oral, through all levels of the company.
- Ability to make sound judgments calls independently when presented with difficult decisions,
- Be fluent in English.
- Be able to work independently and proactively, but also as part of a motivated team.
- Well conversant with Ms Office Package.

Position: Microfinance Operations Manager (MOM)

Job Responsibilities:

- Coach, mentor and supervise core business persons and ensure that they are adequately trained and operate at a high standard of timeliness and technical competence.
- Oversee Branch functioning with respect to operations, business development, systems and processes.
- Responsible for procurement and other logistics.
- Organize, coordinate and control the activity of the company.
- Participation in the development of the operating budget.
- Provide reports on operations as requested by the CEO and the board of directors.
- Responsible for effectiveness and efficiency of the branches, team development, team morale and implementation of microfinance code of conduct at the various levels in operations.
- Consult Technical managers for necessary advice on operations, reports, monitoring and evaluation, training other related matters to ensure compliance with internal and external controls.

Academic Qualification & Experience Requirements:

- Minimum Graduate Degree in any Field.
- Master's degree is an Added Advantage.
- 7+ years in banking or microfinance sector.
- Have to be ready to move everywhere in Tanzania.
- To be a force of proposition for the company.
- Familiarity with relevant insurance agencies, products, and policies.
- Well conversant with Ms Office Package, Excel

Mode of Application

Applicants, who consider himself/herself competent with the above-mentioned position, please send your application to recruitment@asatanzania.com before 1700HRS on 17th December 2019.

Only short-listed candidate will be contacted for interview. No phone calls are allowed for inquiry. No allowances will be admissible for interview.

Govt directs CMSA to extend financial and capital markets education to village residents

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government has directed the Capital and Market Securities Authority (CMSA) to embark on increasing awareness to the community in rural area to inculcate financial and capital markets literacy to enable them to participate in the economy.

The Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Regional administration and local governments) Joseph Kandege made the directives recently at the graduation and award giving ceremony to 20 winners in the 2019 University challenge awareness programme.

Kandege was representing the Minister for Finance and Planning Dr Philip Mpango who did not attend for other office duties.

He commended the programme organised by CMSA aimed at inculcating a culture of financial and capital markets to students in universities and other higher learning institution through quiz and essay competition.

He said majority of the public are not aware of the financial and capital markets and therefore do not participate fully in their country's economy including investment through buying shares.

"I commend CMSA for organising the 2019 University challenge awareness programme to higher learning institutions. I therefore urge them to reconsider increasing the knowledge to the majority of the community residing in rural areas," he said.

Kandege said experience has shown that investments in financial literacy contributed a big role to increase the company's capital adding that it can also be done in the country.

According to him, public awareness and education campaigns are one of the key avenues of attaining the developmental goals.

Meanwhile, CMSA Executive Direc-

tor Nicodemus Mukama said the primary objective of the programme was to increase financial inclusion and literacy for students in higher learning institutions by testing their knowledge and understanding on issues related to capital markets.

He said the 2019 challenge was part of strategies for national financial inclusion framework 2018-2022 for capital markets development in Tanzania.

He said CMSA conducted Capital Markets Universities and higher learning institutions challenge (CMUHLIC), a competition that was open to students in university and other learning institutions in the country.

Mukama explained that this year's challenge also tested their ability to apply their knowledge of capital markets to real life situations.

Commenting on the success, he said the 2019 challenge had been gaining popularity since it was launched in 2014/15 whereas in 2016/17 the number increased to more than 7,000 students and in 2017/18 has increased to 15,004 students.

The experience from the past year's participation has registered increased interest and awareness of capital markets to the students of higher learning institutions.

Furthermore, the notable top winners of the competition have demonstrated notable competence in aspects of capital market, self-confidence and exposure.

According to him, this enabled them to secure employment opportunities in different institutions including top consulting and advisory firms who are also active stakeholders in the capital markets industry.

"The challenge has raised a big interest from scholars to participate in the coming years adding that more than 16,000 students had participated this year," he said.



Philiphina Kobelo (L), a senior officer with the President's Office (Public Leaders Ethics Secretariat), pictured yesterday taking local government and villages leaders through the basics of ethical conduct and practice at a one-day seminar held at Mvumi Mission in Chamwino District, Dodoma Region. Right is Grace Kuambiana, an ethics officer with the secretariat. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

Tourism camps relish REA power as villagers 'skipped'

By Correspondent Mohamed Ugasa, Rufiji

A FRESH look is needed by the Ministry for Energy on Rural Energy Agency (REA) power line installation of Mloka Village in Western Rufiji as villagers have been shocked by recent developments.

Just a fortnight ago over ten poles were deployed to facilitate availability of REA power to a tourism camp now still at an early stages of construction deep in the forest. The number of poles used would have served over hundred houses of poverty-stricken villagers which are still without of REA

power.

One of the four suburbs of Mloka village namely, Nyakisiku which is fast growing has over hundred houses well constructed but to no avail no poles or REA power.

Some of the houses have already finished wiring process but a priority is given to tourism camps when it comes to REA power line installation.

In July this year, eyebrows were raised by villagers who were and still are shocked by an awkward installation of power line on bare plots in Mkange suburb. Before the wound has healed a salt was

added last month when power line was installed to access a tourism camp located miles in the forest consuming a lot of poles.

Khalfan Buma, one of Mkange suburb resident who is in darkness says "TanESCO does not care the number of poles or where the poles have been installed in its quest to access a single customer as long as they secure an alleged 'cooperation package'.

Reacting on this TanESCO Rufiji manager Said Masoud said the installation of power line to access the tourism camp was an order from higher authorities and a powerful nod from the disbanded

village leadership. "We secured a budget for Mkange suburb and what we did was according to the plan," said Masoud in an interview yesterday.

Masoud failed to explain as to why the poles used to access power to a single tourism camp in Mkange were not prudently deployed to mass number of houses enduring darkness at the expense of a single customer.

Uncertainty and despair has engulfed poverty-stricken villagers here as they cannot dream how to part ways with darkness.

"It's an illusion for us to get REA power if TanESCO can use many

poles to access just one customer ignoring the rest," says Musa Issi.

The inexorable quest, speed and tenacity of power line installation to the camps has caught many villagers in a blind wave of bewilderment.

This is the second time since September for TanESCO to facilitate REA power line to a tourism camp after another one was accomplished in Mpanga suburb.

REA power installation to poor villagers still looks a matter of fortune, luck and completely unrealistic. So far four tourism camps namely Jimbiza, Ngalawa, Mapumziko and Kinga Lodge have

already been connected to REA power as TanESCO are just warming up.

Mloka is surrounded by 32 camps according to the latest statistics released by village executive officer Ali Mbiteheni.

Since the beginning of REA phase one in mid 2017 here, less than quarter of the houses of Mloka village have been connected to power. Electricity connection has been concentrated on the central part of the village with well to do people, businessmen and owners of tourism camps becoming beneficiaries.

After the government an-

nouncement that electric poles should be free for whoever wants to be connected to REA power; it is the tourism camps surrounding the village that look to benefit more than ordinary poor villagers.

Very surprising TanESCO power-connection fieldsmen have been installing power to houses even without wiring or roofing.

Electricity connection is in high demand here as villagers are living in fear of untimely visit by wild animals particularly elephants. Elephants' population is growing courtesy of superb work by the Selou Game Reserve authorities.



Arumeru district commissioner Jerry Muro (2nd-R) registers in a visitors' book at the site of a water project he toured yesterday to assess the progress contractors had made in implementing it. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

Kagera regional authorities embark on cleanliness, blood donation campaigns

By Correspondent Mutayoba

Arbogast, Bukoba

AUTHORITIES in Kagera Region have embarked on a special campaign aimed at making the Bukoba Municipality cleaner as well as donating blood for needy patients in various hospitals.

Led by Kagera Regional Commissioner, Brigadier General Marco Gaguti, the campaign which started on Wednesday is part of the region's initiatives to mark the 58th country's independence. Regional leaders and residents have been cleaning public areas as well as donating blood at the Kagera Regional Referral Hospital.

Speaking soon after cleaning the marketplace, Gaguti

said this year's celebrations will be held in Mwanza where six regions of Mwanza, Mara, Kagera, Simiyu and Geita, all in Lake zone, will be performing various activities.

In another development he called for entrepreneurs to be innovative and creative in boosting their businesses, hence their income in particular and the country's in general. "You have many business opportunities for your region borders Rwanda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda and Kenya, even Southern Sudan is the open market for you so grab the chances," he said.

Explaining on the government's successes for the past years of our independence in Kagera Region, especially dur-

ing the fifth phase government, Gaguti said the government has built 14 healthy centres, costing 5.9bn/-, three districts' hospitals worth 4.5bn, and a remarkable rehabilitation of MV Victoria to cost 22.8bn/- which is expected to resume its routine for Mwanza-Kemondo-Bukoba ports in March 2020.

He cited other successes as ongoing renovation of ancient secondary schools of Kahororo, Bukoba, Rugambwa and Kagemu for 3.4bn/ disbursement.

At Kagera Referral Hospital, Gaguti and his team donated 63 half litre bottles of blood out of 400 bottles of that day target.

"The anniversaries will reach the climax on 9th December in Mwanza, this year's theme being 'Accountability and innovations, pillars of our economy.

Farmers and herders call for increase in education on climate change effects

By Correspondent Wankyo Gati, Iringa

RESIDENTS of Pawaga Ward, in Ismani Constituency in Iringa Region have requested the government, in partnership with development partners in the farming and livestock sectors to give them more

education to enable them deal with challenges from climate change, a condition that bound them to poor crop yields.

They made the request at a two-day meeting organised by Tanzania Natural Resource Forum (TNRF) a Non Governmental Organisation

that is implementing 'Our Land' (Ardhi Yetu) project funded by Care Denmark through Care Tanzania that was held at Itunundu village in Pawaga Ward that brought together farmers, herders and business people from six villages in the Ward.

The aim of the meeting was to

formulate coordinated action plan to fight disasters effects brought by climate change by using traditional and scientific weather forecasting.

Coordinating and Evaluation Officer of the Our Land project from the NGO Rogarth Massay said in collaboration with Tanzania Meteorological

agency (TMA) they assist the residents to have more understanding of climate change effects on their economic activities.

Pawaga Ward environmental officer Erhard Wila asked TNRF in partnership with the government to continue educating the wananchi,

while a Pawaga Ward official Bujo Mwakatobe added that the project has brought great changes to them.

TMA official from research environment and weather forecasts department Bibie Abdallah said the main aim of the training was building capacity to the farmers and

herders on the better use of weather forecasts to help them in their economic activities.

Villages that benefited from Ardhi Yetu project implemented by TNRF in Pawaga Ward include Mboliboli, Magozi, Magombwe, Itunundu, Isele and Iselew.



Arusha district executive director Alvera Ndabagoye responds to questions at a councillors' meeting held yesterday to discuss a report on the implementation of development projects for July to September 2019. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

Engineers called upon to tackle climate change effects through modern construction methods

By Marc Nkwame -Arusha

ROADS, bridges, giant buildings and other important infrastructural projects have been described to be susceptible to effects of global warming and related effects of climate change.

It has been pointed out in the ongoing conference of engineers taking place here that, effects of climate change have started to take toll onto infrastructural projects including high-rise buildings, roads, bridges and communication pillars, thus drastic steps need to be taken to curb the arising problems.

Apparently, issues of environmental sustainability and urbanisation are among the outstanding topics being addressed in the ongoing 30th National Conference of the Institution of Engineers in Tanzania.

The event is organised by IET in collaboration with Engineers Registration Board the event, being held at Ngurdoto Mountain Lodge also tackles issues of sustainable engineering, urbanisation, housing and urban planning, energy, water and transportation infrastructure.

"It is also important for engineers to focus on the 5th phase government's projection to make Tanzania an industrialised nation by ensuring that their plans and projects address industrial development, project management and capacity building among other cross cutting issues," said engineer Isaack Kamwelwe the Minister for Transport and Communications when opening the meeting earlier.

"But there have been challenges when it comes to management of funds when local contractors undertake large engineering projects," said the minister urging the conference participants to use the occasion as a platform for engineers and other professionals to discuss various engineering related matters as an input to industrialisation process in Tanzania.

As for the fluctuating weather and environment changes, the constructors observed that they may need to come together to devise ways of ensuring that the infrastructural projects under their care, withstand future effects of climate change.

"There are new technologies that ensure all engineering works can endure negative weather elements such as massive flooding, earthquake, extreme temperatures and hailstorms," they observed during separate interviews.

Presenting a membership card to engineer Kamwelwe, the president of the Institution of Engineers, Tanzania; Advocate Meye David Manga revealed that they will be introducing membership identification cards to be issued to all registered engineers, starting with those at the conference.

The three-day conference has attracted about 300 participants comprising of engineers, scientists, social scientists, economists, and policy and decision makers from different parts of the country.

The conference theme is 'Harnessing Sustainable Engineering and Technology for National Socio-Economic Development,' chosen to complement the Tanzania National industrialisation Agenda. As such during the conference participants will have an opportunity to discuss various issues pertinent to industrialisation in the context of transforming Tanzania into middle-income economy by 2025.

Next weekend, as the conference folds, relevant recommendations will be submitted to relevant authorities in the country for their attention and action as will be found appropriate.

Other than IET members, the event has attracted members of the engineering community, local and foreign associated institutions, engineering technicians, government institutions and the general public.

The Institution of Engineers Tanzania was registered in 1975 with the aim of promoting engineering excellence in Tanzania. IET became operational in 1977.

Its objectives are to promote the general advancement of the science and practice of engineering and its applications and to facilitate exchange of information and ideas on those subjects among the members of the institution and the entire engineering community. Currently it has a membership base of 4,401.

AfDB president wins AABLA 2019 African of the Year award

Johannesburg

AFRICAN Development Bank (AfDB) President Akinwumi Adesina is the winner of this year's African of the Year Award.

He received the prestigious award here on Thursday from the All Africa Business Leaders Awards (AABLA) in recognition of his outstanding leadership and the innovation of the Africa Investment Forum (AIF) which "opened up billions of dollars of investment into the continent".

The ninth edition of the awards, organised by AABLA in conjunction with CNBC Africa, seeks to honour leaders who have contributed remarkably to - and helped shape - the African economy.

AIF was inaugurated last year and has been a trailblazer in tilting investments into the continent. The second edition of the Forum, which was this year held here, ended on November 13. It was attended by over 2,000 delegates and secured investor interest worth \$40.1 billion - up from \$37.1 billion the previous year.

"It is indeed a great honour... My heart-beat is to serve the people of Africa," Dr Adesina (pictured) said in remarks at



the gala dinner where the awards were announced, adding that he was overwhelmed to follow in the footsteps of his "big brother" President Paul Kagame of Rwanda, who won the award last year.

The event was attended by an A-list of business leaders, government representatives and some of South Africa's leading personalities.

The awards are decided by a jury of Africa-wide judges, led by CNBC Africa non-executive director Sam Bhembe, following evaluation of a shortlist of finalists to determine the overall category winners.

Bhembe said the award reflected how the winner would "shape the future of the African continent", and that the winner would brace the cover of a special edition

of Forbes Africa.

In other categories of the 2019 awards, Nigerian Kobo360 co-founder Obi Ozor won Young Business Leader of the Year; Naspers CEO: South Africa's Phuthi Mahanyele-Dabengwa took the Business Woman of the Year award; while Nedbank won the Company of the Year award.

Adesina dedicated his award "to the people of Africa who inspire me... I do not work alone". He said it was very rewarding to be at the helm "of an organisation that paves the way to progress".

The annual AABLA honours business excellence and leaders who have made a considerable impact on their industry and community. The award recognizes remarkable leadership and salutes game changers of business on the continent for their continuing commitment to excellence in developing best practices and innovative strategies.

Winners of the awards exemplify the best in African leadership, the core values of a successful leader being strength, innovation, ingenuity, knowledge and foresight.

•Agencies

Donors commit \$7.6bn in support of Africa's low-income, fragile nations

JOHANNESBURG

DONORS of the African Development Fund (ADF) on Thursday agreed to commit \$7.6 billion to speed up growth in Africa's poorest nations and help lift millions out of poverty.

This fifteenth replenishment of the ADF (ADF-15), up 32 per cent from the previous cycle, sends a strong signal of trust in the Fund - which is the concessional window of the African Development Bank Group (AfDB).

The Fund comprises 32 contributing states and benefits 37 countries, including those experiencing higher growth rates and headed towards new emerging markets, alongside fragile states needing special support for basic service delivery. The Fund's resources are replenished every three years.

ADF-15 will support Africa's most vulnerable countries by tackling the root causes of fragility, strengthening resilience and mainstreaming cross-cutting issues. These include gender, climate change, governance, private sector development and decent job creation.

"What a great pledge we have achieved with your support... Together we have exceeded the target set for this replenishment. What a great and successful replenishment story that is," said AfDB President Akinwumi Adesina.

Over the past 45 years, the ADF has played a significant role in the development journey of African low-income countries. In just nine years, it has made a difference and positively impacted the lives of millions.

This includes by improving access to electricity for 10.9 million people and providing agriculture infrastructure and inputs for 90 million people, among them 43 million women.

It is also by improving access to markets and connections between countries to 66.6 million people, contributing to the continent's regional integration agenda by rehabilitating more than 2,300 km of cross-border roads, and improving access to water and sanitation for 35.8 million people.

ADF-15 covers the period 2020-2022 and will build on the successes of the fourteenth replenishment by being more selective and focused.

It will focus on two strategic pillars: quality and sustainable infrastructure aimed at strengthening regional integration; and human governance and institutional capacity development for increased decent job creation and inclusive growth.

In pursuing these strategic priorities, ADF-15 will pay special attention to gender equality, climate change, private sector and the promotion of good governance.

Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) CEO Patrick Dlamini CEO, who spoke on behalf of South Africa's Finance minister Tito Mboweni, said at the event that the deliberations and outcome demonstrated the confidence member countries place in the African Development Bank Group as "the cornerstone institution underpinning African development".

"There is no better vehicle than the ADF," he said, adding: "Going forward, an ambitious programme of development lies ahead."

ADF-15 will address root causes of vulnerability by systematically applying a fragility lens in all its operations. This will be specifically targeted at regions such as the Sahel, which will see a 23 per cent increase in resources from the Fund over the next period.

ADF-15 comes at a time of tremendous oppor-



Anna Kulaya (L), director of the Tanzania chapter of the Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF), gives a word of thanks in Dar es Salaam yesterday to Ireland's Ambassador to Tanzania, Paul Sherlock, shortly after the opening of the National Dialogue on Strengthening Criminal Justice Systems organised by WILDAF. With them is a commissioner with the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance, Nyanda Shuli, who was the chief guest. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

tunities and challenges for ADF countries and the world. During the next three years, it will scale up its interventions with bold and transformative projects such as Desert to Power stretching across the Sahel region.

This flagship programme is meant to transform the Sahel into the world's largest solar

production zone with up to 10,000 MW of solar generation capacity and 250 million people connected to electricity.

As part of the initiative, the Yeleen Rural Electrification Project in Burkina Faso is set to provide access to electricity to 150,000 households, while the Djermya Project in

Chad will generate 10 per cent of Chad's power capacity.

"You will see a new spring in our step... We will be bold and decisive. We will stretch ourselves, and we will do more with your support," Adesina said.

•Agencies

These initiatives by Germany and the EAC promise a lot of good - and deserve support

SOcial welfare and research activities in the East African Community (EAC) partner states have received a big boost from Germany in the form of a \$128 million (294 billion/-) grant to support health and education programmes in the economic bloc.

It is a boost of morale in the EAC as many of its activities were being held back by poor remittances of membership fees, among other issues. The grant goes into supporting the implementation of some key existing projects.

The EAC says a substantial portion of the funds, about \$105 million (over 241 billion/-) has been set aside for the bloc's immunisation programme jointly implemented with GAVI, the global alliance for vaccination.

There are intensified efforts around the world to cover the ground for immunisation after a let-up in the past in some countries led to a vast outbreak of measles, while complete polio vaccination was still a work being completed.

Officials said at the recent signing ceremony that, with the grant, the programme will be financing the procurement of at least four different types of vaccines (pentavalent, rotavirus, pneumococcal and measles) for children in the zone.

While the vaccination effort is limited to EAC states, it is by no means relevant to the sub-region alone - as failure to vaccinate makes the zone susceptible not just to receiving the specific diseases but also to spreading them.

The threat will likely haunt Europe as well, in which case these are global threats in the final analysis, given the number of people who travel, migrate, etc.

With recent reports during the SADC (Southern African Development Community) series of meetings in Dar es Salaam pointing at high levels of malnutrition among children aged below five years, the vaccination project

is vital.

The programme is meant to reduce child mortality in the region and mainly targets newborns. German support has, on the basis of ongoing programmes, enabled the EAC to procure nearly 80 million doses of life-saving vaccines for the region since 2013.

The result is that average immunisation coverage in the region has been substantially increased, which makes the EAC immunisation programmes the strongest in sub-Saharan Africa, according to the EAC secretariat.

That suggests scant likelihood of witnessing another outbreak of measles or polio, and some recent developments suggest that an Ebola vaccine is being readied.

This funding effort is complemented by the second patch of funding initiatives in the German-EAC initiative, where other funds including \$15.5 million will be directed to the EAC Regional Centre of Excellence for Health Supply Chain Management at the University of Rwanda in Kigali.

Another \$2.2 million is allocated for the support of Ebola readiness efforts within the ongoing EAC-Germany project for a Regional Network of Reference Laboratories for Communicable Diseases.

Some \$5.3 million more is directed at the Academic Centre for Digital Innovation in East Africa situated at the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology in Arusha.

That obviously shows that Germany is doing the most it can to ensure that East African countries are at par with what it takes to control epidemics or communicable diseases, especially those affecting the newly born members of society.

It is definitely the most effective of aid programmes and its humanitarian credentials are uppermost. Therefore, there should be no room for failure in any of these areas of action as the work is distributed among a number of competent agents.

Tree-planting mobilisation reliable way to arrest deforestation menace

DESPITE decades of talk and relentless efforts by the government, environmental activists and other stakeholders, illegal and uncontrolled tree felling and processing, including uncontrolled harvesting of wood for fuel and charcoal, are going unabated in many forested areas in Tanzania.

This sad state of affairs is doubtless dictated by the fact that the energy economy in the country is largely focused on collecting, distributing and consuming fuelwood to satisfy household demand for cooking. As much as 90 per cent of the primary energy consumed in is biomass-based.

The use of natural gas and other fossil-based fuels for domestic purposes is still at a very low level even in urban areas, and it is virtually nonexistent in rural areas, though in the former it has been growing relatively fast in recent years.

Offshore natural gas discoveries in the country's southern areas stand to help, and we hope the government will work all the more tirelessly and professionally in boosting the operations of natural gas processing plants in the country.

On the other hand, our commercial and industrial energy sectors are extremely small relative to the household sector but many are currently opting for hydrocarbon fuels, natural gas in particular, to run their plants.

Nonetheless, the gloomy fact remains - that virtually all of Tanzania's wood-fuel comes from the country's forested areas.

The importance of forests cannot be overemphasized, as all life on earth - and therefore our very survival - depends on them. They provide livelihoods for humans, they are important habitats for animals, they protect water sources, they prevent soil erosion, and they help mitigate the negative impacts of climate change.

All this notwithstanding, though, forests are disappearing at an unprecedented scale - and it can't be said that it is by accident!

According to the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015 report, the world had 4.128 billion hectares of forest in 1990 but by 2015 this area had decreased to 3.999 billion hectares.

There are many reasons for this, among them a ballooning world population, vast expansion of agricultural land, reliance on wood-fuel for energy and other harmful land use practices.

For Tanzania, the 2015 National Forest Resources Monitoring and Assessment report estimated the annual rate of deforestation as 372,816 hectares, while by last year the estimates by Tanzania's National Carbon Monitoring Centre showed an increase in the annual rate of deforestation as standing at 469,420 hectares.

This worrisome concern was aired by Tanzania Forestry Research Institute (TAFORI) board chairman Dr Felician Kilahama in a report in March this year. He said that time was ripe to call upon all Tanzanians with ample land at their disposal to venture into tree planting and thus help the country pave the way for better management and greater utilisation of its forest resources.

The forestry expert said that in order to meet demand and ensure sustainable forest management, mainland Tanzania needs to plant between 185,000 and 200,000 hectares of trees each year.

Indeed, that should be the main focus and preoccupation of the government, environmental activists and other stakeholders. This is in the belief that if tree planting is accorded the seriousness it deserves, we shall have spared our forest cover the sure calamity it is staring in the face.

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Millennials turn to tech to solve Africa's farming challenges

By Pacifique Nshimiymana

FOR generations farmers in Africa were told that they would grow into the next richest people of the world, owing to a growing population sure to become the best and biggest market block that ever existed.

With more than 70 per cent of our continent practising agriculture, our African pride and education prepared us to expect that our farmer would be the next Mansa Musas.

In high school, we were always ready in our national examinations to respond to the question: "What are the main problems and challenges facing African agriculture?"

Sometimes the examinations council would try to get students to think outside the box, twisting the same question to include African fisheries. Our memorised answer was always a list that started with archaic tools - lack of access to mechanisation, trained labour, improved seeds and technology, to name but a few.

My generation - much similar the one that preceded it - was trained to understand the factors limiting our agricultural development, though at the time climate change was somewhat undetected.

Maybe today's curriculum should include eco-modernism and some chapters from Mark Lynas' book, 'Six Degrees'. Though we understand the reasons for this, African farming remains unprofitable and its failure has sent our youth on suicide missions across the Mediterranean in the desperate hope of reaching the western World. Along the way, we have been presented with a supposedly obvious and effective solution: get financing and mechanise the African farm.

With the right financing plan, it could work, but what about the fall armyworm, the pod borer and other pests infesting our plantations? Don't worry, we are told, just work your financing again, maybe get a loan and we will supply you with the pesticides and you should not forget to buy protective gear.

How can we save farming or

improve farmers' livelihoods without falling into the borrow-and-spend trap, reverting to the same song we sang as students about the seemingly insurmountable limits to transforming our agriculture?

Yes, our farmers still need mechanisation. But, most importantly, we need precision agriculture that uses quality seeds - varieties resistant to diseases, pests and the droughts brought by climate change.

Crops bred through the science of biotechnology offer benefits similar to mechanisation. But they are developed in Africa, while tractors are not.

And though biotech seeds have become embroiled in global politics and trade wars, access to them speaks to the fundamental right of our farmers to have choices, to be profitable and run prosperous communities.

Wait, there is more! Giving African farmers access to biotech crops is also a key to building a healthy society without malnutrition through bio-fortification, like vitamin A-enriched Golden Rice that can

fight hidden hunger and stunting in children.

Biotech crops can help feed our growing population while reducing the pollution caused by pesticide use in farming. The case of Bt-eggplant in Bangladesh, where the overall quantity of pesticide use decreased by 39 per cent, is a living success story we all need to learn from.

We already know how technology has changed our lives recently - cell phones and M-Pesa have changed our lives for the good. Today, we are asked to turn out and embrace agricultural biotechnology.

As our educated generation tries to transform our farms and communities through disruptive FinTech, biotechnology is going to be the building block of precision agriculture that ensures that our crops are a viable and bankable business so we use the profit to keep on mechanising our lands.

African millennials are united for technology. Biotechnology, CRISPR and gene editing is a language we understand as tools for technological.

To solve the enduring challenges facing African agriculture and achieve food security and prosperity, we are choosing biotechnology so that even the longtime failing crop insurance businesses and financial institutions can work with us to mechanise our lands.

Finance and trade are tools to drive the value to the client. Our values are always with us - we value the right of our people to have a choice. We stand for a healthy and prosperous Africa with enough food for us all.

You must join us or dispute our choice, but not take the unfair position of challenging our ability to make our own choices in responding to today's emergency.

Pacifique Nshimiymana is an agripreneur in Rwanda who founded and currently runs Real Green Gold Ltd. He is a 2019 Alliance for Science Global Leadership Fellow.

Pangolins a victim of political instability in troubled South Sudan

By Ashleigh Papp

ILLEGAL poaching and trade of arguably the world's most trafficked mammal - the pangolin - has been confirmed in South Sudan. Wildlife officials intercepted seven cases of this animal or its parts being transported for sale, researchers reported recently in the African Journal of Ecology.

The devastating trade in pangolins was well known in Asia, but this incursion into Africa is a disturbing new threat to a species that captivates the public with its scaled body and gentle nature.

"For the first time, we have been able to show that trafficking of pangolins is occurring in and through South Sudan," said Daniel Ingram, a wildlife conservationist at University College London and lead author on the study.

Land-locked South Sudan gained independence in 2011. Within two years, intense conflicts and civil war erupted, creating a highly unstable environment for the country's human and animal residents alike.

From savannas to wetlands and high-altitude plateaus to mountains, the eastern African is

brimming with biodiversity. The world's second largest migration, involving hundreds of thousands of white-eared kob antelopes, takes place in one of the country's six national parks.

Eight endangered or critically endangered mammals reside here, including three of the four African pangolin species: the giant pangolin (*Smutsia gigantea*), the white-bellied pangolin (*Phataginus tricuspis*) and Temminck's ground pangolin (*Smutsia temminckii*).

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), officially known as the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, is an international organisation working in the field of nature conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

It is involved in data gathering and analysis, research, field projects, advocacy and education, its mission being to "influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable".

Over the past decades, IUCN has widened its focus beyond conservation ecology and now

incorporates issues related to sustainable development in its projects.

It does not itself seek to mobilise the public in support of nature conservation, but tries to influence actions by governments, business and other stakeholders by providing information and advice, and through building partnerships.

The organisation is best known to the wider public for compiling and publishing the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, which assesses the conservation status of species worldwide.

IUCN has a membership of over 1,400 governmental and non-governmental organisations. Some 16,000 scientists and experts participate in the work of IUCN commissions on a voluntary basis. It employs approximately 1,000 full-time staff in more than 50 countries.

Put a bit differently, IUCN is the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it.

Considered vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, pangolins have technically been under legal protection since 2007.

Although pangolin seizures were reported in surrounding

African countries earlier this decade, researchers had yet to confirm whether pangolin hunting or trade was occurring in South Sudan until now. "It took us several months to track down all of the relevant information," said Ingram.

Ingram and three colleagues from wildlife societies in South Sudan combed through five years' worth of seizure records from local law enforcement agencies. They documented seven cases of illegal possession at road checkpoints, a national park, an airport and a hotel.

Three seizures were of pangolin meat, two of the animal's scales, and two of live animals being trafficked through the country's capital city, Juba.

The team believes that many more undetected cases of commercial pangolin trafficking are likely. Black-market demand for pangolin scales and meat has soared, fuelled largely by consumers in China.

Buyers believe that pangolin scales bring luck and protection against witchcraft. The meat is also considered a delicacy, and some cultures use the blood of pangolins in the treatment of a range of ailments.

"South Sudan only recently became connected with international markets," said DeeAnn Reeder, an ecophysicologist at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, and research scientist in South Sudan, who was not involved in the study.

She said the publishing of proof of seizures was a good step towards "getting South Sudan on a pangolin watch list".

The world's four other species of pangolin are native to Asian countries such as India, China, Indonesia and the Philippines. All of these are endangered or critically endangered. With Asiatic pangolin populations dwindling, the insatiable demand for pangolin meat and scales has ignited the illegal pangolin trade in Africa.

Covered in pine-cone-shaped keratin scales strong enough to withstand a lion's grip, a pangolin defends itself by curling into a ball, protecting its head and abdomen. Unfortunately for the scaly creature, this reflexive posture makes capturing it all the easier for a human predator.

Why African cultural restitution matters

By Patrick Gaspard

THE repatriation of an item with deep historical, spiritual and cultural significance might seem like a mere gesture of colonial redress. But this ceremony was different, and it was about much more than a single physical object. In fact, it was a watershed moment in the West's recognition of the cultural damage inflicted by colonialism.

The sabre in question belonged to El Hajj Omar Tall, founder of the Toucouleur Empire, which once extended from present-day Senegal into Mali and Guinea. Tall was a respected religious leader and anti-colonial resistance fighter.

His weapon, along with tens of thousands of other pieces of looted African heritage, had been in French hands since the 1890s. Exhibited in French museums, the sabre ceased to symbolise the military prowess of a once-powerful dynasty, and instead told the tale of an African empire's decimation, thereby legitimising the racism and prejudice that underpinned the colonial period.

Tall's family had been campaigning for the sabre's return since 1944, and they finally won their fight in November 2019. Descendants travelled to Dakar from towns in Guinea, Mali and Senegal to witness its homecoming. The sabre will remain in Senegal for five years while the French parliament determines whether it – and other objects – will be permanently restituted.

This moment would have been unimaginable just a few years ago. European governments, ministries of culture, museums and universities have long refused to recognise the immorality of the circumstances in which Africa's cultural patrimony was removed from the continent.

The handover of the sabre was thus highly symbolic, auguring a shift in power dynamics and a renewed respect for Africa's vibrant history. It also attests to the persistence of Africans – young and old, both on the continent and in the diaspora – in mobilising to demand that leaders of former colonial powers right historical wrongs.

Colonialism rested on the disavowal of African art, music and architecture. Brutal leaders such as Ian Smith, the prime minister of Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) in the 1960s and 1970s, legitimised horrific abuse and injustices by undermining the culture of African



people, thereby erasing their humanity.

For decades, the Open Society Foundations have supported those at the front lines of societal transformation. We recognise the power of art and culture to call into question structural inequalities, challenge prejudice and foster the imagination of a new generation of leaders.

Our cultural heritage forms the bedrock of the stories that we share to make sense of our place in history – and in the world. And at its core, the creation of cultural artefacts is fundamentally a manifestation of human hope.

Recognising this, the Open Society Foundations are launching a new \$15-million initiative to strengthen efforts to ensure the restitution and reappropriation of artefacts looted from the African continent.

Over the next four years, we will be supporting citizens, artists, educators, indigenous communities, civil-society organisations, museums, universities and other institutions working to return Africa's heritage to its rightful home and to nurture in future generations of Africans a sense of ownership of their history, culture and identity.

Africa's young people, in particular, have been demanding control over their own destinies, recently ushering in sweeping change in Ethiopia

and Sudan. They recognise the importance of their cultural heritage and have been campaigning for the return of African artefacts. Having realised that young people are a critical force on a continent where the population is expected to grow by more than one billion, to 2.5 billion, by 2050, many former colonial powers have begun to listen.

In a 2017 speech delivered to a full auditorium at a university in Burkina Faso, French President Emmanuel Macron pledged to make the return of African artefacts a priority.

"African cultural heritage," he argued, "can no longer be held captive in European museums."

And since then, the groundbreaking Sarr-Savoy Report, commissioned by the French government, has launched a global conversation about the return of items looted from Africa. The report's authors, French art historian Bénédicte Savoy and Senegalese writer Felwine Sarr, recommended the immediate, unconditional return of any cultural objects gained through theft, plunder, pillage, despoiling or unequal exchange during colonial times.

Since the report was released in November 2018, the global movement for art restitution has strengthened considerably. Official claims have been filed for the restitution of historical artefacts and human remains to Ethio-

pia, Senegal, Benin and Nigeria. But a lot of work needs to be done to turn hopes of cultural restitution into reality.

The number of artefacts missing from Africa is staggering. The Royal Museum for Central Africa in Belgium currently holds 180,000 pieces of sub-Saharan African heritage. The British Museum in London and the Musée du Quai Branly in Paris each hold about 70,000 African historical artefacts. This is in stark contrast to the size of the holdings of museums in Africa. Alain Godonou, a historian and curator from Benin, estimates that the inventories of most national museums in Africa do not surpass 3,000 objects.

The Open Society Foundations, working with our African partners and others around the world, are working to change that.

Restitution is about more than confronting the violent legacy of colonialism – a legacy that continues to affect power dynamics in Africa and around the world. It is about supporting the work that young Africans are doing to transform the dated, racist narratives about their diverse cultural heritage and rich history. It is about giving current generations the means to shape a better future for themselves. It is, at its core, about restituting agency to a continent defining its path forward.

BM



UN volunteers celebrate International Volunteer Day in South Sudan, where they serve the UN in peace-keeping, midwifery and human rights. File photo

Could volunteerism serve as an antidote to a world in flux?

UNITED NATIONS

AS the world warms, as inequality widens and as an increasing number of societies suffer from instability and conflict, many people are left wondering what they can do about it.

As inspirational change-makers like Greta Thunberg show, you don't have to start out as a world leader or a celebrity to make a difference. Standing in the street with a protest sign is not for everyone, though. And there are many ways to make a difference.

Every day, an estimated one billion volunteers make a difference to the people and communities where they live and work. They create social bonds and give a voice to marginalized and vulnerable groups. They are often the first to act in moments of crisis. They dedicate their time, skills and passion to make the world a better place.

Right now, nearly 8,000 UN Volunteers, from 18 to 81 years old, serve with over 40 UN partners through the UN Volunteers (UNV) programme, which the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) hosts with great pride – each an ambassador for the importance of volunteerism in development worldwide.

Volunteers help communities to self-organize around their own specific priorities – and support people who are marginalized to tap into mainstream areas of support and public services. That includes UN Volunteers in Asia and the Pacific who have worked at the local level to tackle violence against women and girls.

Mana, who was part of the Partners for Prevention project in Cambodia, noted that many of the participants altered their entrenched attitudes towards gender equality – observing that this, "changed heart and mind can have a long lasting and positive impact on society".

Or in Pakistan, where the World Health Organization mobilized over 150 UN Volunteers as district monitors to support measles readiness assessment campaigns, targeting 32 million children. As one community member in China put it, volunteers, "...know exactly how to get along with the residents and handle their problems".

Volunteering also creates relationships and improves critical connections between people. UN Volunteers worked with the UN Mission in South Sudan to create neutral forums to bring conflicted parties together to help build peace.

And in the Philippines, Christian and Muslim volunteers organized and implemented interfaith environmental protection activities – as one of the volunteers noted, this, "...

was one thing that we could work on together, it was an eye-opener for us". The solidarity, empathy and connections generated through social action comes to the fore during crises.

During the 2014-16 Ebola outbreak in West Africa, local, national and international volunteers worked together to tend to victims and halt the spread of the disease, despite considerable and cross-border challenges.

Volunteers also strengthen community resilience by integrating refugees and displaced persons, building ownership in the peace and development process and strengthening social cohesion within; and across groups.

In Niger, for example, UN Volunteers working with UNHCR provided much-needed translation and interpretation services to refugees evacuated from Libya – helping to improve the quality of protection and assistance provided to refugees.

New ways of harnessing the power of volunteerism are emerging all the time. Soon after Ecuador experienced a major earthquake in 2016, Zooniverse, a web-based platform for crowd-sourced research, utilized 3,000 volunteers and artificial intelligence to review 1,300 satellite images.

Just two hours after the earthquake, a "heat map" of the damage including road blockages was produced to accelerate the disaster response.

The United Nations keenly understands the need to harness the almost limitless power of volunteers bring to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals – a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by the year 2030.

On International Volunteer Day, we recognize the extraordinary contribution of volunteers to this end. In every part of the globe, they are at the forefront of every major shock and stress, responding to problems big and small that benefit all people.

And as one local volunteer in Myanmar summed it up, "this work can't be measured in financial terms". Volunteers are also transforming preconceived notions around who is a productive member of society as volunteerism recognizes the inherent value of all people irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.

The remarkable results achieved by volunteers to shape that brighter, more inclusive future show that it is worth trying.

That is why they are a such a powerful antidote to a world in flux.

IPS

Scaling up of climate-smart agriculture in Tanzania crucial to ending hunger, boosting shared prosperity

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

IT is the matter of the fact that climate change is real and one of the greatest challenges facing African economies, in the 21st century. All over the world, climate change has led to the more serious droughts, unpredictable rainfall patterns, less agricultural productivity and adverse food production.

Some of the impacts of climate change in Tanzania include: Higher temperatures, more flooding and droughts, and a rise in sea level and threatens agricultural production and livelihoods for millions of Tanzanians.

In order to mitigate those impacts, Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF) in collaboration with the Food, Agricultural and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) is hosting a project titled "Agricultural and Food systems resilience: Increasing capacity and advising policy (AFRICAP)," which is funded by the Global Challenge Research Fund (GCRF) of UK.

Speaking last week in Dar es Salaam during GCRF-AFRICAP-media engagement training, (ESRF)'s Assistant Researcher Abel Songole said that GCRF-AFRICAP project was among the significant milestones in developing agriculture sector in Tanzania.

Songole pointed the overall objective of that project as to identify and implement evidence based policy pathways to facilitate the development of sustainable, productive, climate smart agriculture systems to meet food security and economic development needs.

He further said that by supporting the agriculture sector the ultimate aim of that project was to reduce the impacts of climate change to the most vulnerable

part of the society.

AFRICAP is a four year (2018-2021) regional project being implemented in four African countries namely Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia and South Africa.

ESRF is closely working with the AFRICAP Project team of experts from FANRPAN, Universities of Leeds, Aberdeen, the UK Met Office and Chatham House who encompass expertise in agriculture, climate change, ecology, soil and water science, post-harvest losses, land use, nutrition and health, rural livelihoods and policy analysis.

For her part, Harriet Smith from GCRF-AFRICAP Climate Smart Agricultural Development said that their aim was among other things to build capacities for the identification and implementation of evidence-based policy pathways towards SDG-compliant and climate smart agri-food systems.

She further noted that in Tanzania due to climate change, rising temperatures were expecting to slow yield growth and were a major threat to production of maize and rice.

Extremes of drought and intense precipitation were expected to increase; there was less confidence about how average rainfall would change and how different regions would be affected.

Further, there was growing population with high dependence on domestic production (predominantly rain fed agriculture) for food and income.

High rates of malnutrition (one third of under 5s are stunted due to malnutrition), and low access to finance, technology, inputs, and social security.

Commenting on science, climate change and agriculture a Media Consultant commissioned FANRPAN, Busani Bafana said that better land management



could among others secure agriculture, food and nutrition security.

Could also reduce carbon emissions from agriculture to stay below two degrees Celsius; promote food biodiversity to ensure equitable access to safe, healthy and nutritious food and reduce food loss and food waste.

First, African farmers need new technologies, well designed, inclusive, and innovative knowledge management systems.

The priorities in this area are to strengthen farmers' knowledge of CSA practices, facilitate sharing CSA techniques, and provide support to local and indigenous knowledge systems.

Africa also needs sound policies and an enabling environment that encourages the adoption of climate-smart agriculture. Last, achieving the above will require the committed efforts of smallholder farmers, governments, the private sector, civil society and scientists.

Scaling up climate-smart agriculture in Africa is vital to ending hunger and boosting shared prosperity on the continent. The Africa Climate Business Plan is an important first step. It is up to all of us to take it forward and usher in a true, sustainable agricultural transformation in Africa that benefits all.

Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) is an approach that helps to guide actions needed to transform and

reorient agricultural systems to effectively support development and ensure food security in a changing climate.

CSA aims to tackle three main objectives: sustainably increasing agricultural productivity and incomes; adapting and building resilience to climate change; and reducing and/or removing greenhouse gas emissions, where possible.

CSA is an approach for developing agricultural strategies to secure sustainable food security under climate change. CSA provides the means to help stakeholders from local to national and international levels identify agricultural strategies suitable to their local conditions.

The majority of the world's poor live in rural areas and agriculture is their most important income source. Developing the potential to increase the productivity and incomes from smallholder crop, livestock, fish and forest production systems will be the key to achieving global food security over the next twenty years.

It is estimated that the number of people at risk of hunger could be twice the number of people living in poverty in Africa as always, the poor and marginalized both subsistence farmers in rural areas and the poor consumers in urban areas are expected to face the worst consequences of climate change.

How has Mauritania managed to stave off terror attacks?

BY HASSANE KONÉ

NO terrorist attacks have been recorded on Mauritanian soil since 20 December 2011. On that day, a gendarme, Ely Ould Mokhtar, was kidnapped in the town of Adel Bagrou on the border with Mali by armed men suspected of belonging to al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM).

What has enabled Mauritania to escape increasing attacks in the Sahel over the past eight years? Is it the effectiveness of its security and military measures? Or the result of an alleged 'non-aggression pact' with AQIM unveiled by documents seized in Osama bin Laden's refuge in Abbottabad, Pakistan, by American special forces?

The first jihadist cell in Mauritania was dismantled in April 2005. The first attack on Mauritanian soil followed soon after, on 4 June 2005, when the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC) attacked an army barracks in Lengheity in the north of the country, close to the Algerian and Malian borders. Officially, 15 Mauritanian soldiers and nine attackers died.

Nine other incidents followed between 2007 and 2011. The most publicised were in December 2007 when four French tourists were assassinated in Aleg, and military targets were attacked in El Ghallawiya killing four soldiers. A September 2008 attack in Tourine killed 12 soldiers. In February 2011 a double attack on the Ministry of Defence and French Embassy was thwarted by security forces. Two vehicles, each loaded with 1.5 tons of explosives, were neutralised at the entrance of Nouakchott.

In response to these threats, Mauritania adopted a multidimensional approach combining preventive and repressive measures. This takes into account the factors that directly or indirectly fuel terrorism (e.g. causes of radicalisation, drug and arms traf-

ficking). The country drew on Algeria's policy of civil concord between 1999 and 2006 that encouraged Islamists to renounce terrorism and reintegrate into society.

In January 2010, a commission was established to develop a national counter-terrorism strategy. In July 2010, a tougher anti-terrorism law was passed and the doctrine for using the armed forces was made more offensive to adapt to the new asymmetric security situation. The defence and security forces were better equipped and trained (e.g. buying weapons, vehicles and aircraft) and their living conditions improved (e.g. bonus payments and substantial care for bereaved families).

In the field, light, mobile, flexible, armed and combat-trained desert units - the Special Intervention Groups - were created to monitor border areas. In 2008, the northern part of the country was declared a military zone. Any movement of people and vehicles required an identification document, and this helped in identifying and searching any convoy of vehicles entering this area.

The Mauritanian response is also based on an ideological approach aimed at highlighting Islam's 'tradition of tolerance', reconciling citizens with religion and discrediting terrorists in the eyes of the population by dismantling their ideological claims. A census of Mahadras (Koranic schools) was also carried out to monitor their activities.

Prominent scholars and imams are used in prisons to speak with the detained Salafists. They have succeeded in convincing most of them to renounce extremist ideas and repent. They have also conducted awareness campaigns to encourage public support and collaboration with the armed forces engaged in the fight against extremism.

The state has also promoted the



There are lessons for the Sahel in how Mauritania has prevented attacks over the past eight years. File photo

recruitment of hundreds of students from Koranic schools into the public sector to prevent them from being exposed to extremist propaganda.

New cities have been created in remote areas such as Nbeiket Lahwach, Termessa, Bouratt and Chami (see map) that were reportedly used by terrorists as havens. The aim was to regroup inhabitants who were scattered across a vast area and provide them with minimum basic services: water and electricity, schools, health centres, roads, and con-

nection to the mobile telephone network.

Mauritania's approach, which combines an enhanced military and security response with a political and developmental approach, has contributed to the respite that the country has enjoyed for eight years.

Will these measures be enough to protect Mauritania from terrorism in a region facing an unprecedented spiral of violence?

Some journalists and analysts believe the answer lies in a tacit agreement between Mauritanian

authorities and the jihadists. They say the key to this alleged unofficial agreement is that AQIM refrains from attacking Mauritania, and in turn the Mauritanian government won't attack its positions. Mauritanian officials have always denied the existence of such a pact.

They say the country is able to protect itself through its security forces' capacity and related effective responses.

In any case, Mauritania's 'recipe' provides lessons that can be adapted to the local dynamics

and context of other countries. Given its geographic location in the Sahel region, where terrorism is a continuous threat, Mauritania cannot consider itself totally immune to the expansionist trend of violent extremists. It must continue to consolidate its capacity, share its experience and contribute to regional stabilisation.

Hassane Koné, Senior Research Fellow, ISS Regional Office for West Africa, the Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin

Indigenous knowledge and lessons for a sustainable food future

MILAN, Italy

LOCAL knowledge systems rooted in traditional practices and culture passed down generations provide sustainable solutions to food and nutritional insecurity on the back of climate change, a conference heard this week.

More than 370 million indigenous people, living in 70 countries, make up just 6 percent of the global population, according to the United Nations. But their food systems are models of diet diversity, innovation, conservation and local adaptability the world can benefit from in the face of risks such as climate change, delegates at the 10th Forum on Food and Nutrition convened by the Barilla Centre heard.

Speaking at a panel session on Preserving Mother Earth, Food Culture, Local Traditions and Biodiversity, Mattia Prayer Galletti, lead technical specialist on indigenous peoples and tribal issues at IFAD, said indigenous peoples have a connection with nature. They understand the concept of sustainability and the protection of natural resources.

IFAD has promoted an Indigenous People's Forum to foster dialogue and consultant among indigenous people organisations and IFAD member countries.

Through this Forum, IFAD has supported the economic empowerment of indigenous people, particularly women and the youth. IFAD has also contributed to the improvement in livelihoods of indigenous peoples through the Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility which has provided small grants of up to US\$50 000 for development projects.

He said indigenous food systems provide food security and biodiversity because indigenous communities have cultivated resilient foods, making them ideal in adapting to climate change.

This despite the growing threats indigenous communities have faced, including marginalisation, loss of their ancestral lands and the destruction of their way of life.

Dali Nolasco Cruz, an advisory board member of the Indigenous Terra Madre (ITM) from Mexico, concurred saying indigenous people are being criminalised and killed by big

powers that are extracting natural resources in their lands.

"We need alliances, we need to fight for Mother Earth," Cruz said, "We need to transform our livelihoods by protecting the Earth to help others."

Indigenous Innovations for food security

Indigenous knowledge provides innovations researchers are convinced can provide models for promoting resilience in our current food systems. Several researchers shared their ongoing work on this.

Martina Occelli, a PhD student at the Santa Anna School of Advanced Studies in Pisa, is undertaking multidisciplinary research on how smallholder farmer's collective knowledge is shaping soil productivity in the Gera Gera region of Ethiopia among 300 smallholder farmers.

The research has shown that collective knowledge within and between households which farmers learnt from their fathers was relevant in determining the soil ability, which is critical in food production and resilience.

Occelli is a winner of 2018 BCFN Yes international multidisciplinary contest launched by the BCFN Foundation in 2012 to support research on promoting the intersection of food sustainability and environmental sustainability.

Geraldin Lengai, another BCFN Yes winner, is researching on enhancing sustainable agriculture through the adoption of bio-integrated crop management among tomato farmers in Tanzania comparing conventional and non-conventional farming methods.

Her research expects to provide insights into the use of organic pesticide properties of ginger and turmeric - cash crops grown by farmers in Tanzania - in fighting pests and diseases in vegetables. Also, she has researched the efficacy of organic fertilisers such as goat manure and chicken manure on the productivity of the spice coriander and amaranthus, a plant cultivated as a vegetable.

"Sustainable agriculture is important because you need a doctor once in a while, but you need the farmer at least three times a day," Lengai told IPS.

"I believe people should have ac-



Dali Nolasco Cruz, an advisory board member of the Indigenous Terra Madre (ITM) from Mexico. File photo

cess to food that is safe and healthy. How we produce the food, process it and how the food reaches the end consumer is the business of sustainable agriculture, and my research is on crop protection because people use crop protection synthetically yet there are alternatives that nature provides.

Before synthetic pesticides, our forefathers used tobacco to control insects, and if we can look at other plants that have the same capacity, we can promote sustainable agriculture."

Lengai said the benefits of manure has in producing vegetables and the near to zero cost for farmers who keep animals means farmers have a sus-

tainable fertiliser for organic produce which is attractive for global markets. Citing the case of pesticides with the Kenya market for French beans, Lengai said organic produce had secured international markets which have traceability systems in place.

"Growing organic vegetables and using organic pesticides and fertilisers is

a win-win for everybody for the environment, for the farmer for the consumer," said Lengai.

She added that synthetic pesticides are favoured because they are easy to apply and cheaper - but come at a cost to the environment and health.

Extinct in the wild, Brazilian bird makes tentative return to jungle

By Pedro Mondy

EXTINCT in its habitat for at least three decades, the Alagoas curassow (*Pauxi mitu*) is now back in the jungle and facing a test of survival, thanks to the joint efforts of more than a dozen institutions to pull this pheasant-like bird back from the brink.

Three pairs of curassows were reintroduced a month and a half ago in a 980-hectare (2,400-acre) area of the Atlantic Forest in the Brazilian state of Alagoas. Researchers are keeping tabs on them remotely, via GPS tags, to see whether they can find food and shelter, reproduce, and stay safe from predators on their own.

The bird is the first case of the reintroduction of an animal declared extinct in the wild in Latin America, and one of just a handful in the world. According to Luis Fábio Silveira, curator of the ornithological collection at the Museum of Zoology of the University of São Paulo, there are "very few similar cases" in the world.

Success stories include the California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*), the Hawaiian crow (*Corvus hawaiiensis*), the black-footed ferret or American polecat (*Mustela nigripes*), and the Mauritius kestrel



(*Falco punctatus*).

The journey that led to the Alagoas curassow's resurrection started four decades ago, thanks to the obstinacy

of Pedro Nardelli, a businessman who kept a scientific bird-breeding facility in Nilópolis, in the state of Rio de Janeiro. In 1979, he traveled to the metropolitan region of Maceió, in Alagoas state, looking for specimens of the curassow, a red-billed, black-bodied, fowl-like bird.

Described for the first time in the 17th century by the German naturalist George Marcgraf – who included a mention of its culinary use, one of the factors behind its eventual extinction in the wild – the species was very rarely seen in its original territory, a small area of Atlantic Forest between the states of Alagoas and Pernambuco. Besides the hunting, the bird was also threatened by the advance of sugarcane plantations in the region.

The five curassows that Nardelli was able to rescue were captured in a forest area that, ironically enough, would give way to a new sugar and ethanol plant, thanks to the accelerated pace of deforestation imposed by Proálcool, a national program aimed at stimulating sugarcane ethanol production.

"If Nardelli had arrived two years later, there would be no more [curassows]," said civil engineer Fernando Pinto, who worked at the ethanol plant at the time and later became the breeder's main partner in the rescue mission. "Destiny called

While testing the constitution of a safe breeding stock, Nardelli promoted the idea of crossbreeding with the closely related razor-billed curassow (*Pauxi tuberosa*) to try to secure a sort of "DNA backup" of the nearly

extinct bird. In the process, however, the breeders lost the spreadsheets that identified the genetically pure individuals and the hybrids.

A team from São Carlos Federal University (UFSCar), led by Mercival Roberto Francisco, joined in to separate the wheat from the chaff: in 2008, a genetic rescue program for the species was initiated, using minute analysis to differentiate the pure birds from the hybrids.

Francisco, a professor of ex situ (out-of-habitat) conservation and wildlife management, kept in close contact with breeder Roberto Azeredo, of the Society for Wildlife Research (Crax), who 20 years ago inherited part of Nardelli's breeding stock.

Their challenge now is to increase the genetic diversity of purebred Alagoas curassows. For this, Azeredo has suggested that pairs with the greatest DNA difference be made to breed – or rather, to marry, since the bird is normally monogamous; pairs stay together until one individual dies.

This selection process is the central point of the project to reintroduce the Alagoas curassow into the wild, considering the risks of inbreeding in a lineage that descends from just three individuals.

Food insecurity stand as a potential driver of gender-based violence

By Ofentse Mboweni

MEN in households that had recently experienced food insecurity had double the odds of perpetuating intimate partner violence than those who had a more reliable food supply.

This has been a tough year for many, but we can all agree that South Africa's women and children have seen the darkest side of it all.

As we mark 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence (GBV), we are reminded of just how women and children continue to be failed by our society.

The murders of four Durban children by their own father, Sibusiso Mpungose, the killing of a 47-year-old woman and her two children in Soweto, and the death of a heavily pregnant mother of two in a hail of bullets in Manenberg, demonstrate that South Africa is failing to overcome the country's femicide and domestic violence epidemic.

The 2018/19 national crime statistics offer little hope, if any. According to the report, murder went up by 6.6% while sexual assault rose by 2.7% from the previous year.

Efforts to end our country's scourge of violence will have to start at a household level, targeting men, and it is encouraging to hear that President Cyril Ramaphosa's gender-based violence prevention plan aims to focus on educating men about GBV.

"We must recognise that violence against women is not a problem of women. It is a problem of men," said Ramaphosa.

Women in parallel need to be protected from GBV through policies that empower them, such as the maternity support grant.

A recent study from the Sexual Violence Research Initiative that explored intimate partner violence and the so-

cioeconomic empowerment of South African women through microfinance found that poorer households where women contributed a less significant portion of the total income were at increased risk of physical or sexual intimate partner violence.

The study also holds that poverty is a risk factor linked to domestic violence. It provides important insights around empowering women financially and its implications on domestic violence.

Food insecurity has also been identified as an underlying driver of domestic violence perpetrated by men in relationships.

A 2019 study conducted in Soweto by Hatchet and others found that men living in households that had recently experienced food insecurity had double the odds of perpetuating intimate partner violence than those who had not recently experienced food insecurity.

Pregnant women are particularly vulnerable to gender-based violence and not surprisingly so, as pregnancy is a time of increased financial dependence, with women being more likely to lose their jobs, homes and partners.

This dependence can often make it harder for pregnant women to move away from abusive relationships.

We can reduce pregnant women's financial dependence by giving them access to income in the form of a maternity support grant.

The maternity support grant can help improve gender equality and reduce domestic violence by widening options available to pregnant mothers.

The fight against gender-based violence needs to be tackled from all fronts as gender-based violence is at once a women's rights issue and a health problem, resulting in negative



Arusha district commissioner Franck Mwaisumbe speaks in Arusha city yesterday at a tourism festival organised by media institutions based in Arusha Region. Photo: Correspondent Cynthia Mwilolezi

health outcomes such as depression and suicide.

The well-being of women during pregnancy must be prioritised as it has an impact on their children's future health and growth outcomes.

South Africa's Child Support Grant is renowned for having reduced ab-

solate poverty, but it does not cover pregnancy, a time when a child's growth relies most on adequate nutrition, and also when almost a quarter of mothers in our country face hunger and malnutrition, which has negative effects on the growth and development of their babies.

Furthermore, up to 40% of children who are eligible for the Child Support Grant do not access it in their first year of life, when it would have the greatest impact in preventing stunting.

The good news is that the National Development Plan has identified the expansion of social protection into

pregnancy as a policy aspiration. What needs to happen now is for this to be turned into reality as the maternity support grant.

This will contribute to improved health and economic outcomes for future generations.

African forest on the frontline of war on climate change impact

By Pauline Bax

WHEN Lee White first visited the central African nation of Gabon, he believed he had found paradise.

White, 53, was not new to Africa, having moved with his parents from Manchester, UK, to Uganda at the age of three, but in Gabon, as a doctoral candidate in 1989, he had arrived in the second-most forested nation on Earth.

"Gabon is teeming with wildlife and beautiful rain forests," White said in an interview in Johannes-

burg. "I fell in love, did my PhD there and never left."

He became a Gabonese citizen in 2008, head of the national parks agency a year later, and in June he took over as the nation's environment minister. Today, White is on the cutting edge of a drive backed by the UN to enlist preservation of forests in the fight against climate change.

His first victory came in September, when Norway signed an accord to pay the Gabonese government US\$150 million if it can prove it is increasing its carbon stock –

the amount of atmosphere carbon stored within the forest ecosystem – and cutting emissions over the next five years.

It was the first such agreement in Africa. Norway also agreed to pay double the usual carbon storage price, US\$10 for 1 ton (0.9 tonnes), compared with the US\$25 a coal-fired power plant in Europe would pay for allowances that cover its carbon emissions.

"Preserving forests is the most cost-effective way of reducing carbon emissions and therefore fighting climate change, and because

it's cheaper to do it, people give it a lower value," White said. "The fact that they doubled the price gives hope to other countries. It shows we are making headway in our discussions about the role of forests."

The international recognition for Gabon's conservation policies could encourage neighboring nations to follow suit, including the Republic of the Congo, White said.

Like Gabon, the Republic of the Congo's forests are part of the Congo Basin, the world's second-biggest rain forest after the Amazon, and the nation has experienced

relatively low deforestation.

While the forest in the Congo Basin covers a third of the area of the Amazon, its trees are taller and bigger, meaning that it has half the biomass of the Amazon. That is key in determining how much carbon it absorbs, White said.

White's appointment as minister and the Norway deal breakthrough came on the heels of a corruption scandal that prompted Gabonese President Ali Bongo to fire his vice president and forestry minister.

In February, customs officials

seized large quantities of a protected rosewood in the port of Owendo. The wood, locally known as Kevazingo, is in high demand by Chinese furniture makers.

More than 300 containers subsequently disappeared from the port and authorities only recovered about 200 of them days later.

The Washington-based Environmental Investigation Agency also accused a major Chinese logging company of bribing officials to obtain vast concessions in the Congo Basin, overharvesting those concessions and evading taxes. Af-

ter the report was published, the Gabonese government stripped the company – Deija Group – of its logging license.

Loggers have reason to be attracted to Gabon. Larger than the UK, it is almost entirely covered by tropical rain forest, has no highways and a population of 2 million, the majority of whom live in poverty.

Its shift toward conservation began under Ali Bongo's father, former Gabonese president Omar Bongo, who died in office after 42 years in power.

Gassed to death: Bhopal tragedy difficult for India to live down even after 35 years

By Ashish Shukla

IT has been 35 years since the Bhopal disaster struck India and claimed 20,000 lives, but its legal, moral and historical lessons are relevant to this day - and hold an answer for the nation to come to terms with its trauma.

There were men, women and children, thousands of them, bursting through the gates of the Bhopal railway platform, emitting a tornado of wails.

The crushing pressure dropped them over each other on the tracks, rising, grabbing and swinging on the doors of my parked train, lunging at the iron rods of my window with a ferocity which threw me deep into my compartment, now swaying like a leaf under the impact.

I was 20, returning from Mumbai, what we once called Bombay, onwards to my ancestral town of Lucknow, and the train had met its scheduled stop-over in Bhopal, almost midway through the journey. It was the early hours of December 3, 1984 and all I could put it to was some sort of riot unfolding, an eye-witness account I would share with my people back home next morning.

Decades of mornings have passed since then, anniversary after anniversary, deaths after deaths, yet one of history's worst industrial disasters, the Bhopal gas tragedy, is still unfolding after it consumed 20,000 lives owing to the poisoned air of that night which escaped a chemical plant in the heart of the city. How do I look back when something new keeps happening in these 35 years? Do I start with that terrible night when tonnes of cyanide gas burst through the rusted tanks and broken pipes of a chemical plant in



Bhopal, owned by what was then one of the West's multinational poster boys - Union Carbide?

The poison that smelled like boiled cabbage enveloped the cluster of slums which sprang up around the factory. Thousands of poor and unprotected people rushed out howling deep in the night, blinded and choking, lungs which would burst within the next few hours.

Do I stop and narrate how an enterprising local journalist had seen it coming three years ahead of the tragedy, his warnings going unheeded by the politicians of a system which was new to industrial society and treated the gods of capitalism with reverence

and awe?

It swallowed the white lie of Union Carbide's owners in the United States that the functioning of the Indian plant was completely the responsibility of local functionaries and they couldn't be held accountable.

When the head honcho (boss) arrived in India, he went to a plush guesthouse instead of the gallows, his return to New York facilitated by an Indian government aircraft. Warren Anderson, the man, was never served a warrant until he died at the age of 92 in 2014.

Do I ask my readers to worry

if India's environmental laws are weak or if the judiciary dithers all too often, sitting on a judgment for decades before slapping the wrists of six local employees with a fine of \$2,000 and two-year imprisonment in 2010?

Do I tell them to work out how the demand of \$3.3 billion as compensation was scaled down to \$470 million by the offenders and accepted without a murmur by the affected?

Do I draw their attention to Bhopal Gas Tragedy 2.0 unfolding every living minute since then as the poisonous chemical waste was dumped outside the factory,

which has contaminated the soil and the groundwater, consumed by the poor on its periphery?

That scores of deformed lives still use these killing fields as their playground? That no other state finds it politically expedient if the clean-up of the factory and its chemicals are shifted and buried on their turf?

They, after all, came in 17 years after the tragedy. Of the assets and liabilities they have negotiated with the former owners, they are only willing to play ball on assets.

Do I talk about how ruthless capitalism exploited weak nations, importing their technology even when legal safety nets were absent in a vulnerable society? How such a toxic presence was allowed a haven within a heavily populated neighbourhood? How a new nation keen to secure its place in the Sun overlooked the cost it could entail on the defenceless?

The only reference I can make with certainty is from the history books: Union Carbide played an important role with its chemicals in both World Wars of the 20th century.

After DDT was banned by the United States in 1973, Union Carbide began pushing a highly toxic pesticide, Sevin, for the global agriculture industry battling pests, weeds and viruses.

They adopted the template of targeting young nations like India, without a thought to responsible supervision or spending towards its maintenance. India is now wiser by the experience, but the Bhopal gas tragedy lives on, a trauma it still hasn't come to grips with.

Some background

On the night of December 2, 1984, an accident at the Union Carbide pesticide plant in Bhopal released at least 30 tonnes of a highly toxic gas called methyl isocyanate, as well as a number of other poisonous gases.

The plant was surrounded by shanty towns, leading to more than 600,000 people being exposed to the deadly gas cloud that night. The gases stayed low to the ground, causing the victims' throats and eyes to burn, inducing nausea, and leading to many deaths.

Estimates of the death toll vary from as few as 3,800 to as many as 16,000, but government figures now refer to an estimate of 15,000 killed over the years.

Toxic material remains and now, a long 35 years later, many of those who were exposed to the gas have given birth to physically and mentally disabled children.

For decades, survivors have been fighting to have the site cleaned up, but they say the efforts were slowed when Michigan-based Dow Chemical took over Union Carbide in 2001.

Human rights groups say that thousands of tonnes of hazardous waste remain buried underground, and the government has confessed to the fact that the area is contaminated. There has, however, been no long-term epidemiological research conclusively proving that birth defects are directly related to the drinking of the contaminated water.

Ashish Shukla, a senior journalist and geopolitical analyst based in India, is author of 'How United States Shot Humanity'. Additional reporting on one of the world's worst industrial disaster by Alan Taylor.

Egyptian government seeks to do away with popular tuk-tuks

CAIRO

MOTORIZED rickshaws known as tuk-tuks have ruled the streets of Cairo's slums for the past two decades, squeezing through dusty alleys, dodging trash bins and fruit stands, blaring rhythmic electro-pop and navigating the city's chaos to haul millions of Egyptians home every day.

Now the government is taking its most ambitious stand yet again against the polluting three-wheeled vehicles: in a push to modernize the country's neglected transport system, it plans to replace tuk-tuks with clean-running minivans.

"This is for the health and safety of all Egyptians," said Khaled el-Qassim, the spokesman for Egypt's Ministry of Local Development, which is spearheading the initiative. "We're creating a more beautiful image of our country."

The state had long turned a blind eye as tuk-tuks became part of the fabric of life in Cairo's vast informal settlements.

The new plan requires that drivers sell their tuk-tuks for scrap and take loans to buy new minivans - or risk fines and even prosecution. It has raised fears that the poorest Egyptians, already squeezed by economic austerity measures, will shoulder the bulk of the burden.

"I'd rather work as a thief than pay for this minivan," said Ehab Sobhy, a 47-year-old who

earns 130 pounds, about US\$88, a day plying the densely-packed district of Shobra in his weathered black-and-yellow tuk-tuk, sporting a decorative Islamic sticker in place of a license.

"If they take this away ... how is my family going to eat," asked Sobhy. Even with a government loan, he said he wouldn't be able to afford the 90,000 pounds he estimates he'd need for the new minivan.

"They'll bring money to the banks, all at the expense of the people," declared Mohammed Zaydan, a 52-year-old father of five who started driving a tuk-tuk after struggling to find work as a painter. "If they ban the tuk-tuk, they trample on the poor."

Former President Hosni Mubarak's government tried to stem the tide of tuk-tuks, banning them in most of Cairo's affluent neighborhoods but it also allowed tuk-tuk parts to flow from South Asia to Egypt, where auto manufacturers legally assembled and sold the unlicensed vehicles.

It was a classic example of the state's contradictory approach toward the informal economy, which accounts for as much as 50% to 60% of Egypt's GDP, according to the International Labor Organization.

"Because of its limited capacities, the state lives with deeply embedded informality," or do-it-yourself infrastructure, like unauthorized housing, which saves the government from pro-



In this Nov 19, 2019 photo, a tuk-tuk driver washes his vehicle in an alleyway of a slum in Cairo, Egypt. (AP)

viding mass services to the poor, said Amr Adly, a Cairo-based political economy expert.

The business exploded, with rickshaws becoming especially popular with disabled people, the elderly and women who want to avoid harassment at crowded bus stops.

But that could soon change. Now President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi's government, which has spent the past five years trying to revamp Egypt's image, is taking aim at the unregulated vehicles.

Last year, it passed a traffic law requiring that all new buyers license their tuk-tuks. Ghabbour Group, the country's largest auto producer, was hard hit, its tuk-tuk sales dropping by 60%.

In September, Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly announced a sweeping plan to phase out tuk-tuks in 20 governorates, swapping them for seven-seater gas-powered minivans. The proposal, offering drivers a payoff period of up to five years, bars all tuk-tuks from cities and main roads but allows new and licensed tuk-tuks to continue operating in narrow alleys and rural villages.

Egypt's finance and military production ministries, along with three major auto manufacturers, have opened an economic review to hammer out the details, and expect the micro-

buses to hit the streets within a year.

El-Qassim, the spokesman for the development ministry, said the tuk-tuks contribute to congestion, air pollution and fatal car crashes - even terrorism, since the government can't trace unlicensed vehicles. He described them as a drag on Egypt's economic productivity, keeping teenagers out of school and depriving the state of revenue from registration fees and taxes. But skeptics question the logic of changing a tuk-tuk prized for its tiny size, high maneuverability and cheap fare for a microbus that manufacturers expect to be four times the size and price.

"It's a reflection of how the state is more obsessed with appearances than investing in the infrastructure of where people actually live," said Rabab el-Mahdi, a political scientist at the American University in Cairo.

Since taking power in 2014, el-Sissi has focused on ambitious mega-projects, building high-end housing complexes and a sprawling US\$45 billion new administrative capital in the desert outside Cairo. The bigger goal is to revive tourism and attract foreign investment as the country recovers from the turmoil of the 2011 Arab Spring uprising that toppled Mubarak.

Meanwhile, much of Cairo has spiraled into

disrepair and decay. The official statistics agency recently reported that one third of Egyptians live in poverty. Tough austerity measures imposed to stave off economic collapse have slashed subsidies and dramatically hiked up prices of everything from subway fares to drinking water, taking a heavy toll on working-class Egyptians.

In September, sharp economic discontent and allegations of government corruption marshaled small but rare protests against the president. Security forces arrested thousands, escalating a long-running crackdown.

"The state is much more willing and able to go down with a heavy hand," said el-Mahdi, adding that the military mindset has created a governmentwide shift.

Still, observers note that enforcing the new plan will pose a challenge. Much remains uncertain, including how the government will guarantee registration among those more accustomed to bribing police than obeying traffic laws.

"People will be trying to resist, to circumvent these developments, to go on living," said Yasser Elsheshtawy, professor of architecture at Columbia University. "This is something very Egyptian."

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT

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

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD - 012 -

3 Letter word: EGO, AGO, AID, NOD, NON, IVY, EID
 4 Letter word: FIFE, ADAM, STAB, LOAN, STAN,
 5 Letter word: ELECT, RISER, ANVIL, TEASE, MALAY
 ROUND, ROUST, SITES,
 6 Letter word: AFFAIR, MODEST, DELAYS,
 7 Letter word: ALFALFA, ANAEMIA, MODESTY,
 8 Letter word: GUARDIAN

WORD FIT

CROSSWORD

Clues: Across
 1. Forward movement (8)
 6. Covered in water (5)
 7. Set off, begin (5,3)
 9. Very angry (5)
 11. Difficult experience (6)
 12. Video cassette (4)
 13. Writing instrument (3)
 14. Liberty (7)
 18. Pointed end (3)
 20. Small animal resembling lizard (9)
 22. Sweet cooked dessert (3)
 23. Holy person (4)
 24. Secret plots (7)
 25. Tale (5)

Down:
 1. Chief city of Russia (6)
 2. Follow twisting route (7)
 3. Criminal organization (5)
 4. Japanese unarmed combat (6)
 5. Domesticated animal (5)
 8. Remaining sign (5)
 10. blue-gray metallic element (8)
 14. Third largest country in Europe (6)
 15. Used to rub out writing (6)
 16. Curtains (6)
 17. Reward (4)
 19. Worship (6)
 21. Small dry particles (4)

Yesterday's Solutions

By Maggie van der Horst

BUSINESS

PROTECTION

Kenya banking on new law to boost data privacy

NAIROBI

The Data Protection Act that came into effect last month is expected to provide a framework for data protection in the country, and help boost privacy of the citizens.

Before the Act was passed, Kenya did not have a specific data protection law that regulated the sector, exposing private data of citizens to misuse. The law conceived in 2015 is meant to provide a regulatory provision in the collection, retrieval, processing, storing, use and disclosure of personal data.

Under Article 31(c), the Act outlines the right of every person not to have "information relating to their family or private affairs unnecessarily acquired or revealed" and Article 31(d), confers individuals the right not to have "the privacy of their communications infringed."

Robert Nyamu, a Financial Services and Risk Advisory Leader at East Africa Ernst and Young LLP, says the legislation is timely as it will address customers' data infringements among telcos, hospitality industry, various companies and financial institutions.

"Of great importance is the customer's personal data that is comprehensively discussed in the new Act," Mr Nyamu says. He adds that anyone handling customer data in whatever form needs to fully understand the customer's rights in regard to data protection law.

"It (new law) gives a right to customers in terms of their own data, and as an organisation if you are handling data in whichever format you need to be aware of it," he adds. The financial sector, he notes ought to understand the implications of data breach as any compliance failure will result in significant penalties. The new law, he added, will cause disruption to some players, particularly in the financial sector.

"It is going to cause disruptions in their operating model, and data governance as they have to put in place mechanisms to ensure that they comply with the Act," he adds. The law is expected to bring clarity on what data should be classified as well as on the rights and responsibilities of organisations that handle customer data, and more fundamentally on the right of customers in terms of that data.

"Organisations might see it as a burden but actually is a good thing as there have been abuses," Mr Nyamu says. The vulnerability of private data held by various agencies, companies, tech giants and organisations has pushed States to enact strict laws to protect privacy of citizens.

DISCOURAGING

EAC retains sale of second-hand clothes

NAIROBI

THE East African Community (EAC) Council of Ministers has failed to decide on the ban of second-hand clothes but approved the final draft on cotton, textile and apparels strategy (CTA).

In 2016, Presidents Uhuru Kenyatta and leaders of Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda were meant to decide on whether to adopt their ministers' position calling for a ban on importation of used clothes. However, they failed and only Rwanda has implemented higher taxes.

EAC Cabinet Secretary Adan Mohamed said there are no plans to increase duty on second-hand clothes or a ban but the government is supporting textile industries through reduction of cost of production to make new clothes affordable.

"Second-hand clothes is free trade

Early this June, several Kenyan government websites running on the Unix-based FreeBSD operating system were hacked. This exposed crucial data to abuse. In 2018, President Uhuru Kenyatta assented to the Computer and Cybercrimes Bill, 2017. The legislation allows authorities to search and seize stored computer data and to collect and intercept data in real-time.

Under the law, hackers face a fine of Sh5 million (\$50,000) or a three-year jail term or both for unauthorised access, interference, interception and disclosure of passwords and cyber espionage.

The new law also covers computer forgery, fraud, cyber harassment, cybersquatting, identity theft and impersonation, phishing, interception of electronic messages or money transfers. Other areas covered are wilful misdirection of electronic messages and fraudulent use of electronic data.

The new set of laws is in line with the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation that was passed in 2018 for data protection and privacy for all individuals of EU and European Economic Areas.

Breach of data privacy is a global spectre. Early this month, Facebook introduced the Twitter Privacy Centre following a series of data infringements on its platform. The centre will host information about Twitter's initiatives, announcements and new privacy products, as well as other communication about security incidents.

Last year, the social media giant was fined Sh56.4 million by the UK's Information Commissioner's Office after allowing third party developers access user information without consent in the Cambridge Analytica scandal.

It was found that information of about one million UK users were infringed, consequently putting them to misuse. Also last year, the company faced Sh180.9 billion fine by the Irish Data Protection Commission over massive data breach. The breach was detected September last year and it gave hackers opportunity to take over user accounts.

Meanwhile, last month, the US District Court in San Francisco accused the Saudi Arabia government officials for hiring two Twitter employees to intercept confidential information on influential individuals and dissidents. It said the accounts were those of government's sternest critics with more than 1 million followers and a news personality. However, it failed to mention the individuals.

and we won't interfere with that. We are making the production of textile manageable locally so that Kenyans can afford to buy new clothes at a lower cost. This way, the mitumba clothes will be phased out automatically as no one can buy them when the new one is cheaper," he said.

The adoption of cotton strategy by EAC ministers is aimed at making the textile industry competitive not only in the region but globally. It focuses on the value chain, which includes seed production, lint and production of garments.

The council further approved the final draft on leather and leather products sector strategy and its implementation roadmap. The council, which met at the EAC headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania, further directed EAC partner states to give priority to the implementation of the CTA and the leather products sector strategy.

VINDICTIVE

Woman pays out her cheating husband's divorce settlement fee of U\$7,500 in coins

PENNSYLVANIA

THE mother of two hatched a plan to get back at her cheating husband after being ordered to pay a settlement fee.

Brandi Lee was devastated when she found out that her husband had been cheating on her with his friend's wife, a woman who ate at their dinner table and attended their wedding as they promised to love each other for better or for worse, in sickness and in health.

After finding out, she then decided to file for divorce, and the court ordered her to pay him \$7,500. She says the court told her what to pay, but did not tell her how, therefore she decided to pay him in coins to make the exchange as irritating as possible.

The furious mother headed straight to her local bank and explained her story, where she found sympathy from the bank tellers. The staff offered to help with her plan. She says they were not only willing to provide her with \$7,500 coins, they also assisted in formalising the payment plan. She sent him 10 boxes of coins weighing roughly 160 kg (350 pounds) each and bank said they will not accept change unless rolled.

"I just wanted to prove a point that you probably should watch p**sing off a redhead and that whatever lucky gal he ends up with next... he thinks with the right head this time," said Brandi. According to Indigofamilylaw, adultery laws may be favorable to the spouse filing for divorce if adultery is at the heart of the break-up. In such cases, the judge has the discretion to assign less of the marital debt and a larger percentage of marital assets to the party harmed by the infidelity.

Brandi says it is, however, the other way around in her state. "Pennsylvania is a no-fault state. Meaning that cheating counts for nothing in our legal system. I still 'owed' him something since we had combined our marital assets. \$7,500 was



An assortment of US dollar coins.

the magic number he wanted to walk away with and finally divorce me," said Brandi.

Brandi, who is a dairy farmer, called out her ex-husband on a Facebook post that has since been removed, for bailing out on their children and abandoning his duties.

"So, hubby... while you're sitting at home rolling dime. Maybe you can take out some time and think about

how difficult my life has been after abandoning me with two babies, two farms to take care of and pulling your income out of this family, but not taking any bills with you. How difficult it is for your kids since you're around and think about how much I loved you and how you blatantly lied when you looked into my eyes and promised me forever."

Before the post got deleted

on Facebook, it was flooded with comments. Other users applauded her brilliant plan to avenge herself from her ex-husband. "I would have loved to see his facial expression," one person commented. "You are my hero," said another, while someone else wrote: "Good for you!! His loss."

They were all hopeful that the husband had learnt his lesson from leaving his wife

for his friend's wife. Brandi was having the last laugh; the entire settlement was converted in 10 cent coins. She also posted herself holding a coin, joking that she was starting a GoFundMe to earn back the \$7,500, captioning the post: "My co-workers are raising my money back!" Later, she then posted a picture of herself wearing a t-shirt written 'Divorced AF.'

TECH SAVVY

SA's biggest TikTok stars ranked among the world's top accounts

JOHANNESBURG

Short-form video giant TikTok recently surpassed 1.5 billion downloads, which makes it one of the world's most popular social media apps - despite the fact that many people outside of their teens have never even heard of it.

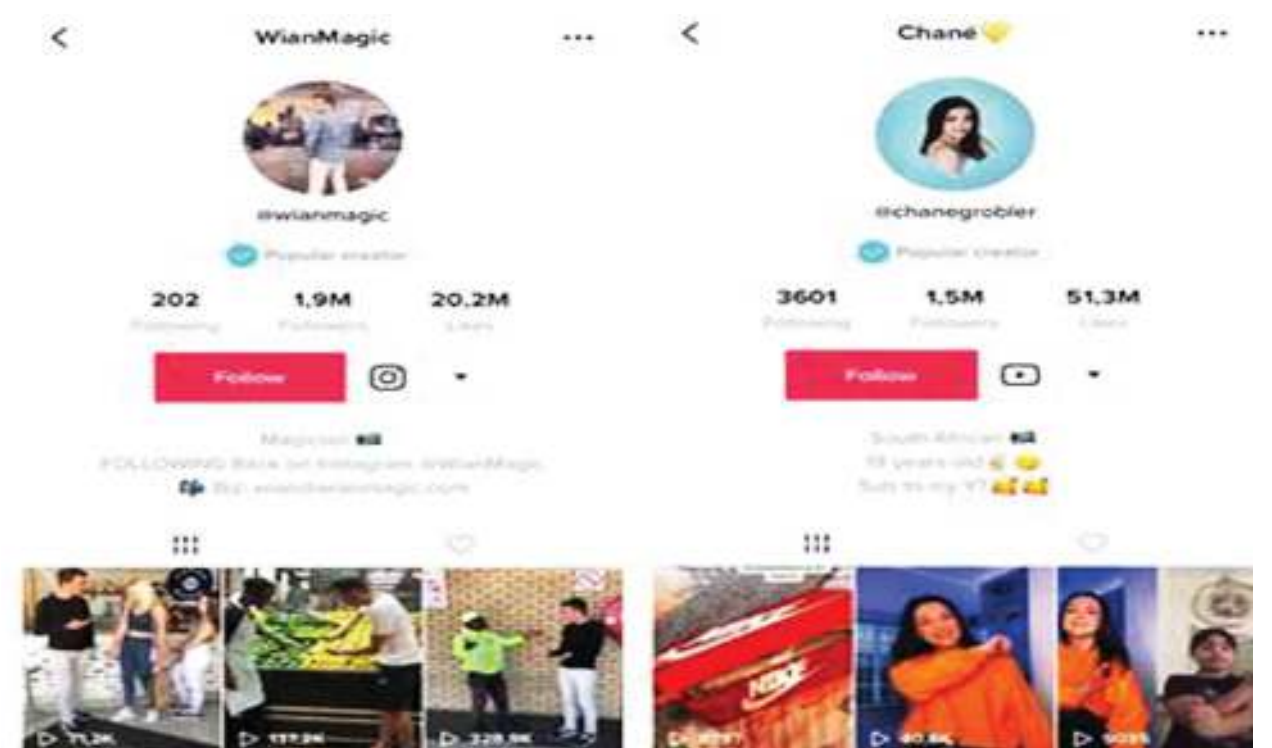
Young South Africans have taken to the app enthusiastically, with many in a position to generate some form of income as so-called TikTok influencers. Popular themes for local videos vary, but most tend to fall within sporting spoofs, acting out South Africanisms, magic tricks, or - as with most videos on the platform - lip-syncing to songs in bedrooms.

The app is centred around short, sharp, videos under 60 seconds - sometimes they're carefully choreographed and scripted, other times they're simple, spontaneous, or seemingly off the cuff. Its popularity has exploded among teens in particular, as they attempt to outgun their peers with quirkier, more outrageous, or more suggestive clips.

Increasingly, though, older users have also taken to the app - with actors, comedians, musicians, and magicians adding it to their arsenal of social media tools to help pull in more views from more fans. Much of TikTok's growth has been down to an explosion of users in India - who accounted for 31% of the app downloads this year.

But South Africans have also been quick on the uptake - even though the app only officially launched here last year, millions are now using TikTok to get some social media attention. Although it's difficult to officially establish just how popular the platform is in South Africa, local hashtags offer some insight. #tiktoksouthafrica and #southafrica have amassed a combined 7,000 videos and 350,000 fans. Videos categorised with the hashtag tiktoksouthafrica already have in excess of 400 million views.

And although South African users are yet to break into any global top 100 TikTok influencer lists, some, including former South Africa's Got Talent contestant Wian Van Den Berg, are getting close. The



Local influencers Wian Van Den Berg and Chané Grobler.

22-year-old Van Den Berg, who goes by WianMagic on TikTok, makes short street magic videos in the vein of David Blaine - tricks like turning chocolate packets into chip packets, pulling abnormally large straws from McDonald's takeaway packets, "finding" R100 notes in lemons at Food Lover's Market, and attaching rubber snakes to "unsuspecting" victims.

He has 1.9 million followers, and his 120-odd videos, most of which are just a few seconds in length, have been liked by other TikTok users more than 20.1 million times. This puts him just outside of the global top 1,000 influencers - but comfortably in the top 1%.

The size of his following, and the engagement with his posts, is enough to generate at least some income on the platform. One TikTok user with

880,000 fans told Business Insider US that she earns between R295 and R735 by doing a single TikTok livestream. And sometimes she can make as much as R1,400 with a single "live," although she says the app does take "around half" of the money she makes.

According to TikTok ranking website TikRank, Van Den Berg currently has potential earnings of R419,401 thanks to his TikTok presence. Just behind Van Den Berg in the local rankings is Chané Grobler - a 19-year-old from Pretoria. Grobler has amassed 1.5 million followers on the platform with her thousands of videos - they consist mainly of bedroom choreography and lip-syncing to backing tracks.

One of her most popular TikToks is a skit set to Katy Perry's E.T., in which there appears to be some kind of suburban teenage love triangle - with

the caption of "Oof that escalated quickly ????". It has 858,800 likes, 2,800 comments, and has been viewed 3.4 million times.

Her videos have generated 51.1 million likes and in excess of 300 million views - which, according to TikRank's calculations, is enough to generate potential earnings of R117,482. Although these local TikTok users may be achieving some degree of local fame, or infamy, in the context of the international rise of the platform they still have some way to go.

Of the independent creators who gained notoriety from TikTok, the most popular accounts have in excess of 20 million fans. At the very top of the global TikTok list is 17-year-old Loren Gray, who also favours lip-syncing videos and skits - at last count she had 35.2 million followers.

ENTERPRISING

Retailer democratising makeup for SA women and artists with Scarlet Hill

JOHANNESBURG

With eyeshadow shade names such as Si'right, you have to give this major local retailer props for showing an understanding of their target market. Mr Price (MRP) is almost every South African woman's go-to for affordable trendy pieces - whether we're going to a birthday soiree or a date, there's always an item to pick for your occasion.

Perhaps this retail giant's most redeeming quality is, therefore, how it continues to democratise fashion and make it accessible to all - what one may not be able to afford at that four-letter Spanish store everybody loves, you may still get at an affordable price at MRP.

It's called Mr Price for a reason, right?

Their clothes have always been affordable and now every woman gets to wear safe makeup without worrying about their skin getting ruined. After all, part of the beauty of shopping is searching for the best value for your money. As I've said before: "in the (literally polluted) world of fast fashion, if the exact same garment is sold for R200 at one place and R2000 at another, a lot of us are more likely to go for the option that makes financial sense, unless of course, you're loyal to a particular brand. Both are totally okay."

So with the beauty industry booming

now more than ever in Africa, it's about time consumers and industry experts - beauty vloggers and makeup artists alike - got even more affordable products available at their eyeshadow swatching fingertips. Yep, MRP's first-ever beauty brand, Scarlet Hill Beauty, is here!

Introducing SA's most streamed female artist on Spotify, Durban-born Shekhinah, and makeup artist extraordinaire Lungile Thabethe, as their brand ambassador and head MUA respectively, Scarlet Hill declares that "linking these two personalities together was a stroke of genius - and we're not talking about their brushes."

Mr Price also describes Scarlet Hill as "your go-to for bankable beauty you can totally afford," adding that "if you've got a next-level make-up obsession, fangirl over new products and are against animal testing, you've just made a friend for life!" Indeed, with lipstick selling for R39.99 and setting spray for R59.99, I think we're all in for a treat because everybody knows those Dis-Chem beauty hauls don't come cheap, therapeutic as they are.

Personally, when it comes to makeup, I'm all about the tools, so my excitement about the range is the fact that I can now shop and replace lost and damaged brushes or blenders without even going out of my mid-month budget. For example, this 3-pack brush set goes for R79.99.



A model wears the Scarlet Hill 'Butterscotch' BB cream.

SUCCESS

Kirehe smallholder farmers find opportunity in organic farming

KIGALI

Inside sterile rooms of Tuzamurane Cooperative's processing plant in Gahara, Kirehe District, fresh pineapples are peeled, sliced, and placed in two huge driers, where they are kept for at least 16 hours.

This process involves teams of 20 permanent workers and more than 100 casual workers who work in shifts 24 hours a day to make sure two tonnes of dry organic pineapples reach their customers in France. This market alone rakes in for the cooperative Rwf300m in revenues every year.

The dried pineapples are supplied ready to eat, and can be kept for between 12 and 18 months, and are packaged in two different forms: one of 100 grammes and a much bigger one of two kilogrammes.

The idea of the cooperative dates back in 2005 when a few farmers in Gahara were tired of low prices and lack of markets for their pineapples especially during bumper harvests. Their produce would actually at times go to waste for lack of preservation technology. As it turned out, the demand for organic produce was very high, locally and internationally and they decided to go organic. Organic farming is a time of farming where non-chemical fertilisers are exclusively used.

Back to the starting point of the food supply chain, Seraphine Mukangamije, mother of three from Ga-

hara, is busy monitoring her 2.5 hectares of pineapple plantation near her home, to make sure the produce she will supply to her cooperative is of good quality. She is one of the 80 members of Tuzamurane, whose plant also works with more than 100 other certified farmers (non-members) as suppliers of pineapples.

Growing organic

Five years ago, Mukangamije's family grew a few pineapples that they could only sell for as low a price as Rwf30 each. After joining the cooperative, anytime of the year, she sells one kilo of pineapple for Rwf130, with one of her pineapples weighing above three kilos.

An organic pineapple costs triple the price of conventional pineapple, said Mukangamije,

who employs five permanent workers. "Physically, you cannot tell an organic pineapple from an ordinary one, but in taste there is a huge difference," she explained.

"I avoid chemical products on my farm. I monitor my own farm and that of my neighbours, I do not control them, but I try to maintain a buffer between our farms to avoid contamination in case they use chemicals," she added. At the plant, Tuzamurane only accepts organically grown pineapples, be it for members or any other supplier.

When a supplier learns that a neighbouring farmer has sprayed their crops, they inform the cooperative, and it takes some days for the produce to be accepted by the plant again.

Certification system

According to Jean Marie Irakabaho, a consultant at Rwanda Organic Agriculture Movement (ROAM), to ensure the produce supplied to the plant are purely organic, there is a certification system.

"In the certification system, you do not sell any pineapples from any place, they must come from known farms, with names, surface area of the farm, because if you bring a pineapple and the laboratory finds it contains components of NPK fertilisers, you lose the entire market."

Irakabaho said that using mulch on the surface of the soil around the pineapples helps the soil retain the moisture in the dry season, and with time, the mulches become rich fertilisers. Mulches also encourage worms that add

nutrients to the soil, he added. It takes three years of 'transitional period' to completely shift from conventional to organic farming.

Monitoring

According to Albert Kamana, agronomist of the cooperative, monitoring and traceability are ensured in the management of organic farming. When the pineapples are received by the processing plant, each lot is marked with the farm and the owner it came from, he said.

Before the start of the season, the cooperative dispatches its workers to the farms to assess the yield. There are field officers paid by the cooperative who come to the farmer on the day of harvest, to make sure no yield is sneaked in from any other farm.



Inside one of the sterile rooms of Tuzamurane, where organic pineapples are dried.

DONATION

Chicken, pizza, burger most ordered food online despite alerts

NAIROBI

Chicken, pizza and burger dominate delicacies that are ordered online amid health concerns about fast foods, which have been associated with lifestyle diseases. A report of food

analysis released by Jumia Food Kenya Tuesday indicate that fried chicken has been leading in the last three years. These foods have been associated with health complications such as obesity.

The report attributes high demand for chicken on affordabil-

ity, pointing out that most restaurants have lowered the cost to attracting high number of buyers. "For the last three years, chicken has been the most popular with pizza ranks consistently second in terms of popularity," said Shreenal Ruparelia, managing di-

rector Jumia East Africa.

Ms Ruparelia said burger has moved from the fifth position in 2017 to number three, highlighting increased cases of middle class seeking first foods as opposed to cooking. The trends, say the findings, are informed by

convenience needs from the customers who are willing to spend an extra coin. "Consumers are starting to value convenience more and more. They are willing to spend a little bit extra to save time and effort," says the Jumia Food Index Report 2019.

Wealthy Kenyans sitting on Sh1.4 trillion cash pile

NAIROBI

Corporates and wealthy individuals are sitting on a cash pile worth Sh1.41 trillion in a soft economy where investment options are becoming limited.

Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) data shows that long-term and fixed deposits associated with the wealthy, money market funds and cash-rich corporates rose from Sh1.11 trillion in October 2017, reflecting a growth of 27 percent.

Foreign currency deposits also rose from Sh553.2 billion to Sh625.3 billion in the period under review, an indication that the wealthy are protecting their value and hedging against the local currency over investing their fortunes.

The revelation comes in the backdrop of data showing that the cash in Kenyans' pockets dropped to a six-year low in September. CBK data shows that cash in circulation outside banks stood at Sh227 billion in October, down from Sh269 billion in the same month last year.

Analysts say high-net worth investors and companies with billions of shillings in fixed accounts have opted not to invest in expanding their businesses or starting new ventures, citing lower sales and returns. This ultimately had the effect of reducing the amount of money in people's pockets and cutting circulation of cash outside banks and short-term deposits.

Low returns from a bearish stock market and a slump in real estate has seen the rich opt to keep cash in banks and tap from interest returns that stood at 6.98 percent in September. While companies see the money in banks as a buffer against hard times, it has long riled investors, who say executives should invest it for growth or return it to shareholders. However, with reduced demand, most have preferred to keep cash in banks with money in fixed deposits now equivalent to what the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) collects annually from taxes.

A monthly survey that tracks business output in manufacturing and services sectors revealed that new orders that Kenyan companies received during the month expanded at the slowest rate in six months.

"The future output sub-index still indicates that firms are cautious on activity over the coming year," said Jibran Qureishi, regional economist for East Africa at Stanbic - which tracks business through its monthly Kenya Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI). This signals reduced investments and hiring plans and a continuation of job cuts as firms protect profits.

Companies have been struggling with reduced sales and profits in a soft economy that has persisted since 2017 when Kenya went through a bruising General Election and a repeat presidential election. Business owners have also accused national and county governments of delaying payments to suppliers worth more than Sh150 billion.

This has hurt businesses that trade with the government, leading some of them to be auctioned on failure to clear bank debts as others cut back on operations. The government has started to clear pending arrears owed to the private sector in order to alleviate these cash flow constraints.

Last month, Kenya also removed a cap on commercial interest rates that had been in place since 2016. It had been blamed for stifling private sector lending growth and reducing the effectiveness of monetary policy. Mr Qureishi said the change would boost business activity.

"As commercial banks begin to extend credit..., the private sector will be in a much better position than it ...has been for the past two and a half years," he said. The rise in deposits has also strengthened bankers' hand in influencing deposit rates, which have fallen from 8.26 percent in January last year to 6.98 percent in September.

WORLD

Kenya arrests Nairobi governor on suspicion of corruption

NAIROBI

KENYAN police arrested Nairobi county's governor, known for his chunky gold jewellery and impromptu raps, yesterday on corruption charges, a high profile move in the government's much trumpeted anti-graft push.

Chief public prosecutor Noordin Haji said at a news conference the Governor Mike Mbuvi Sonko and his

associates were accused of conspiracy to commit corruption, failure to comply with laws related to procurement, unlawful acquisition of public property and laundering the proceeds of crime.

Sonko and his assistants did not respond to calls seeking comment.

Citizens and international investors have long complained of corruption in Kenya, East Africa's business hub and richest economy.



Nairobi Governor Mike Mbuvi Sonko

President Uhuru Kenyatta appointed Haji, a former deputy head of national intelligence, last year after years of taking little action to rein in widespread graft.

Yesterday, Haji accused Sonko, who runs the Kenyan capital as Nairobi's most senior regional politician, of "deploying intimidation tactics and using goons to threaten law enforcement officials" investigating the case.

Police used tear gas to disperse hundreds of Sonko's supporters when he was called into the anti-corruption office for questioning in

November.

Sonko, a former senator, was elected in 2017 after years of news splashes featuring his flamboyant lifestyle and flashy fashion, complete with ubiquitous chunky gold jewellery and eye-catching hairstyles.

After Kenyatta and Deputy President William Ruto faced charges of crimes against humanity following the disputed 2007 elections and subsequent violence, Sonko showed up to the proceedings at the Hague-based International Criminal Court with "Uhuruto Not Guilty" dyed into his hair.

He was recently photographed using a gold-plated iPad and matching iPhone and has appeared in rap videos gyrating in public offices wearing gold-coloured trainers while insulting political opponents.

He invited a storm of public criticism this month after he shared photos online of his dining room, featuring a gold-plated lion statue, and a gold-tinted dining table and chairs.

He has recruited hundreds of people into his "Sonko Rescue Team" who sweep out streets or appear at fires wearing "Sonko" branded red boiler suits in Nairobi's poorest neighborhoods.

On Thursday, Sonko received an award sponsored by the Kenya Red Cross and United Nations Volunteers for encouraging volunteering.

Sonko has been photographed handing out cash for things like hospital bills but Nairobi has seen little improvement in public services under his watch.

Nairobi's public schools and clinics are crumbling, roads are potholed and hundreds of thousands of people live in slums without access to electricity, sewage or services.

Agencies

Rwanda says partnership with PSG to boost tourism potential

KIGALI

THE newly announced partnership between Rwanda and French soccer club Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) will play a "big role" in boosting Rwanda's tourism potential, Rwanda Development Board (RDB) said on Thursday.

Rwanda and Paris Saint-Germain, through the newly announced partnership, are inviting the world to be part of Rwanda's inspiring transformation, RDB's chief tourism officer Belize Kaliza said at a press conference in Kigali, capital city of Rwanda.

Rwanda's tourism potential will

be given huge exposure to the world through the partnership, which will increase the popularity of Rwanda as a tourism destination and promote made-in-Rwanda initiatives such as fashion, arts and coffee and tea, said Kaliza (pictured).

The Paris Saint-Germain community and the world will have a unique opportunity to experience Rwanda's beauty, culture, environment, and modern and distinctive made-in-Rwanda products through unprecedented and creative communications, she said.

The partnership will also convey Rwanda's openness to wel-



come business partnerships from France and across the world, she added.

According to a statement of RDB, Rwanda and Paris Saint-Germain will bring together their expertise through a new model of sport partnership built around three main cornerstones: cultural and artistic synergies, a shared com-

mitment to excellence and football development.

Under the partnership, first team players and legends of Paris Saint-Germain will travel to Rwanda for remarkable experiences that will be shared with more than 70 million PSG fans across the globe.

Visit Rwanda branding will be displayed at the Parc des Princes Stadium, on the sleeve of Paris Saint-Germain women's team, and on the back of training kits. Fans of Paris Saint-Germain will also be given the opportunity to savour award-winning Rwandan tea and coffee that will be served exclu-

sively at the Parc des Princes starting next season.

A week-long event will be organized in Paris to promote made-in-Rwanda products. A number of fashion, art and lifestyle collaborations will also be launched over the coming months and young and eco-responsible luxury brands will join forces with Visit Rwanda and the football club in tripartite collaborations.

Paris Saint-Germain will also support young Rwandan footballers to reach their full potential by organizing training programs for both coaches and youth.

Xinhua

Pelosi greenlights drafting articles of impeachment, White House braces

WASHINGTON

U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has greenlighted the drafting of articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump, as the White House braces for a Senate trial.

Speaking on Capitol Hill Thursday morning, Pelosi said she is asking the House Judiciary Committee to draft articles of impeachment, accusing Trump of having abused his power for "his own personal political benefit at the expense of our national security."

"The president leaves us no choice but to act," she said.

Trump, who has denied any wrongdoing or a "quid pro quo," renewed his attacks on the months-long impeachment process in a series of tweets.

"The Do Nothing, Radical Left Democrats have just announced that they are going to seek to impeach me over NOTHING," the president wrote. "This will mean that the beyond important and seldom used act of impeachment will be used routinely to attack future Presidents."

Claiming "the Republicans have never been more united," he said, "We will win!"

Pelosi's announcement came a day after the House Judiciary Committee chaired by Democrat Jerry Nadler held its first hearing as part of the impeachment proceeding against Trump.

At the hearing marked by partisan disagreements over Trump's conduct toward Ukraine, three constitutional law professors, called by Democrats, testified that they believed Trump committed impeachable offenses.

A fourth legal expert, whom Republicans invited, cautioned the Democrat-led House against moving forward with impeaching the president.

The House Judiciary Committee announced on Thursday that it will hold a second hearing on Monday.

The hearing is "to receive presentations from counsels" to the House intelligence and judiciary panels and lawyers of both parties will be present, according to an announcement.

House Democrats are look-



ing into whether Trump abused his office by pressuring Ukraine into launching investigations that could benefit him politically. Lawmakers are also examining whether the Republican conditioned a White House meeting or a military aid to Ukraine on those probes.

The articles of impeachment under consideration are reportedly abuse of power and bribery, obstruction of Congress, and obstruction of justice.

Polls have shown U.S. voters are also largely divided along party

lines over impeachment.

The White House has so far refused to cooperate with the impeachment proceeding, accusing Democrats of an unfair process, but suggested on Thursday that it would likely be part of the Senate trial.

Counselor to the president Kellyanne Conway told reporters at the White House that they are "very ready" for the trial.

The Senate process, she said, "would include live witnesses who have visibility and knowledge into

facts." White House counsel Pat Cipollone would likely testify, she added. According to the nation's constitution, the House shall have the sole "Power of Impeachment" while the Senate shall have the sole "Power to try all impeachments."

Trump will be impeached if the House approves any of the articles of impeachment the House Judiciary Committee has recommended by a simple majority vote.

But conviction can only happen in the Senate and requires at least two-thirds of its members, or 67 senators, to vote in favor. Currently, the Senate has 53 Republicans, 45 Democrats and two independents.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell on Thursday tweeted criticism of Pelosi, accusing her of advancing a "rushed and partisan impeachment process."

David Axelrod, director of the University of Chicago's Institute of Politics, said in tweets that he believes the House will impeach Trump by the end of the year but the Senate won't convict him.

Xinhua

China steps up IPR protection

CHINA recently issued a guideline calling for intensified protection of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR).

Titled "The Guideline on Strengthening Intellectual Property Rights Protection", the document proposed a series of innovative measures to protect IPR, and clearly emphasized the goal of achieving strict, widespread, fast and equal IPR protection.

In recent years, China has made increasing efforts to strengthen IPR protection. From 2013 to 2018, the country investigated and prosecuted 269,000 patent infringement and counterfeiting cases and 201,000 trademark infringement and counterfeiting cases.

In the first half of the year, China advanced patent and trademark administrative law enforcement, investigating and prosecuting 6,529 cases of patent infringement and counterfeiting, and 11,500 trademark violations.

The document calls for strengthening the punishment for infringements and counterfeiting, regulating evidence collection, intensifying law enforcement measures and improving the protection system for new business forms.

Wu Handong, honorary director of the intellectual property research center with Zhongnan University of Economics and Law, said the document has improved the policy framework on stricter IPR protection through giving more play to the role of institutional constraints.

Meanwhile, through pushing for the revision of the Patent Law, the Trademark Law and the Copyright Law, the document provides a legal guarantee for stricter IPR protection.

Through the Internet plus IPR protection initiative, China has built a convenient, efficient, and low-cost channel for rights protection. In December 2018, 38 Chinese ministries and departments launched the joint punishment of serious IPR infringements. Besides, through innovating the IPR protection mechanism, the country has significantly improved the capability and efficiency of IPR protection.

The document also calls for greater efforts on the monitoring of IPR-related law enforcement, promoting an IPR governance system in the whole society, and providing professional support for IPR protection.

Sun Jungong, vice president of Alibaba, said IPR protection should involve the efforts of governments, owners of intellectual property, and e-commerce platforms, to share governance information and technologies, and achieve mutual benefit and win-win benefits through joint collaboration.

In the first half of 2019, China shortened the invention patent review period to 22.7 months, and high-value patent review period to 20.5 months, and reduced the average review period for trademark registration to no more than 5 months. The country is seeing improving efficiency and quality in intellectual property review and strengthening IPR source protection.

People's Daily

UN chief urges more international partnerships to help landlocked developing countries

UNITED NATIONS

UNITED Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Thursday called for more international partnerships to help the world's 32 landlocked developing countries.

Many of these countries are in remote locations, do not have access to all kinds of connectivity, and are also lacking or underdeveloped, the UN chief said while urging the international community to be aware of the geographical disadvantages faced by landlocked developing countries.

"All of this combines to increase costs, decrease opportunities, and impede their integration into the global and regional economies," Guterres said at the opening of the Comprehensive Midterm Review of the Vienna Programme of Action on Landlocked Developing Countries, a document adopted five years ago.

"This has a negative impact on poverty alleviation and sustainable development," he added.

The UN chief said that these challenges can be overcome with partnerships. "We need the right policy mix, increased investment, reliable transit infrastructure, efficient customs operations and improved access and use of technology."

Landlocked developing countries have low trade integration, account for less than 1 percent of global exports, and more than 80 percent of their exports are primary commodities and natural resources. Infrastructure also remains inadequate, said Guterres.

"Foreign direct investment, which is often a critical driver for building competitiveness, has continued to decline," he added.

The midterm review is "our chance to assess and renew our work and forge greater coherence and synergy among the Vienna Programme, the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and other relevant international frameworks," Guterres said.

"Development partners need to work together to mobilize both domestic and external resources, and direct them to growth-inducing, high priority areas," he said, adding that innovative financing for infrastructure has to be scaled up.

Xinhua

Libyan, Turkish maritime MoU raises regional tensions

TRIPOLI

THE maritime memorandum of understanding (MoU) that Libya and Turkey recently signed has been raising controversy even before it enters into force.

On Nov. 27, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Libya's UN-backed Prime Minister Fayez Serraj signed two MoUs on security and maritime boundaries in the Mediterranean.

Libyan analysts believe that the maritime MoU raises regional tensions, which could escalate the regional situation and open the confrontation between Tripoli and Ankara.

"The MoU recently signed between Tripoli and Ankara will certainly not go

quietly, especially with the position of the Eastern Mediterranean countries, namely Greece, Egypt and Cyprus.

The three countries regard the MoU as an attempt to expand Turkey's influence in the Mediterranean which has enormous economic wealth," Khaled Tarhouni, a Libyan political analyst, told Xinhua.

"The MoU is ambiguous because its terms have not been revealed, as if the two parties are trying to hide details that are economically harmful to the interests of countries in the region," Tahouni said.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said the maritime MoU signed with Libya aims to protect Turkey's rights in the Mediterranean.

The signing of the MoUs came amid differences between Turkey on one hand, and Egypt, Greece and Cyprus, on another hand, over the exploration rights for oil and natural gas in the Mediterranean.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry warned on Tuesday the MoU would further deepen the rift between Libyans.

Kamal al-Mansouri, a Libyan economic analyst, believes that the maritime MoU should be agreed upon by all countries of the Eastern Mediterranean, in order to avoid tension that may amount to a clash between the countries of the region.

"Economic wealth, especially at sea and at border points, creates deep

disagreements between countries concerned. Therefore, escalation and tension between countries increase, as each country believes that its interests are affected by a bilateral agreement," al-Mansouri told Xinhua.

"Libya, Turkey, Greece, Egypt and Cyprus should all sit down and decide on the type of agreement on the use of maritime sites overlooking each country and their equitable demarcation.

Thus, the relations (between those countries) would guarantee each country's rights towards the other," al-Mansouri explained.

"Without that, signing bilateral agreements in such a heated environment means resorting to war options to defend economic interests," al-Mansouri

added.

The European Union demanded the Libyan authorities to explain the contents of the maritime MoU, stressing full solidarity with Greece and Cyprus against Turkey.

"It is imperative that the international law of the sea, the principle of good neighbourly relations and the sovereignty and sovereign rights over the maritime zones of all neighbouring coastal states, including those generated by their islands, need to be respected," the EU said in a statement on Wednesday.

"All members of the international community must abide by these principles and should refrain from any actions undermining regional stability

and security," it added.

In a phone call with the EU Ambassador to Libya Alan Bugeja on Saturday, the foreign minister of the UN-backed Libyan government said that "Libya is cooperating with all countries for the common interests as guaranteed by international law."

The eastern-based House of Representatives of Libya called on the United Nations and the Arab League not to recognize the MoU, considering it "void" as the House of Representatives had not approved it.

Libya has been suffering escalating violence and political instability ever since the fall of the late leader Muammar Gaddafi's regime in 2011.

Xinhua

China urged to take 'stronger countermeasures' against US' Xinjiang bill

CHINA will take strong countermeasures against the US, including releasing an "unreliable entity list" that includes relevant US entities, and imposing sanctions on relevant US officials, experts said, after the US House passed an act filled with groundless accusations against China's Xinjiang Tuesday night, local time.

The Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act smeared China's counter-terrorism efforts in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and used fabricated information to slander the vocational education and training centers and religious freedom in the region, analysts said.

Lü Xiang, a research fellow on US studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing, told the Global Times that this act doesn't have any review process. The sources of the act are loose and unreliable.

Diao Daming, an associate professor at the Renmin University of China in Beijing, told the Global Times that in addition to conveying the truth to the international community, China can adopt the unreliable entity list to list "those companies that dance to the act."

Diao suggested China should also impose sanctions on US politicians who pushed the act, and the NGOs behind it. "The US tactic is to place national law above international law. We should also think about coming up with our own agenda," he said.

"China will hit back with stronger countermeasures," Wei Jianguo, a former Chinese vice minister of commerce and executive deputy director of the China Center for International Economic Exchanges, told the Global Times. He hinted that the countermeasures could be even stronger than what China had taken after the US passed the so-called Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act.

Wei said China can sanction certain

US entities and personnel in the unreliable entity list and restrict their entry to and activities in China. "Chinese people are never afraid of a threat or the US. We will fight back with tough measures," he said.

Erkin Oncan, a Turkish journalist who has followed Xinjiang issues for many years, slammed the act for its sinister intentions. "What China is trying to achieve, the US is trying hard to destroy," Oncan said.

The act was initially submitted to the US Senate by notorious anti-China Senator Marco Rubio on January 17. Ironically, the act, which tarnished the counter-terrorism efforts in Xinjiang, was passed at the Senate on September 11, the anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Diao told the Global Times the US hastily pushed the act shortly after Trump signed the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act because congressmen believe it would be easier to get the new act passed.

Generally speaking, the US Congress was quite busy in the first half of the year. If they don't push it now, they may need to wait until April 2020. "So they want to fight a quick battle. Some congressmen also think the act is easy to get passed under the current situation of pressuring China," Diao said.

"The act shows how US government grossly interfered into China's internal affairs. It's a serious violation of international law and fundamental principles of international relations. It is also a provocation against the Chinese people," Wei said. He added that China is no longer the lamb to be slaughtered and won't tolerate finger pointing by the US at its internal affairs.

Aside from factual errors, the act is also full of double standards. It accused China of using advanced technology for surveillance across the region. But the adoption of modern



technology and big data to improve social governance is common in the international community.

"I think the US is the last country that has the right to criticize China in tech security. US itself uses high technology to monitor people, and the US commits very serious crimes by doing it illegally," Oncan told the Global Times.

"China's surveillance system is based on security, but the US version is based on the citizens' privacy. They [the US] watch secretly, categorize them and even sell them to companies which are working on matters like the elections."

He noted that it's absurd for the US to criticize China because China uses its surveillance system to prevent crime and make life easier.

"China is not doing it secretly, unlike the US. The US uses the biggest data collection app in the world: Facebook!" he said.

Another example of the double standards is that the US totally ignores the achievements Xinjiang has made.

Oncan said as a country with a base in Guantanamo Bay, the US represents double standards. "The US repeatedly uses the same arguments, which have already been explained by the Chinese government. And they purposely use a 'human rights' discourse which has the wrong context. China secures the beliefs, language and culture by blocking radical Islam and terrorism."

"The Xinjiang issue is not new. It was brought up 10 years ago. But at that time, because the terrorist activities were so intense, the US could not support it di-

rectly. But now when China has made great achievements in Xinjiang and no terrorist activities have happened in nearly three years, they bring up Xinjiang again," Lü said.

While the act threatens to sanction certain Chinese senior officials and restrict exports of certain items, Diao told the Global Times that they cannot be realistically implemented, and any rational government will not implement it.

"But the act will be like a sword hanging over China's head. In the future, any president can use it. In this sense, the act will have a very negative influence," Diao said.

Lü suggested that if the act damages China, we can consider sanctioning the states represented by those legislators.

Global Times



Putin says Russia will not stop gas transit through Ukraine

SOCHI

COMMISSIONING of the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline does not mean that Russia will abandon gas transit through Ukraine, President Vladimir Putin said yesterday at the meeting with the German business executives.

"The pipelay of the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline is close to completion now; its commissioning will make possible to double potential Russian gas supplies over the Baltic route," Putin said.

This will be an extra contribution to satisfaction of the demand in Germany and other countries," he said. "I would like to stress that this is a purely commercial project. The government is not actually participating in it. I reiterated many times to avoid any interpretations and would like to say once again - it does not mean at all that Russia intends to stop transit through the territory of Ukraine," the president said.

Russian and Ukrainian companies will hopefully find a mutually acceptable solution for natural gas transit to European countries, Putin said.

"As you are aware, we are holding talks with our Ukrainian partners now. They are underway in Vienna. As I see, bargaining positions are stated from both sides, fairly difficult for implementation, to put it straight," the president said.

"However, I hope participants in these negotiations, business companies in the first instance, will find acceptable solutions for them," he noted.

Agencies

DPRK turns up heat on Trump, calls him 'dotard' again

THE Democratic People's Republic of Korea may be preparing to conduct engine tests at a long-range rocket launch site, stepping up pressure on US President Donald Trump ahead of a year-end deadline it imposed to get a better deal from the US in nuclear disarmament talks.

A satellite image from Thursday shows activity at its Sohae Launch Facility, which leader Kim Jong-un had once said he dismantled in a concession to Trump. The move comes as the two sides have revisited old insults - "Rocket Man" from Trump and "dotard" from the DPRK - while Pyongyang said Washington's behavior will determine what "Christmas gift" it gets from Kim.

The commercial satellite image shows activity at the Sohae facility that includes what appears to be a newly arrived shipping container at the engine test stand, according to Jeffrey Lewis, director of the East Asia Nonproliferation Program at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies, who works with the US-based imaging company Planet Labs.

"This isn't the Christmas gift that North Korea promises, but it is a lump of coal in Trump's stocking," said Lewis, a specialist in analyzing in satellite imagery. He added "this is one more sign that we've reached the end of diplomacy and a return to missile testing."

The DPRK is also referred to as North Korea. The DPRK's deadline puts one of Trump's biggest foreign policy achievements on the line just



Kim Jong-un

as he gears up for re-election. Kim has demanded Trump ease up on sanctions choking his country's paltry economy and end what Pyongyang sees as Washington's "hostile intent" toward it.

The Republic of Korea's Defense Ministry didn't immediately respond to a request for comment on the satellite imagery. Engine testing helps the DPRK develop weapons of a more threatening nature to the US and regional allies including the ROK and Japan.

Kim placed a moratorium about two years ago on the testing of nuclear weapons and intercontinental ballistic missiles that could deliver a warhead to the US to help his talks with Trump.

But the bonhomie has been tested this week, with Trump reviving his derisive "Rocket Man" nickname for Kim and again threatening to use

military force against the DPRK.

One of Pyongyang's top nuclear envoys, who once praised the "mysteriously wonderful" chemistry between the leaders, slammed Trump for using words that had prompted "waves of hatred" among the DPRK people. She also dusted off an old insult the state has used for Trump.

"If any language and expressions stoking the atmosphere of confrontation are used once again on purpose at a crucial moment as now, that must really be diagnosed as the relapse of the dotage of a dotard," Choe Son-hui, first vice-minister of foreign affairs, was quoted Thursday as saying by the state's official Korean Central News Agency.

The ROK's unification ministry said the DPRK and the United States seemed to still have differences in negotiations for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Xinhua

Russia ready to combat cybercrimes jointly with US, says Kremlin

SOCHI

MOSCOW opposes US extraterritorial prosecution of Russians, but is ready for cooperation with Washington on combating cybercrimes, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters yesterday.

Earlier, the US State Department announced a reward of up to \$5 mln for information leading to the capture or conviction of Maxim Yakubets, whom the US authorities brand as the leader of Evil Corp. hacker group.

"Russia has offered cooperation many times [in fight against

cybercrimes] but unfortunately our proposals stumbled on a blank wall of reluctance and misunderstanding," Peskov stressed.

"We traditionally oppose extraterritorial prosecution of Russian citizens by the US," Peskov said.

According to Peskov, Moscow deems cybercrimes as very serious, stressing that malefactors should be held accountable. "We traditionally call for cooperation in investigating these crimes and apprehending criminals, but in this case there is no talk about cooperation and this is not due to our fault," he noted.

The US Department of the

Treasury announced sanctions on Thursday against Russian national Maxim Yakubets, who is accused of deploying malicious software and an attempted theft of an estimated \$220 mln from bank accounts. Washington claimed that Yakubets provided "direct assistance to the Russian government."

The Treasury Department claimed that in 2017 Yakubets worked for the Russian Federal Security Service and in April 2018 he was allegedly "in the process of obtaining a license to work with Russian classified information from the FSB."



HONG KONG is China's Hong Kong. Its destiny has always been closely linked with its motherland. The central government and the 1.4 billion Chinese people will always provide strong backing for Hong Kong to overcome any risk and challenge.

The US side signed the so-called Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019 into law, which not only grossly interferes in China's internal affairs, but also once again exposes the sinister intentions of some US politicians. Under the banner of "human rights" and "democracy," the law intervenes in Hong Kong affairs by means of intimidation and threats. Its essence is to disrupt Hong Kong and contain China.

In response to the unreasonable behavior of the United States, the Chinese government decided to suspend its review of requests for

Hong Kong's future lies with its motherland

US maritime vessels visiting Hong Kong and sanction several US non-governmental organizations, including the National Endowment for Democracy, National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, International Republican Institute, Human Rights Watch, and Freedom House, which behaved badly during Hong Kong's recent chaos.

We urge the US side to correct its mistakes, and stop interfering in Hong Kong affairs and China's internal affairs.

We will take further necessary actions according to the development of the situation, firmly safeguard Hong Kong's stability and prosperity, and firmly safeguard China's sovereignty, security and development interests.

Attempts to use the Hong Kong issue to interfere in China's internal affairs and hinder China's development are doomed to fail. Hong Kong's future and destiny are always in the hands of the Chinese people, including Hong Kong compatriots. Any attempt to disrupt Hong Kong and undermine its stability and prosperity will not succeed.

Since Hong Kong's return to the motherland, the practice of the "one country, two systems" principle in Hong Kong has been a globally acknowledged success.

Hong Kong's position as an international financial, shipping and trade center has been constantly consolidated. Hong Kong compatriots enjoy more democratic rights and freedoms than ever

before. This is a fact universally acknowledged by any unbiased person.

However, some politicians in the United States were lying through their teeth, openly supporting violent criminals in Hong Kong through domestic legislation, and trying to make Hong Kong a "bridgehead" to contain China.

This kind of behavior not only exposes the extreme hypocrisy of some American politicians on the issues of human rights and democracy, but also exposes the willfulness and madness of "American hegemony."

In fact, the so-called Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019 condones violence and protects the moral decay and the absence of humanity of violent

criminals.

Over the past five months, Hong Kong has witnessed continuous violent crimes, which have seriously infringed upon and threatened the fundamental rights and freedoms of Hong Kong citizens, and have also led to the second consecutive quarterly fall in the Hong Kong economy.

In the face of public opinion that hopes to stop violence and restore order in Hong Kong, some American politicians publicly claimed that the behavior of radical demonstrators "has inspired the whole world," and glorified the violence as "a beautiful sight to behold."

Some even walked the streets of Hong Kong to "help" the mob. This is not only a confrontation with more than 7 million Hong Kong

citizens, but also a confrontation with 1.4 billion Chinese people, and a confrontation with world justice and international basic norms.

A prosperous and stable Hong Kong is in the common interests of the international community, including the United States. The US actions of harming others and not benefiting themselves fully show that they do not want Hong Kong to restore order, nor do they really think about "human rights" and "democracy." Their attempts to curb China's development by undermining Hong Kong's prosperity and stability are unpopular and will not succeed.

Today's achievements in Hong Kong are inseparable from the firm support of the Chinese mainland. The achievements are the result of

the efforts of Hong Kong people to carry forward the "lion rock spirit."

They are not the gift of any foreign country. Over the past 20 years since Hong Kong's return to the motherland, Hong Kong has experienced two financial storms, the menacing SARS and bird flu outbreaks, a rising unemployment rate and declining income growth. However, relying on the mainland and embracing the motherland, hard-working and intelligent Hong Kong compatriots are able to work hard to avoid danger every time.

Today, from the vast open space of the big bay area of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau to the broad stage of the Belt and Road Initiative, the strong motherland provides not only strength and confidence to Hong Kong, but also opportunities for Hong Kong.

People's Daily

Mwanza gospel musician to release album

BY CORRESPONDENT SABATO KASIKA

RENOWNED Master of Ceremony in Mwanza, alias MC Mziwanda, who is also a gospel singer, has completed recording videos for two tracks, which will constitute his album titled 'Mungu Yuko Hapa'.

MC Mziwanda (pictured) mentioned the songs as 'Sema Nasi' and 'Shuka Baba', adding he has featured video queen Sonia Boniface in the tracks.

"I will next week shoot a video of my third track, titled 'Ulinzi' which is a continuation of my efforts to complete the album which will consist of eight tracks," he disclosed.

The singer was adamant that he has opted to display his talent in gospel, although majority of people know him as a Master of Ceremony.

"I'm a Master of Ceremony but I can also sing and that is why I will produce an album. I have genuinely delved in the initiative," he noted.

He disclosed he targets to see to it he also wins prominence in gospel.

He pointed out the plan can reach to fruition given he has what it takes to excel as a gospel musician by God's grace.

Gospel music lovers, the musician disclosed, should be ready to enjoy his tracks.

"I want to put my talents to show with a view to seeing to it understand I can work a Master of Ceremony and I can also praise God through gospel," he noted.

MC Mziwanda noted gospel can educate and entertain people, and bring them closer to God.

He disclosed he is sure his tracks will fulfil the intended plan.



Kitenge attires now colour foundation launch in Moro

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA, MOROGORO

KITENGE attire has for years been a popular outfit that a big number of Tanzanians prefer.

The outfit turned out to be a preferred dress code at a launch of the Wildina Foundation in Morogoro recently.

The foundation, as disclosed by the body's officials, targets to empower female police economically.

The colourful function brought together several dignitaries, who include Morogoro's female police, spouses of regional police commanders and spouses of fire brigade headquarters' officials.

The event included religious leaders and economists.

Speaking at the launch, the foundation's chairperson, Yustina Mutafungwa, said she had in the past five years conducted a research on challenges facing female police that are not engaged in entrepreneurship and found lack of skills and limited time hinder the officers from delving in entrepreneurship.

Yustina, a spouse of Morogoro Regional Police Commander Wilbrod Mutafungwa, said the foundation targets to expose women, particularly female police and policemen's wives, to entrepreneurship skills.

She disclosed the body as well gears towards seeing to it the targeted group access loans with lower interest rates with a view to

engaging in small businesses without interfering with their duties.

"It's time women woke up, I'm a wife of policeman too, I have experienced the same challenges, let us stand together and fight for our rights, you should not be stressed when your partners are transferred from one post to another," she told the foundation members.

The Wildina Foundation launch's guest of honour, Bengi Issa, National Economic Empowerment Council's Executive Secretary, congratulated the foundation's strategies to empower women and people with disabilities to reach targets.

"I congratulate you, I'm happy in 2020 a foundation with similar objectives will be launched in Dodoma and thereafter across the country," she disclosed.

On his part, pastor Mgogo called on women to opt out of embracing a lifestyle they cannot afford.

He said they should not seek to imitate their colleagues' lifestyles because people differ in terms of income.

"You should not seek to, for instance, enjoy a lifestyle a District Commissioner has, she is an official, you should accept your status," he insisted.

"You should live within your means, your lives will be meaningless if you won't fully exploit opportunities you are presented with by the government."



National Economic Empowerment Council's Executive Secretary, Bengi Issa (C), and Wildina Foundation's chairperson, Yustina Mutafungwa (L), pictured during the foundation's launch in Morogoro recently. The foundation targets to empower female police economically. Also in the picture is Gairo District Commissioner, Siriel Mchemba. PHOTO: MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

Predicted starting XI for Kilimanjaro Stars against Kenya in Challenge Cup

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL MWEBE

AFTER a thoroughly disappointing CECAFA Senior Challenge Cup outing in Kenya in 2017, Mainland Tanzania's squad 'Kilimanjaro Stars' returns to this year's tournament with a point to prove.

Kilimanjaro Stars, who have been drawn in a group which also consists of Zanzibar, Sudan and Kenya, face the latter first on Sunday at Lugogo Stadium, Kampala.

The Mainland Tanzania squad's technical bench under Juma Mgunda have faced an injury crisis with Shaban Chilunda, Frank Domayo, Abubakar Salum, Idd Selemani, Erasto Nyoni and Juma Kaseja all missing.

First things first, Mgunda needs to pick his team for Kilimanjaro Stars' opening game tomorrow - and here's what he should be thinking.

Aishi Manula (GK) - With Juma Kaseja omission in the final squad, the Simba SC goalkeeper is comfortably first choice, and will only ever miss out through injury.

Juma Abdul (RB) - The Young Africans (Yanga) defender has done a reasonable job in the league in the absence of Paul Godfrey, but he will need to step up otherwise it won't be surprise if either youngster, Nickson Kibabage, or Kagera Sugar's Mwaita Gereza are preferred.

Kelvin Yondani (CB) - Tanzania, unfortunately, does not have the abundance of quality centre-back options they should have, meaning the ageing duo of Yondani and Nyoni had to be forced from retiring post 2019 AFCON finals. Kilimanjaro Stars' defense will look up to Yondani's guidance. He will don the captain's armband and



Kilimanjaro Stars' players feature in training at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam early this week to shape up for this season's Senior Challenge Cup, which will be played in Uganda from Saturday to December 15. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

expected to deliver the performance of a seasoned veteran.

Bakari Mwamnyeto (CB) - Yes, he is not the modern ball playing centre-back one would have wished to have in the team but he plays reasonably well and he will definitely partner up with Yondani.

Mohamed Hussein (LB) - Hussein faces fierce competition from his club mate Gadiel Michael but having started in the last three games at club and national team level, he is likely to start. This is a close call though with every appearance the battle is swinging in favour of Hussein.

Jonas Mkude (CM) - After being in and out and also missing out in the 2019 AF-

CON final squad, Mkude looks well placed to continue making the national team CM place his own. He is a firm first choice in Mgunda's team.

Mzimiru Yassin (CAM) - The versatile midfielder is almost guaranteed to get the nod ahead of newcomers Zawadi Mauya and Baraka Majogoro.

Hassan Dilunga (RW) - The Simba playmaker is establishing himself as one of Stars' key attackers and he is expected to start given the absence of Sure Boy.

Ditram Nchimbi (ST) - The rise of Nchimbi has been swift, but you can't say he doesn't deserve it. He single-handedly dragged Tanzania to victory from a losing position against Sudan in Oc-

tober. Almost guaranteed to start. The coach and fans alike will hope that Nchimbi can maintain his good form with the National team which has seen him grab one goal and two assists in three competitive appearances.

Miraj Athuman (LW) - Miraji is having a sublime campaign and netted his sixth goal of the season against Ruw. Shooting last time out in the league for Simba. His consistent good form in the league makes him a shoo-in starter in a squad that needs someone who can use pace and dribbling skills to open up defenses.

Paul Nonga (ST) - The ever green striker is having a brilliant form in the 2019/20 campaign, having already notched up seven goals and four assists. His league form should carry enough weight to see him start ahead of competition from Zambia's based Eliuter Mpepo.



Morogoro Regional Commissioner, Loata Ole Sanare (in dark suit), gets information about Uluguru Mountains from regional game reserve official, Nanjiva Nzumda (in blue dress), during the launch of a campaign for promotion of the region's tourist attractions which took place at Jamhuri Stadium in the region last weekend. Looking on (L) is Saadan National Park official, Aldo Mduge. PHOTO: MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

Morogoro sets strategic plans for promotion of tourist attractions

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA, MOROGORO

MOROGORO Regional Commissioner, Loata Ole Sanare, has declared the region as the second in Tanzania after Arusha in areas with the best tourist attractions.

Sanare issues the statement in Morogoro last weekend when he presided over the launch of a regional campaign for promoting tourist attractions, particularly in Southern Circuit.

The launch took place at Jamhuri Stadium.

He said it is time Morogoro sets up strategic plans, which targets to see to it the region properly promotes its tourist attractions.

According to Sanare, the attractions, namely Nyerere, Mikumi, Udzungwa and Saadan national parks, increase government revenue as well as improve the natives' lives through availability of direct and indirect job opportunities.

"Morogoro is a region blessed with tourist attractions. The region has national parks and unique species, which are found at Uluguru Mountains, the spe-

cies are never found in other parts of Africa except there," he emphasized.

Sanare disclosed regional officials as well as tourism stakeholders will have a series of meetings which will schedule activities related with tourism throughout the year.

The initiative is in line with the region's efforts to enable visitors enjoy whenever they tour the region.

Regional Tourism and Cultural Network (RTCN)'s Director, Eda Kapinga, said before the launch they had already conducted

tourism activities, which were sponsored by Antique Legacy Hotel and Pepsi Company.

The activities involved hiking Uluguru Mountains and sending over 100 people at Mikumi National Parks to enjoy the richness of the region.

"We thank the regional office for backing the initiative, we also appreciate the office's pledge to support tourism stakeholders in any activity related to it, it is hoped the Southern Circuit will enjoy progress in tourism promotion," she said.

Mane didn't win Ballon d'Or because he is African - Kouyate

LONDON

SADIO Mane would have won the Ballon d'Or if he was European or Brazilian, according to the Liverpool forward's Senegal team-mate Cheikhou Kouyate.

Mane came fourth in the final standings with 347 votes from the panel of world football journalists, behind winner Lionel Messi (686 votes) of Barcelona, Liverpool team-mate Virgil van Dijk (679) and Juventus forward Cristiano Ronaldo (476).

As well as helping his team to Champions League glory in June, Mane has continually excelled in domestic action for the Premier League's runaway leaders and Kouyate, who was part of the Palace team that lost 2-1 to Mane's Liverpool in November, suggested the 27-year-old was overlooked due to an anti-African bias.

"For me this Ballon d'Or is for Sadio Mane, there is no doubt about that," Kouyate told the Mirror.

"Listen, if Sadio was a Brazilian or a European there would not have been no debate.

"It would have been him for the award straight away and it's not because I play with him at international level, or because I know him; it's just what people who watch

football feel.

"Just go back and watch what he did for both club and country and you will see in between the lines that no one has been better than him."

Mane was instrumental in Senegal's run to the final of the Africa Cup of Nations, scoring three goals in five appearances before they were beaten 1-0 by Algeria at the last hurdle.

Kouyate added: "We all know that Messi is really good, maybe the greatest player, but last season, come on.

"Maybe it's not just football that they look at because there is no way three people had a better season than him [Mane].

"It's just unbelievable how some people are judged but that is not fair."

Liberia's George Weah is the only African recipient of the Ballon d'Or, winning it in 1995 ahead of Jurgen Klinsmann and Jari Litmanen.

Mane's Liverpool team-mate Mohamed Salah finished in fifth in the 2019 Ballon d'Or standings, with Kylian Mbappe (sixth), Alisson (seventh), Robert Lewandowski (eighth), Bernardo Silva (ninth) and Riyad Mahrez (10th).

(Agencies)

Messi's apparent retirement hint was misunderstood - Suarez

BARCELONA

LIONEL Messi's apparent hint at retirement was "misunderstood", according to Barcelona team-mate Luis Suarez.

Messi, 32, said "the moment of withdrawal is approaching" after winning a record sixth Ballon d'Or on Monday, leading to retirement talk.

However, Suarez believes the Argentina star's comments were misunderstood, backing the forward to play for years to come.

"[Messi] amazes me because he is a one-off and is making history," Suarez told beIN SPORTS.

"As a friend and team-mate, [the Ballon d'Or] makes me happy and proud because it's a beautiful moment for him.

"[His comments] were misinterpreted. When someone wins a Ballon d'Or they are happy but also nervous.

"Leo is a human being and gets nervous like the rest of us. He wanted to say he might have to contend with retiring in a couple of years.

"It was misunderstood, but I'm sure Leo Messi will continue for a long while yet."

Suarez has starred for Barca since arriving from Liverpool in 2014, but the 32-year-old has also been linked with a move away despite being contracted until 2021.

The Uruguayan international said he would do what was best for the LaLiga champions, who sit top of

the table.

"If they bring in a new team-mate for me to compete with, that's the same pressure as having to play every three days," Suarez said.

"And I have to be thinking about the future of the club - as a fan of the club, I have to think about the future, and maybe the best thing is if they sign a young or an established player to carry the torch as Barcelona's number nine."

Meanwhile, Atletico Madrid and Barcelona clashed in an enthralling La Liga encounter on Sunday. With four minutes left on the clock, it took a moment of magic from Lionel Messi, thus confirming his status as one of the best players in the world, to separate the two sides as he fired Barca into the 1-0 win.

The Argentinian's strike did not only earn Barca the three points that see them remain at the summit of the La Liga but also meant that the number '10' could fulfil his pending challenge at the Wanda Metropolitano.

As it was the only stadium in La Liga where he had not scored yet. An atypical anomaly for a player who has broken all color and condition marks throughout his career.

Messi scored eight times at Atletico's old Vicente Calderon stadium but was yet to score at the stadium in the league since Los Rojiblancos moved to their new home back in 2017.

(Agencies)

Vieira not top choice for Arsenal job - source

LONDON

PATRICK Vieira is not at the top of the Arsenal wish list for their managerial role but remains in contention, sources have told ESPN FC.

Former Gunners captain Vieira, who manages at French club Nice, is one of the candidates and his profile is being considered by the club's hierarchy. Reports, however, stating that he was the favourite to get the job are off the mark at the moment.

Vieira is keen on getting the job but some of his team's recent performances have raised questions. Nice are 14th in the Ligue 1 table with more losses (8) than wins (6) this season. They were defeated 4-1 at Saint-Etienne in midweek and have not won back-to-back league matches since the first two match days of the season.

Vieira, 43, arrived on the Cote d'Azur in July 2018. He finished 7th in his first season but overall has a losing record since joining the club

and averages 1.39 points per game in the French top flight.

Prior to Nice, Vieira managed two seasons at MLS side NYCFC for two seasons, where he finished with a record of 44 wins, 22 draws, and 28 losses.

The Arsenal board has started the process of choosing their next manager. The idea is to get the right man, take their time, and not select the first one available, according to sources.

Mikel Arteta, Mauricio Pochettino, Max Allegri, Brendan Rodgers, Eddie Howe and Marcelo Gallardo have all been mentioned as candidates to permanently replace Unai Emery, who was sacked last month.

The directors also want to give time to interim boss Freddie Ljungberg to have a positive impact on the team, even if his first two games in charge, at Norwich (2-2) and against Brighton (1-2) have been disappointing.

(Agencies)

Manchester giants seek derby delight as Liverpool threaten to burst beyond reach

LONDON

BOTH sides of the Manchester divide will be hoping some derby delight can add impetus to disappointing seasons when City host United on Saturday, while Liverpool travel to Bournemouth aiming to surge further clear at the top of the Premier League.

Manchester United got a badly needed win for manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer on Wednesday, inflicting a first defeat as Tottenham manager Jose Mourinho as the Portuguese returned to Old Trafford.

The Red Devils were again reliant on Marcus Rashford goals as the England forward struck twice to take his tally to 12 in 13 games for club and country.

"He was strong, direct, taking people on, inside and outside with no fear," said Solskjaer.

"That's what we want - we want to see boys enjoying themselves."

There has been precious little for United fans to enjoy this season, but just a fifth Premier League victory in 15 games was enough to lift them up to sixth.

That is still 11 points adrift of third-placed City, despite their own struggles at times.

Pep Guardiola's men looked more like their old selves in thrashing Burnley 4-1 on Tuesday with Gabriel Jesus stepping up in the absence of the injured Sergio Aguero to score twice.

City have lost just one of six league meetings with United since Guardiola took charge three years ago and cannot afford to slip up if they are to maintain any aspirations of catching Liverpool in the title race.

The English champions could kick-off at the Etihad 14 points behind the



Pep Guardiola



Ole Gunnar Solskjaer

leaders, should Jurgen Klopp's men continue their scintillating form at Bournemouth earlier on Saturday.

"For the distance we are behind Liverpool it would be crazy to think about the title, we have to think about the derby," said Guardiola.

- Strength in depth -
Klopp could even afford the luxury of leaving Roberto Firmino and Mohamed Salah on the bench for a 5-2 thrashing of Everton in the Merseyside derby in midweek.

Both are expected to return for the visit to the south coast, but Klopp may rest some of his stars who did start against Everton ahead of a huge week for the European champions.

Liverpool travel to Salzburg in the Champions League on Tuesday needing to avoid defeat if their defence of the title is not to embarrassingly end in the group stages.

Divock Origi scored twice against Everton and Xherdan Shaqiri struck on his first start of the season to prove Klopp does have the strength in depth to successfully shuffle his pack.

"It's easy for me to tell them often, very often, how good they are but if they then don't play it's not too easy for them to always understand what I say," said Klopp.

"But if they play and deliver like they did, it's a very, very important sign for the whole squad."

- Leicester aiming for cloud nine -
Leicester remain Liverpool's closest challengers, eight points back in second, thanks to a run of eight straight wins in all competitions.

"The team is developing and are proving they have a winning mentality and mindset," said Leicester boss Brendan Rodgers, who has dismissed

speculation linking him with the vacant managerial role at Arsenal.

Next up for the in-form Foxes is a trip to Aston Villa on Sunday.

Villa are one of a host of teams hauled back into the battle to avoid relegation by Southampton's resurgence with Dean Smith's men just one point above the drop zone.

Fixtures (all times GMT)

Today
Everton v Chelsea (1230), Bournemouth v Liverpool, Tottenham v Burnley, Watford v Crystal Palace (all 1500), Manchester City v Manchester United (1730)

Tomorrow
Newcastle v Southampton, Norwich v Sheffield United, Aston Villa v Leicester (all 1400), Brighton v Wolves (1630)

Monday
West Ham v Arsenal (2000)

Man City flex financial muscle to leave Man Utd lagging behind

MANCHESTER, UNITED KINGDOM

THE balance of football power in Manchester has swung comprehensively to City from United on the field and the Premier League champions are now on the verge of toppling their neighbours in the financial stakes as well.

Despite failing to hit the heights of their past two title-winning campaigns, City host United on Saturday already 11 points ahead of their local rivals just 15 games into the league season.

The Red Devils sit sixth, eight points adrift of the Champions League places, and facing a huge fight to get back into that highly lucrative competition next season.

As City try and win the Champions League for the first time, having already booked their place in the last 16 for a seventh consecutive season, United's finances are suffering as they play Europa League football for the second time in four years.

United posted record revenues of £627 million (\$818 million) for last season as they reached the Champions League quarter-finals and finished sixth in the Premier League.

That was nearly £100 million more than City's £535 million for the 2018/19 campaign despite the blue half of Manchester winning an unprecedented domestic treble of Premier League, FA Cup and League Cup.

However, United predict their revenue will fall to between £560 million and £580 million this season due to the drastically smaller broadcasting deals and prize money on offer in the Europa League.

City's figures for this season will also be boosted by a £650 million kit sponsorship deal between parent company, the City Football Group (CFG), and Puma for the next 10 seasons.

That deal is still lower than United's £750 million 10-year deal signed with Adidas in 2014, but it signals the shrinking difference in the commercial value of the two clubs.

"I think the gap will narrow substantially," football finance expert Kieran Maguire told AFP. "From just under £100 million this year between the two clubs, that gap will be narrowed to £10-20 million for 2019/2020."



Manchester City

City's success over the past decade has been bankrolled by the club's Abu Dhabi owners, who have at times fallen foul of UEFA's financial fair

play rules with sponsorship deemed above market value such as shirt and stadium deals with Etihad Airways, which is owned by the Abu Dhabi government.

However, the Puma contract shows that City's success on the field means they are no longer reliant on their commercial deals

coming from the Middle East.

"They have also got sponsorship deals with the likes of Nissan and Nexen Tire," added Maguire. "On the back of winning the Premier League four times in the decade and having a global profile, they are not as dependant on the Middle East for sponsorship deals as they were compared to the initial Etihad deal."

City's rise was reflected when US equity firm Silver Lake acquired just over a

10 percent stake of CFG for \$500 million last week.

That gave CFG a global record valuation for a sports franchise of \$4.8 billion.

By comparison, United's market capitalisation is just over \$3 billion, but also jumped on the news of the investment in City.

"In the 24 hours following the Silver Lake investment, United's market capitalisation itself went up by 11 percent, so perhaps the markets are saying we have undervalued United's valu-

ation and potential," said Maguire.

Days after the Silver Lake investment, CFG announced that Mumbai City would become the eighth club in a global empire that already contains New York City FC, Melbourne City, Yokohama Marinos in Japan, Sichuan Jiuniu in China, Spanish second division side Girona and Club Atletico Torque in Uruguay.

"They see growth in the overseas markets," added Maguire. "Silver Lake would not have put the money in unless they thought there was greater growth potential in the City Group."

United were the club that pioneered the commercialisation of football on the back of their success under Alex Ferguson in the 1990s.

But since Ferguson's retirement in 2013, United have finished below their local rivals every season.

Now it is City, with their web of clubs around the globe and trophy-laden years under Pep Guardiola, who are leaving Manchester's traditional giant trailing on and off the field.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Manchester giants seek derby delight as Liverpool threaten to burst beyond

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TONIGHT @ 21:00

EATV UJENZI

MONDAY

11:00 DADAI (LIVE)
15:00 FUNGUKA
16:00 UTAKA
16:30 RHASHITAO
17:00 SILEKTI
17:45 KURASA
18:00 eNews
18:30 MUSIC
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:30 MIADALA
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 SPORTS LIVE
22:30 BONGO HITS

eastafrica RADIO

05:00 EA Breakfast
09:00 Supamix
12:00 Kipanga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipanga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

New Zealand head to Australia eyeing repeat of Hadlee's triumph

WELLINGTON

RICHARD Hadlee says New Zealand did something special in 1985 by winning their first test series in Australia and there is no doubt current skipper Kane Williamson would view victory in the upcoming series across the Tasman Sea as a career highlight.

Australia has been a difficult place to come for New Zealand, who have lost six and drawn three of their nine test series there since that triumph more than 30 years ago.

But Williamson's team head to Australia on Saturday for the first match, a day-night encounter starting on Dec. 12 in Perth, full of confidence after clinching their fifth successive series victory at home earlier this week against England.

They also received a welcome boost on Friday when pace spearhead Trent Boult and all-rounder Colin de Grandhomme were cleared to travel with the team.

Boult (ribs) and de Grandhomme (abdominal muscle) missed the second test against England but came through a fitness test on Friday in Mt. Maunganui. "Trent Boult and Colin de Grandhomme are both making good progress with their injuries and successfully trained today at Bay Oval," NZC said on their Twitter page.

"The pair will travel with the team to Perth tomorrow." New Zealand's recent away form, which includes a victory over Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates and a draw with Sri Lanka, means they head into the three-test series as the second ranked side in the world.

Consistency of selection over the last two years has meant the side is relatively settled and they have also built some depth in pace bowling and in the middle-order batting.

Fast bowler Lockie Ferguson is in the squad and could make his test debut on the tour, with the fast and bouncy conditions expected in Perth probably conducive to him hurrying up Australia's batsmen.

Neil Wagner could also benefit from faster wickets, with the left-armers having carved out an impressive record on unresponsive pitches in New Zealand with his ability to get deliveries to rear off a length.

Wagner was man-of-the-series against England and former Australia captain Ricky Ponting said that he was the "enforcer" in New Zealand's balanced pace attack.

"What they have is a well-rounded attack," Ponting told Cricket Australia's website.

"Guys with the new ball who pitch it up and try to swing it and Wagner comes in behind them and bowls fast and short.

"They'll use him as their enforcer."

New Zealand have few concerns in their batting, with opener Jeet Raval the only player in the first choice top-seven averaging under 40.

All of the top eight have scored test centuries and the side has been able to count on contributions from every player at different times, something Hadlee said had been key to their series victory in 1985.

"Collectively we all did something of value and importance," Hadlee told TVNZ earlier this week of the series where he took 33 wickets, including a career-best 9-52 in the first test in Brisbane.

Melbourne will host the second test from Dec. 26-30 with the final match at Sydney from Jan. 3-7. **REUTERS**

Kaseja surprised by omission from Kilimanjaro Stars final squad



Juma Kaseja

By Correspondent Michael

Mwebe

GOALKEEPER Juma Kaseja has been surprised by his omission from the Mainland Tanzania soccer team's final squad for the CECAFA Senior Challenge Cup 2019 by head coach, Juma Mgunda, but said he respects the decision.

Kaseja, who also turns out for Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC, has played for Tanzania's senior national team in last nine matches but he, on Thursday, was left out of Kilimanjaro Stars' travelling contingent to Kampala, Uganda.

Simba SC goalkeeper

Aishi Manula took Kaseja's place in the squad while Young Africans (Yanga) keeper Metacha Mnata and Gor Mahia's David Kissu also made the cut from the provisional squad which initially included 32 names.

Kaseja appeared to question Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) Media officer Clifford Ndimbo's explanation for the decision to exclude the keeper, in which the official said that the keeper is still injured and not fully healthy.

Ndimbo said Kaseja had reported to camp while carrying

a knee injury and, after the technical bench was satisfied that he needed more recovery time, he was pulled out of the final squad.

On his part, Kaseja responded by saying if officials think he is unfit he has to respect that decision as they are in better position to make that call.

"You might want to play but at the end of the day you have to listen to what officials say because they are better qualified to handle such matters. They know better than us," he noted.

"I would like to play for the

Mainland Tanzania team but it's the coach's decision and I have to respect it. The selected players are good and I believe they will fight for the nation," he said.

Sources at KMCFC indicate that Kaseja is battling a troublesome knee injury that has forced him to miss the outfit's last two league matches of the ongoing Vodacom Premier League.

He was unused substitute in KMC FC's last league match against Yanga where Burundian Jonathan Nahimana was preferred between the posts.

Against Mwanza's Mbao, Kaseja

did not make it in the match day squad. Instead Nahimana kept goal while third choice goalkeeper, Dennis Richard, was on the bench.

Kaseja was last seen in action when KMC FC took on Alliance FC in Mwanza and the keeper, who previously played for several outfits which include Simba SC and Yanga, conceded two goals in KMC FC's 2-1 loss in the league match, which took place on November 22.

Kilimanjaro Stars are in Group B of the Senior Challenge Cup alongside Zanzibar, Sudan and defending champions Kenya.

Kilimanjaro Stars will open their campaign tomorrow with a tricky duel against defending champions Kenya.

Kilimanjaro Stars Full Squad
Goalkeepers: Metacha Mnata (Yanga), David Kissu (Gor Mahia, Kenya), Aishi Manula (Simba SC)

Defenders: Juma Abdul (Yanga), Nickson Kibabage (Difaa el Jadidi, Morocco), Gadiel Michael (Simba SC), Mwaleta Gereza (Kagera Sugar), Mohamed Hussein (Simba), Bakari Mwananyeto (Coastal Union), Kelvin Yondani (Yanga)

Midfielders: Baraka Majogoro (Police Tanzania), Jonas Mkude (Simba), Zawadi Mauya (Kagera Sugar), Mzamiru Yassin (Simba SC), Cleophas Mkandala (Prisons) and Hassan Dilunga (Simba SC)

Forwards: Paul Nonga (Lipuli) Miraji Athuman (Simba SC), Eliuter Mpepo (Buildcon, Zambia), Lucas Kikoti (Namungo) Ditram Nchimbi (Police Tanzania), and Rashid Chambo (IK Frej Taby, Sweden)



Malale Hamsini

Police Tanzania hire Hamsini as coach

By Correspondent Joseph

Mchekadona

MAINLAND Premier League's new entrants Police Tanzania yesterday unveiled Malale Hamsini as the outfit's new coach for a period of two years.

Hamsini replaces Suleiman Matola who is expected to take an assistant coach's post at the league defending champions Simba SC.

The introduction of Hamsini, the former Ndanda FC head coach, took place in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Police Tanzania chairman,

Charles Mkumbo, said they are delighted to land the services of Hamsini whom he described as one of the best gaffers on the local scene.

He also thanked Matola for the services he offered to the Kilimanjaro-based outfit during his stay.

"We are happy to land the services of Hamsini, we believe that in him we have found a good coach who will help us realize our goals and ambitions," he said.

On his remarks, Hamsini said he will work hard to help his club realize their goals and described the appointment as an honour to him.

"I feel privileged and honoured to be appointed head coach of Police Tanzania, I promise to work hard at my new team, and I'm looking forward to good working relationship with my players and fellow officials at the club," he said.

Hamsini also said he will sit with his backroom staff to look into how they can work for the benefit of the team.

Under Matola's tutelage, Police Tanzania Football Club has become one of the feared teams in the league.

The side managed to notch 3-3 draw with Yanga in the former's opening match.

National junior swimming championships set for today

By Correspondent Renatha Msungu Dodoma

MORE than 150 swimmers in U-12 category are today expected to start their campaign to win various titles in the Tanzania Junior Swimming Championships at the International School of Tanganyika (IST), Upanga in Dar es Salaam.

The championships take place under supervision of Tanzania Swimming Association (TSA).

Inviolata Itatiro, TSA secretary general, said the event will have four age categories, namely U-7, eight and nine years, 10 and 11 years, and 12 years old.

Inviolata said TSA has organised the junior event to promote the sport, besides giving international experience to budding swimmers.

Inviolata said they expect to see swimmers fight for their club status as well as to improve their personal best time (PBs).

She said the competition is a continuation of TSA's mission to raise awareness and promote swimming in Tanzania.

According to her, trophies will be awarded to the top three swimmers in each age group while medals will be given for the top three swimmers.

The medals are gold, silver and bronze for the first, second and

third winners respectively.

"Points will be allocated for the first to 10th places. The top swimmer will get 20 points, second (16), third (14) points, fourth (12 points), fifth (10 points), sixth (8 points), seventh (6 points), eighth (4 points), ninth (2 points) and 10th will get one point," she said.

Inviolata said in order to spice up the event, TSA has included open age events to enable younger swimmers of different ages to show their ability by competing against older ones.

There will also, be open 400m and 200m freestyle for both girls and boys and 200m individual medley.

She said that they were in preparations ahead of the competition, which has been categorized according to age. The age groups include less than seven years old, eight and nine years, 10 and 11 years, and 12 years old.

The age groups are seven years olds and under eight and nine, ten and eleven and 12. She said swimmers under seven years will contest in 25m freestyle, 25m breaststroke, 25 meters backstroke, 25 meters butterfly, 50 meters freestyle, 50 meters backstroke and 100 meters Individual Medley (IM).

Flexibles by David Chikoko

