



SABOTAGE



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Scientists discover how malaria gene switched from gorillas to humans

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

A rare and unfortunate sequence of events allowed a deadly type of mosquito inhabiting gorillas to 'jump' species and attack humans, scientists say.

Hundreds of thousands of people die from malaria every year and it is the parasite *Plasmodium falciparum*, the type researchers studied, that accounts for most cases.

African great apes were the original host to

“ Rh5 currently is an important blood stage vaccine candidate for malaria and so if we can get any more information on this gene, that could really help us in trying to combat this disease

the parasite, they said, intoning that a chance genetic mutation about 50,000 years ago turned it into a threat to humans.

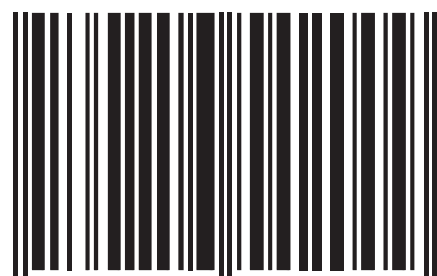
Researchers at the Wellcome Sanger Institute hope that the findings, published in the journal *PLoS Biology*, could help uncover new ways to fight malaria.

Malaria is caused by a parasite that gets into the bloodstream when an infected mosquito bites humans - or animals.

There are lots of different strains of parasite and one of the most important ones, which now affects only humans, is *Plasmodium falciparum*.

It switched host from gorillas at a time that there was a big migration of humans out of Africa, estimated at some 40,000 to 60,000 years ago.

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Hospitals likely to harvest organs from dying patients in transplants



Patients (from R) Frida Molle of Arusha and Omary Kanzaga and Richard Gikaro of Dar es Salaam, who have just had kidney transplant surgery at Muhimbili National Hospital, bid farewell yesterday to specialist Dr Njiku Kimu (L) shortly after being discharged from the Intensive Care Unit. A total of 51 patients have undergone such surgery since the service began at MNH two years ago. Looking on (2nd-L) is nephrologist and paediatrician Dr Jacqueline Shoo. Photo: John Badi

When we started the services, we lacked various resources and had only a few experts who were sent abroad for training. It was a risky and daunting task to undertake but, with the support of other institutions, we coped successfully

By Henry Mwangonda

TRANSPLANTING key organs by taking undamaged organs from dying patients is expected to be formalized by law, thus giving a boost to organ transplants at hospitals in Tanzania.

The Organ Transplant Act is in the offing to permit the harvesting of kidney, liver, bone marrow and other body parts to meet increasing demand for transplant surgeries in the country.

MNH Executive Director Prof Lawrence

“ No patient was ready to be the first to be transplanted upon, but there are some who believed in our experts and they are the ones who have enabled us to reach this far

Museru said at a press briefing in Dar es Salaam yesterday to mark two years since the start of kidney transplant services at the hospital that the drafting of the bill was on its final touches.

He said the bill was being prepared by the Ministry of Health to boost organ transplants.

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Rains paralyse transport in Dar as Morogoro Road portion lies closed

By Henry Mwangonda

THE sorry state of the drainage system in the commercial capital Dar es Salaam has been exposed once again with massive downpour as transport was paralysed in various suburbs yesterday, with a section of the key Morogoro Road closed.

A survey by The Guardian in various suburbs of Dar es Salaam yesterday saw long queues of motorists and perplexed pedestrians as a number of bridges and walkways were submerged by running

“ In fact, it would have not been good for us if the pipeline capacity had been exhausted by now

water. At commuter bus stations passengers were braving intermittent rains that went

on for most of the day as buses delayed in the queues.

Authorities were forced to close the busy section of Morogoro Road at the Magomeni descent to Jangwani valley as the silted underneath of the bridge was submerged by gushing water from upstream suburbs, leaving motorists and pedestrians stranded on both sides of the road, from Magomeni to Kariakoo.

Several smaller bridges were rendered impassable including the Mto Ng'ombe at

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Researchers outline climate change effects on poverty

By Guardian Reporter, Bunda

RESEARCH conducted by various at the Mwanza branch of the Institute of Rural Development Planning (IRDP) has shown that residents of Busega and Bunda districts in Simiyu and Mara regions, respectively, face extreme poverty brought about by climate change.

The research sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and conducted in various villages of the two districts found alarming levels of poverty that includes some households unable to have any substantial meals practically every day.

One of the researchers, Prof Innocent Zilihona from IRDP Mwanza branch and Joshua Mirumbe, former Busega District Commissioner



outlined these findings yesterday at a meeting to evaluate results of the research, held in Bunda, Mara region.

“We conducted research in Busega District

in Simiyu Region and in two districts in Mara Region and found extreme poverty with some of the households going without food, with a meal or so per day,” said Prof Zilihona.

“In collaboration with planning officers we prepared a paper on the project and then conducted the research. We found various poverty challenges in many households in the two districts,” he stated.

The meeting saw the participation of various stakeholders including government officials and residents from the districts, with a number of them airing views on what to do solve the problem.

Others complained of elephants from nearby Serengeti National Park invading their villages and destroying food crops, consigning them to hunger and prolonged poverty.

Bunda District Council vice chairman Sabato Mwaifimbo said that part the cassava crop which many people in the district depend for food has been attacked by a disease, thereby adversely affecting harvests.

The coordinator of the research project, Bonamax Mbasia said the research was conducted from June to August in the two districts.

On his part, the coordinator of UNDP poverty alleviation projects in Tanzania, Amon Manyama said the research exercise will go on and follow up on implementation of recommendations

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Hospitals expected to 'harvest' organs from dying patients for transplanting

FROM PAGE 1

with kidney transplants so far having benefited 51 patients.

Allowing organ transplants is part of efforts to solve challenges experienced during the two years, chief among them being the difficulty in finding willing donors to avail their organs to be removed for transplant to match an ever growing number of patients, he stated.

The new law shall facilitate establishment of transplant services for patients without blood relatives willing to donate organs, classed as high risk patients. At present transplants are done on patients with close relatives accepting to offer organs, making them low risk patients.

Convincing donors for patients that the hospital can indeed conduct the transplant safely was a problem, with many preferring to go abroad for such donations, he elaborated.

"When we started the services, we lacked various resources and had only a few experts who were sent abroad for training. It was a risky and daunting task to undertake but, with the support of other institutions, we coped successfully," he recalled.

The two years of offering the services has proved that it is possible to have super specialized services in the country, while there are still a few issues to address.

On the 51 patients operated at MNH, the hospital spent about 1.5bn/- in comparison with 6.1bn/- that would have been needed had the transplants been conducted abroad.

"No patient was ready to be the first to be transplanted upon, but there are some who believed in our experts and they are the ones who have enabled us to reach this far," he further noted.

The hospital intends to build a transplant centre hosting all such services including liver, kidney, bone marrow and other services to be launched in due course, the director affirmed.

MNH data shows that 340 kidney patients are on dialysis and every month 20 new kidney patients are registered.

Though no study has been conducted on the situation in Tanzania, available data shows 6.8 percent of the population is likely to have kidney complications and about 1000 people are currently undergoing dialysis in major hospitals nationwide.

Worldwide, around 10 percent of people have kidney problems and the majority are said to be in Africa.

For many years, Tanzanians suffering from kidney failure had to be referred abroad especially India for the procedure.

Kidney transplant was the second such achievement by the hospital after a successful cochlear implant surgery in June 2017.

MNH has in recent years enhanced its capacity to provide major services whereby the first was Cochlear implant, followed by radiology intervention and then kidney transplant.

The move reduces costs of liver transplant by 50 percent for instance, while a successful transplant costs about 100 million/- if conducted in India, taken as the cheapest for those pursuing 'medical tourism' especially from Western countries.

Researchers outline climate change link with poverty levels

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from stakeholders.

Bunda District Commissioner Lydia Bupilipili (pictured) expressed gratitude to UNDP for doing a lot on development issues, praising her predecessor Joshua Mirumbe for providing the much needed cooperation when he held that office.

DC Bupilipili said many

youths now languishing in Bunda Prison are there from offences relating to illicit fishing and hunting, and the main cause for such offences is extreme poverty.

Members of the District Defence and Security Committee visited Bunda Prison and found over 200 youths in there had conviction of these offences, she added.



Doris Likwelle (C), head of the teaching centre at the British Council's Tanzania Office, has a word with journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on a new English Course for Primary Schools set to be launched tomorrow. She is with academic programme manager Richard Fielden-Watson (L) and customer service manager Bernard Masha. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Scientists discover how malaria switched from gorillas to humans

FROM PAGE 1

They studied the genetic make-up of different ancestral types of the malaria parasite, focusing in particular on a gene called rh5 - the vital bit of DNA code that enables malaria to infect human red blood cells.

It is a target doctors are very interested in for developing workable malaria vaccines, including improving on a malaria vaccine rolled out for tens of thousands of children.

The researchers assert that tens of thousands of years ago, two types of malaria parasite happened to co-infect a gorilla and

they exchanged some genetic material between them.

It was at that point that Plasmodium falciparum picked up the rh5 gene, they argued.

Lead author Dr Gavin Wright said this was a rare event that led to so much death and disease in humans.

"We were quite surprised by the findings. It was very satisfying because it makes sense with lots of other research that has been done by colleagues. It provides this molecular explanation now as to how this jump could have occurred.

"Rh5 currently is an important blood stage vaccine candidate for malaria and so if we can get any more information on this gene, that could really help us in trying to combat this disease."

He said the chances of the parasite mutating again soon were slim to the extreme, although theoretically possible. Nearly half of the world's population is exposed to the risk of malaria, with the most cases and deaths occurring among young children in sub-Saharan Africa, the work of Plasmodium falciparum.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa inspects Kiwalala irrigation scheme in Mtama town, Lindi Region, yesterday. Others include Lindi district commissioner Shaibu Ndemanga (2nd-L) and Mtama legislator Nape Nnauye (3rd-R). Photo: PMO

Over 200,000 children set for vaccination in Kilimanjaro

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

A TOTAL of 223,772 children are expected to get polio, rubella and measles vaccination in Kilimanjaro Region as part of the nationwide campaign that started yesterday and ends on Monday.

Speaking at Pasua health centre in Moshi Municipality during the official

launch of the campaign yesterday, the Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner Dr Anna Mghwira urged parents and guardians to make sure that children aged between nine months to five years get the jabs.

"There are some people with ill perceptions that the said vaccinations have side-effects or health consequences to children in

their future lives, and some have associated and termed it a family planning for children in their early stages, but all these are not true," she pointed out.

However, Dr. Mghwira warned that, there are many side effects if a child would not be vaccinated, which also includes one's death if one would be infected or affected by measles,

rubella or polio, just in case you avoid taking a child for vaccination.

His part, the Kilimanjaro Regional Measles and Rubella Vaccination 2019 Campaign Coordinator, Peter Kihamia, who also focuses on preventing Polio explained that, once a child would not be vaccinated, risks of getting different types of sickness like heart problems would not be

ruled out, adding that such a child may also get permanent paralysis, pneumonia, malnutrition and cerebral haemorrhage, among others.

"We have a total of 312 centres for the vaccination in all districts of Kilimanjaro region, and we have also a mobile outreach for the remote areas to ensure that all targeted children will be benefited with the

vaccination", Mr Kihamia further explained.

He said the campaign is for new born babies, and those aged five years and below and did not complete earlier vaccination regimen, something which could create a pathway to the outbreak of other contagious diseases..

Rains paralyse transport in Dar as Morogoro Road portion is closed

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Manzese area which also left motorists as well as pedestrians stranded on both sides for several hours.

The Msimbazi occasional stream which discharges into the sea was overflowing, cutting off Kigogo from Ilala Boma thus leaving residents of both sides stranded for the better part of the day.

'Bodaboda' riders took advantage of the situation to make a killing by transporting people from one place to other using narrow pathways that cannot be accessed by vehicles.

Also some unemployed youths usually carrying luggage found a niche service of carrying persons on their backs through testing paths for a fee.

Back in April last year, Dar es Salaam regional authorities declared a state of emergency as heavy rains battered the city and inundated even the most resilient areas, leaving behind a death toll of about 15 and laying waste critical roads and infrastructure.

Over 70 percent of Dar es Salaam's 4.5 to 5 million inhabitants live in informal settlements, mainly straddling the two sides of the former Msimbazi river basin, now a silted seasonal stream.

The government through the Tanzania Urban Resilience Programme (TURP) funded by the World Bank has over the past two decades launched several initiatives to counter the problem.

The programmes were based on a strategic development and management framework to guide future investment activities relating to the basin area.

This includes a detailed plan for the lower basin, transforming much of the lower flood plain to a city park and building a solid foundation for housing and commercial development, experts noted.



Kigoma regional commissioner Brig Gen (rtd) Emmanuel Maganga (L) looks on as a nurse administers measles, rubella and polio vaccines to a child during the inauguration of a vaccination operation targeting under-fives at Kigoma's Kikungu health centre yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Joctan Ngelly

Minister launches demand-driven training programme for the youth

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

EDUCATION, Science and Technology, minister Prof Joyce Ndalichako yesterday launched a demand-driven skills, knowledge and employment training programme aimed at bridging skills gap especially among youth in the country.

The programme, dubbed, "Youth enhancement through Skills enhancement-YES project" funded by Helvetas Tanzania is a three-year project implemented in Dodoma and Singida rural districts benefiting at least 3000 women and men aged between 15 and 30 years.

Speaking on behalf of the Minister, Moshi Kabengwe Director of Administrations in the Ministry explained that skills form a crucial component for a prospective work-

force in the country.

"The programme will empower the unemployed and skilled young people to run their own small and medium scale economic activities," he said.

He added that it will also empower the youth whose majority had been involved in informal opportunities such as violence that risks the country's peace and security.

The director noted that with the government seeking to transform the economy into a middle-income country, both industries and factories need skilled force, the same to service providers.

The YES Project Manager Africanus Chalamila detailed that the project identified at least 11 institutions that include the VETA and JKT Makutupola to help provide training in the area of cooking,

construction, electrical installation, motorcycle mechanics, poultry farming, gardening, hotel management and agri-business.

He said each year the project targets to provide training to at least 1000 youth from the two districts. "The project is based on supporting the youth to acquire employability skills by sponsoring their training ... benefiting institutions are also required to highlight the market demands and help the graduates obtain jobs," he said.

Julius Mjelwa, a senior market analyst with the state-owned Vocational Education Training Authority (VETA) told the delegates attending the launching ceremony here that a large section of youth has an attitude that poses a great threat to an investor.

VETA strives to offer relevant skills needed in the labour market. He said the strategy provides a full-scale curriculum that considers people from various social and economic backgrounds.

Elizabeth Msainu, one of the beneficiaries thanked the government and project implementers saying it has empowered her and she can now take care of herself, the family of three children and her mother.



The programme will empower the unemployed and skilled young people to run their own small and medium scale economic activities

Simbachawene links dishonest scrap metal exporters with vandalism

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Vice-President's Office yesterday received a report on 38 containers impounded at the Dar es Salaam port early August which blames dishonest traders of exporting assortment of valuable articles in the name of scrap metal and vandalizing national physical

infrastructure.

Receiving the report prepared by the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) here, the Minister of State in the Vice-President's Office (Union and Environment), George Simbachawene decried the tendency and promised unnamed action against culprits.

"The report has startling revelations in some aspects.

For example, it shows dishonest exporters were trying to export unauthorized articles not in the list of their licences, or parts of vandalized vital installations like power cables, heavy sewerage lids and railway tracks. There is even an (unnamed) company that was doing this business without permit. I have asked NEMC take immediate legal action against the culprits linked

to the 38-container scandal based on recommendations in their report," the minister said.

On August 9, this year, the minister called for a comprehensive report on impounded 38 containers at the port after reports that scrap metal and assortment of valuable articles were being illegally exported to the disadvantage and harm of national economy.

"Unthankful traders who abused licences issued to them by the government and have taken part in sabotaging vital installations will not be allowed to go untouched," he warned sternly, explaining that scrap metal and toxic waste were needed by local industries and were therefore a key ingredient in promoting the national industrialization drive.

He also announced that local

government at grassroots level (serikali za mitaa) will oversee collection of scrap metal and toxic waste by individuals, adding: "from now on no person will collect, store, transport or sell to factories scrap metal or other materials for recycling without ministerial permission."

Presenting the report, the NEMC Director General, Dr Samuel Gwamaka said in all

cases all culprits ignored filling in form number three that, among other things, wants the exporter to indicate where the materials were obtained from.

The MD also said exporters will not be allowed to use falsified export documents; they will have to indicate the source of articles listed for export and present a permit from a prospective importing country.



RE-ADVERTISEMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

TENDER TITLE: DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (OPF) IN TRADEMARK EAST AFRICA (TMEA)

TENDER NUMBER: PRQ20170893

TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) is an organization funded by a range of development agencies to promote regional trade and economic integration in East Africa. TMEA is seeking consultancy services for development and implementation of an organisational performance framework (OPF).

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

Interested bidders MUST submit separate technical and financial proposals via TMEA procurement mailbox at the address procurement@trademarkea.com. Only applications from registered firms/consortiums shall be accepted. Interested, qualified and registered consultancy firms/consortiums should submit bids in line with the bidding instructions in the tender document.

**The closing date for applications is
15 November 2019 at 5.00 pm (Nairobi time).**

**TMEA cannot answer any query relating to this tender
five days or less prior to the submission deadline**

Z1564491



THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE (SPN)

The United Republic of Tanzania
Zanzibar Improving Students Prospects (ZISP) Project
Loan No./Credit No: P153277

Contract Title: Supply and Delivery of Schools Furniture for 24 Schools in Unguja and Pemba.

Reference No NCB: TZ-MOEV-T-1573-GO-RFB

The Government of United Republic of Tanzania represented by the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar under Ministry of Education and Vocational Training has applied for a Credit from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of Zanzibar Improving Students Prospects (ZISP) Project, and intends to apply part of the credit proceeds for payment under the contract for Supply and Delivery of Schools Furniture for 24 Schools in Unguja and Pemba.

The Principal Secretary, Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, Zanzibar now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Supply and Delivery of Schools Furniture for 24 Schools in Unguja and Pemba as follows:

Package No.	Description of Goods to be supplied	Quantities	Final (Project Site) Destination as specified in BDS
1	Schools Furniture	Various	Respective Schools
2	Schools Furniture	Various	
3	Schools Furniture	Various	
4	Schools Furniture	Various	
5	Schools Furniture	Various	
6	Schools Furniture	Various	
7	Schools Furniture	Various	

Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers January, 2011 ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Ministry of Education and Vocational Training Zanzibar, Secretary Ministerial Tender Board P.O Box 394 Zanzibar and inspect the bidding documents during office hours from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. except on public holidays, or e-mail: pmu@moez.go.tz or info@moez.go.tz at the address given below.

A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tanzanian Shillings One hundred thousand only (TZS. 100,000/=). The method of payment will be by Banker's Draft, Banker's Cheque or cash payable to the Project Account Number 0404397000 with a Title name ZISP PROJECT. Swift Code PBZA TZTZ.

Bids shall be valid for a period of at least Ninety (90) days after Bid Opening and must be delivered to the address below on or before 10.00 a.m on Wednesday, 6th November, 2019. Electronic bidding shall not be permitted. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below at 10.30 a.m of Wednesday, 6th November, 2019.

Bids MUST be accompanied by an "Original Bid Security" in an acceptable form as described in the Bidding Document amounting to at least:

- TZS 10,000,000/- for the Package: (1) - Mwanakwerekwe, Jang'ombe and Kisauni Schools in Unguja.
- TZS 4,000,000/- for the Package: (2) - Tumbatu, Mkwajuni and Kijini Schools in Unguja.
- TZS 10,000,000/- for the Package: (3) - Mahonda, Kitope, Chuini and Mtoni Kigomeni Schools in Unguja.
- TZS 8,000,000/- for the Package: (4) - Uroa, Regeza Mwendo, Unguja Ukuu and Bwejuu Schools in Unguja.
- TZS 4,000,000/- for the Package: (5) - Wingwi, Kiuyu and Makangale Schools in Pemba.
- TZS 5,000,000/- for the Package: (6) - Kisiwa Panza, Mtambile, Kilindi and Pujini Schools in Pemba.
- TZS 5,000,000/- for the Package: (7) - Kojani, Fundo and Limbani Schools in Pemba.

The total Bid Security required for Seven (7) Packages is TZS 46,000,000.0/- properly addressed to the Principal Secretary, Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, Zanzibar.

The address referred to above is:

The Secretary of the Board,
Ministry of Education and Vocational Training Tender Board,
Ground Floor, Room number 17/18
Mazizini, Airport Road
P.O Box 394,
ZANZIBAR.
City: Zanzibar town
Country: Tanzania
Telephone: +255 24 2234267,
Facsimile No: +255 24 2232827
Email: pmu@moez.go.tz or info@moez.go.tz.

Z1564491

Skies open up in Dar with a vengeance...



Small traders operating from Gerezani in Kariakoo sprawling market zone find themselves marooned, following the downpour that pounded the city most of yesterday. All photos taken by Chief Photographer Selemani Mpochi in Dar es Salaam yesterday.



Young boys wait for their turns to serve people in need of assistance - at a fee - in crossing flooded Msimbazi Street.



Broken-down vehicles are moved to safe ground from flooded Nkrumah Street.



Used tyres installed by traffic police officers along the Fire section of Morogoro Road in an effort to keep motorists away following floods in the Jangwani Valley.



Pedestrians either stranded or venturing through floodwaters in bids to cross Jangwani Valley.



These people found no option but to wade through rainwater towards the flooded offices of the Dar es Salaam rapid bus transport project offices in Jangwani Valley.



They are 'daredevil' bids to steer clear of the pounding rain - at Gerezani in the city's sprawling market zone.



Tigopesa acting head Angelica Pasha briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday moments before presenting prizes to 'Tigopesa Wakala' promotion winners. Left is Tigopesa coastal zone director Joseph Mutalemwa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Private sector stakeholders underline need for their involvement in agricultural programmes

By Guardian Correspondent,

Morogoro

PRIVATE sector stakeholders have called for broader engagement of the sector in the implementation of the Second Phase of the Agriculture Sector Development Programme (ASDP II) for it to achieve its target.

According to them, the programme has a number of challenges that thwart agriculture and trade development including regular government statements to ban farmers and traders from selling their produce outside the country.

Speaking during the ASDP II workshop organised by the Agricultural Council of Tanzania (ACT) here, the

stakeholders underscored the need for the government to work closely with private sector and make the programme more inclusive in its implementation, decisions and in policy for best results.

"Political statements have been affecting our businesses very bad, especially the statements of closing borders to restrict traders from selling produce outside the country," said Joseph Massimba from the Sokoine University Graduate Entrepreneurs Co-operative (SUGECO).

According to him, some traders have official permits and contracts on their hands which allow them to sell their produce outside the country, but they end up suffering due to the habitual political statements.

Sifa Gerana, a rice and maize trader said that "most of the businesspeople and farmers depend on foreign markets to sell their products so issuing ban statements to them becomes a very hurting punishment."

For his part, a researcher, Apromius Mbilinyi said that it is high time for the private sector to start investing heavily in agriculture sector as the area has a number of opportunities especially in value addition.

"For examples, 70 percent of seeds are imported. This is a very good opportunity to invest, private sector should chip in and start investing in constructing storage facilities as 30 percent of food is lost during harvesting."

Laetitia William, a senior policy officer at the Agricultural Council of Tanzania said that ASDP II has some legal and regulations issues which still need to be addressed to enable smooth implementation and best results.

"After this meeting, ACT will write a special document with all the concerns raised by private sector on the ASDP II and submit it to the government for more measures."

Speaking during the meeting, an economist from the ministry of agriculture Milton Manyara acknowledged that the ASDP II had some challenges and the government was working to address them to improve agriculture and trade.

SA, Tanzania, top bill as SADC tourism earnings hit 125 trn/-

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

COMBINED earnings from tourism activities among the countries making up the Southern African Development Community are in the region of US \$ 56.3 billion and counting.

Deputy Director in the Tourism Division of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Philip Chitaunga pointed out that the contribution of tourism industry in the 16 SADC member translating into over 125 trillion/- per annum and commands an average of 8.2 Gross Domestic Product among the countries.

Tourism sector for SADC states also brings into the region foreign earnings amounting to US \$ 18 billion per year, which is equivalent to over 40 trillion/- . "That is nearly 10 percent of all foreign currencies earned in the region," said Chitaunga. He was addressing the press at the threshold of the forthcoming meeting of SADC Ministers responsible for Tourism, Wildlife, Environment and Natural Resources from the Southern Africa Development Community member states which convene in Arusha next week.

South-Africa tops the SADC bill in tourism earnings, while Tanzania ranks second in raking more money from the industry within the community.

But when it comes to earnings from individual tourists' earning it is Madagascar which leads the pack and again Tanzania takes the second slot.

Starting next Monday, the five-day events will bring together more than 500 delegates from the 16 SADC countries who are to gather in the city between the 18th and 25th of October 2019.

Trans-frontier Conservation Areas that play a critical role in conservation as well as issues of supporting biodiversity through the provision of extended, contiguous protected areas will be part of the agendas of the forthcoming meeting.

When it comes to environment, the SADC member states jointly address Natural Resources issues within the Southern African region by focusing on four key Trans-frontier Conservation Areas including Forests; Wildlife; Water; Fisheries. The SADC Ministerial meeting in Arusha will also address the issue of Water resources now that it has been described as fundamental and scarce means in the region that requires regional cooperation to accommodate competing needs for water allocation, use and water quality management, as well as hydro-electric power generation.

Police officers in court after 'surrendering' 8.5 million/- allegedly obtained unlawfully

By Guardian Correspondent, Igunga

SIX police officers and an Isakamaliwa Village Executive Officer appeared in court Wednesday this week in Igunga, Tabora Region after they surrendered a total of 8,450,000/- to the region's security and defence committee chaired by the Tabora Regional Commissioner Aggrey Mwanri, the money they allegedly corruptly obtained from one Ngaka Mataluma, a resident of Isakamaliwa Ward in Igunga District.

The seven who were arraigned at Igunga District Court by the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) faced four counts including soliciting and receiving 8m/- were named as ASP Frank Matiku (36), PC Raphael Charles Maloji (39), D/Cpl. Paulo Bushishi Mbingwa (49), PC Lucas Eugene Nyoni (39), PC Lome Laizer (39), CPl Charles Zacharia Masanja (45) and Isakamaliwa Village Executive Officer, Edward Stephen Kitenya (42).

Prosecuting, before Igunga District Court Magistrate Lydia Ilunda, an official from PCCB from Nzega District, Mazengo Joseph alleged that the seven accused jointly committed the offence under Section 15(1) and (2) of the PCCB Act No. 11 of 2007.

The PCCB prosecutor further alleged that in the first count committed on June 12 this year at 10.00 in the morning in Isakamaliwa Ward the accused jointly solicited the 8/- payment from Nkende Ngaka Mataluma so that no legal action is taken against Nkende's father - Ngaka Mataluma (95) for engaging himself as herbalist without licence as well as for being found with a firearm.

In the second count involving soliciting and receiving 8m/- bribe from Mkude Ngaka Mataluma and one Maulidi Hamisi Kapila as inducement they desist from taking legal action against Ngaka Mataluma Fale.

In the third and fourth counts the accused jointly solicited and received 450,000/- bribe from one Jilumba Hamka Habi as an inducement he stops taking legal action for being found with a firearm without permit.



COMMERCIAL BANK OF AFRICA TANZANIA LIMITED

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Ohio Street, Amani Place
P.O.Box 9640, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Tel +255 22 2130113
www.cbagroup.com

NUFAIKA SAVINGS ACCOUNT (PERSONAL)

Minimum opening balance	TZS 50,000.00	USD 50.00	EUR 50.00	GBP 50.00
Minimum balance limit	TZS 25,000.00	USD 50.00		
Interest earning min balance	TZS Below 1Million =0% 1M-5M =2.5% Above 5M =4%			
Interest earning min balance	USD Below 600 = 0% 600- 5K =0.5% Above 5K =1%			
Monthly Ledger Fee	TZS NIL	USD NIL		
Coins Cash Deposit fees	TZS 5% min 500.00			
Cash Deposit fee (small denominations. < \$50)	USD 0.01			

TARGET SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Opening/operating balance	TZS 50,000.00	USD 50.00		
Monthly Ledger Fee	TZS N/A	USD N/A		
Interest earning min balance	TZS Below 600k = 0% Above 600k = 5%			
Interest earning min balance	USD Below 600 = 0% Above 600 = 1%			
Withdrawal Frequency	TZS Once per Quarter	USD Once per Quarter		

YOUNG CHAMPION ACCOUNT

Account management	Parent/Guardian
Opening/Operating balance	TZS 50,000.00 USD 100.00
Monthly Ledger Fee	TZS N/A USD N/A

PROSAVER ACCOUNT

Opening/Operating balance	TZS 500k USD 2500
Monthly Ledger Fee	TZS N/A USD N/A
Withdrawal Frequency	TZS Once per Year, with prior notice USD Once per Year, with prior notice

ACCOUNT CLOSURE CHARGES

A/C closure Within 6 months	TZS 20,000 USD 20
A/C closure beyond 6 months	TZS 10,000 USD 10
Withdrawal Frequency	TZS Once per Year, with prior notice USD Once per Year, with prior notice

OTHER CHARGES

Over the counter withdrawal limit	TZS Corporate 100m; > 100m see OTC below Personal 50m; > 50m see OTC below
Over the counter withdrawal fee	USD Million to be charged 1000 <1M to be charged 1500 Personal: 0.5% max 200
Over counter Balance Inquiry	TZS N/A USD N/A
ATM Balance Inquiry	TZS 300.00
POS charges	500.00
ATM Balance Inquiry (non CBA ATM)	TZS 500.00
ATM Min statement	TZS 400.00

REACTIVATE DORMANT ACCOUNT

TSZ 10,000	USD 10
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CURRENT ACCOUNT

Private Banking Tariff	Bundled Tariff
Withdrawal at the Teller Counter	Free
Minimum Opening Balance	Minimum opening balance - TZS 250,000 USD 250, EURO/GBP 200
Withdrawals at CBA Automated Teller Machines (ATM) only	Free
Incoming funds	Free
Telegraphic Transfer (Option 1)	Bundled Tariff
Telegraphic Transfer (Option 2)	Pay As You Go up to USD 5000 maximum.
Bankers cheques Bankers drafts	Free
Standing order	Free
Monthly Statement & Interim statements	Free
Internet Banking	Free
Cheque books	Free
ATM cards	Free
Pre-Approved credit card	Included
Free Travel Insurance	Included
Priority Pass	Included
Applicable charges	TZS 35,000 USD 25 GBP/EUR 15 p/m

CURRENT ACCOUNT

Opening/Operating balance	
Personal Account	TZS 100,000 USD 100
Freedom CA (Salary a/c)	TZS 20,000
Monthly Ledger Fee - Pers	TZS 10,000 USD 10
Monthly Ledger Fee - Freedom	TZS 2,000
ATM CHARGES	
ATM cash withdrawa (UMOJA debit card on-us)	TZS 550
ATM cash withdrawal (VISA debit card not on-us)	TZS 1,600
Card replacement costs	TZS 10,000
Bank/Agent card	TZS 10,000
ATM Daily limit	TZS 1,000,000
ATM Minimum withdrawal	TZS 5,000
Annual Card Fee	TZS 10,000
POS Charges	TZS Charge as per ATM charges (TZS 1600)

MOBILE BANKING

Transfer to Mobile Money	TZS TZS 1000 (for amount not exceeding 200,000 per transaction) TZS 2000 (for amount exceeding 200,000 max 500,000, per transaction)
Account Balance Enquiry	TZS 200
Mini-statements	TZS 300
Cheque Status Enquiry	TZS 300
Cheque Book Request	TZS 200

CIB

Corporate CA - Opening balance	TZS 1,000,000 USD 1,000
Monthly Ledger fee - Corporate	TZS 10,000 USD 10
Service charges (Trans Fee) - Corporate	TZS 500 per transaction, min 15,000 p.m. USD 15 p.m.
Associations/NGO's - Opening bal	TZS 1,000,000 USD 1,000
Over the counter withdrawal fee	TZS TZS 1000 flat; (for Corporate); or- 50m (for Personal); 0.25% max 100k
Over the counter withdrawal fee	TZS 1% flat (for Corporate); or- 50k (Personal); 0.25% max 100k
Activation of inactive Accounts	TZS 30,000 USD 20
Certificate of Balance (to Auditors)	TZS 50,000 USD 50
Associations/NGO's - Min bal	TZS 250,000 USD 250
Monthly Ledger Fee- NGO's	TZS 10,000 USD 10

CHEQUE BOOK CHARGES

30 Leaves	TZS 15,000 USD 15
50 Leaves	TZS 20,000 USD 20
100 Leaves	TZS 30,000 USD 30
counter leaf	TZS 25,000 USD 25
Bankers cheque issuance	TZS 30,000 USD 25
Cancellation Banker's Cheque	TZS 20,000 USD 10
Stop payment	TZS 30,000 USD 25

UNPAID CHEQUE/RETURNED CHEQUE

Unpaid Cheque	TZS 50,000 USD 50
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BANK STATEMENTS

Interim	TZS NIL USD NIL
Duplicate statement (up to 3 months) per month	TZS/USD 3500/3 TZS/USD 7000/7

PAYMENTS

Telegraphic Transfers (TT)	USD 0.25% of amount, Min USD 60 ;Max 250
Direct Credit ACH/EFT (Manual)	TZS 2,000
Salary Processing- Direct Credit ACH/EFT: (Automated)	USD 2,000
TISS/RTGS	TZS 10,000 USD 10

PAYMENTS- INWARDS

Telegraphic Transfers (TT)	USD 5
TISS/RTGS	TZS NIL USD NIL

STANDING ORDER

Set up	TZS 2,000 USD 2
To other banks	TZS 20,000 USD 20

LETTERS OF CREDITS (IMPORT LC)

Issuing commission	USD 1.5% per qr + SWIFT 100
General amendment Commission	USD 150
Extension Commission (period/amt)	USD 1% of LC amount, min 200
L/C Cancellation unutilised LC	USD 300

General correspondence Chaser	USD 100
Acceptance LC	0.25% per qr
Release document (Letter of undertaking)	USD 200

LETTER OF CREDIT (EXPORT)

Scrutinization of documents	USD 0.5% minimum 250 USD
Confirmation Charges	USD 0.5% Min 250
Advising commission (non customer)	USD 400
Negotiations Charges	USD NIL
Discrepancy Fees	USD 100
Courier Charges	USD 150

IMPORT DOCUMENTS FOR COLLECTION

Advising commission	USD 0.25%
Collection	USD NIL

EXPORT DOCUMENTS

Scrutinization of documents	USD 0.5% minimum 250 USD
Courier Charges	USD 150
Negotiations Charges	USD 0.25% minimum 250 USD

AMENDMENTS

Extension of validity	USD (charge the difference of addition amount)
Cancellation	USD 300

DOCUMENT COLLECTION

Outward CollectionT	USD 1% min 50
Courier	USD 150
Inward commission	USD 0.25

BILL COLLECTIONS

Inward collection	USD 0.25% min 50 + SWIFT 150
Outward commission	USD 0.25% min 50 + SWIFT 150

BONDS & GUARANTEES

Issuing commission	USD 1.5% per qr min 100
Amendment/Extension	USD 1.5% per qr min 100
Bid bond	USD 1.5% for secured, 2% for unsecured
Performance/Advance Payment	USD 1.5% per qr

INTERNET BANKING-SET UP FEE

Token (one off) per user	TZS N/A USD N/A
Monthly Service Fee (Corporate)	TZS 10,000 USD N/A
Monthly Service Fee (Personal)	TZS 15,000 one time USD -NIL MonthlyT

INTERNET BANKING CHARGES (CIB)

Inter Account Transfer	No Charge
Local bankTISS/RTGS	TZS 5,000.00 per transaction
Direct Credit ACH/EFTT	TZS 2,000.00 per transaction

Hundreds of Sengerema residents turn up for TCRA biometric registration campaign

By Guardian Correspondent, Sengerema

HUNDREDS of residents in Sengerema District have turned up at the campaign aimed at enhancing public knowledge and awareness on the ongoing biometric sim card registration.

The campaign is carried out by the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) in collaboration with the National Identification Authority (NIDA), mobile phone operators, and police through cybercrime department.

Speaking at Nyeuhunge grounds in the District, Head of TCRA in Lake Zone, Eng. Francis Mihayo said the registration campaign was held in Kome and Maisome areas on October 11 and 12, this year and target was to reach as many people as possible.

"We're encouraged with the number of people who turned up in the campaign and this shows that people are aware of the importance of biometric registration," he said.

Eng Francis said that the authority is well prepared to ensure that it reaches all owners of sim cards in the area.

He said that since its commencement, the campaign has reached 16 regions in the country thus enabling people to recognize the importance of the biometric registration.

He urged Sengerema residents to utilize the opportunity by ensuring that they come out to register their sim cards for smooth communications ahead of the deadline in December 31, this year.

"Only three months left to the deadline, so it is better for everyone to make sure that he/she is being registered through this new system," he added.

In May the government through Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority (TCRA) directed all Subscriber Identification Module (Sim) cards to biometrically register their lines by the end of the year.

In March, last year, the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) launched a pilot project to register Sim cards using the technology.

The exercise was conducted in Zanzibar and Dodoma, Dar es Salaam, Coast Region, Singida, Tanga and Iringa regions.



NMB Bank chief of retail banking Filbert Mponzi (L) briefs Industry and Trade deputy minister Stella Manyanya (R) in Coast Region yesterday on the bank's ability and readiness to support large-scale investments in Tanzania. This was at the bank's pavilion shortly after the opening of the region's investment forum and a seven-day exhibition meant to shed light on the region's business and investment potential. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Dar NGO comes up with movement to promote rights of girls, women

By Getrude Mbago

A Dar es Salaam-based non-governmental organisation—Hope Centre Tanzania on Wednesday launched a movement dubbed 'SheDecides', which is aimed at promoting, protecting and enhancing fundamental rights of girls and women in the country.

Among the girls and women's rights include the availability of quality sexual and reproductive health services.

The movement is a global drive founded in 2017 in Belgium. It

works to empower politicians, organisations, and people—especially young people to work together in new ways to enable women and girls to be the ones to make decisions about their bodies, lives, health and futures.

Halima Lila, executive director of Hope Centre Tanzania, who is also the local coordinator of the movement underscored the need for collective efforts from stakeholders to improve reproductive health and rights services to women and girls which among

other things will help reduce maternal deaths, improve lives and economy.

She said that despite significant actions taken by the government and various stakeholders to improve the accessibility, availability, and quality of sexual and reproductive health and rights, the services to young Tanzanians have not been fully realised.

Reports show that a good number of young people are engaging in high-risk sexual behavior, exposing themselves to high rates of

teenage pregnancy, unsafe abortions and Sexual Transmitted Diseases (STDs) including HIV. Girls are at particular risk: 27 percent give birth before the age of 19 when their bodies have not fully developed to cope with the pressure of pregnancy and childbirth, exposing them to life-threatening health complications.

"So better reproductive health care, including family planning investment can bolster economies and contribute to sustainable development by empowering young

women to complete their education, be more productive in their jobs, and earn higher incomes and increase savings and investments."

According to Lila, 2019 is therefore an opportune moment to launch 'SheDecides' in Tanzania as it also marks the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), which took place in Cairo in 1994. 179 world leaders reached a consensus and adopted a programme of action, which en-

shrined individual reproductive rights as a basic human right.

For her part, assistant director of gender section in the Ministry of health, community development, gender, elderly and children Grace Mwangwa commended the launch of the movement saying that it will help complement the government's goals of improving lives of women and girls through fighting violence, mortality rate and improving access to education among others.

"Currently, there is a nation-

wide programme to educate young people on reproductive health as well as fighting gender inequality while enabling girls to be free from harm, forced marriages, genital mutilation and other related challenges," she said.

Rahim Mohamed, one of the youth whom attended the launch said that the movements will enable young people across the country to continue interacting and reflect on the challenges surrounding their sexual and reproductive health and rights services.

Job Description

Position: Communications Team Lead

Abt Associates, a mission-driven, global leader in research and program implementation in the field of international development, seeks a qualified Communications Team Lead for the anticipated USAID/Tanzania Public Sector Systems Strengthening Plus Activity (PS3+). The goal of the anticipated project is to institutionalize Government of Tanzania (GOT) public systems that are responsive to citizens' needs for quality services at the local level, particularly for underserved populations. It includes three objectives/results areas: 1. Improved evidence-based, inclusive planning and management at local levels; 2. Strengthened local governance to promote citizen engagement and social accountability; and 3. Increased efficiency in the collection and use of financial resources.

PS3+ will be a large, complex and integrated project working across all systems functions, levels of government, and public sectors prioritizing health, nutrition, social welfare, education and agriculture. The Communications Team Lead must balance management and technical communication tasks, and their skills must include being an excellent writer.

The Communications Team Lead responsibilities can be categorized as manage production of contract deliverables; write reports and other deliverables; manage GOT correspondence and provision of communications technical assistance; communicate and promote results; and serve as member of senior management team.

Specifically, the Communications Team Lead will have the following responsibilities:

- Establish a process to track and manage production of contract deliverables
- Lead the process of project report and communication product development
- Write routine reports, technical reports, success stories and other communication products
- Contribute to planning, conducting, and communications for major project events including briefings and speeches as necessary
- Contribute to development and management of project capacity building, training, mentoring and learning activities
- Develop strategies and innovative ways to promote GOT and project results
- Manage project correspondence with GOT, and contribute to management of routine inquiries about the project
- Provide communications technical assistance to

- GOT to improve communications (e.g. internal government, with stakeholders, promote results)
- Contribute to linkages and integration of project activities, and coordination of collaborations with government, development partner projects and other stakeholders
- Manage project documentation and archiving (e.g. use of internal platform Jamvi to organize and access information)
- Serve as member of the senior management team including contributing to improving internal project communication and management processes

Qualification requirements include the following:

- Bachelor's degree in relevant field (journalism, communications, public relations, marketing). Master's Degree preferred.
- Minimum of 10 years of work experience. At least 2 years of experience in international development projects. Experience with USAID-funded projects preferred.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills required.
- Excellent English writing and editing skills required.
- Demonstrated management experience in any type of public or private entity.
- Demonstrated experience in communications and knowledge management, including the ability to identify and document project activities and achievements, success stories, and lessons learned
- Demonstrated ability to work with teams to produce communication products, adhering to deadlines, and short turn-around times.
- Excellent interpersonal, teamwork, organizational and mentoring skills

Interested candidates may send a CV to applications.jobs2019@gmail.com. Please include the title of the position (Communications Team Lead) in the subject line of the email. One email per position application. Deadline for applications is November 20th, 2019.

All positions are contingent upon program award and funding.

Tanzanian nationals and women are encouraged to apply.

Only qualified candidates will be contacted.



Job Description

Position: Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Team Lead

Abt Associates, a mission-driven, global leader in research and program implementation in the field of international development, seeks a qualified Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Team Lead for the anticipated USAID/Tanzania Public Sector Systems Strengthening Plus Activity (PS3+). The goal of the anticipated project is to institutionalize Government of Tanzania (GOT) public systems that are responsive to citizens' needs for quality services at the local level, particularly for underserved populations. It includes three objectives/results areas: 1. Improved evidence-based, inclusive planning and management at local levels; 2. Strengthened local governance to promote citizen engagement and social accountability; and 3. Increased efficiency in the collection and use of financial resources.

PS3+ will be a large, complex and integrated project working across all systems functions, levels of government, and public sectors prioritizing health, nutrition, social welfare, education and agriculture. The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Team Lead must balance technical and management capabilities, and have both general and applied M&E knowledge and skills.

The M&E Team Lead responsibilities can be categorized as lead and manage all aspects of project M&E function; provide substantial technical expertise to both project and government M&E activities; manage any operations research or results analyses; ensure synergistic and positive relationships between M&E team and technical teams including on technical activities and training; and serve as a member of senior management team.

Specifically, the M&E Team Lead will have the following responsibilities:

- Lead the development of a project results framework, indicators, and M&E systems and processes
- Manage all aspects of the project M&E function including data collection, quality assurance, analysis, and reporting
- Provide technical expertise to indicator specification and analysis for a complex project, and other key M&E technical tasks as required
- Provide technical assistance to government

partners to improve their M&E capacity, systems and processes as part of institutionalization for sustainability

- Manage project operations research or results analysis activities
- Contribute technical input to simple and complex analyses of data in newly strengthened GOT systems
- Ensure synergistic and positive relationships between M&E team and technical teams
- Contribute to leadership and management of project learning and training activities
- Serve as a member of senior management team.

Qualification requirements include the following:

- Master's Degree in statistics, mathematics, economics or other relevant field.
- 10 years of experience in all aspects of M&E for complex systems strengthening or public management projects.
- Demonstrated knowledge, skills, experience in a wide range of M&E technical tasks
- Demonstrated analytical skills and expertise in both quantitative and qualitative research methods.
- Demonstrated experience managing M&E (strong organizational skills for monitoring and reporting on program and study results).
- Demonstrated problem-solving skills
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills required.
- Excellent English writing and editing skills required.
- Excellent interpersonal, teamwork, organizational and mentoring skills

Interested candidates may send a CV to applications.jobs2019@gmail.com. Please include the title of the position (MEL Team Lead) in the subject line of the email. One email per position application. Deadline for applications is November 20th, 2019.

All positions are contingent upon program award and funding.

Tanzanian nationals and women are encouraged to apply.

Only qualified candidates will be contacted.





Pupils of Dar es Salaam's Macedonia Primary School in jovial mood earlier this week after their school was announced as Best in Ilala District and Second Best in Dar es Salaam Region in the results of this year's Primary School National Examinations. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

'Local governments are at forefront in fight against climate change in Africa'

By Guardian Reporter

CONFERENCE of the Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa (CoM SSA) kicked off yesterday in the Ghanaian capital, Accra under the theme, "Towards the institutionalization of Local Climate Action and Access to Finance."

According to a statement issued by CoM SSA, the conference is as part of the Climate Chance Summit, Africa 2019. The conference opened by Hajia Alima Mahama, Minister of Local Government and Rural Development of Ghana.

The recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report on global warming confirms unequivocally that the implementation of the current Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) will not be sufficient to limit global warming to 1.5 °C. Sub-national actors are key to bridging the gap between national climate targets and the concrete action required on the ground.

CoM SSA is an EU funded initiative

that supports Sub-Saharan cities and municipalities to develop and implement sustainable climate and energy actions.

This year, the CoM SSA is the headline initiative featured at the Climate Chance Summit Africa 2019. CoM SSA is the regional chapter of the Global Covenant of Mayors, the largest coalition of cities committed to local climate and energy action.

"The direct link that we (mayors) have with our citizens and the impact cities can have on people's daily lives make it one of the most relevant levels of action to fight climate change," Mayor of Accra, Mohammed Adjei Sowah

Launched in 2015 at the COP21, the CoM SSA is an initiative shaped by local governments to reflect the importance of climate and energy action at local level while highlighting the context and specificities of the Sub-Saharan region. More than 200 municipalities from 36 Sub-Saharan countries have made the political commitment to join the initiative and develop a long-term vision to tackle access to

energy, climate mitigation and climate adaptation.

The Conference of CoM SSA on Wednesday showcased key achievements and outcomes as well as provide lessons learnt from the cities engaged in the initiative over the last four years.

From the 750 cities and municipal staff trained in the mapping of climate financing mechanisms accessible to local governments, the network of implementing partners, led by the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, will share its key results. The partner organizations include: ADEME, ADENE, Association Internationale des Maires Francophones, Enda Energie, Energy Cities, Climate Alliance, ICLEI Africa, ICLEI World Secretariat and UCLG Africa.

Mohammed Adjei Sowah, Ambassador of the Global Covenant of Mayors and Mayor of Accra, has been recognized, along with Accra, amongst the 2019 'World's Seven Best Climate Projects' for its Informal Waste Collection Expansion project.

TRA official becomes trainer for a JICA-funded project in southern African countries

By Guardian Reporter

AFTER successful completion of the "Master Trainer Program on Customs Valuation in East Africa", the project has been extended to South Africa with a Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) official being among the lecturers.

The programme is being supported by the government of Japan, through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in collaboration with the World Customs Organization (WCO) with the aim of improving skills to support trade facilitation and border control for more sustainable economic development.

According to the statement issued by JICA yesterday, TRA official Narcis Lumumba will attend the programme in Botswana next Monday as an alumnus of the Master Trainer Program in East Africa, an active Master Trainer, and a WCO Accredited Expert.

Prior to his departure for Botswana, Lumumba explained how the program has built his expertise and confidence as a Master Trainer, and how it has created opportunities for him to train other stakeholders including TRA officials, other governmental agencies, and business communities.

He also noted that the connections he has made with officials from other EAC nations have become a meaningful asset to his career.

Regarding his role as a WCO Accredited Expert in the program in Botswana, Lumumba commented that he can contribute to coaching more successful Master Trainers for further development of African revenue authorities. He plans to share Tanzania's experiences in customs valuation with Southern African countries to assist them in finding solutions when they face similar challenges.

"The Master Trainer Program on Customs Valuation in East Africa" commenced in 2010, with participants from the revenue authorities of five East African Community (EAC) Partner States, i.e. Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda."

Since then, the participants, certified as "Master Trainers," started training their officers and clearing agents on the knowledge and application of customs valuation. They have also had chances to conduct training within and beyond the region.

Bahai community in Dar es Salaam to honour founder's 200th anniversary

By Guardian Reporter

THE Baha'i community of Dar es Salaam has joined their counterparts in the world to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of the Prophet Founder of their religion—the Bab.

A statement released yesterday by the community's media representative Qudsiyah Roy said the Baha'i community of Dar es Salaam will host the climax of the celebrations on Tuesday 29th October, 2019 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the Baha'i Centre situated on Mfaume Road, Upanga West.

The occasion is important to adherents of the faith because The Bab—a title that means gate or door in Arabic—was born in the city of Shiraz, Persia, in the year 1819.A.D to a house which was renowned for its nobility, the statement said.

"The central theme of His major work, The Bayan, was the imminent appearance of a second Messenger from God, One Who would be far greater than the Bab, and whose mission would be to usher in the age of peace and justice promised in Judaism, Christianity, Islam and all the other world religions," reads the statement in part.

The statement further notes that The Bab whose teachings attracted tens of thousands of followers, was persecuted and imprisoned for six years following His proclamation of a new Message from God.

"He was eventually executed in 1850 in the public square in Tabriz, Iran, on the order of the government. Much later, His remains were entombed on Mount Carmel in Haifa, Israel, and His Shrine is now a place of pilgrimage for the Baha'is worldwide," reads the statement.

"Nineteen years after the declaration of the Bab, in 1863, one of his followers called Baha'u'llah, meaning The Glory of God, announced that He was the promised one foretold by the Bab."

The statement adds that the Bahá'í Faith is the second-most geographically widespread religion in the world, with more than seven million adherents who live in more than 118,000 localities in over 230 countries or significant territories.

"About 2,112 indigenous tribes, races and ethnic groups are represented in the Baha'i community. In Tanzania, Bahá'is are found in every region," reads the statement.

Building of roads in Mbeya expected to get going soon

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE work of building roads in all of Mbeya region's councils is expected to start any time from now after the government, through Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) signed 43 contract agreements with various contractors who will undertake the work.

The contract agreements valued at 7bn/- were signed on Tuesday in Mbeya City before Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila who called on them to be faithful.

Speaking at the signing ceremony Chalamila warned the contractors

against shoddy work.

He said the construction of bridges for example needs to be done professionally to avoid disasters such as the one in Mbeya recently after the bridge on Samba River was swept away by water causing death to five people.

He said Tanzania Meteorological Agency (TMA) has given its weather forecast showing this year will have heavy rains hence work on road construction and the bridges have to be of high standards.

TARURA manager for Mbeya region Eng Gerald Matindi cautioned Tarura managers in the councils to supervise the contractors in their areas so that

the work is completed at the agreed timeframe.

He said the money allocated by the government is huge and must cater for the intended works to avoid litigation in courts and reminded that the fifth-phase government will not tolerate delays.

On their part, the contractors promised to do professional work so that the wananchi and the government will appreciate what they do.

The road projects, upon completion are expected to reduce transportation challenges in Mbeya region due to many areas therein facing socio-economic challenges due to poor roads.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA MINISTRY OF WATER



INVITATION FOR BIDS

COUNTRY:	Tanzania
NAME OF PROJECT:	Water Sector Support Project Phase Two (WSSP II) Loan No./Credit No./ Grant No IDA CR. 59490_
Contract Title:	SUPPLY OF DAM SAFETY WORKING TOOLS EQUIPMENT AND SOFTWARE
Tender No.:	ME 01 I/2019-2020/G/22

1. The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania through the Ministry of Water (MoW) has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Water Sector Support Project (WSSP II) which is part of the Second Water Sector Development Program (WSDP II), and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for Procurement of Dam Safety Working Tools Equipment and Software.

2. The Ministry of Water (MoW) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Procurement of Dam Safety Working Tools Equipment and Software. (Lot 1-4) as follows

Lot no.	Tender Description	Quantity
1	Electronics and General Tools 1.1- Digital Professional Camera 1.2 – Laptop	3 Pcs 6 Pcs
2	Dam Safety Software in Dam Safety evaluation/Design	2 Pcs
3	ECO Sounder Equipment for Bathymetric Survey and Total Station. 3.1 – Total Station 3.2 – ECO Sounder Equipment for Bathymetric Survey	3 Sets LS
4	Fiber Glass Boat	1 pc

Bidders may bid for a single lot, two lots or combination of all lots, but in any case bidders must quote for full quantity in each lot. The Purchaser shall evaluate the bids for each lot and award the contracts on a lot by lot basis or a combination of lots whichever is more economical. Partial Quoting of Lot 1, Lot 2, Lot 3 or Lot 4 will be non- responsiveness.

3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers* [insert correct title and date of applicable Guidelines edition as per legal agreement] ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from **Secretary Ministerial Tender Board, Ministry of Water, Email: pmu@maji.go.tz** and inspect the bidding documents during office hours from **8:00 to 15:30 on Monday to Fridays inclusive** except on public holidays at the address given below **Ministry of Water, P. O. Box 456, Kolon Building Opposite DUWASA Head Office, PMU Office, 40473 Dodoma.**

5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Tanzania Shillings One Hundred Thousand (TZS. 100,000.00). The method of payment will be through Bank using Government Payment System

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **7th November, 2019 at 14:00 hour's local time.** Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below on **Thursday 7th November, 2019 at 14:00 hour's local time.**

7. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in an acceptable form as provided in the bidding document. Bid Security must be addressed to **Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Water, P.O. Box 456, Dodoma.**

8. The address (es) referred to above is(are):

Post Address:
The Secretary Ministerial Tender Board
Ministry of Water,
Government City,
Maji Street,
P. O. Box 456,
Dodoma, Tanzania.
E-mail: pmu@maji.go.tz

Physical Address:
The Secretary Ministerial Tender Board
Ministry of Water,
Kolon Building PMU Offices,
Chimwaga Road,
Dodoma, Tanzania.

**PERMANENT SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF WATER**

The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

FRIDAY 18 OCTOBER 2019

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Telling the truth, however bitter, speaks volumes about leadership

HERE is an expression in literature that reality is stranger than fiction - that if one imagines the most bizarre of scenes and puts them down in a story, some real event in life is likely to dwarf that effort.

That was nearly the case on Wednesday when Dr John Magufuli, who has met plenty of strange scenarios in his years as cabinet minister and more recently as President, toured Nachingwea District in Mtwara Region.

After an elderly resident told him of the chaotic situation that leaders were muffling praise words about the Head of State, the president directed police to ensure that the elder was guarded and that he met with no misfortune for having told him the stark truth.

The scenario was an illustration of how difficult it can be to get things done in a non-competitive environment in public sector projects. The picture that keeps coming up when dirty linen is lined up to dry on finances of a certain district is usually the same: dishonest leaders gang up to make a buck on the backs of the people's expectations - and nothing can dislodge them from that position.

For, how many times can the president actually visit each district and hear from an elderly resident what is really happening on the ground?

Reports say that this was after the president had addressed a rally where leaders spoke of the good job they were doing to improve service delivery in the area.

It is said that a senior citizen raised his hand and pointed out incomplete projects that were not mentioned, despite their having gobbling up large amounts of public funds. Even in real life it is ludi-

crous for public officials with a suspicious record to lie to none other than a head of state.

Looking into the situation, it appears that this is not an isolated incident though, to his credit, the president quite often knows the situation and officials are surprised by his mastery of details. Without a spirited fight against corruption and using all sources of information at their disposal, even the keenest of leaders cannot fully know what is happening around them because officialdom is good in covering it up. See: in Nachingwea even those sources told him nothing. Rather, it was an ordinary elder who did so.

There is one thing that should not be missed in remembering what happened in Nachingwea, and there was also another case where a regional police chief and a district commissioner were ordered to pay a middle-aged widow 15m/- for negligence in a case of livestock theft.

Those fond of braving district and regional officialdom to tell the president the truth are potentially in danger, and if they become numerous and everywhere the president goes another whistleblower turns up, it gets all the more dangerous.

The issue isn't envy or malice against those officials but real pain and suffering among the people, like people waiting for vital public services but to no avail.

When religious leaders pray that all people should work to guard the peace that we have, can anyone afford to continue misusing public funds and still hope that will fool our leaders and maintain the peace?

Where genuinely good governance reigns, people need not keep coming up to tell a whole head of state the truth in each district, ward or village. When shall all concerned do as good governance dictates?

Weather forecasting crucial, but rainfall ravages demand really cautious planning

WITH the ink is yet to dry on the latest meteorological forecast countrywide, already rains have causing ravages in some regions in Tanzania.

In Morogoro Region, eleven people have been reported killed - and no one really knows how much more rain there will be in the course of this month. Worse, this is only a curtain raiser of sorts for the proper rainy season - rather mild at the end of the year, more intense later.

Looking at the picture around the world, it is clear that countries with subsistence agriculture and weak structures for housing are most affected by flooding and other ravages from massive rains.

It is part of the problem of coping with climate change to see what can be done that almost forms a credible response to the situation.

Children of nine to 16 years were among those killed in the flash floods in Morogoro Region, and this brings at least two things to the fore. One is that the greater danger that climate change presents, rising sea levels and thus exposure of coastal areas to hurricanes or tornadoes, is neither the only danger nor indeed haphazard. Major sea currents have routes they usually tend to follow.

There are various sorts of rainfall, all of which can have their moments of huge evacuation of atmospheric collection of moisture for one reason or another.

As weather patterns usually form at sea, the state of higher levels of evaporation implies that more water can rapidly be carried across short distances like the eastern

coastline to places like Morogoro, attracted by mountains there before it falls elsewhere. And it is not easy to predict such events as they can form 'locally,' at sea, in a rapid manner.

While the government is doing much to ensure that there is reliable infrastructure in most parts of the country, chances that we shall succeed any time soon to prevent flash floods from wreaking havoc are very slim.

What is evident is that the more rural and outstretched our infrastructure and habitations get, the less resilient shall the population be against such situations.

The fact of being rather isolated when going to school and back appears to have contributed to the tragedy involving the Morogoro children, as no older people were apparently around to help with the situation or instruct the children to do otherwise.

Climate change is not merely a weather phenomenon and a threat to the agricultural sector threat. Rather, it affects the whole structure of livelihood, and that is why modernised structures commonly represent safety.

Climate change also affords humankind vital guidance, including on the need for extreme care when - with luck - it is possible for a person of average means to choose where to put a residential building.

Yes, affordability ought to be accorded due consideration, but the resultant cost can by far outweigh the relative comfort one may hope for. It is, where one likes it or doesn't, one of those uncomfortable truths about the vagaries of weather.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

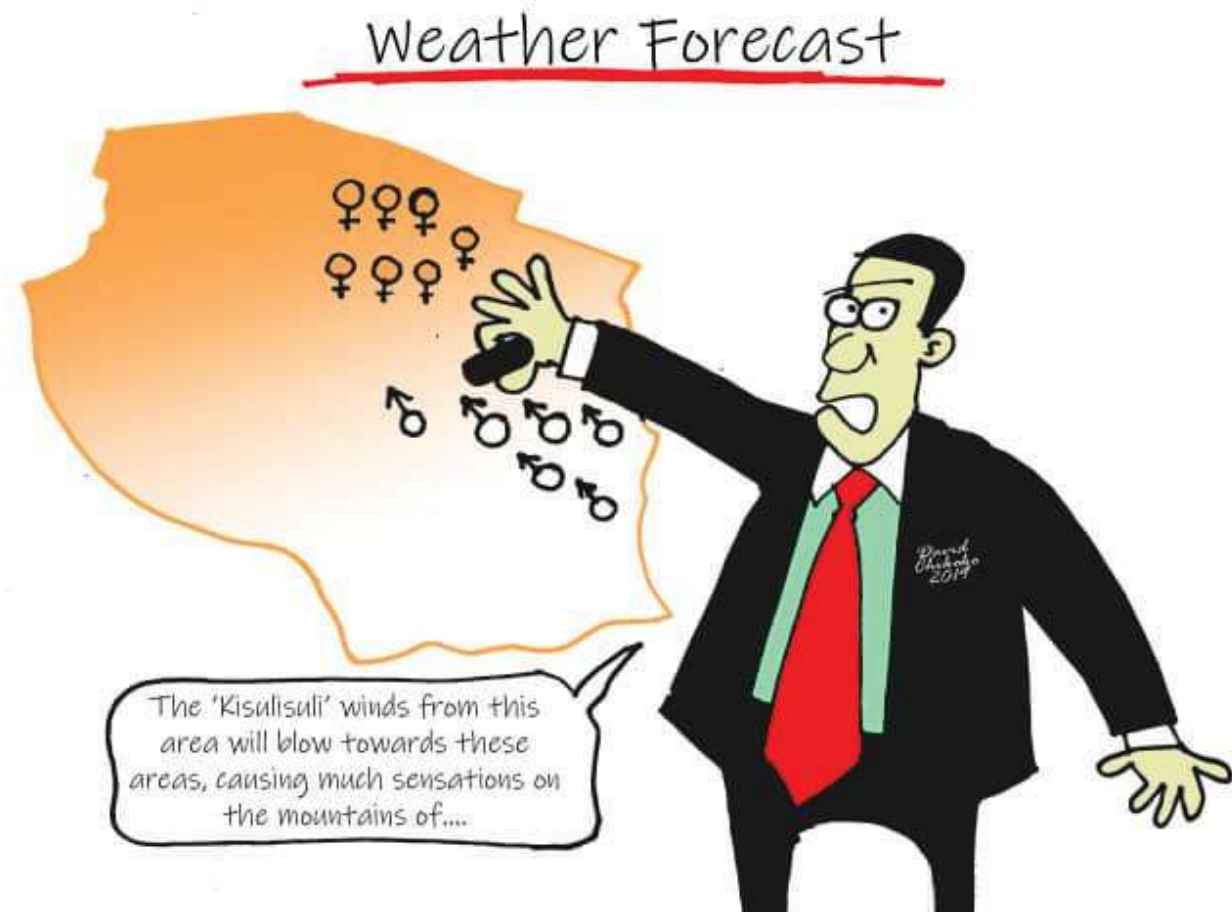
MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO
CIRCULATION MANAGER : EMMANUEL LYMO

Newsdesk

General Line: 0745 700710
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757 154767
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Manager Sales & Marketing:
Kauthar D'souza
Cel: + 255 767 223311 E-mails: Advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: Ippmedia.com, epaper.ippmedia.com



The world should beware sleep-walking into another debt crisis

By Patricia Scotland

TRADE wars, protectionism and nationalist rhetoric are combining to create the possibility of a nightmare debt crisis that could be worse than any previously experienced.

Global borrowing is now at the highest levels since the 1950s - and history suggests that we should take this as a warning that a debt crisis could be looming.

Were one to materialise, it could inflict greater dislocation on international financial systems and national economic stability than ever previously witnessed.

This would be particularly tragic in view of the extraordinary global commitment to delivering the Sustainable Development Goals, and as so many nations seem finally to be in earnest tackling the causes and impact of the climate crisis.

The impact of a parallel crisis in global debt would derail this effort and could make much-needed international cooperation on poverty and progress impossible. Governments would be consumed by the need to stabilise local economies devastated by unmanageable debt. Yet such a scenario can be averted.

Haunting memories of the economic chaos, poverty and suffering caused by previous debt crises are the reason that the finance ministers of Commonwealth are working together to prevent the

needless recurrence of an avoidable crisis.

The breadth and inclusiveness of the Commonwealth means that when our member countries meet, many perspectives are brought to the table. These viewpoints can be shared to decisive effect when Commonwealth countries work together to ensure that the voices and views of all are taken into account at forums such as the G20 and other international and regional gatherings.

It is no longer feasible for policies on debt, trade and other economic matters to be considered in isolation from the increasingly extensive impacts of climate change, which are becoming more frequent and more stark.

Small island states tend to be the most vulnerable to extreme weather and natural disasters, and also to have the least resilience or resources with which to recover from the damage to their infrastructures and economies.

With interest rates at historically low levels, borrowing becomes an attractive proposition though it heightens the concomitant risk of debt ballooning to levels which are unsustainable over the longer term.

This situation raises the possibility that countries which have 'borrowed their way out of trouble' following a setback will eventually face very severe debt distress. Preventing such eventualities is a global challenge which

requires collective and coordinated responses.

The Commonwealth is particularly and perhaps uniquely well-placed to ensure that perspectives and needs of developing nations are fully considered in multilateral discussions on policy for tackling future debt crises.

This is the purpose of our Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting which is taking place in Washington DC alongside the annual meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

The ministers of our 53 diverse and widely distributed yet closely connected nations will this year examine proposals designed to improve debt transparency. They will consider ways in which debt contracts can be specially amended to provide relief during disasters.

Such initiatives will be supported by collating the perspectives of ministers from developing countries so that their Commonwealth counterparts from countries with advanced economies can carry them forward for the attention of the G20.

The way to a stable and sustainable economic future is for developing and developed countries to work together inclusively on shaping the global debt rules which affect them all. Our Commonwealth approach is to focus on the roles of creditor and indebted countries.

In a country where fiscal regu-

lation is weak, debt may be accumulated in ways that are not transparent, and very seriously to the detriment of its citizens.

Those who provide credit in such circumstances are also culpable, and they too must be scrutinised and made to bear responsibility. This is particularly because those who suffer the most from unsustainable debt and carry the greatest burden at times of crisis tend to be the poor and marginalised - those least able to cope.

One of the topics and actions being considered at the 2019 Commonwealth Finance Ministers meeting is debt relief - with agreement to be sought for debt contracts with vulnerable countries to include provision for relief if severe natural disaster strikes.

Another is transparency in debt through innovation - encouragement to use the Commonwealth Meridian debt management system which helps to improve the accuracy with which government debt is recorded.

Yet another is dialogue on debt, this relating to the relaunch of the Commonwealth debt management forum to encourage international dialogue on the consequences of over-indebtedness so that sounder debt policies are adopted in order to prevent crises.

There is also easier access to financing to reduce debt burdens - through mechanisms and facilities such as the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub and Commonwealth Disaster Finance Portal, which offer added capacity for developing countries to access to affordable debt financing.

By working together in such practical ways, and on programmes that draw together a broad and inclusive array of nations, crisis can be averted.

It is essential for there to be honest and open collaboration between creditors and debtors in a spirit of trust and goodwill. This the Commonwealth can offer, building on the depth of our connection and the basis of equality on which our family of nations comes together.

Rather than sleep-walking towards yet another debt crisis, and the misery such nightmare reality would bring, the Commonwealth can open up pathways towards horizons of hope, with rich and poor walking in harmony towards a fairer, more secure, more sustainable and more prosperous future in which all can share.

Patricia Scotland is Commonwealth Secretary General.

Challenges facing teaching profession in digital-era Tanzania

By Nipael Mrutu

EVERY parent wants quality education for his or her children. I have seen parents and guardians shifting their children from one school to another in search of 'better' school.

There are teachers who have made a name for themselves by being proven experts in the subjects they teach, so some parents travel long distances to get these to teach their children.

In these kinds of pursuits, the focus is usually on the transfer of knowledge from the teacher to the student so that the student can pass national exams.

The danger in these kinds of interactions is that students will learn only what the teacher knows, which would limit the scope and value of learning.

This does not necessarily undermine the significance of teachers and their expertise but I strongly feel that, with the digital age and technological advancements, teachers should not be the sole custodians of knowledge.

For better or for worse, the internet has become a major source of information and is widely accessible. There

are numerous educational mobile and desktop applications such as GeoGebra, YouTube kids and Wiki for kids, all offering education materials in a range of languages - including Kiswahili.

As a way of responding to the global information and technology revolution, the government drafted the Tanzanian ICT policy for Basic Education in 2007. The idea was to guide the integration of ICT, popularly known in Kiswahili as Tehama, into basic education. And now ICT is widely taught as a subject in public primary schools in the country.

The move is one solution, among many, given the shortage of teachers - as, in Tanzania, the ratio is said to be one teacher to 40 students. However, there are a number of schools where one teacher attends to more students, even as many as one thousand.

With the use of ICT, teachers could assume supervisory roles. This can be achieved where teachers assign group and individual activities to learners that will enable the latter to explore various resources to respond to assigned tasks.

Teachers can guide the learners by sharing success criteria for the assigned

task. Learners can then exchange the responses to their tasks and review or assess one another's work.

These teaching and learning experiences provide space for learners to be in control of their own learning and nurture enquiry-based learning while also minimising the workload for teachers. They also give teachers more time to design teaching and learning materials and activities.

The ICT policy cited has led to a rapid increase in the use of mobile phones in the country. This means that the handy gadgets can be used as teaching and learning tools, complementing or even replacing the traditional use of a blackboard.

The use of ICT in modern-day teaching and learning ought to be encouraged. ICT should by all means be integrated even in early childhood education.

A child as young as two years old can use a smartphone if exposed to it earlier in life. With a good balance between using books and using a mobile phone, there is so much young children can learn from ICT resources in school and

at home. Education curricula, including the national curriculum, should also be available online, with parents having the option of either buying either the online one or registering their children for an online programme.

This stands to help those who are home-schooled and can sit for examinations as private candidates. Thus, it offers opportunities for learning anywhere. Tanzania and other countries short of classrooms can seek such alternatives for eLearning.

There are a myriad of opportunities to incorporate ICT into learning with the help of teachers and parents. It also offers opportunities for cross-sector collaboration able to contribute to national development.

This is not to suggest getting rid of teachers. If anything, it is meant to empower them to move with the times and incorporate innovative ideas and trends into the learning journey.

Nipael Mrutu is a lecturer at the Institute for Educational Development, Aga Khan University, in Dar es Salaam.



Extremists are often seen as the main drivers of communal conflict, but the situation is more complex. File photo

Are terrorist groups stoking local conflicts in the Sahel?

BY LORI-ANNE THÉROUX-BÉNONI AND BABA DAKONO

HERE have been several attacks on civilians in the Sahel in the past few months and violence related to local conflicts in the area this year has reached unprecedented levels.

Yirgou village in north-central Burkina Faso was attacked on 1 January. The official death toll was 49. On the same day, an attack in Koulogon village in central Mali left 39 people dead. On 23 March, nearly 160 people died in an attack in Ogassagou village in Mali's Mopti region.

This was followed by the 1 April attacks on the northern Burkina commune of Arbinda which killed about 60 people, and the subsequent killing of 35 people in an attack on Sobane Da, a village in central Mali bordering Burkina Faso. On 4 October another Arbinda assault left more than 20 people, mainly miners, dead.

It is tempting to blame the escalation of violence in the region solely on intra- and intercommunal tensions exploited by violent extremist groups. These tensions are often attributed to ethnic differences.

However the conflicts appear to be caused by struggles around power or resources between either the same or different socio-economic groups. Favouring particular sides in local conflicts enables violent extremist groups to easily recruit and strengthen their capacity, and exacerbate conflict.

Ongoing Institute for Security Studies research on the links between violent extremism and local conflicts shows that there are contextual variations in how terror groups position themselves regarding local conflicts. They can be either directly involved in fighting or play the role of mediators. Their presence can also lead to a temporary break in conflict.

The position that extremists take appears to be guided by several factors. Among these are their level of penetration within the communities, the sociology of the group composition and the localities, as well as the balance of power between conflicting groups and the objectives or needs of the violent extremists.

Also, while terrorists are often seen as the main drivers of communal conflict, the mix of dynamics underpinning violence is much more complex.

Several factors contribute to the ongoing violence in this region. Over recent years, the area has seen an increase in militias and community-based armed groups whose goal is to protect the community. At the same time there has been a proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

Criminal activities such as illicit trafficking and armed robbery, often resulting in violence, continue unabated. The state is either absent or minimally present in many areas, and therefore unable to provide protection to communities. Even in places where it is present, government authority is sometimes challenged.

Trust and confidence in traditional mechanisms of conflict management have also eroded considerably. Climate change and demographic pressure has disrupted the livelihoods of many and caused considerable tension between farmers, pastoralists and fishermen.

Extremist groups exploit existing divides within rival communities. For example, since the 1980s, there has been conflict between the Fulani and

Daoussahaq on the border between Mali and Niger, caused partly by competition for access to natural resources and criminal activities such as cattle rustling.

The Islamic State in the Greater Sahara exploits the Fulani's frustrations and desire for revenge by supporting them against the Daoussahaq. The Daoussahaq rely on the support of the Movement for the Salvation of Azawad - a militia mainly composed of Daoussahaq - which appears to benefit from France, Mali and Niger's help in the fight against terrorism.

In central Gourma (the area between Burkina Faso and Mali), competition for grazing grounds and pasture has generated conflict between Taraboro pastoralists from Burkina Faso and the pastoralists of N'Tillit in Mali. The Malians accuse the Taraboro of taking their pasture.

Members of a branch of the terrorist group Katiba Macina in Gourma provided training in weapons handling and access to military equipment to some Taraboro pastoralists. This terrorist group argues that resources belong only to God and not the people.

Violent extremist groups also play the role of arbitrators between rival groups in Tenenkou in central Mali, Gabero in the Gao region, and in Oudalan, Burkina Faso. In central Mali, issues such as the one linked to the competition for Koubi chieftaincy which was pending in court since 1999 were resolved by Katiba Macina.

The presence of violent extremist groups can sometimes reduce the intensity of violence. In Mali, before the emergence of terrorism, the Youwarou

and Mopti circles had been embroiled in conflicts over land distribution and traditional leadership. Tensions in localities such as Sah and Dialloubé in the Mopti region have ceased due to the presence of violent extremist groups.

Terrorist groups can be antagonists, mediators or suppressors of violence through the influence and control they exert in the areas where they operate. How groups succeed in restructuring social and economic life, and how they enforce solutions through direct threats, violence, fear or religious principles (e.g. through the idea that the land belongs to God alone) should be analysed.

Violent extremists need to be defeated or dislodged. But where they have established themselves as mediators or suppressors of conflict, their withdrawal could contribute to a resurgence of local tensions - especially if traditional or state conflict management mechanisms aren't quickly reinstated.

To attribute the increase in violence solely to the exploitation of community conflicts by terrorists means potentially losing sight of the structural dynamics that underpin such violence. Incorrect labelling and understanding of local conflicts could exacerbate the situation. To restore peace and social cohesion in the long term, the root causes of local conflicts must be addressed.

Lori-Anne Théroux-Bénoni, Regional Director and Baba Dakono, Researcher, Regional office for West Africa, the Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

**IN THE FAIR COMPETITION TRIBUNAL OF TANZANIA
AT DAR ES SALAAM**

APPEAL NO. 14 OF 2019

BETWEEN

**KWANZA BROADCASTING LIMITED
T/A KWANZA ONLINE TV.....APPELLANT**

AND

**TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS
REGULATORY AUTHORITY (TCRA).....RESPONDENT**

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

TAKE NOTICE THAT an appeal has been lodged in the Tribunal against the whole decision of the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA), the Respondent herein, in Decision No. 05/Sep/2019/2020 dated 27th September 2019 in which the Respondent banned the Appellant from posting and distributing online contents.

The Appellant contends, among other things, that there was no sufficient evidence adduced on which the decision of the Respondent's Committee was based. Therefore, the Appellant prays that the decision of the Respondent be set aside with costs and also prays for payment of general damages incurred by the Appellant for the loss of business.

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

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL of the Tribunal this 18th day of October, 2019.

REGISTRAR

215465801

MBEYA WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION AUTHORITY

Phone: +255 25 2504298
Fax: +255 25 2503492
E-mail: md@mbeyauwsa.go.tz

P.O. Box 2932
MBEYA
Date: 17/10/2019

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Mbeya Water Supply and sanitation Authority (Mbeya WSSA) is an autonomous water supply organization mandated to provide water and sewerage disposal services within the urban area of Mbeya city. It was established in January 1998 under section 3(1) of Act No.8 OF 1997, repealed by Act No.12 of 2009.

Vision: "To be an excellent Water Supply and Sanitation Authority in Tanzania in delivering portable, sufficient quality water supply and sanitation services."

To adequately fulfill its objectives and in line with the expansion of activities Mbeya WSSA is now inviting applications from suitably qualified and self-motivated Tanzanians of high personal integrity to apply for the following position;

I.0 Technical Manager (1 Post)

I.1 Organizational Relationships

Appointed by	:	Board of Directors
Reports to	:	Managing Director
Supervises	:	Network Engineer
	:	Planning, Design and Construction Engineer
	:	Water Production Engineer
	:	Sanitation and Environmental Engineer
Employment Terms	:	Permanent and Pensionable Terms

I.2 Key Result Areas

I.2.1 Major

The Technical Manager shall be the Head of the Technical Department responsible for water production, water distribution, waste water disposal, planning, designing and construction, maintenance and repair activities of the Authority within Mbeya WSSA.

I.2.1 Specific

- To be responsible for the performance of all water supply and sanitation systems according to agreed performance and public health standards.
- To prepare/review annual budgets and manpower plans for the Technical Department.
- To plan, design and construct water supply and sanitation projects.
- To advise on manpower recruitment and training requirements of the Technical Department.
- To review performance against approved plans and budgets of the department.
- To ensure that water production and sewerage standards and safety procedures are complied with equipment and workshops
- To maintain records on the conditions of raw water from all sources and monitor the level of undesirable dangerous and toxic substances in the water.
- To report to other bodies responsible for guarding against undesirable Discharges into water sources within the Authority water catchment areas.
- To ensure prompt and efficient investigation of customer complaints concerning quantity, quality, taste and health of water.
- To develop procedure for water quality monitoring and co-ordinate the sampling of raw/water supplied.
- To oversee laboratory service for chemical, bacteriological and biological analysis.
- To ensuring compliance with the prescribed standards for drinking water.
- To carry out any other duties as may be assigned by the Managing Director

I.3 Requirements for Appointment

The ideal candidate for this position should have the following qualifications and experience:-

- Holders of Bachelor and Master's Degree in Civil Engineering/Water Supply Engineering/Water Resources Engineering/Environmental or Sanitary Engineering/Engineering Management from recognized university.
- He/she must be registered with Engineers Registration Board of Tanzania as Professional Engineer and has served in the water sector for at least seven (7) years, of which three (3) years should be at a Senior position of responsibility.
- Computer literacy is essential.

I.4 Personal Attributes

In addition to the above skills and qualifications, applicants for the above position are required to have the following attributes:-

- Strong and demonstrated strategic thinking skills.
- Ability to efficiently interact with Board Members
- Capacity to conceptualize, develop and operationalize revenue collection strategies and arrears control.
- Commitment to working with shared Leadership and in cross-functional teams
- Ability to deliver against set objectives while operating on some occasions in stressful situations.
- Good Client Relationship and networking abilities with demonstrated negotiation and selling skills

2.0 General requirements

- Applicant MUST be a Tanzanian
- Applicant Age should not be above 45 years
- Applicants who studied outside Tanzania should have a Certification from NECTA and TCU
- Applicants should sign every page of all attached document.
- Applications that dully fulfills these requirements will be considered invalid.
- Statement results, results slip, testimonials shall not be accepted.
- Applicant should attach two passport size.
- Applicant should mark at the top of envelope the post he/she is applying for.
- All application shall be sent via POST office and NOT other wise.
- Applications that dull fulfills these requirements will be considered invalid.

3.0 Remuneration

Attractive package and fringe benefits as per Mbeya WSSA's incentives scheme will be offered to the successful candidates.

4.0 Mode of Application

Only qualified persons should submit their handwritten letters of application stating how they meet the advertised criteria attaching copies of relevant academic, professional certificates and testimonials so as to reach the under mentioned not later than **05th November 2019**. Applicants are also required to indicate the names and contacts of at least three (3) work/professional related referees.

Applications which do not meet the application requirements will be disqualified. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Shortlisted candidates shall be subjected to competency assessment and reference checking.

**The Managing Director,
Mbeya Water Supply and Sanitation Authority,
P. O. Box 2932,
MBEYA.**

Biodiversity boosts crop pollinators and pest controllers, study concludes

By John Cannon

FARMS with just one or a handful of different crops encourage fewer species of pollinating and pest-controlling insects to linger, ultimately winnowing away crop yields, according to a new study.

Up to half of the detrimental impacts of the "landscape simplification" that monocropping entails come as a result of a diminished mix of ecosystem service-providing insects, a team of scientists reported Oct. 16 in the journal *Science Advances*.

"Our study shows that biodiversity is essential to ensure the provision of ecosystem services and to maintain a high and stable agricultural production," Matteo Dainese, the study's lead author and a biologist at Eurac Research in Bolzano, Italy, said in a statement.

It stands to reason that, with declines in the sheer numbers of insects that ferry pollen from plant to plant and keep crop-eating pests under control, these services will wane as well. But until now, it hasn't been clear how monocultures affect the number and mix of these species or how crop yields might change as a result.

Aiming to solve these questions, Dainese and his colleagues pulled together data from 89 studies cutting across a variety of landscapes, from the tropics of Asia and Africa to the higher latitudes of northern Europe. They tabulated the number of pollinating and pest-controlling insects at these sites – both the absolute number of individuals and the number of species – along with an assessment of the ecosystem services the insects provided.

In almost all of the studies they looked at, the team found that a more diverse pool of these species translated

into more pollination and greater pest control. They also showed that simplified landscapes supported fewer species of service-providing insects, which ultimately led to lower crop yields.

The researchers also looked at a third measure of the makeup of insect populations – what they called "evenness." In natural ecosystems, a handful of dominant species with many more individuals typically live alongside a higher number of rarer species. The team found as landscapes became less diverse, dominant species numbers dwindled and rare species gained ground. This resulting, more equitable mix led to less pollination (though it didn't end up affecting pest control).

"Our study provides strong empirical support for the potential benefits of new pathways to sustainable agriculture that aim to reconcile the protection of biodiversity and the production of food for increasing human populations," Ingolf Steffan-Dewenter, one of the study's authors and an animal ecologist at the University of Würzburg in Germany, said in the statement.

The scientists figure that the richness of pollinator species explains around a third of the harmful impacts of less diverse landscapes, while the richness of pest-controlling species accounts for about half of the same measure. In their view, the results of their research point to the need to protect biodiversity on and around crops in an uncertain future.

"Under future conditions with ongoing global change and more frequent extreme climate events, the value of farmland biodiversity ensuring resilience against environmental disturbances will become even more important," Steffan-Dewenter said.



A hoverfly pollinating a rapeseed flower.

UN urges action, finds farmers losing up to a fifth of produce

By Guardian Reporter

FARMERS around the world are losing up to 20% of the food they produce every year but action can be taken to reduce this, according to the United Nations on Monday as it quantified such losses for the first time.

A combination of causes, ranging from harvesting and handling practices, to lack of infrastructure and market prices to pests, diseases and climatic conditions, contributed to these losses, said the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

This "means that land and water resources have been wasted, pollution created and greenhouse gases (GHGs) emitted to no purpose", said FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu in a report released ahead of World Food Day on Oct. 16.

An earlier, widely-cited figure estimated about a third of the world's food - about 1.3 billion tonnes - was lost or wasted annually but that was a rough figure including estimates for losses along the whole supply chain, according to the FAO.

The FAO said the latest numbers, which showed 14% losses globally, focused on losses between harvest and markets and showed variations among the world's regions and commodities.

Central and southern Asia have the highest level of food losses of 20% followed by northern America and Europe at more than 15%. Australia and New Zealand have the lowest at about 6%.

"This number is important because now we can measure the effects of different policies to reduce losses and we can track it over time to see if we're improving or not," said the FAO's Assistant Director-General Maximo Torero Cullen.

With the right policies the world "can eliminate a significant amount of that 14% food loss" but this had costs

and depended on lawmakers, he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

"Reductions in the early stages of the food supply chain is most effective in addressing food security or natural resources stress, but reduction of food waste by consumers and retailers is the best to reduce GHG emissions," he added.

The findings show losses of one in four roots, tubers and oil-bearing crops, such as cassava and potatoes, and more than one in five fruits and vegetables, but less than 10% in cereals and pulses.

Slashing these losses on the farm could increase food availability for small-scale farmers in low-income countries who might also make money selling the surplus, but a glut in produce could depress prices as well as demand, the report warned.

Also some losses were easier to address than others. Making air-conditioned storage available in rural locations without proper roads or electricity would take time but others might only require small adjustments, Torero Cullen said.

For example in Ghana, switching from conventional bags to triple-layer bags with an air-tight seal can protect cassava chips and maize from insects and fungus, according to Washington-based International Food Policy Research Institute.

New technologies could also help. California-based start-up Apeel Sciences produces a plant-based coating that comes in powder form and, when applied with water, can double the shelf life of fruits and vegetables without refrigeration.

It is being tested on mangoes and cassava in Africa.

"Our hope is that with better information and better quality data, we can accelerate this process of reducing food loss," said Torero Cullen. "This is a big step towards action."

Ruling CCM launches new strategy for ten cell leaders

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

CCM in Iringa Municipality has embarked on provision of special training to its members as part of strategies to regain the Iringa Urban constituency currently under opposition MP, Peter Msigwa (Chadema).

This was announced yesterday by CCM National Deputy Secretary General, Rodrick Mpogolo when addressing party members at the launch of the strategy for ten cell leaders.

He however reminded party members to embrace unity and solidarity specifically during the coming civic polls and the 2020 general elections.

He said the first primary task for a CCM member is to uphold unity and solidarity as well as voting his/her party.

According to Mpogolo, a CCM member who votes for opposition candidates are traitors. He insisted that each of the ten-cell leaders should have at least 100 voters who will take part in the coming elections.

He added that in order to gain victory in the civic polls, CCM should ensure that it scores a total of 48200 votes from all the 482 ten-cell units in Iringa urban.

"We consider ten-cell leaders our core representative at local government level. They should be respected", said Mpogolo insiting the party will win the 2019 civic polls following the good job done by the fifth phase government under the leadership of President John Magufuli.

Initially, CCM regional chairman, Said Rubbeya, said they have launched the strategy to capacitate ten-cell leaders through trainings to ensure victory in the coming elections.

He noted that they also have strategies to re-claim the Iringa Urban constituency, come 2020 General Elections. He said educating and training of ten-cell leaders was crucial since they are the ones who will pass the message to people at grass root level.

He also called on members and leaders of the party to avoid engaging in unethical acts including bribery during elections.

Last week, Minister of State in the President's Office responsible for Regional Administration and Local Government, Selemani Jaffo, said the civic polls will be held on November 24th 2019.

He also announced names of 184 public officers who will oversee civic polls. He said regulations demanded that candidates should be sponsored by political parties with permanent registration.

The minister added that only eligible citizens will contest in the elections and they will be required to collect and fill in nomination forms 26 days before the polls.

EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES IN TRADE & REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA



TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) is an aid-for-trade organisation that was established with the aim of growing prosperity in East Africa through increased trade. TMEA operates on a not-for-profit basis and is funded by the development agencies of the following countries: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, European Union, Finland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, United Kingdom, and United States of America. TMEA works closely with East African Community (EAC) institutions, national governments, the private sector and civil society organisations.

TMEA, with an annual expenditure of around US\$100 million, is now the leading aid-for-trade facility in the world. TMEA has its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya with vibrant and successful operations in EAC (Arusha), Burundi (Bujumbura), Democratic Republic of Congo (Bukavu), Ethiopia and the Horn (Addis Ababa & Hargeisa), Rwanda (Kigali), South Sudan (Juba), Tanzania (Dar es salaam) and Uganda (Kampala). The first phase of TMEA delivered exceptional results which directly contributed to substantial gains in East Africa's trade and regional integration environment in terms of reduced transit times, improved border efficiency, and reduced barriers to trade.

We are now in the second phase and we aim to deliver even more large-scale impact to maximise the potential benefits of aid-for-trade interventions which lead to sustainable and inclusive prosperity through job creation, poverty reduction and enhanced economic welfare.

TMEA is now expanding its trade facilitation programme and launching operations in Malawi. To find out more, please visit our website www.trademarkea.com.

We are looking for high calibre, results-oriented and experienced professional to join our team in the positions below.

Transport Director, Northern Cluster Countries & Horn of Africa

The Transport Director, Northern Cluster Countries & Horn of Africa will be responsible for providing strategic and operational support in delivering and managing TMEA's infrastructure programme and activities in the Northern Cluster Countries & Horn of Africa. S/he will ensure that TMEA's strategic objective of reduced trade barriers, and associated strategic impacts, outcomes and outputs are achieved, aligning infrastructure and international trade practices and goals to TMEA's strategies within the designated area of geographical coverage.

The ideal candidate will possess an undergraduate degree with at least 12 years of relevant working experience OR a postgraduate degree with at least 10 years of relevant working experience. In addition, s/he will have a minimum of five years' experience leading the development and delivery of large infrastructure programmes, particularly those related to surface transport, and trade and trade facilitation development programmes to enhance the capacities of developing countries in trade policy development, formulation and implementation trade reforms, regional integration, and support to national governments.

Transport Director, Logistics

The Transport Director, Logistics will have the overall responsibility for directing and monitoring TMEA works streams related to developing logistics systems and services with a special emphasis on ports in line with TMEA project documents and the Theory of Change (TOC). S/he will ensure that the work is mainstreamed across all aspects of TMEA's work and clearly linked to organisational objectives at both the national and regional levels.

The ideal candidate will possess an undergraduate degree with at least 12 years of relevant working experience OR a postgraduate degree with at least 10 years of relevant working experience. In addition, s/he will have at least five years of relevant leadership and management experience, and a minimum of 10 years' demonstrable experience in: (i) policy analysis and administration; (ii) implementing logistics projects aimed at reducing logistics costs and encouraging investment; and (iii) project cycle management in consulting firms or multilaterals providing technical assistance to governments and private organisations.

Country Director, Malawi

The Country Director, Malawi will have the overall responsibility for establishing the Malawi Country Programme and developing, managing and monitoring its strategy and programme delivery. This will include the design, implementation and delivery of programme activities in infrastructure development, trade facilitation, support to Government institutions and the private sector. S/he will develop and maintain an effective programme in line with TMEA's strategic plan, results framework and its management information and monitoring systems. The Country Director will identify opportunities for additional investments into TMEA's Malawian Programme through fundraising from donors and other agencies.

The ideal candidate will possess an undergraduate degree with at least 12 years of relevant working experience OR a postgraduate degree with at least 10 years of relevant working experience. In addition, s/he will have at least five years of relevant leadership and management experience. Three years working experience should have been gained in Malawi or the other countries in which TMEA operates, primarily in managing economic development co-operation programmes related to regional integration, trade facilitation, trade and investment climate reform, transport sector development, and/or institutional reform.

Finance and Administration Officer

The Finance and Administration Officer will be responsible for providing comprehensive finance and administrative oversight to the assigned programme. S/he will ensure that the quality of service delivery in the areas of financial management, mobilisation of procurement contracts and general administration is consistent, efficient, responsive and seamless.

The ideal candidates will possess an undergraduate or postgraduate degree preferably in a business-related field. They must be full practicing members of and be professionally certificated by a relevant professional body. Undergraduate degree holders will have at least five years of relevant working experience while postgraduate degree holders will require at least three years of relevant working experience in accounting and general office management.

Here are two open Finance and Administration Officer positions - one based in Malawi and the other in Hargeisa. Each position is open to nationals of the country in which it is based.

Application details

The detailed job profiles for these posts can be accessed on our website www.trademarkea.com.

These positions are available on contract to 30 June 2023 with the possibility of renewal. Please apply online through <http://www.trademarkea.com/work-with-us/> by **Friday, 15 November 2019, 5.00pm Kenyan time**. Attach your cover letter and detailed CV, including details of your qualifications, experience, and present position. Your application should also include a working e-mail address, daytime telephone contacts, and names and contact details of three referees. Interviews will be conducted in January/February 2020.

Please note that we will only consider applications received on-line through the link provided above. Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted. We reserve the right to accept or reject any application. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Qualified women and persons living with disabilities are particularly encouraged to apply.

Diversity & Inclusion is our pulse!

TMEA is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to open and transparent recruitment processes. We are committed to a culture that supports, celebrates and respects the unique and authentic self of each of our employees and partners. We believe that our work is better accomplished, success achieved and mission realised when we fully embrace the value in our differences by establishing a workforce that reflect the communities we work with. We are therefore committed to diversity across race, cultures, ethnicity or national origins, religious and political beliefs, age, disability, gender and gender identity, sexual orientation, social or economic class, marital status or educational background; so that all are free to be who they are, and freely express their views and beliefs. We do so knowing that diversity and inclusion have tangible benefits not only to our organisation, but also to the communities we work with.

Austerity, the 'new normal'

WASHINGTON DC

WHILE this week Ministers of Finance and economists meet in Washington to confront global economic challenges at [HYPERLINK "https://meetings.imf.org/en/2019/Annual"](https://meetings.imf.org/en/2019/Annual) the IMF and World Bank Annual Meetings, the majority of the world population lives with austerity cuts and see their living standards deteriorating. World leaders must reverse this trend.

Since 2010, most governments in both high income and developing countries have been implementing austerity policies, cutting public expenditures. Surprisingly, this trend is expected to continue at least until 2024, according to [HYPERLINK "http://policydialogue.org/files/publications/papers/Austerity-the-New-Normal-Ortiz-Cummins-6-Oct-2019.pdf"](http://policydialogue.org/files/publications/papers/Austerity-the-New-Normal-Ortiz-Cummins-6-Oct-2019.pdf) a global study just published by the Initiative for Policy Dialogue at Columbia University, global trade unions and civil society organizations. Austerity has become "the new normal."

Based on IMF fiscal projections, the study finds that a new fiscal adjustment shock will start in 2020. By 2021, government expenditures as a share of GDP will be declining in 130 countries, nearly three-fourths of which are in the developing world. The reach of austerity is staggering: nearly 6 billion persons will be affected by 2021.

How are governments cutting their budgets and implementing austerity reforms? In practice, the most commonly considered adjustment measures in 2018-19 include: pension and social security reforms (in 86 countries); cutting or capping the public sector wage bill, including the number and salaries of teachers, health workers and civil servants delivering public services (in 80 countries); labor flexibilization reforms (in 79 countries); reducing or eliminating subsidies (in 78 countries); rationalizing and/or further targeting social assistance or safety nets (in 77 countries); increas-



ing regressive consumption taxes, such as sales and value added taxes (in 73 countries); strengthening public-private partnerships (PPPs) (in 60 countries); privatizing public assets/services (in 59 countries); and health-care reforms (in 33 countries).

All of these measures have negative social impacts. As a result, in many countries older persons have lower pensions; there are not sufficient teachers, medical and care staff, and the quality of public services suffers; there are less jobs, and people work under more precarious conditions; prices increase while wages are stagnant; and the low and middle classes are squeezed and under pressure.

In perspective, the macroeconomic and fiscal choices made by governments over the last decade are alarming.

The G20 alone committed US\$10 trillion to support the financial sector in response to the global financial crisis, and then passed the costs of adjustment to populations, with millions

of people being pushed into poverty and lower living standards.

The worldwide drive toward austerity or fiscal consolidation can be expected to aggravate the growth and employment crisis and diminish public support at a time of high development needs, soaring inequalities and social discontent.

Austerity is also being used as a Trojan horse to induce "Washington Consensus" policies to cut back on public policies and the welfare state. Once budgets are contracting, governments must look at policies that minimize the public sector and expand private sector delivery, including PPPs. There are clear winners and losers from this renewed Washington Consensus, and governments must effectively assess and question these policies.

Austerity and budget cuts do not need to be "the new normal." There are alternatives, even in the poorest countries. Governments can find additional fiscal space to fund public

services and development policies through at least [HYPERLINK "https://www.social-protection.org/gimi/ResourcePDF.action?ressource.ressourceId=51537"](https://www.social-protection.org/gimi/ResourcePDF.action?ressource.ressourceId=51537) eight options, which range from increasing progressive tax revenues, cracking down on illicit financial flows, improving debt management and using fiscal and foreign exchange reserves, to adopting more accommodative macroeconomic frameworks, reprioritizing public expenditures and -for lower income countries- lobbying for greater aid. All these options are endorsed by the United Nations and the international financial institutions.

It is time for world leaders to abandon the myopic scope of macroeconomic and fiscal policy decisions that benefit few and, instead, look for new fiscal space and financing opportunities to foster a robust global recovery and the achievement of long-term global prosperity for all.

IPS

Science and technology innovation drives China's agricultural development

By Gao Yuncai

IN 2018, China's annual output of grain reached 657.9 billion kilograms, 4.8 times more than that in 1949, with an average annual growth standing at 2.6 percent.

China's agriculture sector is seeing a transformation from the traditional crop production-dominated pattern to a modern one featuring comprehensive development of farming, forestry, animal husbandry, and fishery, as pointed out by Ye Xingqing, head of the rural economy research department of the Development Research Center of the State Council.

China has constantly optimized its agricultural structure, which is both a prominent symbol of its agricultural development and an inevitable requirement of modern development, said Ye.

"Next, we will put more efforts to improving the quality and efficiency of the agricultural supply system so as to better meet the various needs of the people," said Zhu Qizhen, chief of the institute of farmer research, China Agricultural University.

According to statistics, the use intensity of China's farmland has decreased, while the nutrient content in the soil has witnessed steady growth, with the average content of organic matter rising to 24.3 grams per kilogram of soil.

"Agricultural resource use intensity has fallen to a lower level, which enables China to enjoy a stronger momentum of green development," said Ye.

More land has employed the water-saving irrigation system and less chemical fertilizers and pesticides are used, he noted. Meanwhile, disadvantageous production areas and low-quality and low-efficiency ones are on a decrease. China has witnessed significant changes in its concept of agricultural development.

In the future, China will further improve the efficiency of its agricultural production mainly through intensive agricultural operations in an effort to



Agricultural workers operate a tomato super greenhouse in the Minjiang modern agriculture demonstration park in Meishan City of southwest China's Sichuan Province. (File photo)

transform its agricultural production mode, said Wei Houkai, director of Rural Development Institute of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

In 2018, the plowing, sowing and harvesting of over 67 percent of China's staple crops were completed by machines, and the percentage hit 80 for staple grain crops.

China has constantly improved total factor productivity of its modern agriculture and is experiencing profound reform in its agricultural production mode.

"Agricultural mechanization has freed a great number of farmers from high-intensity manual labor, therefore facilitating the rapid development of industrialization and urbanization while lowering the labor cost of agricultural production," Ye pointed out.

He added that science and technology have also significantly increased the crop yield per unit area of land. They contributed to 58.3 percent to China's agricultural growth in 2018, up by 10.3 percentage points from 2005.

In addition, China's average grain yield had increased to 375 kilograms

per mu (667 square meters) in 2018 from 88 kilograms per mu in 1952.

Now, many innovative technologies can be seen in the fields, such as large-size tractors, and unmanned aerial vehicles.

By transforming cutting-edge scientific and technological achievements into productivity, agricultural machinery makes production easier and brings more profits, said Zhu.

To transform agricultural production mode mainly depends on science and technology innovation, Wei pointed out. He believes it is necessary to further specify the priorities and focuses of agricultural innovation, and enhance the research and development as well as application and popularization of agricultural technologies.

On one hand, the country should constantly improve the core competitiveness of its agriculture sector; on the other hand, it should promote the development of smart agriculture, he said.

Over the past 70 years, China has witnessed historic changes in its mode of high-quality agricultural develop-

ment with significantly improved efficiency, economic benefits and quality.

New types of business entities are emerging in the country's agricultural industry and there are more professional farmers who are well-educated and have broad knowledge about agricultural techniques and business management.

By the end of 2018, the number of specialized farmers' cooperatives registered in China reached 2.17 million, while the number of family farms in the country was about 600,000.

A total of 7.8 billion people had returned their hometowns or went to the rural areas to make innovations and start their own businesses.

An important criterion to judge whether a country's agriculture is modern is the wide adoption of advanced operation, as well as advanced management techniques and methods, said Zhu.

Such progress calls for attracting and educating more well-trained farmers while promoting the modernization of agriculture, he added.

In recent years, the agriculture industry has constantly expanded its boundary. Leisure agriculture, landscape agriculture and multifunctional agriculture are emerging quickly. It is gradually integrating with secondary and tertiary industries such as catering and accommodation.

With the integration of rural and urban development, the deepening integration of primary, secondary, and tertiary industries, and the extensive application of information technology, the new industries, businesses, and models in the rural area will enjoy a sound momentum of development.

In 2018, the value added of the new industries, businesses and models in China's primary industry reached 622.7 billion yuan (about \$87.67 billion), accounting for 9.6 percent of the total value-added output of the sector. The figure is expected to embrace higher growth in the years to come.

People's Daily



Africa's international crimes court is still a pipe dream

BY MARAM MAHDI

SINCE June 2014 when African leaders agreed to set up an African international crimes court, there's been no progress towards its establishment. The Malabo Protocol, adopted at an African Union (AU) summit in Equatorial Guinea, needs to be ratified to give the court jurisdiction over international crimes and transnational organised crimes.

If created, it would be the world's first regional court to address international crime. It could, for example, try perpetrators of drug trafficking in Kenya, war crimes in the Central African Republic or the Democratic Republic of the Congo, leaders of violent extremist groups such as Boko Haram or al-Shabaab, and other large-scale human rights abuses on the continent. Such jurisdiction could go a long way in addressing impunity for serious crimes in Africa.

The court is an ambitious project, which is no doubt partly why its existence is still far from becoming a reality. Only 15 of 55 AU member states have signed the protocol. Each of these 15 states would still need to ratify it before any steps could be taken for the court to start work.

The ratification challenges are enormous and complicated. The protocol adopted in Malabo is an amendment to an earlier protocol that seeks to merge two courts. The first of these courts is the African Court of Justice and Human Rights, which is largely non-existent beyond its creation by the Constitutive Act of the AU.

The second is the vibrant and functioning African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights created by the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. The merger protocol also requires 15 ratifications, but since 2008 when it was adopted, only seven have been registered.

It's thought by many that the Malabo Protocol was initiated as a political response to the AU's contestation with the International Criminal Court (ICC), and human rights activists question how serious the AU really is in addressing justice deficits in Africa. While the Malabo Protocol follows on from earlier initiatives by the AU to seek accountability for serious crimes, its precarious relationship with the ICC expedited the protocol's adoption.

Scepticism about why the court was created is further compounded by a plethora of concerns regarding the practicalities of exercising the court's expanded jurisdiction, and its expenditure.

Perhaps most controversial is the provision in the Malabo Protocol of immunity for sitting African heads of state and senior government officials. Senior officials may be implicated in many of the crimes covered by the court. The inclusion of this article could effectively paralyse the court's ability to deliver justice and accountability. Many argue that with the immunity provision, the AU could possibly cement the ICC's ability to prosecute such officials.

Another major concern

stems from the court's wide jurisdiction. The protocol covers 14 categories of 'grave' crimes: genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, unconstitutional change of government, piracy, terrorism, mercenarism, corruption, money laundering, trafficking in persons, drugs and hazardous waste, illicit exploitation of natural resources and aggression.

And while war crimes and genocide, for example, are fixed terms in international criminal law, mercenarism, corruption and money laundering could be viewed as common crimes that are difficult to define and prosecute outside of domestic courts. This brings a host of legal challenges - not least how African states can align their national laws to complement the new court's statute.

On the plus side, this wide jurisdiction is an opportunity for the AU to set a precedent for prosecuting these crimes at a regional level. But the technical and legal difficulties this presents means that the regional body should reconsider the long list of proposed crimes, with a view to including only international crimes.

Another concern is the silence on how the court will be financed. International criminal justice is a costly undertaking. For example, the ICC's proposed 2020 budget is €150.52 million. Closer to home, the trial of former Chadian president Hissène Habré at the Extraordinary African Chambers cost about US\$9.7 million in 2015.

Like many regional and international organisations, funding is an enduring problem for the AU's current operations, never mind the massive additional costs of running a regional criminal court. The AU is primarily funded by external donors. If the protocol comes into force, the AU will continue being dependant on external funding and subjected to all the regulations that come with it.

Concerns about the viability of an African court are well founded. At the same time, the Malabo Protocol could afford African states primacy in investigating and prosecuting cases of mass crimes.

The chamber would ensure that Africans play a leading rather than a marginal or secondary role in justice discourse and practice on the continent. It would give African states the chance to articulate and practise a regional vision of international criminal justice. More importantly, it would tell victims in Africa that leaders take their justice needs seriously.

This is why African civil society and state actors alike should reinvigorate discussions around the Malabo Protocol. African governments should actively push the protocol's reinstatement on the AU's agenda.

As part of the ongoing AU reforms, there are efforts to increase the ratification of protocols adopted by the AU Assembly. This is a good opportunity to remind leaders about the Malabo Protocol's outstanding ratifications.

Maram Mahdi, Junior Researcher, Transnational Threats and International Crime, ISS Pretoria

PROJECT FUNDED BY BILL AND MELINDA GATES HELPS REHABILITATE MORE THAN 40 CATTLE DIPS

By Property Watch Reporter

THE number of functioning cattle dips has increased from 14 only in January 2018 to 60 by April this year in Mwanza region thanks to rehabilitation by Dalberg Implement (3D) with funding from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

However, most of the cattle dips numbering over 103 remain unsuitable as they undergo renovation. The dips which are located in Buchosa, Kwimba, Misungwi and Sengerema districts of Mwanza region, are being renovated by Dalberg Implement, which is a global development focused strategic advisory firm with offices in Dar es Salaam in collaboration with local government authorities in the four districts.

Speaking about the initiative, Project Officer at Dalberg Implement (3D), Ines Muganyizi said that the goal of the project was not only to repair or build more cattle dips but also ensure that cattle they are used by livestock keepers and sustained over the long term. A cattle dip is a bath designed to immerse livestock in liquid pesticide or other treatment to rid them of ticks, which carry diseases such as East Coast fever and anaplasmosis.

"We carried out an assessment to understand the real causes of failure and found that old or damaged infrastructure, a lack of technical skills, conflicts caused by ambiguities in ownership or a lack of fair representation of villages sharing the infrastructure and poor management by dip committees and village authorities often led to the misallocation of operational funds," Muganyizi said.

He noted that the project has designed appropriate activities to address specific challenges and assigned clear responsibilities with teams deployed across the four districts to conduct sensitization seminars.

"These seminars bridged knowledge gaps in the communities on the benefits of dipping and motivated residents and government leaders to accept shared responsibility in sustaining dipping operations," Muganyizi added.

He said the project team has strengthened intervention to respond to peculiar situations encountered on the ground giving an example of Buchosa and Kwimba where a hybrid team of livestock and cooperative officers trained livestock



A cattle dip at Nyambui village of Kwimba district in Mwanza region. Photo courtesy of Dalberg.

keepers on disease control, financial management and record keeping responsibilities.

"In Misungwi, the number of operating cattle dips was included in the performance targets of livestock extension officers, and a livestock officer was appointed to track weekly progress," the Dalberg Implement Project Officer noted.

As for challenges encountered, Muganyizi said lack of accountability and oversight often led cattle dip committees to misappropriate funds which eventually led to the shutting down of the dips due to a lack of funds to buy chemicals and undertake repairs.

"We used problem-solving techniques and learning from the field to design an easy-to-adopt framework for managing cattle dip operations. To address this, Kwimba LGA pioneered a system of checks and balances. The system involved a signed contract between dipping committees, the village government that oversees them and the LGA. They also opened a designated bank account for dipping funds to enhance accountability," he pointed out.

A Livestock Officer in

Misungwi district who works with the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government, which coordinates implementation of government programs in Tanzania, Benedicta Mtolera said success has been made on the ground.

"We shared successes among districts while escalating hurdles to the regional and ministerial levels. It was important to draw best practices from the LGAs and transfer them to other LGAs to achieve scale," Mtolera said.

"For example, the tools for cattle dip management developed by Kwimba are now used in Buchosa, Misungwi and Sengerema. Similarly, the Buchosa multi-disciplinary approach to bring together livestock, land, law, cooperative and community development officers proved very successful in other LGAs," she noted.

She added that at regional level, the project team is supporting the regional secretariat to convert lessons learned into easy-to-apply practices. Part of the approach involves the secretariats deploying a taskforce to track implementation progress with consistency and engaging with LGAs

to identify hurdles and championing the creation and application of cost-effective solutions.

"At a national level, we leveraged our strategic partnership with the President's Office Regional and Local Governments to communicate the success in Mwanza region and to encourage country-wide adoption," the Misungwi Livestock Officer added.

The three year project has had positive results with increased cattle dipping with calves' mortality from tick-borne diseases such as anaplasmosis, East Coast Fever and heartwater, falling sharply. Livestock keepers are happy with progress that has been made.

"I am able to dip my cattle once every week and I am very satisfied with the results. My cows have no trouble eating. As a result, milk production has improved," remarked Scholastica Malimi, a livestock keeper from Itumbili village in Buchosa district.

A 2006 study by the National Bureau of Statistics found that the total annual national loss from tick-borne diseases in Tanzania was around US\$364 million, including an estimated mortality of 1.3 million cattle.

First 'Four Points' classy hotel in Dar set to celebrate opening with beer garden party

By Property Watch Reporter

A pop-up beer garden party to celebrate Four Points by Sheraton Dar es Salaam, New Africa Hotel will take place in Dar es Salaam starting today.

In a statement, Four Points by Sheraton Dar es Salaam, New Africa Hotel general manager Siddharth Chaudhry said the event which ends next week Friday is held to celebrate the Four Points Around the World Series. The series highlights the brand's signature initiative, Best Brews, while also celebrating Four Points' growth in new and existing global markets.

"We look forward to welcoming guests to the first ever Four Points Best Brews pop up in the city and offer a taste of Africa as part of this global series while delivering the brand's signature warm and uncomplicated yet comfortable service," said Chaudhry.

Four Points by Sheraton, one of Marriott International's fastest-growing hotel brands, is celebrating its rapid international growth by taking its love of craft beer one pint further. As part of a global series of beer-garden-themed events, the recently opened Four Points by Sheraton Dar es Salaam, New Africa Hotel will showcase a collection of signature local craft beers from various countries and regions. Brews from the United States, Canada, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and Africa will offer a figurative and literal taste of Four Points' growing portfolio, while highlighting the unique brewing styles and local flavours from different cultures.

The first pour will be served at the Four Points by Sheraton Suzhou in China - followed by subsequent pop-up events in cities across five continents: North America, Europe, Asia-Pacific, and Africa - before culminating at the Four Points by Sheraton Puebla in Mexico.



Main entrance of Four Points by Sheraton Dar es Salaam, New Africa Hotel.

Best Brews is a guest experience enjoyed at Four Points hotels worldwide, offering a taste of authentic, local flavour and culture through craft beer which has been chosen based on taste, popularity, quality and proximity to each property.

While oceans, borders and languages can distance us, sharing a beer is a universal connector. The Four Points Around the World pop-up events will celebrate this connection by rotating select craft beer offerings from

various countries and regions. Brews from the United States, Canada, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and Africa will offer a figurative and literal taste of Four Points' growing portfolio, while highlighting the unique brewing styles and local flavours from different cultures.

The first pour will be served at the Four Points by Sheraton Suzhou in China - followed by subsequent pop-up events in cities across five continents: North America, Europe, Asia-Pacific, and Africa - before culminating at the Four Points by Sheraton Puebla in Mexico.

"Four Points has proven to be a global hit with its ability to meet the increasing demands of the modern, everyday traveller. The brand is experiencing incredible growth momentum with more than 275 hotels currently open, Four Points has nearly 120 hotels in the development pipeline, with new hotels located in nearly every corner of the globe," Chaudhry added.

The brand is gaining unprecedented traction in Middle East and Africa region with 17 hotels currently operating and 14 under development. In East Africa alone, the brand has opened Four Points by Sheraton Hurlingham, Four Points by Sheraton Nairobi Airport and Four Points by Sheraton Arusha, The Arusha Hotel, with Four Points by Sheraton Dar es Salaam, New Africa Hotel being the fourth property to open in less than two years.

Global construction sector grows despite economic uncertainties, Moody's says

SHANGHAI

The global construction sector is set to grow, albeit at a slower pace, as infrastructure spending rises, boosting revenues and stability in the industry despite economic headwinds from the US-China trade dispute, according to Moody's Investors Service.

Global construction companies rated by Moody's are expected to slow down but experience "still healthy" growth in revenues of 4 per cent on average over the next 12 to 18 months, driven by steady construction demand, the rating agency said in a report on Wednesday. This forecast, however, is lower than the average 9 per cent revenue growth in 2018.

Moody's has assigned a stable outlook to the sector over the forecast period, driven by an increase in infrastructure spending and revenue growth led by Chinese companies. Its outlook covered 30 rated construction companies across nine countries, with seven operating in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, eight in the US, 13 in Asia

- almost all in China - and two in Australia.

"Healthy revenue growth and book-to-bill ratios point to supportive business conditions for the global construction sector, supporting its stable outlook for the industry," Moody's said. "Although this growth is much lower ... it is reflective of the global slowdown in GDP [gross domestic product] growth and remains supported primarily by infrastructure spending."

The International Monetary Fund has painted a grim outlook for the world economy and warned of a "precarious" economic situation as a result of ongoing US-China trade friction. The IMF on Tuesday slashed its global economic growth projection for a fifth consecutive time to 3 per cent this year, the slowest since the 2008 financial crisis and down from a 3.2 per cent estimated in a July.

For next year, the IMF is projecting a 3.4 per cent expansion in global GDP on the back of better performances in economies including Brazil, Mexico, Russia and Saudi Arabia.



Workers are seen at the construction site of US electric car maker Tesla's Gigafactory in Shanghai.

MANUFACTURER OF MATTRESSES IN CAMPAIGN TO RID THE MARKET OF COPYCAT, LOW QUALITY PRODUCTS

By Property Watch Reporter

BAFFLED by proliferation of copycat substandard mattresses masquerading in the market, GSM Tanzania has kick-started a national wide campaign 'Tokomeza godoro bovu.'

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam this week, GSM Group Marketing and Communication Manager, Martina Nkurulu said the campaign will be conducted in different phases with the first one covering Coast, Lindi and Mtwara regions.

Nkurulu said his company decided to launch the campaign after realizing that a lot of consumers are buying counterfeit low quality mattresses which cost them much as such products have a short lifespan compared to genuine ones.

"Apart from fake mattresses there are also some which are genuine brand names and expensive but are of low quality hence not durable. If consumers buy such kind of mattresses they end up spending more money to buy the same product every short-while hence embracing poverty," he noted.

He added that after realizing that consumers are being short-changed, GSM Tanzania has decided to bring local consumers genuine and high quality mattresses which last longer with Tanzania Bureau of Standards certification.

"We have HD and Spring mattresses which can be cleaned easily and get back to previous look," the GSM Group Manager added while stressing that customers who buy the Dar es Salaam based company's brands will never regret.

From Coast region, the 'Tokomeza godoro bovu' campaign will head to Lindi and Mtwara this weekend with a climax in end this month where a big sport concert will take place.

Apart from mattresses, GSM Tanzania also manufactures and distributes various home appliances, furniture, construction materials and fertilizers, among others.



GSM Group's communication and marketing manager, Martina Nkurulu (gesturing), takes journalists on a tour of GSM mattress factory in Dar es Salaam during the launch of a campaign dubbed, 'Tokomeza godoro bovu' targeting counterfeits and substandard mattresses in the market. Photo courtesy of GSM.

Govt planning taking over of ownership of unregistered plots of land

KIGALI

Some 1.5 million parcels of land across the country could be registered as state property if their owners do not register them within the next three months, the Government has warned.

"Some of these properties might be in the hands of people we do not know or they might be even lying idle because the owners never registered them as their properties," Grace Nishimwe, the Head of Land Administration Department at Rwanda Land Management and Use Authority, told The New Times.

The current land registration arrangement, which was introduced more than 10 years ago, has significantly reduced land related conflicts in the country, especially in rural areas, government says. The current laws give women and men equal rights to land property.

"This initiative aims at streamlining land use. Eventually, the Government will take over idle land or land which does not have owners," she disclosed. However, although the state will assume ownership of unregistered land after three months, the rightful owners can still repossess their property after presenting evidence of ownership, Nishimwe said.

The law allows the Government to take possession of unregistered land. The owners of the "disputed" properties have been requested to go to the land notary at sector level and sort out the issues. The government says it does not know why some people are reluctant to register their properties.

Disputes Nishimwe said that "owners" of land registered as property in conflict must submit documents to the land management authority to prove that the matter is in court. "There are over 18,000 land parcels we registered that are the subject of conflict. Those fighting for ownership must give us documents within one month proving that they have taken the case to courts," she said.

After the one-month ultimatum, those who will have not acted accordingly, the land management authority will delete 'conflict' status in the land titles registry. Experts say that streamlined land registration will boost state revenues from property tax.

Esperance Mukamana, the Director General of Rwanda Land Management and Use Authority, said that land registration is now harmonised with tax collection systems. With an ICT-based system linking land registration and tax payment, Ernest Karasira, the Deputy Commissioner for Regional and Decentralised Taxes at Rwanda Revenue Authority (RRA), said revenue administration costs on land property will be reduced.

With the system RRA expects regional and decentralised taxes to rise to over Rwf67 billion this fiscal year from up from Rwf61.5 billion in the 2017/18 last fiscal year.

SGR will reach the intended destination, says Uhuru

NAIROBI

President Uhuru Kenyatta has launched the second phase of the Standard Gauge Railway with the promise to complete the project to Malaba as was originally envisioned.

The president said despite the challenges expected in taking the project beyond Suswa where it currently terminates, the railway will be built to its original target to maximise on its economic benefits. The president who joined other leaders in the maiden train ride on the newly completed Section 2B asked Kenyans to be patient as the government ensures the project reaches its intended destination.

"Just like we completed the Mombasa -Nairobi section, we will also ensure this project gets to its destination. There will be challenges along the way but that does not mean we will not do it," Mr Kenyatta said.

The commuter services between the Syokimau station and Suswa (about 100 kilometres) are expected to start today with passengers expected to pay Sh200 for one-way trip. There will also be daily commuter services from Ngong and Nairobi terminates from Monday to Friday where commuters will pay Sh 100 per trip.

Mr Kenyatta's pledge to complete the SGR comes in the backdrop of funding challenges that will see the line stop at Suswa for now, creating an economic viability challenge for the Sh150 billion project.

Regional leaders accompanied the president on the train ride including Transport CS James Macharia and his devolution counterpart Eugene Wamalwa, Kajiado Governor Joseph Ole Lenku, Nairobi's Mike Sonko, Alfred Mutua (Machakos) among other leaders.



Atterbury's new multi-billion-rand Castle Gate in Pretoria.

SA office property development activity falls to 14-year low

JOHANNESBURG

New developments under construction in SA's office property sector have decelerated to their lowest level since the last quarter of 2005, while average national office vacancies remain in the double digits at 11%.

This is according to the South African Property Owners Association (Sapoa) Office Vacancy Report for the third quarter of 2019. The report, published last week, was compiled by global research group MSCI on behalf of Sapoa.

"Development activity in the office sector has been on a downward trend since 2015 amid poor business confidence and low growth," notes the report, adding that by the end of the third quarter "developments under construction totalled 378 000m² - the lowest level since Q4 2005."

The report points out that SA's "muted employment growth" and

low economic growth continues to dampen the office property sector's hopes for a short-term recovery. It states that for the sector's vacancy rate to drop to 5%, it will require at least 75 000 new office-based jobs to be created.

Speaking to Moneyweb, Sapoa CEO Neil Gopal says it all comes down to SA's lacklustre economic growth over the past decade. "Everything is underpinned by GDP growth. We need much stronger GDP growth to kickstart the economy and to create jobs."

Reiterating the sentiments in the report, Gopal notes that uncertainty around government policy, the country's credit rating and Eskom remain major concerns. "Policy certainty will no doubt help, but the government will also have to address Eskom, which remains the elephant in the room. The sudden bout of load shedding [on Wednesday] is not good and could not have come at a worse time. Hopefully it is short-

lived."

Gopal says government will also need to up its investment into infrastructure to bolster growth. "I don't have a crystal ball to know how things will turn out, but if government sorts out policy issues and significantly increases spending on infrastructure, it will lead to the private sector increasing its investment in SA."

He says there are some positive signs that private- and JSE-listed players in SA's property industry are looking to invest, but the pace will be based on how long it takes for the economy to be turned around.

"Just look at Atterbury's new multi-billion-rand Castle Gate development in Pretoria and Growthpoint's plans around the new Sandton Summit precinct," he adds. "It shows that SA property companies are willing to invest in long-term developments in the country - however, government needs to create a better environment for business to invest."

Gopal stresses that besides policy certainty and macro-economic issues at national level, service delivery at municipal level needs to be significantly improved. "We as the property industry have complained about planning delays, poor service delivery and infrastructure challenges at municipalities. Improvements at local government level will also contribute to increased growth and investment by the property sector."

Double-digit vacancies Commenting on the newly-released Sapoa Office Vacancy Report, Simon Wilkins of commercial property brokerage Galetti says the reduction in development activity is a direct result of falling demand.

"Office tenants are typically renewing leases in their existing buildings at very competitive rates currently and landlords are on strong retention drives, seeking to actively manage their renewals," he notes.

CONSTRUCTION

EUROPE'S PORTS MAY HAVE SPENT MILLIONS ON BREXIT FOR NOTHING

CALAIS

The port of Calais on France's northern coast has spent €6 million on facilities for customs officers, updated signage around freshly painted roads and huge extra parking lots for trucks. It may all end up being pointless.

What looks like the expansion of a transit hub in the world's busiest shipping area is more an insurance policy against upheaval from Britain's tortuous journey out of the European Union. UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson is trying to get a deal over the line this week to make good on his promise to leave by the end of the month.

It's a similar story along the continental coastline of Northern Europe, from Roscoff in France to Esbjerg in Denmark, as well as across the Irish Sea in Dublin. Ports have spent millions of euros to prepare, add staff and run drills for the new checks in an effort to limit backlogs of traffic, all the while knowing it might be a waste of time and money. The current October 31 deadline is already seven months later than the original.

"The uncertainty is very difficult to manage for your nerves," Jean-Marc Puisseuseau, the chief executive of the company that runs the Calais seaport, said last week. "We have been in constant meetings with the French state, regional authorities, business partners, the customs office and the police. We are fed up."

The effort has echoes of the millennium bug, when companies braced for possible chaos as computers entered the year 2000. But this time it's also physical infrastructure as well as back room technology, and so long as the clock is ticking down with no agreement or extension, the Brexit equivalent of software meltdown still looms.

Ports up and down the coast next to Britain must enforce the EU's single-market rules from day one while the British would effectively be free to do what they like. While the government in London has staged mock bottlenecks of trucks headed for the continent via Dover, the French, Dutch, Danish and Irish have had to install infrastructure just in case.

"What we're hearing is that customs checks will be brought in gradu-



A sign for the city of Calais stands near a barbed wire security fence on a road leading to the Port of Calais.

ally and not on day one of Brexit," said Jean-Marc Roué, the chairman of shipping operator Brittany Ferries, which is based on the port of Roscoff on France's western tip. "That isn't the case on French soil because the customs code is European, not French. It's a European code that France is obliged to apply."

The odds on the UK and the EU securing a deal to keep trade unhindered are changing every day. Last week started with stalemate and ended with hope. While Johnson has vowed to make Brexit happen regardless, British legislation states that he must seek a delay rather than crash the country out of the EU.

Whatever the outcome,

how Europe's ports deal with the fallout will be crucial. A slowdown in the global economy is already hitting trade flows, and Brexit would just compound that decline. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development calculates that exports from other EU countries to the UK would fall by 16 per cent because of higher trade costs should Britain leave without a deal.

France has hired 600 customs officers and plans to recruit another 100 to deal with the task of reinstating borders on trade routes that until now have flourished from over a quarter of a century of free trade.

Simply reverting to written declarations of goods

being transported would be unmanageable with modern-day volumes of trade, according to French customs officials. Instead, they have created an "intelligent border" that integrates its computer systems with those of ferry companies.

"The direction of history is towards integration and customs unions, and now we are presented with a disunion," Laurence Coredo, a chief customs officer for the Normandy region, said last week as her team searched a lorry on the docks of Le Havre during a Brexit drill. "It's completely unprecedented."

War gaming what might happen is tough because of so many unknowns, not least the kind of divorce the UK and EU are

headed for. Roué at Brittany Ferries said ports like Le Havre may benefit because longer crossings compared with Calais give more time for the intelligent borders to function smoothly. The burning question for ports up and down the coast, though, is whether delays in the UK could jam up facilities there and then spill over to Europe.

Port managers in Britain expect some disruption, though say apocalyptic predictions are overdone. The Port of Dover, which handled a sixth of the UK's trade in goods, is "100 per cent ready," chief executive Doug Bannister said last month. But some of his counterparts on the continent reckon any snarl-ups will be British.

"We don't expect any problems at our end and I think that it will mainly be the English ports that will face delays and bottlenecks after a hard Brexit," said Dennis Jul Pedersen, harbour director at Port Esbjerg in Denmark. He said ships eventually could directly dock from Scotland as exporters avoid travelling on congested roads to Dover in south-east England.

On the North Sea at Rotterdam, Europe's largest port, chief executive Alard Castelein has confidence in the contingency planning – at least his own. "We are as well prepared as we could be," he said. "If they haven't, we still are in dire straits."

The biggest fears are in Calais, though. It's the closest French city to England, just 34 kilometres from the coastline near Dover, and has been a bustling centre of trade and shipping since the Middle Ages.

According to the French government, 60 per cent of the people and goods crossing between the UK and EU goes through the port of Calais and Channel Tunnel rail link, which is also accessed in the city. Crucially, as much as 80 per cent of the produce requiring new sanitary inspections will pass through after Brexit.

Already this year, lorry traffic is down 5 per cent to 6 per cent and passenger traffic has tumbled 10 per cent, said Mr Puisseuseau, the port chief. There was a spike in activity in March as businesses built stocks before the initial Brexit deadline, but that's since faded and – to his surprise – there's been no rebound ahead of the October deadline. He's hoping the recent start of a new rail freight terminal will cushion the blow.

The plan is for goods declarations to be processed electronically during the crossing from the UK. Lorry drivers will receive a colour code before disembarking in France – green to exit the port, orange to proceed to inspections at the newly expanded facilities. Mr Puisseuseau pointed at horse boxes disembarking from a ferry as an example of what would become a routine inspection after Brexit.

Still, if somehow the UK remained in the EU, Mr Puisseuseau said he wouldn't worry about the lost investment. "The party in Calais would go on for two weeks – there would be Beaujolais flowing through the streets," he said. "It'd be the first time so much money had been invested for so much fun."

A world of wonder: Germany, India and France aim to dazzle Dubai at Expo 2020

DUBAI

Determined to make an impact, international governments have set aside millions in their efforts to impress at Expo 2020 Dubai.

With huge budgets and even larger ambition, officials hope their pavilions – some costing upwards of \$50 million – will stand out from the crowd. From Germany, one of the world's largest economies, to Monaco, a tiny city-state, authorities say the sizeable investments will be well worth it.

The global event, described as "groundbreaking" by organisers, is set to draw more than 25 million visitors to the UAE over just six months. "Expos have always represented a showcase of innovation and human inspiration," said Dietmar Schmitz, commissioner general of the German pavilion.

"In the 21st globalised century, growth does not result from industrial development but it is driven by interwoven ideas and connected people. "Participation in every Expo represents for Germany an unrivalled chance to be able to contribute to these important fora... with the aim of hopefully contributing to the progressing of humankind."

Expo 2020 Dubai will kick off on October 20 next year.



European powerhouse Germany is out to impress when the world comes together under one roof in Dubai next year.

World-leaders in science and innovation will descend on the city to soak up its vision and insight. For its part, India has allocated a vast \$50 million budget to build their elaborate exhibition with the help of a movie set designer.

The four-storey construction across a 1.2-acre plot will feature a gigantic image of Mahatma Gandhi and will be a permanent installation at the site. "The aim is to use modern technology to convey an ancient civilisation and the dynamic new India," said Navdeep Suri, India's outgoing ambassador to the UAE.

"The creative inputs of a famous Bollywood personality who does major movie

set designs will be welcome since his company runs cutting-edge digital projections." Countries such as France also view the global exhibition as a platform for their companies to forge new partnerships.

For their Monet-inspired pavilion, officials will spend an estimated €28 million, twice the amount the country spent at the Milan Expo four years ago. This time, however, more than 80 per cent of energy consumed by the site will be produced by colourful solar panels attached to its roof and façade.

Erik Linquier, chairman of Cofrex, the firm implementing the project, said

the €20 million government allocation would be supplemented by contributions from French firms. "For France, Expo 2020 will be an opportunity to showcase a bold and positive vision of tomorrow's world," said Mr Linquier.

"It will serve as a concrete tool for French companies and all those who innovate; a platform for boosting the international development of all stakeholders, particularly in Africa, the Middle East and Asia."

Expo budgets include the pavilion concept, construction, retail and food units, organisation of multiple events and the dismantling of the structure. Partici-

pants such as Monaco have already put out adverts for staff, including guides, engineers and a sales team.

The principality's budget may be smaller at €9 million, but it has big plans for an extensive solar-powered structure. "Our concept is to finish the core and shell of the pavilion by April 2020 in order for us to connect to the grid before the expo period," said Albert Croesi, commissioner general.

"This way we will be able to produce electricity with our solar panels for one year and use power to operate the pavilion during [the] six months." The polygonal shape using photovoltaic panels evokes a kaleidoscope and the famous Le Rocher, or steep rock of Monaco that looks over the Mediterranean.

"It aims to show the many facets of the principality: characteristics, professions, multiple perspectives, diversity," he said. European powerhouse Germany is out to impress when the world comes together under one roof in Dubai next year.

European powerhouse Germany is out to impress when the world comes together under one roof in Dubai next year. With a resident population of just 36,000 people, Monaco will deploy design to show it is a smart city.

Steel industry receives some relief following increased US tariffs

JOHANNESBURG

Government intervention, in the form of product-level exemptions on 36 steel and 161 aluminium tariff lines, following a decision by the United States to increase tariffs on steel and aluminium, has led to some relief for the local industry.

President Cyril Ramaphosa said this when he responded to oral questions at the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) on Thursday last week. The president's comments come after the US government increased tariffs on steel and aluminium imports from several countries in March, citing national security concerns.

The US imposed the tariffs after what it cited as unfair trade practices by China, the European Union and other major trading partners. Meanwhile, South Africa has made submissions to US authorities on the matter.

"In response, the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition has presented a series of submissions to the US authorities to exclude our goods and products from these duties as South African exports do not pose a national security threat to the US," said the president.

In response to US President Donald Trump's decision to impose tariffs on imports into the US, several trade blocks like the European Union, also imposed tariff increases on several imports from the US. These tariffs have been imposed on US products such as Harley-Davidson motorcycles, bourbon, peanuts, blue jeans, steel and aluminium. Earlier this year, China also increased tariffs on several US products amounting to \$60bn.

Impact on the global economy President Ramaphosa said trade tensions have contributed to uncertainty and slow growth in the global economy. This, he said, has negatively affected South Africa and many other countries.

"The decision by the United States to increase tariffs on steel and aluminium imports has had a direct impact on South Africa. We continue to raise our concerns about these duties with our counterparts, particularly as it relates to the potential for job losses in South Africa."

"More widely, we continuously encourage the large trading nations to seek resolution to their differences in appropriate multilateral trade forums and within the context of the rules-based trading system," said Ramaphosa.

Saudi Ports Authority launches 2m sq m logistics zone in Jeddah

RIYADH

The Saudi Ports Authority (Mawani) launched a new logistics zone in Jeddah known as Al Khomra, which will cover more than two million square metres in its initial phase.

The zone will house bonded

customs and re-export zones, and about half of the land within it will be offered to investors on a leasehold basis. It was announced by the kingdom's transport minister, Nabeel bin Mohamed Al-Amudi, at the Saudi Logistics Conference in Riyadh on Sunday, who said it would have a huge

impact on the kingdom's logistics sector.

"[The government] has been keen on promoting the various sectors of business and production in the kingdom to enhance our national economy and promote development," Al Amudi said. "It will drive comprehensive ma-

nor steps forward for the prosperity of our people, and the well-being of our homeland."

The 2 million sq m zone in the south of the city will be linked by road to the nearby Jeddah Islamic Port, King Abdulaziz International Airport and the Saudi Landbridge rail project linking Jeddah and

Riyadh, Mawani's president Saad bin Abdulaziz Alkhalb said in an accompanying statement.

The statement said that the project's location along the Red Sea coast – a route for more than 13 per cent of global maritime trade – would make it an important hub for

China's Belt and Road initiative.

Data produced for the conference, which runs until Tuesday, states that the kingdom's logistics sector is currently worth \$18bn. It said 90 per cent of Red Sea trade passes through the kingdom's west coast seaports.

WORLD

Britain clinches Brexit deal, Johnson now faces parliament challenge

BRUSSELS

BRITAIN clinched a last-minute Brexit deal with the European Union yesterday, but still faced a challenge in getting it approved by parliament.

"Where there is a will there is a deal - we have one. It's a fair and balanced agreement for the EU and the UK and it is a testament to our commitment to find solutions," European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said in a tweet a few hours before an EU summit in Brussels.

He said he would recommend that leaders of the other 27 member states approve the deal.

"I believe it is high time to complete the divorce process and move on, as swiftly as possible, to the negotiation on the European Union's future partnership with the United Kingdom," Juncker said in an attached letter.

Separately, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said "we have a great new Brexit deal".

Johnson is hoping to get approval for the agreement in a vote at an extraordinary session of the British parliament on Saturday, to pave the way for an or-

derly departure on Oct. 31.

However, the Northern Irish party that Johnson needs to help ratify any agreement has refused to support the deal that was hammered out over weeks of negotiations.

The head of the main opposition Labour Party, Jeremy Corbyn, said in Brussels he was "unhappy" with the deal and would vote against it. Lawmakers in his party said they had been told to vote for another referendum on Saturday.

STERLING SURGES

Nevertheless, sterling surged more than 1% and British share prices rallied after the announcement that an agreement had been reached.

Negotiators worked frantically this week to agree a draft compromise on the question of the Irish border, the most difficult part of Brexit, haggling over everything from customs checks to the thorny issue of consent from the Northern Irish administration.

The conundrum was how to prevent the frontier becoming a backdoor into the EU's single market without erecting checkpoints that could undermine the 1998 Good Friday Agreement - which

ended decades of conflict in the province.

The agreement reached will keep Northern Ireland in the UK customs area but tariffs will apply on goods crossing from mainland Britain to Northern Ireland if they are deemed to be headed further, to Ireland and the bloc's single market.

However, the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), which supports Johnson's government, said the text was not acceptable - a step that could spur hardline Brexiteers in his own Conservative party also to oppose ratification unless he secures additional changes.

"As things stand, we could not support what is being suggested on customs and consent issues, and there is a lack of clarity on VAT (value-added tax)," DUP leader Arlene Foster and deputy leader Nigel Dodds said in a statement.

"We will continue to work with the Government to try and get a sensible deal that works for Northern Ireland and protects the economic and constitutional integrity of the United Kingdom."

Johnson has no majority in the 650-seat parliament, and in practice needs 320 votes to get a deal ratified this Saturday - in what will be the first Saturday session since the Argentine invasion of the Falkland Islands in 1982. The DUP have 10 votes.

"BALL IN BRITISH COURT AGAIN"

The British parliament defeated similar deals struck by Johnson's predecessor, Theresa May,

three times.

"The ball again is in the British parliament's court ... I hope it goes through this time," Finnish Prime Minister Antti Rinne said in Brussels. "I hope we are now at the end of this process. But there are still many doubts - for instance, inside the British parliament."

Johnson won the top job by pledging to renegotiate May's agreement, though he is reviving the bulk of it now, with changes to the protocol on how to treat the border between EU member Ireland and the British province of Northern Ireland.

The uncertainty over parliament's approval means that, two weeks before the latest date for the United Kingdom's departure from the world's largest trading bloc, the possible outcomes still range from an orderly departure to a chaotic exit or even another referendum that could reverse the entire endeavor.

It is unclear what Brexit will ultimately mean for the United Kingdom and the European project - built on the ruins of World War Two as a way to integrate economic power and thus end centuries of European bloodshed.

Johnson, who was the face of the campaign to leave the EU in Britain's 2016 referendum, has repeatedly said he will not ask for a delay - even though parliament has passed a law to oblige him to do just that if it has not agreed and ratified a deal by Saturday.

Agencies



British Prime Minister Boris Johnson

Trump leaves Turkey, Syria 'to argue it out'

WASHINGTON/ANKARA

US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday he did not mind Russia helping Syria in a conflict with NATO ally Turkey and rejected criticism of his withdrawal of US troops from Syria that exposed Kurdish allies, calling it "strategically brilliant."



In a day of fast-moving events, Trump endured harsh criticism for the withdrawal and lashed out at US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi, calling her a "third-rate" politician during a tense White House meeting after which she accused him of having a "meltdown."

Trump's decision to withdraw US forces before a Turkish offensive into northern Syria last week has shattered the relative calm there and he has been accused of abandoning Kurdish militia who helped the United States fight Islamic State militants in the region.

The hasty troop exit has created a land rush between Turkey and Russia - now the undisputed foreign powers in the area - to partition the formerly US-protected Kurdish area. It has allowed Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to redeploy his forces to an area that had been beyond his control for years in the more than eight-year Syrian war.

Syrian troops accompanied by Russian forces entered the city of Kobani, a strategically important border city and a potential flashpoint for a wider conflict, the UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which monitors the Syrian war, reported.

Speaking to reporters as he met Italian President Sergio Mattarella and then at a joint news conference, Trump said the Kurds were "not angels" and that it might be necessary for Russian-backed Syria and Turkey to "fight it out."

FIGHT FOR LAND

"Our soldiers are not in harm's way - as they shouldn't be, as two countries fight over land that has nothing to do with us," Trump said during Oval Office talks with Mattarella where he sounded as if he were washing his hands of the conflict.

He also defended his move to get US troops out as part of his wider effort to bring Americans home from "endless wars," despite being excoriated by members of his own Republican Party. US officials say, however, that those troops were expected to be repositioned in the region. Some of them could go to Iraq.

"I viewed the situation on the Turkish border with Syria to be for the United States strategically brilliant," Trump said.

Agencies

Russian diplomat says US does not deny that Whelan is a spy

MOSCOW

DURING its working contacts with Moscow Washington did not call in question the fact that US citizen Paul Whelan was involved in espionage activity, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told reporters yesterday.

"Whelan's espionage activity has been well-documented. In particular, this has never been challenged by American officials

during our working contacts," Zakharova said.

US officials continue making public statements, voicing concerns over Whelan's fate and complaining that the steps against him are illegal, she noted.

"However, staff members of the US Embassy in Moscow and diplomats from three Western countries the United Kingdom, Canada and Ireland regularly get access to him and are well aware that a statement, which Whelan (pic-



tured) made as the court extended his custody, complaining about alleged torture and even threat to his life is just provocation by his

attorneys," she added.

The diplomat recalled that the investigation in Whelan's case had been completed and the charges were brought on August 30. "He has been familiarizing himself with the case files since September 4.

There is such an impression that he is in no hurry, although the date of the trial now depends on him only," Zakharova stressed.

According to Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB), 49-year-

old Paul Whelan, a corporate security director for automotive parts supplier BorgWarner, was detained in Moscow on December 28, 2018, while on a spy mission.

He faces charges under Article 276 of the Russian Criminal Code (espionage), which carries a punishment of up to 20 years in prison.

Apart from US citizenship, Whelan also holds British, Canadian and Irish passports.

Agencies

Africans fail to get UN support for AU-UN envoy for Libya

UNITED NATIONS

AFRICAN members of the Security Council tried unsuccessfully Wednesday to appoint a joint African Union-United Nations envoy for conflict-torn Libya, in an apparent attempt to replace current UN envoy Ghassan Salame.

South Africa, Ivory Coast and Equatorial Guinea were following up on decisions by the AU High Level Committee on Libya on July 8 and the AU Peace and Security Council on Sept 27 in New York calling for a joint envoy.

Diplomats said the Africans raised the issue during closed consultations Wednesday, but there was no support in the 15-member council, with several members saying it wasn't the time to "change horses in midstream."

A civil war in Libya in 2011 toppled longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi,

who was later killed. In the chaos that followed, the country was divided, with a weak UN-supported administration in Tripoli overseeing the country's west and a rival government in the east aligned with the self-styled Libyan National Army led by Gen Khalifa Hifter.

Hifter launched a surprise military offensive April 4 aimed at capturing Tripoli despite commitments to attend a national conference weeks later aimed at forming a united government and moving toward elections in the oil-rich North African country.

His force is the largest and best organized of the country's many militias and enjoys the support of Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Russia. But it has faced stiff resistance from fighters aligned with the UN-recognized government, which is aided by Turkey and Qatar.

Salame (pictured) told the council



last month he had launched "an intensive campaign" for an international conference to deliver a message that Hifter's offensive must end.

A conference had been scheduled in Berlin in October to try to persuade countries to en-

force an arms embargo and stop supplying weapons to the warring parties and move toward a political settlement and elections, but it has reportedly been postponed.

The diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity because the council discussions were private, said many Security Council members said they need to focus on implementing Salame's plan and the Berlin conference.

According to the diplomats, members said the Security Council should work closely with the AU, and they would think about the joint envoy in the future.

The three African nations drafted a proposed Security Council statement that wasn't

issued.

According to a copy obtained by The Associated Press, the draft expresses "deep concern over the security situation in Libya and the risk of a dangerous military escalation."

It also calls for compliance with the arms embargo and condemns "continued external interferences that are exacerbating the already volatile situation on the ground."

The draft statement further says the Libya situation has "dangerous repercussions" for regional and African security and acknowledges the need for enhanced AU-UN collaboration "in the search for a lasting political solution to the crisis in Libya."

Agencies

Police, protesters clash in Catalonia for 3rd night

BARCELONA

RIOTING raged in Barcelona and several other Catalan towns for a third straight night Wednesday, with police fighting running street battles with protesters angered by lengthy prison sentences for nine leaders of the wealthy region's drive for independence from Spain.

Tens of thousands of protesters faced off against police in Barcelona. Some set up flaming barricades in the streets, torching cars and trash cans. They chanted, "The streets will always be ours!"

Catalan police said protesters threw gasoline bombs, stones, bottles and firecrackers at them.

Violence erupted in Catalonia after Spain's Supreme Court on Monday sentenced nine separatist Catalan leaders to up to 13 years in prison for their part in an October 2017 effort to declare independence for the region.

After a surge in separatist sentiment since the global economic crisis that hit Spain particularly hard, around half of Catalonia's 7.5 million residents want to break away from Spain and forge a new European country. The divisive issue has divided families and friends, but demonstrations had largely been peaceful until this week.

Outnumbered police used riot helmets, vests and shields for protection. They fired foam bullets and swung batons to keep away the swarming radicals, most of who covered their faces. Police also drove armored vans at high speeds to scatter the crowds.

When police succeeded in dispersing one hot spot, another erupted. One police helicopter was hit by five "pyrotechnic" objects similar to fireworks, according to the regional police force. The rare passers-by or tourists caught in the middle of the melees scurried to safety.

Agencies

International community slams US passage of Hong Kong-related bill

BEIJING

THE passage of a Hong Kong-related bill by the U.S. Congress, which was a pure interference in China's internal affairs, unveiled the political intentions of those in the U.S. government to weaken China, the international community has said.

The U.S. House of Representatives on Tuesday passed the so-called Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019 -- moving it a step closer to becoming a law -- which would mandate an annual review to assess whether the Chinese city has sufficient autonomy.

The U.S. government is giving "false signals of assurance and support" to violent protesters in China's Hong Kong, Sourabh Gupta, a senior fellow at the Washington-based Institute for

China-America Studies, told Xinhua in a written interview.

"With regard to the U.S. role, it has been deeply unhelpful," Gupta said.

"The real problem has been the U.S. veiled intentions: to first stir the pot, and thereafter to fan the flames of protest by providing oxygen to the worst political and militant elements within the protest movement," he said.

William Jones, Washington bureau chief of U.S. publication Executive Intelligence Review, called such a move of the U.S. Congress a pure "interference in the affairs of China."

"Many of the activists will be encouraged by this 'support', but if they continue with their destructive vandalism, I think opinion in Hong Kong will turn against them if it hasn't already," Jones said.

The U.S. bill is "a very prejudicial



Hong Kong chief executive Carrie Lam

bill against China and the authorities in Hong Kong," Richard Becker, west coast coordinator of the U.S.-based

Hong Kong. Behind the Headlines" in San Francisco, U.S. state of California.

"This bill is not based on the objective situation. It's based on the political will of those in Congress and in the White House," Becker said.

"The so-called 'democracy movement' in Hong Kong must be seen in this light as an integral part of a strategy to weaken, and even to break up China," he said.

Eduardo Regalado, a researcher at Cuba's Center for International Policy, said that the bill is "a pure interference and disrespect for the international law and relations."

"The United States has double standards on human rights and criticizes only what is convenient for it," Regalado said, adding that the bill reflects U.S. intention to restrain China's development.

Ahmed Gusau Bala, former consul

general of Nigeria to Hong Kong, recalled having a "memorable experience" in the Chinese city during his tour of duty there.

Noting that the Hong Kong people of ten go about their businesses peacefully, Bala said he was shocked to know that the "beautiful place" where he enjoyed working and lived happily was plunged into an "unfortunate situation" shortly after he ended his duty.

Every nation, including China, deserves to guard its own sovereignty, he said, emphasizing that China has all it takes to end the ongoing violence in Hong Kong.

"If some foreign governments or media are taking sides, then I think it is rather unfortunate," as foreign interference in the matter might slow down the peace process, he added.

Xinhua



Farmers check the harvested ginger at a cooperative at Hancun Village of Zhaoxian County, north China's Hebei Province, Oct. 15, 2019. Zhaoxian County has guided each village in developing agricultural specialty planting industry to help farmers to raise their income in recent years. (Xinhua)

China's food self-sufficiency a blessing to world

BEIJING

WHAT would happen to the world if there were an increase of nearly 1.4 billion hungry mouths to feed?

China is expected to consume 700 billion kg of food in 2020, while the total volume of the global food trade is only about 400 billion kg a year. If China fails to feed itself properly, the rest of the world will likely suffer.

However, the country has succeeded in feeding 20 percent of the world's population with just 9 percent of the world's farmland and 6 percent of the freshwater. A well-fed China is itself a contribution to world peace and stability.

Seventy years ago when New China was just founded, Dean Gooderham Acheson, then U.S. secretary of state, asserted that the Chinese government would be unable to feed its 546 million population like its predecessors.

At the first World Food Conference in 1974, representatives and experts from many countries were deeply concerned that "there was no way that China could feed a population of 1 billion. "Food-rationing coupons were issued to balance demand and supply until the late 1970s when the household responsibility system was introduced across the country.

The new system, which allowed farmers to sell their surplus produce in markets after fulfilling their due quotas to the commune, was an instant success that quickly lifted people out of poverty.

In 1973, Chinese agronomist Yuan Longping developed the first hybrid rice strains, which have since been grown across the country allowing farmers to reap bumper harvests.

Between 1949 and 2018, China's annual grain output rose by over five times from 113 million tonnes to 658 million tonnes.

A hunger-free China did not impact the world food market, nor did it pose a threat to developing countries' food imports. China's food production accounts for a quarter of the world's total. The self-sufficiency rates of China's rice, wheat and corn remained above 95 percent, with the per capita output achieving 470 kg, much higher than the global average.

While food shortages have long been consigned to China's past, the country has set out to save other parts of the world from starvation.

Since the 1980s, Yuan's team has offered training courses in dozens of countries. The total cultivated area of hybrid rice has topped 7 million hectares overseas, yielding over 20 percent more than local rice.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has listed hybrid rice as the best technology to solve food shortages in developing countries.

"Looking to the future, China has the conditions, capabilities and confidence to enhance food security relying on its own efforts," said the white paper "Food Security in China" released Monday.

Xinhua

Experts, policymakers urge prudent public sector financial governance

ADDIS ABABA

EXPERTS and policymakers have urged African countries and pan African institutions to redouble concerted efforts towards enhancing the management of financial resources in Africa through prudent and accountable public sector financial governance.

They made the call during an ongoing high-level continental Public Financial Management Forum, which runs from October 14 to 16 at the African Union (AU) headquarters in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, under the theme "Strengthening public sector accounting in Africa."

The three-day meeting came on the backdrop of the implementation of the African Union decision on "Financing of the Union," which seeks predictable, reliable and sustainable domestic resource mobilization by imposing a 0.2 percent levy on eligible imported goods to finance Africa's 50-year continental development framework Agenda 2063.

Deputy Chairperson of the AU Commission Kwesi Quartey, who acknowledged the significant progress in the continuous improvement of public financial management in many African governments and public sector organizations, also stressed that "the forum is an opportune platform to strengthen the capacity for financial reforms in the continent."

"The huge depletion of the resources in the continent through corruption and illicit financial flows, funds he noted could be rededicated to social, political and economic transformation," Quartey said.

Xinhua

Deepening reforms helps China better implement tax and fee reduction

CHINA recently rolled out an action plan to push forward reforms on the fiscal powers of central and local governments. It further demonstrates China's resolution to reduce taxes and fees on a larger scale, and builds market confidence and expectation.

The action plan was released to further optimize the relationship between central and local governments, as well as the relationship between responsibilities and financial powers.

Regarding the overall planning of institutional reform and operation, to properly adjust the relationship between central and local governments, enhance the capability of independent development, and deepen the reforms to delegate power, streamline

administration and optimize government services will turn the country's institutional advantages into effective governance.

It is valuable and inspiring for China to release development potential, stimulate market vitality and resolve risks and challenges.

As a Chinese saying goes, a wise man changes as time and event change. This round of tax and fee reduction, being structural and inclusive, has resulted in an obvious decrease in the tax paid by most enterprises and a stable market expectation.

Meanwhile, some local governments have been seeing a slowing growth of the revenue in general public budgets, and some of them have even lowered their annual revenue budgets. Therefore, it is

necessary to relieve the burden for local governments regarding tax refund by timely reducing the ratio they have to pay for the refund.

Besides, from the perspective of macro control, this round of tax and fee reduction is doing more to implement policies through reforms.

For instance, it is guiding local governments to improve consumption environment by adjusting the items subjected to consumption tax, and keeping the transitional ratio of VAT revenue distribution between the central and local governments. Such method helps guide each region to develop advantageous industries in accordance with their respective conditions.

Therefore, the implementation of this action plan will help local governments enhance their ability to nurture local industries, thus making possible the sustainable reduction of taxes and fees.

It is a key move to cope with the current pressure and maintain stability in employment, financial operations, foreign trade, foreign investment, domestic investment, and expectations, and will create an environment that values proactive, competitive and practical actions.

The worth of any plan lies in its implementation. The implementation of the reforms also calls for collaboration and follow-up examinations, as well as strict financial disciplines. It is particularly important to prevent those who

violate policies for short-term interests and regional protectionism.

The implementation of regulations and reforms is indispensable from strict financial disciplines. Only by making solid pre-arrangements and severely punishing the violations, can enterprises and the people be benefited.

Regulations and reforms will not only effectively motivate both central and local governments, but also make full use of the advantages of the institution and the market.

For example, the tax-sharing reform has enhanced both the revenue sharing capability of the central government and the motivation of local governments to

attract investment. From another perspective, it has reflected the institutional advantages of socialism, as well as the superiority of a super-large market economy in nurturing and expanding tax sources.

History proves that better integration and operation of institutional and market advantages lead to faster development, higher quality and more efficiency of the economy, as well as proper regional layouts and industrial upgrading. Any imbalance between the institution and market would cause chaos and unfavorable results.

Of course, it cannot be achieved at one stroke to turn institutional advantages into efficient governance, or achieve

sound regulation results through reforms, as dialectics tell us that we should always be ready for problems and difficulties in solving economic issues.

It is believed that China will definitely overcome difficulties and continuously improve its management over the socialist market economy as long as it optimizes its economic structure, meets the basic living needs of its people, creates balanced development, promotes innovation and replaces old momentums with new ones.

By doing so, the country will also expand its space for maneuver as a huge market, and continuously improve the quality of its development.

People's Daily

Leaders of 47 countries confirm participation in Russia-Africa summit

MOSCOW

LEADERS from 47 countries will take part in the Russia-Africa summit in Sochi next week, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

"A total of 47 leaders have confirmed [their participation]," he said, adding that some countries

will send their representatives to the summit. "Eight large African integration associations and organizations will take part [in the event] as well."

The Russia-Africa summit co-chaired by Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Egyptian counterpart Abdel Fattah el-Sisi will be held in Sochi on October 23-24.

The leaders of all 54 states of the continent have been invited to take part in it.

An economic forum, which will bring together heads of state, representatives of government agencies, businesses and integration associations, will be held in parallel with the summit.

Agencies

Iran-backed militias deployed snipers in Iraq protests - sources

BAGHDAD

IRAN-backed militias deployed snipers on Baghdad rooftops during Iraq's deadliest anti-government protests in years, two Iraqi security officials told Reuters.

The deployment of militia fighters, which has not been previously reported, underscores the chaotic nature of Iraqi politics amid mass protests that led to more than 100 deaths and 6,000 injuries during the week starting Oct. 1.

Such militias have become a fixture here with Iran's rising influence. They sometimes operate in conjunction with Iraqi security forces but they retain their own command structures.

The Iraqi security sources told Reuters that the leaders of Iran-aligned militias decided on their own to help put down the mass protests against the government of Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi, whose one-year-old administration is backed by powerful Iran-backed armed groups and political factions.

"We have confirmed evidence that the snipers were elements of militias reporting directly to their commander instead of the chief commander of the armed forces," said one of the Iraqi security sources. "They belong to a group that is very close to the Iranians."

A second Iraqi security source, who attended daily government security briefings, said militia men clad in black shot protesters on the third day of unrest, when the death toll soared to more than 50 from about half a dozen.

The fighters were directed by Abu Zainab al-Lami, head of security for the Hashid, a grouping of mostly Shi'ite Muslim paramilitaries backed by Iran, the second source said. The Hashid leader was tasked with quashing the protests by a group of other senior militia commanders, the source said. The sources did not say how many snipers were deployed by militia groups.

A spokesman for the Hashid, Ahmed al-Asadi, denied the groups took part in the crackdown. "No members were present in the protest areas. None of the elements of the Hashid took part in confronting protesters," Asadi said in a statement to Reuters.

Iraqi Interior Ministry spokesman



Demonstrators gather during a protest after the lifting of the curfew, following four days of nation-wide anti-government protests that turned violent, in Baghdad, Iraq October 5, 2019. File Photo

Saad Maan said state security forces did not fire directly at protesters and blamed unnamed "vicious" shooters for the mass deaths and injuries. The government has opened an investigation to determine who shot the protesters and who ordered it, Maan said in a news conference on Oct. 6.

The assertion that security forces did not participate in the violence seemed to contradict a statement on Oct. 7 from the Iraqi security forces which said excessive force had been used and promised to hold individuals accountable for violence against civilians.

An official with the prime minister's office said in a statement to Reuters Wednesday that it would be "premature to lay the blame on any parties, whether from Hashid or other security forces, before we end the investigation. Let's wait and see who gave the order 'shoot to kill.'"

Mohammed Ridha, the head of parliament's security and defense committee, said in statement on Thursday that an initial investigation showed there were "deliberate killings of protesters by some elements", without elaborating.

Iran's role in responding to the demonstrations was another reminder of Tehran's reach in Iraq, where a sizable number of former militia commanders are now members of parliament and support the Iranian agenda. Stability of the Iraqi government is in the best interests of Iran, which has been steadily amassing influence in Iraq since 2003, when the U.S.-led invasion toppled

the Islamic Republic's arch-enemy Saddam Hussein. Iran is Iraq's biggest trading partner.

Iran's delegation to the United Nations did not immediately respond Wednesday afternoon to questions from Reuters about its support of militias and their involvement in the violence against protesters. Leaders of militias in Iraq have denied getting training and weapons from Iran.

SNIPERS ON ROOFTOPS

As protests entered their third day, on Oct. 3, snipers appeared on Baghdad rooftops. A Reuters cameraman who was covering the unrest near Baghdad's Tahrir Square that afternoon said he saw a sniper, wearing a balaclava and dressed in black as he stood on top of an under-construction building that overlooked the demonstrations.

Protesters fled as the sniper opened fire. One protester who was shot in the head was carried away in a large crowd. Another who was shot in the head appeared to have died and was rushed off in a truck. When his phone rang, a friend recognized that the man's brother was calling.

"Don't tell him he died," the friend said.

The protests started Oct. 1 amid public rage over chronic shortages of jobs, electricity and clean water. Iraqis blame politicians and officials for systemic corruption that has prevented Iraq from recovering after years of sectarian violence and a devastating war to defeat Islamic State.

Agencies

UN calls for heightened efforts to end hunger in South Sudan

JUBA

THREE UN agencies on Wednesday called for increased efforts to end hunger and boost access to affordable and healthy diets in South Sudan.

In joint statement issued in Juba to mark the World Food Day, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP) urged

stakeholders to step up efforts to end hunger and malnutrition and to ensure food security in the East African country where some 6.3 million people are threatened by hunger. Meshack Malo, FAO Representative in South Sudan, said many people continue to suffer hunger and malnutrition despite the country is fertile.

"Zero Hunger is not just about addressing hunger, but also nourishing people while nurturing the planet. Far

too many South Sudanese don't have the option to access healthy and nutritious foods in an extremely fertile country, blessed with natural resources and rich in local nutritious food," said Meshack Malo.

"We need to act fast and make sure South Sudan produces its own healthy food utilizing its full production potential so that more people can live healthier lives." In its latest state of the World's Children report released on Tuesday,

UNICEF warned of alarming prevalence of acute malnutrition in South Sudan as some 1.3 million children, 16 percent of the country's children aged below five will face acute malnutrition next year.

"Every child has the right to a healthy life and therefore every effort in preventing malnutrition needs to be taken," said Mohamed Ag Ayoya, UNICEF Representative in South Sudan.

Xinhua



SULLI

K-pop singer decries cyber bullying after death of 'activist' star Sulli

SEOUL

SULLI, a former South Korean singer-actress, was a rare taboo breaker in a world where K-pop stars' every move is strictly monitored by their management, but her death has exposed the dark side of the industry that propelled a global craze.

She unveiled her romantic relationship at the height of her career as a member of top girl group f(x) and was vocal about not wearing a bra, defying both the K-pop world's careful brand management and conservative social attitudes towards young women - and provoking a stream of online comment.

Before her death on Monday aged 25, Sulli, whose real name was Choi Jin-ri and who police said was suffering from severe depression, spoke out strongly against cyber bullying.

Colleagues and experts said her death revealed the constant barrage of malicious online comments faced by young female artists in the public eye.

"She wasn't just an issue-maker but I hope she will be remembered as a women's rights activist who was free-spirited, who could truly speak her mind," said Kwon Ji-an, a fellow South Korean singer and painter.

Sulli's most recent public appearance had been in a television programme in which K-pop stars spoke about their experiences with malevolent online postings.

Kwon, 35, better known by her stage name Solbi, was also subjected to cyber insults in 2009, when she was a member of K-pop group Typhoon, after being wrongly identified in a sex video that went viral online.

The incident triggered intense depression, social phobia and panic disorder, Kwon said. She sought therapy and learned painting, which was meant to be a way of "survival" but eventually became another career.

"I was too young and socially immature to digest all the glamour and changes in the environment, and there's no self-medication whatsoever," Kwon said.

"Then how do you respond to all of those

vicious online comments? If you explain, they'll dismiss it as an excuse, and if you fight, they'll dislike you even more."

LAW CHANGE CAMPAIGN

Kwon called for a change in the anonymous comment culture on the Internet, which critics has long blamed for cyber bullying.

In South Korea, local web portals such as Naver and Daum are a major channel of news consumption, which allow users to leave comments without revealing their real names.

In the wake of Sulli's death, fans flocked to the website of the presidential Blue House to file a petition urging the adoption of a real-name online comment system. A spate of related bills have for years been pending in parliament amid heated debate.

A poll by survey firm Realmeter released on Wednesday showed nearly 70% of South Koreans supported the scheme, while 24% opposed.

"The freedom of expression is a vital value in democratic society, but insulting and hurting someone else's dignity is beyond that limit," said Lee Dong-gwi, a psychology professor at Yonsei University in Seoul. "There need to be far harsher penalties for those who violate that law."

The number of cases of cyber defamation or insult has almost doubled from 2014-18, police data shows.

An association of South Korean entertainment management companies issued a statement on Wednesday vowing to pursue sterner legal action for "verbal violence" online.

Kwon has now found peace thanks, in part, to painting. When she released a new single album in 2017, she even sought to express her sufferings by dousing herself with black paint on the stage like a performance artist.

"I'd gotten treatment out of desperation that I really wanted to live," Kwon said. "I don't get hurt any more even though I see those malevolent online comments, but now is time to discuss it as a serious social issue."

REUTERS

Kohli's India need to win big tournaments, says Ganguly

NEW DELHI

INDIA'S Virat Kohli is captaining an enormously talented team, but the players need to adjust their mentality to win big tournaments, having failed in the last seven, ex-captain Sourav Ganguly said as he prepares to head the national cricket board.

Kohli's men lead the World Test Championship table but India have not won any global tournament since lifting the 2013 Champions Trophy under Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

"It is a very good side. My only thing is that they need to win big tournaments," Ganguly, president-elect of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, told reporters in Kolkata.

"I'm not saying they need to win every time. It's not possible. But we have gone through seven big tournaments without winning one."

"They are a much better side than that. That is the only area where they need to get themselves ready mentally.

"Talent is enormous, otherwise they

couldn't have played so well in the World Cup till the semi-finals. So that's an issue which Virat needs to address. And that doesn't happen in the boardroom."

India topped the group stage at this year's 50-overs World Cup but were beaten by New Zealand in the semi-finals.

As he completes his transition from a star player to a top administrator, one of Ganguly's initial tasks would be to decide the future of Dhoni, who has taken a break from international cricket after the World Cup in England.

While many believe the popular stumper should not be pushed into retirement, others want clarity about the future of the 38-year-old.

"We will have to see what Dhoni wants," Ganguly said of his former team mate.

"Now I will be in a position to find out and then we'll decide on the way forward."

REUTERS

The Khartoum battle Taifa Stars need to win tonight



Taifa Stars

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL MWEBE

THE second leg of the last qualifying round for the 2020 African Nations Championship (CHAN) between Sudan and Tanzania will be played today. It is a must-win game for Taifa Stars tonight in Khartoum.

Before today's tie, Taifa Stars under interim head coach, Etienne Ndayiragije played to a goalless draw against host Rwanda on Monday. It was a frustrating draw when you consider Taifa Stars must score at least two goals to have a chance of winning the final round qualifier and reaching the tournament for a only a second time.

A good showing against Rwanda was supposed to help players' confidence but even though the technical bench and players were quick to proclaim they were satisfied with the performance, the reality as evidenced by public opinion is different. The performance in Kigali was not a good confidence booster for

the team.

It was back on July 28 that Ndayiragije's surprise adventure with Taifa Stars began with a home game against Kenya. Considering the AFCON disaster, the 0-0 draw was seen as a new and exciting chapter.

When Taifa Stars eliminated Kenya through penalty shoot-out victory to qualify for the second round of CHAN qualifiers, everything was looking bright.

Unfortunately, it has not worked out that way. Six games later with no normal time victory registered, Ndayiragije and his Taifa Stars charges are feeling the heat, with supporters and critics scrutinizing their performances.

Now Ndayiragije, his technical bench and players cannot afford another failure. Ndayiragije will be one definite casualty of another loss. He has to win this one to stand any chance of being handed head coach role on permanent basis.

Since defeating Uganda 3-0 to qualify for AFCON finals, Taifa Stars have not won a

match, a run that includes eleven matches they have played. This is one of the worst run making tonight's battle in Khartoum assumes such great importance.

If there has ever been a time for Taifa Stars to improve on that record, it is now. Tonight they meet a Sudan team high on confidence on the bank of a crucial away win. The team are really in a situation that leaves them no choice but to make it happen in Khartoum.

Some will ask how Taifa Stars can do it. And they are right, this Taifa Stars does not inspire confidence to back them. We are hoping against hope desperation will inspire them to fight back knowing they have nothing to lose.

I think desperation saves us sometimes. When there are no options left, you must fully commit to finding an answer with the resources available. The resources available are not great. When tested on the counter-attack or from set-pieces, Taifa Stars crumbles.

However, Ndayiragije must

refuse to abandon hope, believing his charges can still do the job. It is the determination that makes the difference, the most certain way to summon up the amount of determination required to achieve something, is to have no other choice but to succeed.

And the technical bench must crank up the pressure on Taifa Stars misfiring forwards by telling them it's now time to deliver. They have to be better in that area and everyone knows it, because if we don't score against Sudan we won't continue in the competition.

It is not just the CHAN finals ticket at stake but also preparation for next month crucial assignment. With our squad largely made up of home based players, this match will help us prepare ourselves for the 2021 AFCON qualifiers.

Tanzania host Equatorial Guinea on November 15 in the opening day of the 2021 AFCON qualifying campaign, before flying to take on Libya in a yet to be confirmed venue for Day Two match on November 19.



FILE PHOTO: Patrick Day (red trunks) reacts after getting knocked down by Charles Conwell (not pictured) during a USBA Super-Welterweight boxing match at Wintrust Arena in Chicago, USA on October 12, 2019. Credit: Jon Durr-USA TODAY

American boxer Day dies following brutal knockout

CHICAGO

AMERICAN boxer Patrick Day died on Wednesday in Chicago as a result of the traumatic brain injury he suffered during his fight on Saturday, where he was knocked out by Charles Conwell in the 10th round.

Day, 27, had been in a coma for four days following his defeat and, despite having emergency brain surgery at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, doctors were unable to save the junior middleweight.

"Patrick Day passed away today, October 16, 2019, succumbing to the traumatic brain injury he suffered in his fight this past Saturday, October 12, at the Wintrust Arena in Chicago, IL," his promoter Lou DiBella said in a

statement

"He was surrounded by his family, close friends and members of his boxing team, including his mentor, friend and trainer Joe Higgins."

"On behalf of Patrick's family, team, and those closest to him, we are grateful for the prayers, expressions of support and outpouring of love for Pat that have been so obvious since his injury."

Day was rushed to the hospital on a stretcher after Conwell landed a flurry of punches that left him motionless on the canvas. Before turning professional, Day was a highly decorated amateur who won two national titles.

He turned pro in 2013 and became a world-rated super wel-

terweight contender, capturing the WBC Continental Americas championship in 2017 and the IBF Intercontinental championship in 2019. In June he was rated in the top-10 by both the WBC and IBF.

Day's death comes after 23-year-old Argentine super lightweight Hugo Santillan died in July from injuries suffered in the ring and 28-year-old Russian Maxim Dadashev passed away two days earlier from brain injuries during his fight.

"It becomes very difficult to explain away or justify the dangers of boxing at a time like this," DiBella said.

"This is not a time where edicts or pronouncements are appropriate, or the answers are

readily available. It is, however, a time for a call to action.

"While we don't have the answers, we certainly know many of the questions, have the means to answer them, and have the opportunity to respond responsibly and accordingly and make boxing safer for all who participate.

"This is a way we can honour the legacy of Pat Day. Many people live much longer than Patrick's 27 years, wondering if they made a difference or positively affected their world. This was not the case for Patrick Day when he left us.

"Rest in peace and power, Pat, with the angels."

REUTERS

Liverpool head to United with widest gulf in years

LONDON

PREMIER League leaders Liverpool head to Old Trafford on Sunday to face Manchester United and rarely have the odds been so in favour of an away win.

Liverpool have won just five times at United in the Premier League era and the Red Devils have won the fixture 16 times, but the gulf in quality between the sides has widened significantly in recent years.

While Juergen Klopp's side have a 100% record in the Premier League, United have just two league wins this season and after their 1-0 defeat by Newcastle United the international break, they are down in 12th place, 15 points behind their arch-rivals.

To add to their problems, United look set to be without goalkeeper David De Gea who picked up a groin injury on international duty with Spain.

"David needs a scan. I think he'll be out. It certainly looked like it anyway...so it's just one of those things," said manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

Argentine Sergio Romero is expected to stand in for De Gea and can expect a busy time against Klopp's potent attack.

French midfielder Paul Pogba has not yet recovered fully from his ankle injury but there is better news on the fitness of forward Anthony Martial and full backs Luke Shaw and Aaron Wan-Bissaka.

"I can't tell you 100 per cent (who) is going to be fit as something might

happen," said Solskjaer.

"But hopefully Aaron and Anthony will last the training this week and be available for selection. If it's for half a game or 30 minutes I don't know but let's see where they're at," he said.

United's Spanish midfielder Juan Mata believes the clash with their old rivals offers an opportunity to kick-start the season.

"We have a great chance to change the dynamic and we are all very motivated to take the win. We are United, we are playing at home and we will give everything to be able to take the victory that our fans deserve in such a special game," Mata said.

Champions Manchester City face a tricky trip to Selhurst Park to face a Crystal Palace team who beat them at the Etihad in January.

City are eight points adrift of Liverpool. Palace sit just two points behind City in sixth position after an impressive start to the season, but this fixture is the first of a straight run of five against sides directly above them.

Tottenham Hotspur, beaten 3-0 at Brighton & Hove Albion last time out, will look to bounce back against winless bottom club Watford.

Fourth-placed Leicester City host Burnley who are seventh and Frank Lampard's improving Chelsea entertain Newcastle on Saturday.

Third-placed Arsenal visit Sheffield United on Monday.

REUTERS

La Liga want Clasico stadium swap due to unrest

MADRID

LA Liga have requested Barcelona's clash with Real Madrid on Oct. 26 be moved from Camp Nou to the Bernabeu amid protests in the Catalan city following the jail sentences handed down to several separatist leaders.

Real Madrid are surprised at the request and, sources have told ESPN FC, are reluctant to agree to a change of venue.

Sources at Barcelona confirmed to ESPN FC that they received a request to change the venue but are clear their intention is to play the match at Camp Nou. The Spanish federation (RFEF) said that both clubs have until Monday to present their cases, at which time, the federation will make a decision.

Also on Wednesday, the RFEF's anti-violence committee declared the match "high risk," although that is a common designation in matches of this calibre, according to federation officials.

"We have requested the RFEF's competition committee meet and change the location of the Clasico to Madrid because of exceptional circumstances beyond our control," a La Liga spokesman said.

Barcelona understand there is a lot of unrest in the city at present, but do not believe the best solution is to move the venue of the Clasico.

(Agencies)

Manchester United will reinforce squad in January, says Solskjaer

LONDON

MANCHESTER United will try to sign one or two players in the January transfer window to improve their chances of finishing in the top four but will not spend big on transfer fees and wages, manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has said.

United are 12th in the Premier League ahead of Sunday's home game against league leaders Liverpool after a poor start to the season that has been further disrupted by injuries to key players.

Solskjaer sanctioned the departures of forwards Romelu Lukaku and Alexis Sanchez in the close season without reinforcing United's attack and the Norwegian also has goalkeeper David De Gea and midfielder Paul Pogba out injured.

"We're looking at one or two new signings. We're one or two players light," Solskjaer told Sky Sports. "If the right ones are available in January then we might do something. If not, these players will give every-

thing (for a top four finish).

"I'm not going to go down the route of bringing players in on big contracts and big fees if they're not the right ones for the whole group and for the future. The money is there to strengthen in January and in the summer."

United started the season with a 4-0 win over Chelsea but have scored five goals in seven league matches since and Solskjaer said an injury to forward Anthony Martial, who has not played since August, was a factor in their struggles.

"There's many reasons, but one of them is injuries to Anthony," the 46-year-old former United player said. "Creating chances has been a challenge for us with teams dropping deep."

"But we're practising patterns every single week. When we get the players fit, I'm going to make Marcus and Anthony score those scruffy goals, as that's what I did."

REUTERS

Arsenal were famously 'invincible' in the mid-2000s. What the hell happened?

BY TOM WILLIAMS, ESPN.COM WRITER

LEE Hendrie scored in the third minute to put Aston Villa in front, but it didn't matter. Arsenal would score and score again, and Arsenal would win. Because Arsenal always won.

Sure enough, Robert Pirès equalised from the penalty spot, and after Thierry Henry had given the home side the lead on the stroke of half-time, Pirès swept home his second goal to seal a routine 3-1 victory. "I don't think they would have panicked at even two goals down," beaten manager David O'Leary said. "They've got such belief."

It was Oct. 16, 2004, and Arsenal had just extended their record-breaking unbeaten run to 49 Premier League games. The defending champions were five points clear at the top of the table, having scored almost twice as many goals as any other team in the division, and with Villa duly dispatched, thoughts quickly turned to a midweek trip to Panathinaikos in the Champions League.

With the benefit of 15 years' hindsight, that mild, overcast October afternoon in north London turns out to have been the last time Arsenal looked unbeatable. Eight days later, their unbeaten run came to an end in a 2-0 defeat at Manchester United -- Ruud van Nistelrooy converted a penalty dubiously won by Wayne Rooney, who added a second goal in stoppage time -- and Arsenal have never been the same since.

Arsène Wenger's side won only one of their next four league matches in the 2004-05 season -- a chaotic 5-4 success against Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane -- and eventually finished 12 points behind José Mourinho's Chelsea in second place.

Since coming second to Chelsea at the end of the 2005 season, Arsenal have finished in the top two only once, in 2016, and even then it took a spectacular collapse from Tottenham for them to claim the step on the podium below Leicester City. Only the FA Cup, which Wenger won three times in his last five seasons, has provided any solace.

Over the course of Wenger's first 11 seasons (including the 1996-97 campaign, in which he took up his role in October), Arsenal conceded 369 league goals at an average of 33.5 per campaign. In his last 11 seasons, those figures jumped to 446 and 40.5 respectively.

Fifteen years on, Arsenal have yet to mount a serious title challenge, with the latter years of Wenger's tenure serving only to earn the club a reputation for psychological flimsiness and defensive fragility that remains very much intact despite his departure and Unai Emery's arrival. Once renowned for their robust back four, Arsenal are now the epitome of how not to defend. And it has been a long time since they looked anything close to invincible.

More damning than the statistics, though, were the defeats. The 8-2 at Old Trafford, the 5-1 at Anfield, the 6-0 at Stamford Bridge. The slapstick manner of defeat against Birmingham City in the 2011 League Cup final. The 10-2 evisceration by Bayern Munich on aggregate in the Champions League.

Piece by piece, brick by brick, Arsenal's empire quietly came apart.

"There was a burning desire not to concede"

Nigel Winterburn remembers a time when defensive discipline was at the heart of everything Arsenal stood for. A summer signing from Wimbledon in 1987, the former left-back vividly recalls the hours spent on the training pitches with the other members of Arsenal's famous back four -- Lee Dixon, Tony Adams and Steve Bould -- as manager George Graham led them through the drills that would turn them into the most formidable defensive unit in the English game.

With the four players aligned across the width of an otherwise empty pitch, Graham would stride around representing the ball, explaining how his defenders should react to each new position that he took up. In time, Arsenal's defenders learned to move as one, rolling up, down and across the pitch with the smooth, unthinking coordination of a shoal of



Arsenal's Invincibles finally fell to defeat against Man United in October 2004, and it was the first time opponents realized that being aggressive was enough to rattle the Gunners, a theme that continues to this day. (Agencies)

fish.

"It became robotic," Winterburn told ESPN. "Once one reacted, the other three instantly knew what to do and where to go. That was the value of the work we did with George."

Graham's rigorous approach reached its peak in the 1990-91 season, when Arsenal won the title -- the second of his time in charge -- having conceded only 18 goals in 38 games. For the members of his defence, backed up by goalkeeper David Seaman, clean sheets were not so much a strategic objective as a raison d'être.

"We hated conceding goals," Winterburn said. "Even when we were 3-0 and 4-0 up. If we let a goal in late on and we ended up winning 3-1 or 4-1, we'd be absolutely livid with each other. There was a burning desire not to concede."

The contrast with the defensive apathy of the current team is striking.

When Wenger took over from Graham's successor, Bruce Rioch, in the autumn of 1996, he had the good sense to realise that the defence he had inherited would require little fine-tuning. Dixon and Winterburn, the two full-backs, were given more licence to push forwards in matches, but with Pat Rice, Wenger's assistant, adopting a light touch in his defensive training sessions, things otherwise remained much as they had been.

"To be quite honest with you, we didn't do a lot of defending [in training]," Winterburn said. "Pat took little bits, but I think he knew that we knew it anyway."

Boro Primorac, Wenger's right-hand man at Arsenal from 1997 to 2018, told ESPN in a rare interview that positional work remained a secondary consideration even after the team that would go on to be the "Invincibles" had been assembled.

"You'd repeat tactical work, but only 15 or 20 minutes -- not all day," Primorac said. "They were already ready. They were all big players. You can imagine, we had four or five world champions in this team. What can I teach a world champion? What can I teach Gilberto [Silva] about taking up positions on the pitch? He can teach me!"

As the players of the 1990s were phased out, Arsenal made a concerted effort to preserve the culture of defensive excellence they had helped to establish. Bould left

in 1999, Winterburn in 2000, Adams and Dixon in 2002 (after Wenger's second Double), and Martin Keown in 2004, but as the players destined to replace them came in, the old guard ensured that the standards were kept while adapting to the increasingly attacking -- and successful -- football being developed by Wenger at the other end of the pitch.

Rather than collective movement, Arsenal's new defence was based on athleticism and stamina, with converted midfielders Lauren and Kolo Touré dropping back to play alongside Sol Campbell and Ashley Cole. Primorac describes them as "physical monsters." Danny Karbassiyoon, then a young left-back on the fringes of the squad, remembers being struck by the intensity of first-team training sessions.

"You can't just turn your intensity on and off like a tap. You're going to play the way you train," said Karbassiyoon, who now works for the club as a scout in North America.

"A great example was Keown, who was one of the hardest guys I ever had the pleasure of meeting or playing against. He'd be furious if he let in a goal or if his team lost. That embodied the attitude and the character of that entire team."

The "Invincibles" let in only 26 goals over the course of the 2003-04 campaign, figures bettered by only five title-winning teams in the Premier League era. But then came Old Trafford: the cynical targeting of José Antonio Reyes, Van Nistelrooy's studs down Cole's right shin, Rooney's dive, the flying pizza and the end of the unbeaten run. Wenger blasted referee Mike Riley's performance, claiming that Arsenal had been "robbed," and 15 years on, the manner of the defeat still rankles. "The referee was not correct," said Primorac, who now runs the academy at Hajduk Split. "The players were very, very upset."

The defeat at United also served to germinate the idea that the best way to unsettle Arsenal was to target them physically. As Arsenal faded over the seasons that followed, and as sturdy players such as Campbell, Lauren, Patrick Vieira and Gilberto moved on without being adequately replaced, Wenger's complaints about the lack of protection afforded to his players became a wearily recurrent

refrain.

"If they couldn't play 'footballistically,' they would try to be aggressive," said Primorac, his choice of language reflecting the 21 years he spent at Wenger's side in the Arsenal dugout. "It's normal. They fought to win. It was a problem with the referees letting them kick us."

Whether at centre-back (Thomas Vermaelen, Sebastian Squillaci, Shkodran Mustafi) or in central midfield (Denilson, Kim Kallstrom, Granit Xhaka), the signings who should have made Arsenal stronger instead made them weaker, rendering the team ill-equipped to deal with the kind of rough treatment they received.

"Wenger misread what Barcelona were about"

Had the recent history of European football followed a different course, Wenger might have come to realise that the best way to inoculate his team against such rude physical treatment would have been to inject it with some hardiness of its own. Instead, the rise of Pep Guardiola's Barcelona convinced him that it was possible to play attractive, proactive football with small, technical players and still be successful. It was a formula that he grasped, albeit only partially.

"He misread what Barcelona were all about," former Arsenal midfielder Stewart Robson, who became one of Wenger's staunchest critics, told ESPN. "Whenever he was talking about Guardiola and Barcelona, he'd say, 'We're the closest thing to them. We play combination football, we've got small, skillful, technical players, and we can play around pressure.' What he didn't realise and acknowledge was that Barcelona were also the best team at closing the ball down. It wasn't just that they kept the ball, but they won it back so quickly."

"Arsenal didn't always do that, and you could tell from week to week, there was no defensive game plan."

By the time of Wenger's departure from the Emirates Stadium in May 2018, Arsenal's mounting frailties meant that even things the club's fans had come to depend on -- attractive football, consistent Champions League qualification, always finishing above Tottenham -- had slipped away.

To be Continued

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Arsenal were famously 'invincible' in the mid-2000s. What the hell happened?

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Boost for Yanga as two players cleared to face Pyramids FC



Yanga

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

WITH barely a week left prior to hosting Egyptian side Pyramids FC in play offs for qualification for the 2019/20 CAF Confederation Cup group stage, Young Africans (Yanga) have been handed a massive boost as CAF inter-club competition committee has included names of both David Molinga and Mustapha Selemani among eligible players for the encounter set to be played in Mwanza.

The pair were ineligible to play in previous continental matches after their late inclusion to Yanga's updated 28-man squad failed to receive the approval of the continental soccer governing body.

According to Yanga spokesman Antonio Nugaz, the duo has been cleared to play against Pyramids FC next week after officials had sought clarifications on the status of the two foreigners who

were registered late.

"We are motivated by the eligibility of Molinga and Selemani who have now obtained their CAF licenses to feature in our next continental assignment," he noted.

As per CAF regulation V, article 12, registration of all players who will be taking part in CAF Champions League are registered starting July 1-20 for free, while the late registration commences on July 20-31 which carries a fine of \$500 per player registered.

Molinga, who joined Yanga on the transfer deadline day, is slowly warming into the hearts of the side's fans, having scored seven goals, including two in a competitive clash while

Selemani is yet to make his competitive debut.

Yanga have found themselves in the second tier of CAF club competitions after losing to Zambia's Zesco United 3-2 on aggregate in the first round of the CAF Champions League to miss out on the lucrative group stages.

They will host Pyramids FC at CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza on October 27 with the second leg to be played in Cairo on November 5.

In related development, the record-time Mainland Tanzania Premier League Champions have received a boost on the injury front with Juma Balinya, Lamine Moro, Kelvin Yondani, Sadney Urikhob, Paul Godfrey, Mrisho

Ngassa and Ali Abdulkarim back for next week's clash with Mbao FC and Pyramids FC.

The seven players had been out injured but, as confirmed by Nugaz, they resumed training on Tuesday and would be available for selection.

Nugaz exuded confidence, disclosing: "All is well and we are up for good results. Balinya, Moro, Sadney and Yondani, who was excluded in the senior national team, and Ngassa and Abdulkarim have returned. The rest who are with the senior national team will join us later for the two matches against Mbao and Pyramids FC."

It will no doubt be welcome news to head coach, Mwinyi Zahera, who was winless in

his opening two games of this season before sealing a victory over Coastal Union last time out.

In addition, Nugaz confirmed that Juma Mahadhi, Ali Ahmed and Mohamed Banka are all still nursing their respective injuries.

Mahadhi has been sidelined with an Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) injury since last season.

The return of Yondani and Moro will certainly boost Zahera's side. In Moro's absence, Yanga shipped in three goals against Police Tanzania and also conceded an own goal against Zesco United. Ngassa and Sadney will add to the creativity of the side and help the team going forward.

TONIGHT @ 21:00

FRIDAY

10:00 Breakfast News
11:00 Q&A (Live)
12:00 Kisi Ze Wana
13:00 Radio 1010/Bongo Live
14:00 FUNGUA
15:00 #HASTAG
17:00 SILENT
17:30 Kurogo
18:00 eHepz
18:30 Bongo
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:30 MADALA
21:00 Friday Night Live

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE (FNL)
It's where EATV and East Africa Radio combine to bring you an explosion of Friday Night entertainment. The base gets louder, the fun gets addictive and the guest list is exclusive! It's a party on TV.

eastafrica RADIO

05:00 EA Breakfast
09:00 Supermix
12:00 Kipanga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipanga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

Retallick back for All Blacks against Ireland

TOKYO

LOCK Brodie Retallick has returned for the All Blacks in arguably their strongest side for Saturday's World Cup quarter-final against Ireland in Tokyo.

The three-time world champions gave squad players and those returning from injury some game time and trialled combinations against Canada and Namibia but were unable to field their top side against Italy after the match was cancelled due to Typhoon Hagibis.

Retallick and hooker Codie Taylor were the only changes to the pack that opened their campaign against South Africa with a 23-13 victory in Yokohama.

Retallick returned against Namibia on Oct. 6 after two months out with a dislocated shoulder. He played 30 minutes in Tokyo before being substituted to manage his playing time but was unable to get more minutes into his legs ahead of the quarter-finals when their final pool match was scrapped.

"He can play 80 (minutes) if that's what we want but it'll be unlikely," Hansen said at a media conference in Tokyo on Thursday when asked how much Retallick might play.

"Brodie is a bit of a freak. He has what we call a big motor. He can play whether he has had a short or long break."

Ryan Crotty, who started the South Africa game, has been replaced by Jack Goodhue in the midfield with Anton Lienert-Brown playing inside centre.

Captain Kieran Read, who was rested for the Namibia game, returns at number eight to lead the side in his 125th test, while the dual playmaker axis of Beauden Barrett at fullback and Richie Mo'unga at flyhalf has been reinstated.

Barrett's younger brother Jordie made his first test start at flyhalf against Namibia and scored 21 points but has dropped to the bench.

Hansen said Jordie Barrett's performances in the tournament had forced his way into his selection thoughts, though veteran Ben Smith was still playing well.

"I would say that everyone in the group is in form but you can only pick 23," Hansen said.

"And like any selection there are some guys who you will pick and then you look at your combinations, opposition and how you want to play and end up with the 23."

Five of the forwards – Read, Retallick, Ardie Savea, hooker Taylor and Sam Whitelock – have been retained from the starting lineup from their 16-9 loss against Joe Schmidt's Ireland last November.

Scrumhalf Aaron Smith, Beauden Barrett, who played flyhalf, and centre Goodhue are the only survivors from the starting backline from that game, which was the first time Ireland had beaten New Zealand in Dublin and only their second ever win over them.

Team: 15-Beauden Barrett, 14-Sevu Reece, 13-Jack Goodhue, 12-Anton Lienert-Brown, 11-George Bridge, 10-Richie Mo'unga, 9-Aaron Smith, 8-Kieran Read (captain), 7-Sam Cane, 6-Ardie Savea, 5-Sam Whitelock, 4-Brodie Retallick, 3-Nepo Laulala, 2-Codie Taylor, 1-Joe Moody

Replacements: 16-Dane Coles, 17-Ofa Tuungafasi, 18-Angus Ta'avao, 19-Scott Barrett, 20-Matt Todd, 21-TJ Perenara, 22-Sonny Bill Williams, 23-Jordie Barrett.

REUTERS

Balinya fumes over Uganda award shortlist snub

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

YOUNG Africans (Yanga) striker, Juma Balinya, is smarting after being snubbed in the annual Uganda Footballer of the Year award shortlist.

The Uganda Football Federation, FUFA, announced their 16-man shortlist for the 2019 Male Player of the Year on Wednesday, but Balinya was left out despite having a good season with Police FC of Uganda in the previous season.

He was last season's Uganda Premier League top scorer with 19 goals that saw him attract interests from various regional clubs before eventually signing for Yanga in July this year.

The Ugandan international has come out to vent his frustration. He took to his official Facebook account hours after he had learnt about his omission.

"I wanted to keep quiet about this, but seriously it's not easy to do so. I played the whole of last season in Uganda up to May when the league ended," he noted.

"So if I'm not among the best players then which season or year are they considering because the current sea-



Yanga forward, Juma Balinya.

son they have played not more than eight games. So are they choosing the best player after eight games or two months?" he queried.

Balinya said the absence of his name on the shortlist is down to favouritism and went on to declare the officials have denied him the prestigious crown.

He continued: "They knew if they put me in the list their players will not win it, because they clearly know I was the best last season. But I pray that one day our country will change so that other people don't suffer, JB18."

The initial 16-man nominees' list include Shafiq Kagimu (URA FC), Saidi Kyeyune (URA FC), Mike Mutuyaba (KCCA FC), Viane Ssekajjugo (Wakiso Giants), Joel Mutakubwa (Kyetume), Bashir Mutanda (SC Villa), Joel Madondo (Busoga United), Daniel Sserunkuma (Vipers), Allan Okello (KCCA FC), Paul Mucureezi (Mbarara City), Deogratious Ojok (BUL), Bright Anukani (Proline), Hillary Mukundane (Mbarara City), Mustafa Kizza (KCCA FC), Allan Kayiwa (Vipers), Ivan Bogere (Proline FC).

The awards ceremony which is organized by FUFA will take center stage at Speke Resort in Munyonyo, Uganda on December 14 this year.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

I'M NOT PAID AS MUCH AS I SHOULD BE



YOU'RE LUCKY'RE NOT PAID WHAT YOU'RE WORTH