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## MUHAS localises the world's first artificial intelligence health app

By Guardian Reporter

THE Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) has played a key role in the development of the Kiswahili version of the world's first artificial intelligence health assessment app.

Information published by its owner Ada Health—a global health company—during its launch in Berlin, New York and London on Tuesday, said the technology aims to unlock access to health information and advice for more than 100 million people seeking healthcare in East Africa.

The app company says the tool is an assessment application available on both iOS and Android, combining a world-class

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# JPM gets UDOM honours, urges more local research



University of Dodoma Chancellor former President Benjamin Mkapa confers an honorary PhD on President John Magufuli during the university's graduation ceremony yesterday. Photo: State House

“Most of our research findings are driven by donors’ agendas because they (donors) are the key sources of funds for the purpose”

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday called on authorities to use locally funded research findings in executing their day to day activities.

He made the call shortly after he was conferred with a University of Dodoma (UDOM) honorary doctorate degree (honoris causa) in recognition of his outstanding leadership.

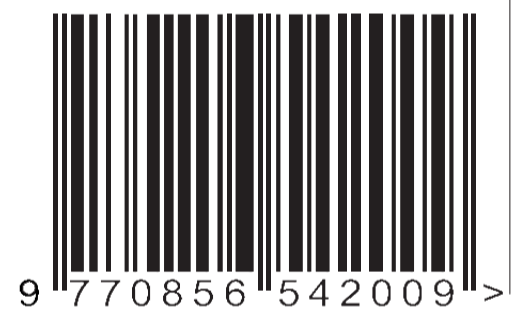
UDOM Chancellor former president Benjamin Mkapa conferred the degree on President Magufuli at the university tenth graduation ceremony.

The president urged academic and research institutions to prioritise funding for research activities to ensure that research agendas are locally driven.

He expressed concern that currently most research undertakings are driven by donors, noting: “Most of our research findings are driven by donors’ agendas because they (donors) are the key sources of funds for the purpose.”

“This is not good for the country,” he said, expressing dismay at the tendency by public

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## TANAPA: Sharp revenue increase, against modest tourist arrivals

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA) has increased revenue it collects from tourism by about 60-percent in the last four years, thanks to various efforts to reach out to new markets and increase inflows of tourists from 957,576 in 2015/16 to 1,141 462 in 2018/19.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday, TANAPA Conservation Commissioner Dr Allan Kijazi said the authority collected 175.bn/- in the 2015/16 financial year, 207.5bn/- in the 2016/17, 254.7bn/- 2017/18 and 279.4bn/- in 2018/19 which comes to about 60-percent rise compared to

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## ‘All BRT buses set to run on natural gas’

By Aisia Rweyemamu

THE government is going to build a compressed natural gas station at Ubungu area in Dar es Salaam to serve commuter buses using the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT).

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Assistant Commissioner for natural gas at the Ministry of Energy, Sebastian Shana said the buses’ transmission system will first be converted from diesel to the clean energy.

The commissioner noted that the decision has been

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The French Ambassador to Tanzania, Frédéric Clavier (L), briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the Africa-France Summit expected to be held in Bordeaux in June 2020. He is with Stephan Dubost, deputy secretary general of the summit's preparation task force. Story on Page 3. Photo: Guardian Photographer.

## 'All BRT buses set to run on natural gas'

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made for environmental protection and cost-cutting.

Late last year, more than 30 factories had already switched from expensive fuel such as heavy furnace oil (HFO), diesel, petrol and jet fuel, which are imported hence cost more compared to natural gas.

A survey conducted on cost difference indicated that factories, hotels, households, cars and power generators that use natural gas had reduced their operational costs by an average of 40 per cent.

Shana said that more than 300

vehicles have also converted their transmission systems to natural gas, while converting BRT buses was informed by the fact that the system is expanding and needs to use clean and cost-effective energy.

"The project will be implemented soon," Shana said without citing the starting date.

He was speaking during the launch of a book entitled 'Governing Petroleum Resources: Prospects and Challenges for Tanzania' prepared by Repoa, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI).

The book is a product of a five-

year research and capacity building programme entitled "Tanzania as a future petro state: prospects and challenges," which commences in 2024. It is intended to enhance empirical data on key challenges facing Tanzania as an emerging petro state.

The government yesterday tasked the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) to persuade more factories and institutions to switch to natural gas to increase the consumption of the clean energy.

Speaking in Mtwara yesterday, the Deputy Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and

Environment) Mussa Sima tasked TPDC to ensure that more large energy consumers such as factories switch to natural gas.

Sima spoke during an environmental inspection visit at natural gas processing sites of Mnazi Bay and Madimb, flanked by officials from the National Environment Management Council (NEMC).

"I direct TPDC to sit down with the Confederation of Tanzania Industries to ponder how to get more industries and institutions to switch from imported fuels to natural gas," he declared.

## JPM gets UDOM honours, urges more local research

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entities not using research findings from Tanzanian institutions.

However, he explained that the government has been relying on locally funded research studies in implementing CCM's 2015/2020 election manifesto.

Dr Magufuli cited the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) as one of public institutions that had failed to utilise local technology, saying that an application developed by Ardhi University to increase revenue collections was left idle.

He said Ardhi University developed an application that allows the national tax agency to trace the location of houses across the country, but that app has not been put to use, "although its use would help TRA improve property tax collections".

Meanwhile, the president said he received the UDOM honorary degree "on behalf of Tanzanians, including farmers, fishermen and livestock keepers who have in one way or the other contributed towards the realisation of the achievements made by the government".

He commended previous governments led by presidents Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, Ali Hassan Mwinyi, Benjamin Mkapa and Jakaya Kikwete for the role they played in transforming the country's economy.

Dr Magufuli, who assumed office on November 5, 2015, listed a raft of measures he said he has taken to boost revenue collections later used in implementing development projects.

He cited the measures as including plugging loopholes in tax collections, suspending foreign travels by public servants, sparing the public service some 20,000 ghost workers and some 14,000 more with inferior academic credentials, as well as combating corruption.

The money saved from these measures was spent in providing free education, raising the number and value of higher education loans and improving education infrastructure like construction of classrooms and laboratories across the country.

The president explained that during

his four years in office, the government has implemented several flagship projects, among them the Julius Nyerere hydropower project in the Rufiji River basin, the standard gauge railway, port expansion, construction of road networks, and purchase of passenger aircraft leased to the national airline.

He said his tenure has seen over 4,000 new industrial units come up as part of efforts towards making Tanzania a middle-income country by 2025, as planned.

UDOM vice chancellor Prof Faustine Bee meanwhile said they decided to honour President Magufuli with the degree in recognition of his efforts to improve the country's economy through the industrialisation drive he is championing.

Other recipients of the honorary degree conferred by UDOM include former President Jakaya Kikwete and former Prime Minister Rashidi Kawawa (deceased), both of whom were received the award in 2010 for their "exemplary leadership".



**He cited the measures as including plugging loopholes in tax collections, suspending foreign travels by public servants, sparing the public service some 20,000 ghost workers and some 14,000 more with inferior academic credentials, as well as combating corruption**

## MUHAS localises the world's first artificial intelligence health app

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medical knowledge database with intelligent reasoning technology to help users understand what might be causing their symptoms, as well as providing localized guidance about what they should do next.

In doing so, the statement adds, the app aims to empower patients to make informed decisions about their own health, while also complementing and supporting existing healthcare services, doctors and clinics.

"The Kiswahili version of the Ada app has been developed as part of Ada's Global Health Initiative (GHI), a long-term programme to help address the global shortfall in health workers - expected to be over 12.9 million by 2035 - by combining artificial intelligence, human medical expertise and the power of mobile technology to deliver access to health care and guidance at a large scale. Ada's partners in developing and localizing the app are Fondation Botnar, a Swiss foundation focused on improving the health and wellbeing of young people in low- and middle-income countries through technology, and the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences in Dar es Salaam," the statement noted.

The company says this initiative has been informed by the fact that globally, four billion people - more than half the world's population - lack access to basic health services, with the disadvantages

of this global health challenge often disproportionately experienced by people in low- and middle-income countries. East Africa is a region that is acutely affected by this gap.

By offering an AI-powered symptom-assessment medical application in Kiswahili, a language spoken by over 100 million people across the likes of Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Somalia, Congo and Burundi, Ada hopes to significantly improve access to quality health information and advice, particularly for young people and families, it also noted.

The company observes that developing an artificial intelligence app which could provide meaningful health advice to patients in East Africa required overcoming several unique challenges.

"In East Africa, English is in many cases the primary language of medicine, with doctors trained and taught in English. As a result, many medical and anatomical terms simply do not have direct translations in Kiswahili, and as is the case in other languages and regions, individual health workers typically develop informal ways of explaining medical conditions or terms to patients. To ensure that the Ada app could be used and understood by both medical professionals and patients alike required crucial collaboration with local partners and experts," the report added.



Tigo Tanzania managing director Simon Karikari speaks addresses the 19th conference of financial institutions in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The theme was: 'Accelerating Financial Sector Development in Tanzania'. Right is Tanzania Private Sector Foundation executive director Godfrey Simbeye. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## TANAPA: Sharp revenue increase, against modest tourist arrivals

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2015/16 earnings.

"We have managed to increase the number of tourists by about 19.2 per cent in the last four years which translates into higher contribution to the national economy," said Dr Kijazi.

Dr Kijazi who was speaking to announce achievements that the authority has made in the four years of President John Magufuli's leadership said TANAPA has increased

its contribution to the Treasury from 31bn/- in 2016/17 to 42bn/- in 2018/19 financial year.

TANAPA set aside 111.3bn/- for implementation of development projects from the 2016/17 financial year to 2018/19, he said.

"The projects include strengthening tourism services including construction of hostels for accommodation of tourists, houses for servants and

purchasing boats and vehicles as well as boosting flights for tourism purposes," he elaborated.

Dr Kijazi said during the four years TANAPA has strengthened security systems for wildlife protection, enabling a rise in the number of animals that are listed as facing extinction such as rhinos, registering a 10-per cent increase on the back of control of poaching activities, going

down by about 90-per cent.

Dr Kijazi said during the period 14,464 poachers were arrested and taken to various courts countrywide.

In 2017 the government launched three bodies to oversee tourism licensing processes in a new drive to boost the number of visitors to two million by 2020.

The Tanzania Tourism Licensing Board (TTLB), Technical Advisory

Committee (TAC) and the Tourism Appeals Authority (TAA) are responsible for advising the government, handle appeals and issue operating licenses to tour operators to sanitize the key economic sector.

Tourism licensing is premised on ensuring customer satisfaction and competitiveness of the country as a tourist destination and managing customer expectations by maintaining

minimally acceptable service provision standards.

It also helps to bring order to the sector as it is a deterrent to unscrupulous businessmen since punitive measures are taken against those who contravene laws.

Tourism employs about a third of Tanzania's work force and contributed 13-per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP) in 2012, making it a vital industry for a nation of more than 50 million people that needs more jobs.





Mariam Stafford (R), whose arms were chopped off in 2008 in a night-time attack by unidentified assailants in her family home in Kagera Region's Ngara District, briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on what she described as the stand by the human rights committee of the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on her plight. She said the committee has directed that the government of Tanzania provide her with "an effective remedy, including compensation, proper medical treatment, and redress for abuses suffered, as well as support devices to enable me to live independently again". With her is Under The Same Sun (UTSS) executive director Berthasia Ladislaus, whose agency is a charitable organisation that promotes the wellbeing of persons with albinism, chiefly through education and advocacy. Photo: Selemani Mpocho

## 'Officials' irresponsibility derailing govt's efforts to reinforce health services'

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

DESPITE the government's investment in health sector, lack of accountability still derail well intended developments in provision of health services in the country, it has been revealed.

To ensure accountability at individual and institutional levels, the government is coming up with measures forcing health workers to record daily performances at work.

This was revealed by the deputy secretary in the Prime Minister's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Dr Dorothy Gwajima, saying the government cannot condone laxity at the expense of people's lives.

She cited some of the common problems as ineffective ward attendance, absenteeism among health workers, poor management of equipment, poor nursing care and slow decision making.

Speaking while officiating at the opening of a one-day Information-sharing and Coordination Workshop for Canada-Funded Reproductive Maternal and Newborn Health Project, she said there is need to enhance accountability.

She noted that the government invested heavily in improving health budget but some health workers are not performing their duties as required, jeopardising people's lives.

"If accountability is not increased at the health facilities we will have similar complains of poor health services, just as it had been before the government revamped the sector," she said.

Dr Gwajima also observed that having many health workers who do not effectively account for their work does not help in bringing the desired changes and where one has lead to death or injuries disciplinary measures

must taken against such officer.

She acknowledged that poor management of resources including human resource is a big problem in the health sector, calling on local authorities to see how to rectify the problem.

The meeting drew participants from different organisations that are implementing mother and child health projects through funding from the Canadian government.

High Commission of Canada's Head of Cooperation, Gwen Walmsley, while speaking at the meeting noted that a lot has been done by the government to improve health sector in the country.

She said her country support a large portion of projects, noting that accountability in health sector is quite crucial. She said the stakeholders met to share experiences on what works and what is not working.

"What goes on inside health facilities despite massive investment by the government and other stakeholders in some cases leave a lot to be desired," she said.

Hadija Kweka, a researcher with Enhance Tanzania on her part pointed out that a lot has been done in the health sector in terms of infrastructure, facilities and equipment but accountability is quite low.

She said she was consulted by PORALG to conduct a research on what is happening in one of the health centres in Dodoma city and the findings were shocking.

She said when she reported the finding and various measures taken, the facility has increased revenue from Sh 8 million in August last year to over 16 million by July this year.

Kweka added that sometimes problems are due to poor internal controls systems, which if well addressed, things change for the better.

## African Court set to deliver 8 key judgments next week

By Guardian Reporter

THE African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights is on Thursday next week expected to deliver eight critical judgments at the close of its four-week sitting of the 55th Ordinary Session in Zanzibar.

The court is composed of 11 judges who are nationals of the African Union's member states elected in their individual capacity. Eight orders are

also to be signed though they will not be read out in open court.

The court meets four times a year in Ordinary Sessions and may hold Extra-Ordinary Sessions.

According to a statement issued yesterday, six of the judgments to be delivered affect Tanzania, where individuals are accusing the state of violation of human rights.

In one of the cases, Andrew Ambrose Cheusi was convicted and sentenced to

30 years in prison for armed robbery.

Cheusi alleges that the sentence was not in force at the time he was charged so it was unconstitutional.

He also says the punishment is heavier than the penalty in force at the time the offence was committed.

In another case, which affects Rwanda, applicants allege that their passports, as well as those of other Rwandans, were unilaterally and without notice declared invalid by the

government.

The applicants allege that the invalidation of their passports came to light after one of them was informed, on applying for a visa to the United States, that his name appeared in a list prepared by the Rwandan government.

The list indicated invalidity of the passports of all people whose names appeared in it. The cases date back to 2015.

## Chamber of commerce planned

By Felister Peter

PREPARATIONS are ongoing for the establishment of Tanzania-France chamber of commerce to boost economic cooperation between the two countries.

Briefing journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the coming Africa-France Summit scheduled for June 2020 in Bordeaux, French Ambassador to Tanzania, Frédéric Clavier said introduction of the chamber will enhance business and economic partnership.

Currently, there are more than 40 France companies operating in Tanzania. The current trade volume between Tanzania and France is deemed low at \$301 million per year.

He said: "France is very much invested in Tanzania hence the need to have the country as a partner to the coming Africa-France summit. France through its French Development Agency (AFD) has been supporting President John Magufuli's development objectives as well as upgrading its investment and loans from US \$ 50 to US \$ 100 million every year."

Ambassador Clavier asserted that the coming Africa-France Summit scheduled for June 2020 in Bordeaux will bring together 54 Heads of State and government to deliberate on development of cities following the growing global challenge of urbanization.

He said Tanzania as an important partner has been invited to the summit. He noted that apart from sustainable cities, there will be several other topics to be discussed throughout the conference from June 4th to 6th next year.

As part of preparation, two members of the Africa-France Summit Task Force—Deputy Secretary General, Stephan Dubost and Antoine Chazelle, Business Director of Attias Communication Group are in the country to meet Tanzanian major actors from business community.

In his address, Deputy Secretary General of the Task Force, Stephan Dubost said African countries need to plan and find solution to growing urban population. He said countries should not only come with ecological solutions, but also improve access to social services such as health and employment to the people.

Dubost said during the summit, Heads of States will make commitments together with donors and companies towards developing sustainable cities in Africa. He said there will also be a business-focused trade fair where 500 exhibitors will showcase their innovations.

He said 50 percent of the exhibitors will be from African countries, including Tanzania. He said they have introduced a challenge to invite to the summit 1,000 entrepreneurs and start-ups from Africa. "The Africa-France summit will be an opportunity for both, Africa and France to find solution on how to tackle issues faced by cities," he asserted.

African countries, like France, are facing unprecedented population growth in cities. The unique challenges presented by their different climates, landscapes and cultures will require tailor-made solutions to ensure access to all essential services such as energy, transport, food, housing, healthcare, education and work. More than half of the world's population lives in urban areas, according to the UN, the proportion could rise to two-thirds by 2050.

Africa's urban population has now reached 472 million people, and will double over the next 25 years to reach 1 billion in 2040. Some fastest growing cities in Africa include Dar es Salaam, Johannesburg, Cape Town, Kampala, Addis Ababa and Luanda.

However, in France by 2025, there will be 74 million people, 8.2 million more than in 2013.

By Guardian Reporter

PERMANENT Secretary of Livestock and Fisheries, Prof Elisante Ole Gabriel yesterday called on stakeholders in the dairy sector to come up with better strategies that will increase milk production, productivity and quality to spur the country's industrialisation drive.

Prof Ole Gabriel made the remarks when speaking at the official launch of the AgResults Tanzania Dairy Productivity Challenge Project—a four-year, US\$2.2 million prize competition that aims to increase dairy productivity by encouraging private sector actors to deliver inputs to smallholder farmers.

The event, which brought together stakeholders from across

## Ministry committed to supporting dairy sector - official

the public and private sectors, was an opportunity to reflect on the project's potential to transform Tanzania's dairy sector.

The project will begin in January 2020 and continue through April 2024.

"I feel greatly honored to grace the launch of this Pay-for-Results prize competition, which is the first of its kind in Tanzania," said Prof Ole Gabriel.

"The innovative AgResults Pay-for-Results prize competition addresses Tanzania farmers' limited access to high-quality inputs and the ministry is committed to supporting it to ensure its success," he added.

He however described private-

sector participation as essential to ensure the scaling up and commercialization of different dairy technologies and the long term sustainability of project interventions.

The PS also said: "As government we're determined to ensure that small-scale dairy farmers do receive quality inputs from private businesses as well as making sure that the fight against counterfeit inputs is sustained and business communities are adhering to guidelines on doing input businesses."

Managed by Land O'Lakes Venture37, the project will use a competition structure to encourage companies to provide

farmers with input bundles that will boost productivity and strengthen the dairy value chain. Tanzania's dairy sector has historically struggled: 97 percent of cattle are low-yield breeds, poor management practices are prevalent, and there are seasonal fluctuations in the availability of forage and feed. As a result, many smallholder farmers struggle to access affordable private extension services and the high-quality inputs they need.

The project is designed to incentivize private sector competitors to package and deliver input bundles comprising a combination of parasite controls, high quality feed and/or

fodder, vaccines, and/or artificial insemination inputs to smallholder dairy farmers. By encouraging businesses to provide both input bundles and advisory services, the project will address a variety of gaps in Tanzania's dairy value chain.

As farmers gain access to quality inputs and receive regular training, their knowledge of livestock management will improve as will their use of vaccines and health inputs, in turn boosting the nutrition of cows. Healthier and more productive cows will improve the quality of the milk, positioning smallholder farmers to participate more fully in formal markets. Accessing these markets will drive up smallholder farmers' incomes and cement their relationships with key value chain actors.

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By Beatrice Philemon

## TTB and NAS sign pact to promote country's tourism across the globe

TANZANIA Tourists Board (TTB) and the National Aviation Services (NAS) yesterday signed a partnership to promote the country's tourism potential and attractions across the globe so as to lure more visitors and enhance income collection in the sector.

Speaking during the signing ceremony in Dar es Salaam NAS' Board Chairman Prof Costa Mahalu said that during the implementation, NAS will market Tanzanian tourism potentials in all its airport lounges available in different countries across the world.

So far the company is present in more than 40 countries across the world, operating in 40 airport lounges in Middle East, Asia and Africa as well as providing ground handling services for more than 100 airlines.

Through this partnership, it will be easy for passengers while waiting for the flight to witness and understand the tourists' attractions available in Tanzania. "In all airport lounges NAS will put different advertisements and brochures that highlight the tourist

attractions existing in Tanzania to attract more tourists to visit the country...It will also involve putting adverts in all airport shuttles that we have across the world," he noted.

Prof Mahalu said that NAS have already invested a total of 25bn/- in Tanzania and will continue to increase investment to up to 100bn/-, the funds will be used to run operations in terms of ground handling equipment, technology and training for staff so as to deliver world-class facilities and services for travelers at the airport.

According to him, NAS is the fastest growing aviation service provider in emerging markets, he said noting that so far NAS providing ground handling services to 8900 airlines.

For his part, Tanzania Tourist Board chairman, Judge (rtd) Thomas Mihayo said the pact will help Tanzania to be well-known in many countries across the world and attract more visitors to Tanzania. He called on all Tanzania tour operators to utilize

the opportunity and prepare their companies profiles and tour packages so that more travelers can be aware on what they offer and later on come to visit in Tanzania to see the tourists attractions we have. As TTB we are well prepared to use this opportunity in promoting all Tanzanian tourism potentials in all airport lounges in 17 countries in terms of Middle East, Asia and Africa," he noted.

In his keynote address, minister for Tourism and Natural Resources, Hamisi Kigwangalla said that tourism sector is very important sector in Tanzania, it account for 17.6 percent of the Gross Domestic Product, contribute 25 percent of foreign currency and provide employment for 11 percent.

The minister noted that in a bid to help tourism sector grow and provide best services to travelers including tourists as well, the government continues to put more efforts to improve road, water, railway and airport infrastructures.



Neema Meremo (L), communication and advocacy officer with the Tanzania chapter of Women in Law and Development Africa (WILDAF), briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the launch of sixteen days of activism expected to be held in Dodoma city on Monday. With her are Nancy Mpiri (R) of WILDAF and Mkuki's Pastory Buberwa. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## Finance minister urges banks to fund agriculture sector players

By Francis Kajubi

FINANCE and Planning Minister, Philip Mpango yesterday called on commercial banks and other financial institutions to invest more in agricultural sector, which employ large number of Tanzanians.

Dr Mpango was speaking in Dar es Salaam at the 19th Conference of Financial Institutions which brought on board commercial banks executives from Tanzania, the East Africa Community (EAC), and Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Themed: 'Accelerating Financial Sector Development in Tanzania' bankers and other financial sector players are coming together for two days to discuss progress, challenges and the way forward of the financial sector in the country.

The minister said that less than 5 per cent of the gross loans offered by commercial banks and other financial institutions in Tanzania is allocated to the agriculture sector.

"This is very minimal," he said, blaming financial institutions for not playing their role effectively in financing farmers and the entire agricultural industry.

"We all know that industrialisation is one of the government's priority but can't be achieved without plenty

agro-products to feed the industries.

Your appetite of financing farmers is not satisfactory with only less than 5 per cent of the loans offered. I hope that from this conference you will come up with strategic plans of financing large and small scale farmers," said Mpango.

According to him, 66 per cent of Tanzanians in rural areas are working in agriculture sector but financial institutions have not reached the rural areas thus deny them from securing loans for agricultural activities. He said even interest rates charged by banks are still high most of them at 17 per cent.

Agriculture sectors grew by 5.3 per cent four years ago compared to the growth target by the government of 13.1 per cent in 2025. The sector is not only for industrial raw materials but only a key source of food by households and poverty reduction.

"It has reached a time whereby securing a loan has become a very complicated process. I have approached one of the local banks in need for a 200mn/- loan but faced hardships. The person who attended me asked me how much is my salary, after telling her she said that with my salary I can't secure more than 20mn/-.

This scenario portrays how banks treat common borrowers," said the minister.

Replying on this concern, Tanzania Bankers Association (TBA) chairman, Abdulmajid Nsekela said that through the conference, bankers will come up with ways on how to consider the financing of the agriculture sector players.

"To ensure this issue work for us, we call upon authorities to make sure that majority of Tanzanians residing in rural areas have their national identification cards so that they can access financial services.

I also promise you that bankers will continue cutting down interest rates depending on the market trends and business doing environment," said Nsekela.

For his part, the Governor of Bank of Tanzania (BOT) Prof Florens Luoga, said that the financial sector has grown at an average of 3.1 per cent contributing 2.6 per cent of the economic growth for the period of five years that ended in 2018.

"There are 61 commercial banks and financial institutions with 838 branches and 22,481 bank agents. According to FinScope Tanzania 2017, 65 per cent of adults had access to financial services during the period compared to 45 per cent in 2009," said Prof Luoga.

He asserted that loans to private sector reached 9.3 per cent in September this year from 3.4 per cent last year and 2.2 per cent in 2017.

By Guardian Correspondent, Moshi

## Fertiliser making company wins hearts of K'njaro cereal growers over good services

CEREAL growers in Malindi areas, Kilimanjaro Region, said here yesterday that extension services offered and fertiliser sold by Yara Tanzania Limited were behind increased harvests of cereals in Kilimanjaro Region.

Manka Mushi a paddy grower in Malindi area for the past 15 years described paddy growing as a risky activity, that could easily push a farmer into crippling losses if harvests were appallingly low. "Paddy growing is tricky.

You must know what you are doing in order to get rewarding harvests, otherwise you will suffer demoralising losses and stop growing the crop," she told journalists who visited the area.

She said the innovative interventions

by Yara workers have produced astounding results on the ground. "They identify the soil to focus on and the kind of fertiliser to use and when to use it. They came with innovations. The results are simply amazing.

We are harvesting between 30-35 bags of paddy, something that has never happened in the past," she said. Yara generally markets five types of fertilisers in Tanzania.

She said disposable income of hard-working farmers had steadily increased, explaining that farmers were able to pay school fees for their children and meet other costs in life.

Jonathan Mjema, another paddy

grower who has been growing the crop for the past 20 years, also praised Yara Tanzania, attributing increased productivity to the company's efforts towards training farmers on how to use fertilisers and proper paddy husbandry. "In the past we got less than 25 bags in an acre and we were content with that amount. Do you see the radical change now? He pointed out. Yara Tanzania is a local branch of a Norwegian multinational corporation that was founded in 1905. In Tanzania the company struggles to replace traditional CAN fertilisers with sulphur-rich formulations. It markets products with ISO certification.

By Guardian Correspondent, Katavi

## PCCB saves 48 billion/- from hands of dishonest employees

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau in Katavi Region has this month recovered over 48bn/- that was on the verge of being embezzled by dishonest officials.

Of the amount, more than 30.9m/- included forged receipts for payments of conference halls, per-diem, seminar expenses and transport costs.

PCCB Head in the region, Christopher Nakua said the monies have been deposited in a special account as they finalise procedures to hand them over to the Bank of Tanzania (BoT).

Briefing journalists on November performance of the anti-corruption authority, Nakua said some of the recovered funds were embezzled by dishonest leaders of farmers' cooperative unions.

He explained that some of the

recovered monies were from cotton sales where some dishonest officials of the farmer's cooperative unions in Mpanda and Tanganyika districts had attempted to steal from farmers.

According to Nakua, authorities in Katavi District had in recent years encouraged people to engage in cotton farming resulting into many farmers opting to cultivate the cash crop. He noted that cotton is mostly cultivated in Tanganyika District in the region.

"There are still some few dishonest people who want to steal from cotton farmers. We are determined to ensure farmers get their rightful pay," he said adding that PCCB has so far recovered 17,570,000/- from dishonest cooperative officials who attempted to

stole the monies during the just ended harvest season.

He said one of the officials at the Ikola cotton selling centre, Nzoka Solo has reimbursed 12,000,000/- that he stole by putting fake names in the list of farmers. Another official, Thomas Masanja from Mkwajuni centre returned some 5,570,000/- he earlier allocated as payment for his young brother, who is not a cotton farmer.

Cotton which is one among strategic cash crops is grown in 56 districts in 17 regions of Tanzania mainland.

The country's cotton production in the 2018/2019 harvest season was 222,000 tonnes - an amount that is projected to reach 450,000 tonnes in the next harvest season.

**MARK AUCTIONEERS AND COURT BROKERS COMPANY LIMITED**  
Our motto: Quality Services With Integrity

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Contact: Mobile phone 0715884162/0754884162/0787884477  
Email: inguku47@gmail.com

P.O. Box 72252  
DAR ES SALAAM

### TANGAZO LA MNADA WA HADHARA

Kwa idhinituliyopewa na AZANIA BANK LIMITED, TAWI LA MASDO, Tutauza kwa mnada wa hadhara dhama za wadaiwa walioshindwa kulipa madeni yao kwa mujibu wamkataba. Orodha ya wadaiwa na nyumba zitakazo uzwa ni kama ifuatavyo. NB: Minada yote ni kuanzia saa 4:00 Asubuhi nakuendelea.

N	JINA LA MDAIWA	MALI INAYOUZWA	MAHALI ILIPO MALI INAYOUZWA	SIKU NA TAREHE
1	ANICETH MORUMBE WAMBURA	PLOT NA. 673	KISEKE - MWANZA	JUMAMOSI 07/12/2019
2	FOCAS MALIBATE LUGOYE	PLOT NO. 18	KISEKE - MWANZA	JUMAMOSI 07/12/2019
3	SYONES SIMON KIONGOSYA	PLOT NO. 17	KISEKE - MWANZA	JUMAMOSI 07/12/2019
4	NORDIA DANIEL BAHINGAE	PLOT NO. 413 & 415	KISEKE - MWANZA	JUMAMOSI 07/12/2019
5	ANDREW MIHAYO MANYAMBO	PLOT NO. 966	KISEKE - MWANZA	JUMAPILI 08/12/2019
6	DOROTHY JOHN BUTAMBALA	PLOT NO. 275	KISEKE - MWANZA	JUMAPILI 08/12/2019
7	FADHILI ANDREW WADUGU	PLOT NO. 661	KISEKE - MWANZA	JUMAPILI 08/12/2019
8	FILBERT NHONZU OR JENOVEVA PALANGYO	PLOT NO. 1045	KISEKE - MWANZA	JUMAPILI 08/12/2019
9	FLORA FIDELIS WANNA	PLOT NO. 426	KISEKE - MWANZA	JUMATATU 09/12/2019
10	HENRY SATO MASSABA	PLOT NO. 436	KISEKE - MWANZA	JUMATATU 09/12/2019
11	JOEL GIDEON NASSARI	PLOT NO. 1009	KISEKE - MWANZA	JUMATATU 09/12/2019
12	LINUS LINUS NGONYANI	PLOT NO. 215	KISEKE - MWANZA	JUMATATU 09/12/2019
13	MARY SHIJA SHELUTETE	PLOT NO. 1046	KISEKE - MWANZA	JUMANNE 10/12/2019
14	NYAMAJEJE DENISI MISANA	PLOT NO. 520	KISEKE - MWANZA	JUMANNE 10/12/2019
15	ROBERT CHRISTOPHER MASAHU	PLOT NO. 955	KISEKE - MWANZA	JUMANNE 10/12/2019
16	SEKELA LUSEKELO MWAMBULI	PLOT NO. 177	KISEKE - MWANZA	JUMANNE 10/12/2019
17	SETH HERI KISENGE	PLOT NO. 225	KISEKE - MWANZA	JUMATANO 11/12/2019
18	STEPHEN CHARLES BILLIAM	PLOT NO. 607	KISEKE - MWANZA	JUMATANO 11/12/2019
19	VERONICA JOHN UFUNGUO	PLOT NO. 128	KISEKE - MWANZA	JUMATANO 11/12/2019
20	VIOLET SOLOMON GYUMI	PLOT NO. 70	KISEKE - MWANZA	JUMATANO 11/12/2019
21	VIOLETH STEVEN UPAMBA	PLOT NO. 63	KISEKE - MWANZA	ALHAMISI 12/12/2019
22	WANDIBA SIMON KASINGE	PLOT NO. 143	KISEKE - MWANZA	ALHAMISI 12/12/2019
23	ZENOBIA SIMON LUMELEZI	PLOT NO. 634	KISEKE - MWANZA	ALHAMISI 12/12/2019
24	GRACE LIMUS MKALI	PLOT NO. 116	KISEKE - MWANZA	ALHAMISI 12/12/2019
25	G.I.MONGELLA	PLOT NO. 439	KISEKE-MWANZA	IJUMAA 13/12/2019

WAFUATAO WANAKUMBUSHWA KULIPA MALIMBIKIZO YA MADENI YAO NDANI YA SIKU (14) KUTOKA TAREHE YA TANGAZO HILI.

SN	JINA LA MDAIWA	NYUMBA/ MALI
1	ASTERIA BARTALOME SHAO	PLOT NO. 587
2	CHIPEGWA MICHAEL MSANJILA	PLOT NO. 717
3	CUTBERT DAVID NUNGU	PLOT NO. 34
4	DAVIS ELLY BAHATI	PLOT NO. 742
5	DR. ANYITIKE YOHANA MWAKASAGULE	PLOT NO. 267
6	HAFIDH RASHID WAZIRI	PLOT NO. 240 & 243
7	JACKSON SHADRACK MAYUNGA	PLOT NO. 421
8	JOHN STANLAUS MINJA	PLOT NO. 119
9	JUSTINA MWENDA BONZO	PLOT NO. 744
10	PEACE WILLIAM KASANGA	PLOT NO. 433
11	RHODA SYLIVESTER SEBASTIAN	PLOT NO. 952
12	ZAHOR OMARY SAMWIX	PLOT NO. 514

#### Mashartiyamada:-

- Mnada utafanyika sehemu zilipo nyumba hizo kuanzia tarehe 07/12/2019 na kuendelea.
- Mnuzi atakaye fikia bei ya juu atalazimika kulipa asilimia ishirini na tano 25% y abei iliyofikiwa papo hapo naasilimia sabini na tano (75%) atalazimika kulipa ndani ya siku kumi na nne (14) baada ya tarehe ya mnada.
- Endapo mteja atashindwa kumaliza 75% ndani ya siku 14 kiasi kilichotolewa awali hakitarudishwa na mnada utarudiwa tena.
- Gharama za kubadilisha hatimiliki (transfer of ownership) pamoja na gharama nyingine ni zamanunzi.

#### Wote mnakaribishwa

#### KWA MAELEZO ZAIDI WASILIANA NA:-

Mkurugenzi mtendaji  
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Email: info@azaniabank.co.tz  
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NMB Bank Plc eastern zone manager Baraka Ladislaus makes remarks after handing over 275 desks to five Morogoro Region schools - Kibwaya, Bwakila Chini, Newland, Kinole and Mfumbwe - on Wednesday. He is with Agriculture deputy minister Omari Mgumba (L) and Morogoro district commissioner Regina Chonjo. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Isles govt to build modern road, bridge on Uzi Island

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein has assured residents of a small island of Uzi that his government will build the ultra-modern road and bridge linking Unguja and the islet.

Uzi is an island in the south of Zanzibar, connected by causeway to the main island of Unguja. It is located immediately to the south of the main island's Unguja Ukuu ruins. In the past, the island was undeveloped and had few occupants, but now the government is putting more effort to develop the islet, and it is becoming popular for tourism.

Dr Shein made the remarks yesterday when speaking soon after inaugurating a new building of the ruling CCM branch in Ng'ambwa, Central District, Unguja South Region. Ng'ambwa is one of the oldest party branches in the Indian Ocean archipelago. The branch was established in 1958.

Dr Shein who is CCM's vice chairman (Zanzibar) said that his government is doing a feasibility study and design on the road and the proposed bridge.

He said the proposed ultra-modern bridge will be the same as that of Kibonde Mzungu area.

"My seventh-phase government will build the road and the bridge and I'm

sure we'll accomplish it within the projected time," he said, describing the project as crucial for the development of Uzi residents.

The party vice chairman commended leaders of Tungeu constituency for their development endeavours.

He also commended CCM members for the trust they have built to the party and leaders, saying: "This spirit should continue for the party and country's socio-economic development."

Dr Shein also lauded members of Ng'ambwa CCM branch for constructing the building, urging other party branches to emulate the spirit and build similar buildings in their localities.

CCM's deputy secretary general (Zanzibar) Dr Abdalla Juma Mabodi said that the party has directed all branches to build offices which are in line with CCM standards.

**“My seventh-phase government will build the road and the bridge and I'm sure we'll accomplish it within the projected time”**

## Biometric registration campaign reaches 18 regions, says TCRA

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has said that majority of people in the country have recognised the importance of biometric registration following the ongoing campaign to educate the public to register their sim-cards.

In the campaign, dubbed; 'auction to

auction', TCRA is working in collaboration with mobile phone network operators, police through cybercrime department, the National Identification Authority (NIDA) and immigration department.

Head of TCRA in central zone, Anthony Mayanda said that since its commencement, the campaign has reached 18 regions in the country thus enabling people to recognise the

importance of the biometric registration.

According to him, the campaign is now in Singida Region educating and helping residents to register to get national ID as well as register their sim-cards biometrically.

Mayanda said that the authority is well prepared to ensure that it reaches all owners of sim cards while capacitating them with essential communication education and addressing

various challenges facing consumers.

Mabel Masasi, TCRA senior communication officer said that the campaign also aims to strengthen communication services in the country.

In May, this year, the government through Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority (TCRA) directed all Subscriber Identification Module (Sim) cards to be biometrically

registered by the end of the year.

In March, TCRA launched a pilot project to register Sim cards using the technology in Zanzibar and in the regions of Dodoma, Dar es Salaam, Coast Region, Singida, Tanga and Iringa.

According to the regulator, the move was meant to get rid of dishonest Sim card users and registration agents who have malicious intentions, including committing crimes.

## Longido District authorities laud TASAF initiatives

By Getrude Mbago

AUTHORITIES in Longido district council, Arusha region have hailed the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) for constructing a model primary school at the Ilchang'it Sapukin village, a facility which will increase enrollment and enable children in the pastoral society access quality education to fulfill their dreams.

The school built in Gelai Lumbwa ward will be able to serve children within the village and another neighbouring village of Alaililai. It is expected to commence operation officially from January next year pending registration.

The District Executive Director, Juma Mhina said that children will no longer trek long distance of forests to go to school at Lumbwa village which is more than 20km round trip every day.

Speaking to journalists who visited the school recently, Mhina said that the construction of the school in the village will also rescue a number of children who were staying home or grazing animals in forests thus failing to attend school.

He said that the construction of the school worth 290m/- involves six classrooms, toilets, modern fence and two teachers houses.

"This school will also contribute to the improvement of education status among children from pastoral societies many of whom have been failing to fulfill their educational dreams due lack of schools and harmonisation."

Mhina added that; "The schools will also fuel education and development spirit among the pastoral society as many of them used to walk miles away from home to school something that was leaving other children desperate at home as they couldn't afford travelling everyday to schools."

For his part, Gelai Lumbwa ward councillor Simon Laizer pointed out that shortage of primary schools in the ward has huge negative impacts to children development.

According to Laizer, before construction of the model school, only two villages had a primary school thus leaving hundreds of children at home without education.

Some of the parents also raised their voices saying that the construction of the facility in the village will automatically address a number of challenges which faces school children in the community including poor attendance and hunger due to long walking distances.

Turito Karino Laizer, One of the parents said; "We hail the government for bringing this important service (education) near to us, our children now will no longer wake up early in the morning and walk miles to reach school...this situation was affecting me a lot as I was feeling unhappy to see my children struggling everyday to go to school which is located over 10km from home."

Another parent, Mary Mwolimi said that most of the children's health in the area was not good as most of them fail to get breakfast and lunch due to lack of food in school.

"However this will be addressed as the school has been built near to them giving parents time to prepare food for their children before they go to school and after coming back at afternoon," she added.

## Mbeya RC issues 5-day ultimatum for investor to get land permit

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MBEYA Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila has given five days to the Mbeya District Development Director (DED) Steven Katemba to ensure he issues a land permit to the investor who is seeking to construct a factory for producing crops seeds.

It is claimed that the said investor - Seed Co LTD, has for a long time been pursuing his quest for land to build the factory but in vain.

Speaking during his inspection of the new dairy factory being built by Asas Ltd in Rungwe District, Chalamila said he is forced

to issue the ultimatum after discovering that the investor was about to shift his investment to another region, and added that many projects in Mbeya Region get stuck due to bureaucracy by government officials.

He cautioned public officials in the region to stop putting hurdles on potential investors and whoever will be found doing that will be dealt with.

Meanwhile Chalamila congratulated Asas Ltd in its decision to invest in Rungwe District as the dairy factory will stimulate the milk market in the district as well as providing income to the government.

Asas manager Lipita Mtimila said the

factory will start milk procession soon as there are still a few areas that have to be worked upon, but added that by June next year the factory will be working at 100 percent capacity.

He said: "Our total investment is estimated at 3bn/-, construction and plant costs, hence it is a big investment that would be beneficial to us and the wananchi."

For his part the chairman of Rungwe District Council Ezekiel Mwanokota said what wananchi wants is milk of good quality from their own area.

The Rungwe District Commissioner Julius Challya said the district produces more than

62 million litres of milk per year but only 11 percent is sold in the formal market.

**“Our total investment is estimated at 3bn/-, construction and plant costs, hence it is a big investment that would be beneficial to us and the wananchi”**

**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

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

**APPEAL NO. 13 OF 2019**

**BETWEEN**

**WATETEZI ONLINE TV.....APPELLANT**

**AND**

**TANZANIACOMMUNICATIONS  
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 Content Committee of Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority (TCRA), the Respondent herein, dated 27th September, 2019 in respect of an allegation of operating without an online policy or guideline contrary to regulation 5(1)(c) of the Electronic and Postal Communications (Online Content) Regulations, 2018 in which the Appellant was fined Tshs. 5,000,000/=

The Appellant contends, amongst other things, that Respondent erred in law by relying on wrong provision of the law to reach its decision. Thus, the Appellant prays that the decision of the Respondent be set aside with cost and an order for payment of general damages.

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

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL  
of the Tribunal this 22nd day of November, 2019.**

REGISTRAR

**HUBERT KAIRUKI MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY  
MAHAFALI YA KUMI NA SABA.**

Hubert Kairuki Memorial University iliyopo Mikocheni Dar es Salaam, inapenda kuwakaribisha kwenye Mahafali ya Kumi na Saba.

Kwenye Mahafali hayo, Mkuu wa Chuo atatunuku Astashahada, Stashahada, Shahada na shahada za uzamili kwa wahitimu wa mwaka 2018/2019.

**TAREHE:  
30 Novemba 2019**

**MAHALI:  
Kampasi ya chuo (ilipo Hospitali ya Kairuki)**

**MUDA:  
Saa nne kamili asubuhi**

**Wote mnakaribishwa!**



## Legal assistance by WLAC benefits 100,000 women, children, refugees in need

By Guardian Reporter

NEARLY 100,000 vulnerable women, children and refugees have benefited from legal aid services offered by Women's Legal Aid Centre (WLAC) for the past 30 years.

WLAC executive director Theodosia Muhulo said in Dar es Salaam recently when marking 30th anniversary of the organisation that works to empower women to attain their rights and to improve vulnerable population's access to justice across Tanzania.

Theodosia said that the most prevalent cases which related to land and property rights claimed through matrimonial, inheritance and land matters.

"There has been a notable change between 2009 and 2018, which saw an increase in the number of women asserting their rights in cases of marriage dissolutions," she said.

On litigation case to challenge the share of the widow, Theodosia said: "In 2016, WLAC filed a constitutional case in the High Court of Tanzania, Misc. Civil Cause No. 10/2016. Previously women were walking away from marriages empty handed."

According to the activist, the petition sought court declaration of widow's entitlement to half of matrimonial property upon death of husband.

The case aimed at challenging the applicability and the practice whereby the widow contribution is normally not set apart from the whole before division of deceased's estate, thus the widow's contribution forms part and parcel of the deceased's estate. In doing so women's rights (property rights) are denied as the whole property, including the separate share owned by the wife, is termed the "estate of the deceased".

On gender desks, the official said in 2009, WLAC in collaboration with Tanzania Police Female Network (TPF Net) piloted the establishment of gender desks in police stations.

"So far, 280 police officers were trained on violence against women and girls (VAWG) and how to handle such cases. The implementation of the gender and children desks was replicated by police force in collaboration with other stakeholders to other regions to ensure women and girl survivors of VAWG are appropriately attended to and receive dignified services."

"Prior to such training these cases were poorly handled and there was no confidentiality which did not inspire trust in women to report such cases. Juvenal criminal justice/children in conflict with the law," she says.

At least 758 children in conflict with

the law were assisted in achieving access to justice in the Juvenile Court. In 2012, WLAC collaborated in a UNICEF funded small-scale legal aid programme for children in conflict with the law ("LAP") which initiated with a pilot programme (the Pilot) and ran from July 2012 to June 2015. It was a three tier programme that provided legal aid, representation and information to children in conflict, on bail or on remand, at court or at three detention centres in Dar es Salaam.

Since 1989, WLAC has been at the forefront of the fight for the promotion and protection of women's rights in Tanzania, accomplishing its successes through four units: legal aid, advocacy and networking, paralegal training and outreach, and publication and documentation. Although the organisation focuses on inheritance rights and gender-based violence, all issues related to gender are addressed within WLAC's work, contributing to the realisation of its grand vision for a just society that respects the rights of women and children.

The programme has since been scaled up to assist in children in the Kigoma Region with a support from UNICEF since 2018. Moreover, children in conflict with the law at Upanga Retention Home in Dar es Salaam, a recipient of the aforementioned LAP, continues to enjoy legal assistance through WLAC legal aid programme.

She further said that WLAC received a certificate of appreciation from the Tanzania Police Female Network (TPF Net) under the police force which was presented to WLAC by the Vice President, Samia Suluhu Hassan during the commemoration of 10 years of TPF Net commemorated on 10th November 2017.

On public awareness she said that over 10 million people have been reached through raising awareness of legal and human rights through campaigns, training, community meetings, and media (mostly radio) community empowerment and sensitization: a tool end violence against women (VAWG).

She added that the "We Can" Campaign in Swahili "Tunaweza" had a unique approach since community members are given an opportunity to identify what they feel is a problem in their communities and from there solutions were sought to address the named problems or issues.

A total number of 53,828 people (24,579 male and 29,249 female) were registered as change makers, in other words people who are committed to work in the community to end violence against women.



KCB Bank Tanzania's head of SME and Mortgages, Abdul Juma (R), speaks at a workshop organised by the bank's Biashara Club and held in Mwanza city on Wednesday. The event, which attracted more than 200 business owners and executives, was meant to explore opportunities offered by the club through business trips such as a recent one to China made by ten Biashara Club members. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

KITETO District Council is set to increase its agricultural revenues following an introduction of a 7.5bn/- worth irrigation scheme in the area.

The project is also geared to support smallholder farmers to engage in modern commercial farming.

Speaking to journalists over the weekend in Matui ward, Kiteto District Executive Director, Tamim Kambona said since 65 percent of the district revenue comes from the sector, introduction of the scheme will further boost tax collections.

"Most of our revenue comes from the agriculture sector while the livestock sub-sector contributes 35 percent," said Kambona adding; with the irrigation schemes, farmers will now produce crops throughout the year.

## Kiteto farmers set to benefit from over 7bn/- worth irrigation scheme

He noted that at times the district recorded poor revenue collections due to unpredictable rains or when the region receives below average rains. He said it is difficult to have a guaranteed agricultural revenue if farmers only depend on rainfall.

He added: "The only challenge we have is lack of skills on better agricultural practices. We want our farmers to cultivate commercially because they have big framing land."

Kambona said the government will cooperate with stakeholders in facilitating implementation of the

project so that farmers benefit from their sweat.

Founder and Executive Director of JATU Plc which has constructed the irrigation scheme, Peter Isare said the company works to protect the environment and support farmers by putting in place better agricultural infrastructures. He said they want farmers to produce commercially without depending on rainfall.

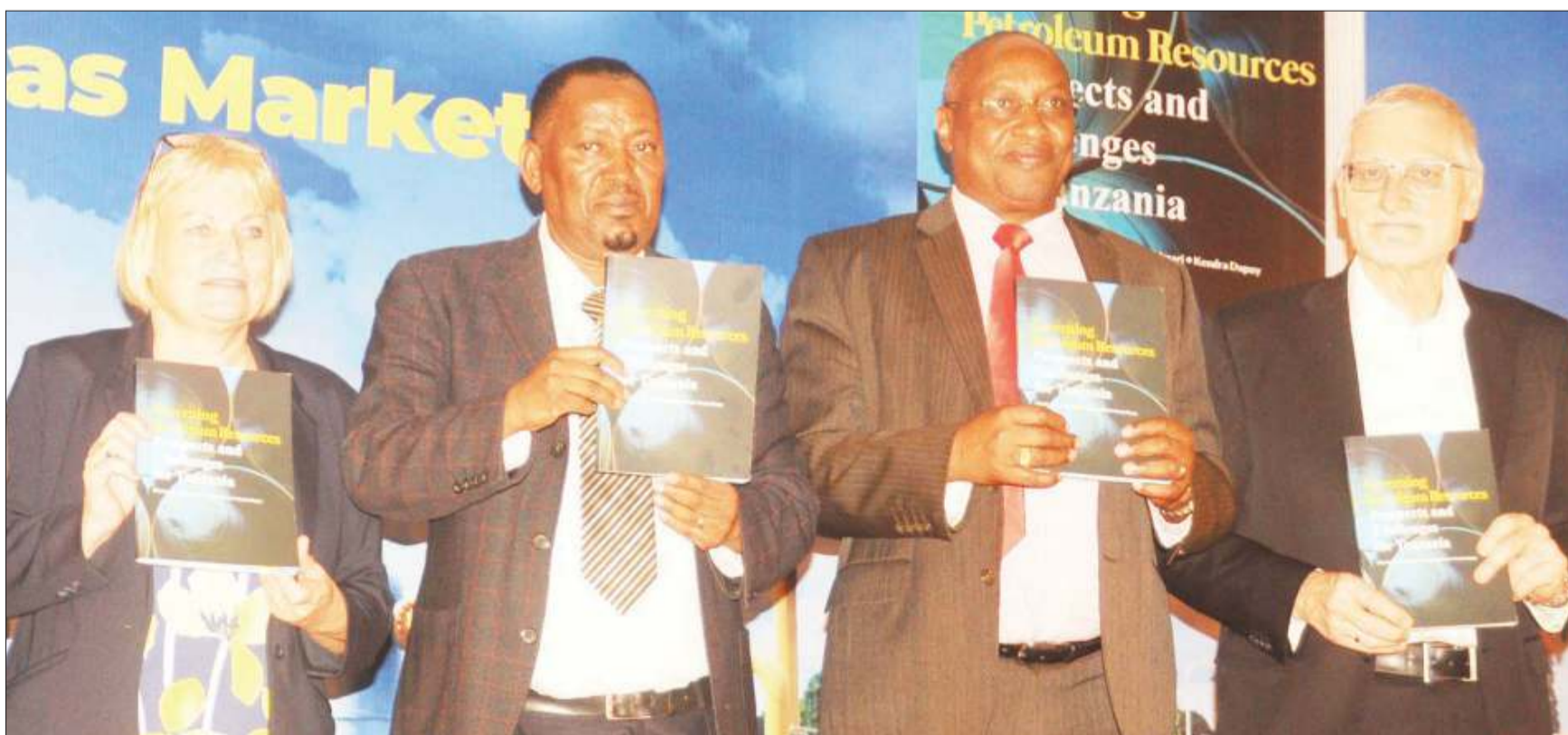
"Kiteto is blessed with a fertile land suitable for agriculture but farmers have not utilised the potential because they depend on rainfall. The irrigation

scheme we have constructed will provide farmers with more than 300,000 liters of water," he said.

Isare said they will also construct water wells that will be used to distribute water into maize and sunflower farms.

"We are planning to construct an agro-processing factory that will use raw materials produced by farmers in the district, the factory will be constructed in phases," he noted.

He said the factory will have a capacity to process 50 tonnes of maize and sunflower per day.



Sebastian Shana (2nd-L), an assistant commissioner in the Energy ministry, Policy Research for Development (Repoa) executive director Dr Donald Mmari (2nd-R), Norwegian Ambassador Elisabeth Jacobsen (L) and NORAD director general Jon Lomoy display copies of a book entitled: "Governing Petroleum Resources: Prospects and Challenges for Tanzania" shortly after it was launched in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The event was co-organised by Repoa, the Chr. Michelsen Institute and the National Bureau of Statistics - and funded by the Norwegian government. Photo: John Badi

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

TABORA Regional Commissioner Aggrey Mwanri has suspended annual leaves for agricultural extension officers of all ranks and called on them to use the farming season by going to farmers to educate them on better farming methods.

## Mwanri suspends vacations for extension officers

He gave the directives yesterday in Igunga District when speaking to farmers cultivating various crops including cotton accompanied by extension officers from district councils in Tabora Region.

Mwanri said basically leaves are public servants right, but he has to issue a caution because farmers activities depend on directives from them for a more productive farming.

"The rains have started and already

farmers have started cultivation...you have to go to them to educate them on better farming techniques...and it is forbidden for an extension officer to travel outside his work station, unless it is an emergency," he said.

He said if farmers cannot be assisted they will continue to use poor, old fashioned farming methods and end up farming for subsistence instead of boosting crop production for raw materials for the envisaged industrial

development.

He said during the rainy season, an extension officer is the same as a teacher during class - he also cannot go on leave when schools are not yet closed.

He said soon after farming activities end the officials will be allowed to take their leaves.

## Agriculture stakeholders meeting scheduled for Dodoma next week

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Agricultural Non State Actors Forum (ANSAF) has organised the Annual Learning and Sharing Experience Event (ALE) 2019 to highlight opportunities and ways on how to utilise them for creation of employment.

Speaking to reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday, ANSAF Executive Director, Audax Rukonge said the event which will attract 100 participants from different agricultural sectors will be held next week in the country's capital-Dodoma.

Themed "The Alarming Danger and Opportunities of Climate Change to The Agriculture Sector: Are We Ready?" the meeting will discuss on how the 56 percent of agricultural raw materials can be properly utilised.

According to Rukonge there are various investment opportunities in the agriculture sector which includes production of drought resistant seed varieties, manufacturing of storage

facilities and establishment of agro-processing factories.

"ALE aims to showcase and highlight the alarming danger and opportunities of climate change to agriculture. Participants are also expected to look into policy options to allow fully utilisation of agricultural opportunities as well as mitigating climate change," he noted insisting the need for private sector participation.

He was optimistic that participation of the private sector and financial resources institutions would facilitate investment in the sector especially invention of technology.

"We need to invest in rain water harvesting technologies to help farmers irrigate farms. This will ensure food security as well as drinking water for animals," he said.

He said ANSAF has since 2006 been promoting learning and sharing among agricultural stakeholders. The events, he said, have facilitated adaptation of various approaches that supports development of the agriculture sector.



Summons to an Accused Person (S.19)

Criminal Form No. 3 (Approved by the High Court Under Sec. 382 of Criminal Procedure Code)

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

IN THE RESIDENT MAGISTRATE'S COURT OF DAR ES SALAAM (AT KINONDONI)

CRIMINAL CASE NO. 597 OF 2019

THE REPUBLIC VERSUS

1. YAHYA IBRAHIM DAHAL.....1<sup>ST</sup> ACCUSED PERSON
2. FATMA YAHYA IBRAHIM.....2<sup>ND</sup> ACCUSED PERSON

To:

Yahya Ibrahim Dahal
Plot No. 2, Block 73, Livingstone Street
Kariakoo Area, Ilala Municipality
Dar Es Salaam City

Fatma Yahya Ibrahim Dahal
Plot No. 2, Block 73, Livingstone Street
Kariakoo Area, Ilala Municipality
Dar Es Salaam City

WHEREAS your attendance is necessary to answer to a charge on ENGAGING UNREGISTERED PERSON OR FIRM TO UNDERTAKE CONSTRUCTION WORKS CONTRARY TO SECTION 22(4) OF THE CONTRACTORS REGISTRATION ACT NO 17/1997 AS AMENDED BY SECTION 20 OF CONTRACTORS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) ACT NO. 15/2008

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED IN THE name of the Republic to appear in this Court on the 16th day of December 2019 at 08:00am Or so soon thereafter as the case can be heard.

Here in fail not

GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Court this 20th day of November 2019



RESIDENT MAGISTRATE
Resident Magistrates
Resident Magistrate Court
Dar-es-Salaam

This summons has been issued on the Application of the Prosecution

Served Upon Me/us:

Name.....

Signature.....

Qualification/Relationship

Date.....

215528101

Summons to an Accused Person (S.19)

Criminal Form No. 3 (Approved by the High Court Under Sec. 382 of Criminal Procedure Code)

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

IN THE RESIDENT MAGISTRATE'S COURT OF KIBAHA (AT KIBAHA)

CRIMINAL CASE NO. 171 OF 2019

THE REPUBLIC VERSUS

RESPY FABIAN KAVISHE.....ACCUSED PERSON

To:

Respy Fabian Kavishe
Mlandizi Kati, Kibaha District,
Pwani

WHEREAS your attendance is necessary to answer to a charge on ENGAGING UNREGISTERED PERSON OR FIRM TO UNDERTAKE CONSTRUCTION WORKS CONTRARY TO SECTION 22(4) OF THE CONTRACTORS REGISTRATION ACT NO 17/1997 AS AMENDED BY SECTION 20 OF CONTRACTORS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) ACT NO. 15/2008

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED IN THE name of the Republic to appear in this Court on the 26th day of November 2019 at 08:00am Or so soon thereafter as the case can be heard.



RESIDENT MAGISTRATE
RESIDENT MAGISTRATE
KIBAHA-COAST

This summons has been issued on the Application of the Prosecution

Served Upon Me/us:

Name.....

Signature.....

Qualification/Relationship

Date.....

215528101

Summons to an Accused Person (S.19)

Criminal Form No. 3 (Approved by the High Court Under Sec. 382 of Criminal Procedure Code)

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

IN THE RESIDENT MAGISTRATE'S COURT OF KIBAHA (AT KIBAHA)

CRIMINAL CASE NO. 167 OF 2019

THE REPUBLIC VERSUS

EZEKIEL MASSAWE .....ACCUSED PERSON

To:

Ezekiel Massawe
Plot No. 110, Block H, Makurunge Street
Bagamoyo

WHEREAS your attendance is necessary to answer to a charge on ENGAGING UNREGISTERED PERSON OR FIRM TO UNDERTAKE CONSTRUCTION WORKS CONTRARY TO SECTION 22(4) OF THE CONTRACTORS REGISTRATION ACT NO 17/1997 AS AMENDED BY SECTION 20 OF CONTRACTORS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) ACT NO. 15/2008

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED IN THE name of the Republic to appear in this Court on the 26th day of November 2019 at 08:00am Or so soon thereafter as the case can be heard.

Here in fail not

GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Court this 19 day of November 2019



RESIDENT MAGISTRATE
RESIDENT MAGISTRATE
KIBAHA-COAST

This summons has been issued on the Application of the Prosecution

Served Upon Me/us:

Name.....

Signature.....

Qualification/Relationship

Date.....

215528101

Summons to an Accused Person (S.19)

Criminal Form No. 3 (Approved by the High Court Under Sec. 382 of Criminal Procedure Code)

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

IN THE RESIDENT MAGISTRATE'S COURT OF KIBAHA (AT KIBAHA)

CRIMINAL CASE NO. 172 OF 2019

THE REPUBLIC VERSUS

SHIHUI FENG.....ACCUSED PERSON

To:

Shihui Feng
Managing Director / shareholder
KEDDS Tanzania Company Limited
Plots Nos. 593 & 594 CBD
Areas 197, 199
Kibaha Industrial Area,
Kibaha Municipality
Pwani Region

WHEREAS your attendance is necessary to answer to a charge on ENGAGING UNREGISTERED PERSON OR FIRM TO UNDERTAKE CONSTRUCTION WORKS CONTRARY TO SECTION 22(4) OF THE CONTRACTORS REGISTRATION ACT NO 17/1997 AS AMENDED BY SECTION 20 OF CONTRACTORS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) ACT NO. 15/2008

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED IN THE name of the Republic to appear in this Court on the 26th day of November 2019 at 08:00am Or so soon thereafter as the case can be heard.



RESIDENT MAGISTRATE
RESIDENT MAGISTRATE
KIBAHA-COAST

This summons has been issued on the Application of the Prosecution

Served Upon Me/us:

Name.....

Signature.....

Qualification/Relationship

Date.....

215528101



## Let us continue with war on the influx of shoddy imports

SEVERAL years ago the government adopted a presumably failsafe system aimed at arresting the importation of substandard or fake goods into.

The Pre-shipment Verification of Conformity to Standards (PVoC) replaced the Destination Inspection (DI) until then in use but which was widely dismissed as having failed to detect imports of suspicious quality.

PVoC was primarily meant to shield the local market from the influx of substandard and therefore more affordable goods, and three foreign companies were hired for the job.

However, substandard goods still find their way into the country, as every now and then officials from the likes of the Tanzania Food and Drugs Administration (TFDA), the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) or other watchdog agencies raid shops and warehouses and seize fake items including cosmetics, foodstuffs and electronics.

It will also be recalled that PVoC, also known as pre-shipment inspection (PSI), had been used for several years in the late 1990s before it was abandoned. At least one of the firms picked to "oversee" the operationalisation of PVoC was among those commissioned to do the job at that time.

Many countries use the PSI system, but some of the firms doing the pre-shipment inspection are known to have been embroiled in corrupt practices through collusion with unscrupulous government officials.

For instance, in the Pakistan of the early 1990s, then-Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was thrown out over allegations of corruption involving a PSI firm.

As pointed out, in Tanzania the influx of substandard or counterfeit imports is still cause for grave concern and surely warrants more serious intervention.

This partly because among those said to "sustain" it are corrupt tax and other public officials who connive with corrupt businesspersons, meaning that tax collection targets will for long

remain a mirage - and what that will ultimately mean is not hard to imagine.

Part of the tragedy here is that a good chunk of the money the Tanzania Revenue Authority collects as tax or levy on imports is in respect of counterfeit and other junk goods, as noted including foodstuffs, toys and other household items.

Sadly, this suggests that concerns relating to the people's lives are continually overridden by the imperatives of meeting revenue collection targets. The role of customs officials at the country's entry points, apart from collecting revenue, should ordinarily be to ensure that prohibited, counterfeit or hazardous goods do not make it into our country. But, considering what is commonly witnessed there and elsewhere, could one say that the border points are really water-tight and tamper-proof as they ought to be?

When it so happens that some shops in the country are stocked with substandard export and various other suspicious goods, including those well past their sell-by dates, what message will watchdog agencies like TFDA, TBS, the Police, the Anti-Narcotics Unit and the Chief Government Chemist Agency have for consumers? A few months ago a TV news bulletin showed TFDA officials inspecting goods in Dar es Salaam shops. In one shop, an official was shown appealing to members of the public to serve as whistle-blowers and report to the relevant authorities any item that they might suspect to be counterfeit or substandard.

But that approach will likely prove a non-starter, as not that many ordinary people are conversant enough to identify fake or substandard goods from quality or genuine ones and thereafter reporting such cases.

Clearly, this is an issue well worth working on for better results in efforts to sweep our markets clean of junk items. Indeed, leaving the responsibility only to those agencies or agents officially charged with the oversight role will not work much. Only moving as a joint army will.

## More urgent action needed to end destruction by these weeds, pests

SCIENTISTS and authorities in various regions are raising alarm as invasive weeds and pests go about destroying hundreds of hectares under crops, the latest example being in Hanang District, Manyara Region.

More specifically, a weed which experts have identified as 'Mauritius thorns' is reported to have wreaked havoc on farms in Endasiwold ward.

While each planting or harvesting season sees some regions report invasion by known or strange pests or weeds, the district is also suffering from a pest afflicting tomatoes - and this has invaded some ten hectares of irrigated tomato gardens at Garbapi in the same ward.

The area councillor has addressed the media on the issue, saying the weeds have invaded farms cultivated mainly with pigeon peas, chick peas and maize. This situation makes the weeds look like pests, usually insects or marauding animals.

Weeds are versatile plants that find it easy to nurture in an area and outfox the weeding crops for nutrients, a situation the small-holder farmers can't handle on their own, so they need urgent expert help.

The only resort is the district authorities, who then make the case to the region and the relevant ministry. It appears that the referring of the matter to higher authorities is only just starting.

In fact, the councillor told the media that it was only recently that resolved to contact the district authorities in seeking expert assistance to exterminate the weed.

If an effective solution is not found soon enough, the ward will likely be

condemned to low crop yields and hardships for the coming year as the season will be marked by stark failure, and the farms will be contaminated.

The councillor explained that all kinds of pesticides have all but failed in containing the weed that is disrupting the tomato crop. The pest is said to hibernate until tomatoes start to ripen before it strikes, and the tomatoes rot in no time, which needs expert solutions with pesticides have failed.

To Tanzanian researchers, this is an opportunity for innovation in coming up with more intensive or dense pesticides - super-active compounds meant to attack the pest.

One researcher, Dr Never Zekaya from the Arusha-based Nelson Mandela Science and Technology Institute, is understood to have created a pesticide that works against pests affecting vegetables such as tomatoes as well as cereals. However, it is yet to be established if its efficacy is confirmed.

It is also yet to be established whether biotechnological solutions would work better and would be popular with experts and farmers alike.

Of course, any resistance will likely not work in the interests of any of the parties to the issue - which may include research and other funding agencies averse to biotech solutions.

However, the bottom line is that it is the comparative advantage which the farmers concerned need to end up with as well as the safety of the environment that should supersede any other considerations.

The poor farmers should not be made to continue suffering needlessly. A more caring look by the government would surely come in handy.

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## Winning the 'no food loss' battle: The case of Japan

By Special Correspondent

HUMANKIND has since almost the time that there is recorded history grappled with the question of 'how many is too many?' The response is expectedly complex, as it varies across time and space.

The pace of population growth was slow till about approximately 250 years or so. It is only since the middle of the 18th Century that there has been a palpable acceleration.

The intervals in which we have added a billion have been consistently narrowing: it took only 12 years for the global population to increase from six billion to seven billion compared to the 123 years that passed between the first and second billion. Thus, an emerging concern is whether there are already too many people on earth to the detriment of our own survival?

The latter narrative has been a dominant one till very recently, and its genesis can be attributed to one of the most influential thinkers, Thomas Robert Malthus.

Malthus suggested in his 1798 Essay on the Principle of Population that, if unchecked, population would grow geometrically and food supply would increase arithmetically.

His predictions garnered credence as they coincided with the periods of significant population growth, an increase in deaths, the spread of communicable diseases and famines in Europe, and explorations of new lands by Europeans.

However, there was an alternative theory being developed by another intellectual stalwart of that time - Karl Marx, who contended that it is the exploitative capitalist system and not the people that were responsible for poverty and misery as reflected in rise in deaths and the prevalence of diseases.

More contemporarily, the debate on the sustainability of population growth revitalised in the post-World War II period, an era characterised by the emergence of newly independent former colonies in Asia and Africa.

Both the number of people and the rate of the growth in those countries were high enough to raise alarms on population 'explosion'. Thus, what followed were zealous attempts by governments to put in place policies and programmes to control population growth.

The programmes were often funded by international agencies and at times conditional upon disbursement of development aid by Western countries. The arguments proffered by the proponents of concerted efforts to check population growth include economic and environmental ones.

A large population results in the swindling of already scarce resources away from income-generating

investments towards what have been called 'demographic overheads' such as provision of food, education, clothing and shelter, which leads to the impediment of economic development.

Scholars of the above school of thought, referred to as neo-Malthusians or 'doomsters', believe that population growth had to be curtailed or planet Earth would run out of carrying capacity - which is number of people that can be supported relative to availability of physical resources. One of the requirements for our survival is natural resources such as land and water for production of food.

The population growth rates existing in less developed countries in the 1960s provoked dire predictions of mass starvation and deaths stemming from unavailability of food. This led to feverish bids to reduce population growth rates, with India's family planning programme and China's population policy reflecting such endeavours.

While population growth rates have been on average on the decline in the world, there was a surge in food supply facilitated by technological revolutions in myriad aspects of agricultural production and the reasonably successful dissemination of the technology to less developed regions.

The consistent rise in food availability questions the Malthusian thesis of endangering the existence of humankind owing to scarcity of food supply and provides validity to the viewpoint of experts called as 'boomsters'. These are those arguing that population growth and innovation go hand in hand and so 'the more the merrier', the more accurate the stance.

The other side of the coin of expansion in food production that has been gaining prominence in the past couple of decades, bolstered by the rising consciousness of human-induced environmental degradation, is escalation in food loss and waste.

The deliberations surrounding population matters have begun delving into the overpopulation versus overconsumption predicament, a shift away from the sole focus on overpopulation.

While acknowledging the need to make systematic and substantial investment in agriculture to augment food supply and subsequent food security in some parts of the world, it is clear that in quite a few regions, efficiency in food production and distribution can be enhanced by cutting down food loss.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) estimates that food loss and waste (FLW) is roughly 30 per cent of all food globally amounting to 1.3 billion tonnes per year. These numbers assume a new meaning when considering the number of people

who are undernourished. Around 821 million people or approximately one in every nine did not have adequate food in 2017.

The magnitude and pervasiveness of the problem of FLW along with its coexistence with persistent undernourishment have attracted the UN's attention. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted at the 2015 UN Summit sets targets for reducing food loss and waste.

Thus, efforts to bring down FLW are explicated as global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It may be noted that the SDG target on FLW shows food loss and waste as two separate goals.

In the context of food loss target, FAO has created a food loss index (FLI) that assesses food loss along the supply chain, starting from the production stage right through to retail outlets.

Additionally, the Barilla Centre for Food and Nutrition (BCFN) has collaborated with the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) in developing a comprehensive measure called Food Sustainability Index (FSI). One of the three indicators that are part of FSI is a measure of FLW, the other two being sustainable agriculture and nutritional challenges.

One of the developed countries recognising the enormity of the problem of food loss, its implications and the urgency to tackle it is Japan. Japan's annual food loss is in the order of 6.21 million tonnes, the loss being defined as food intended for consumption that is unsold, is past the expiration date or is left over.

The average amount of food thrown by a Japanese person could fill up an entire rice bowl and, in aggregate terms, the food wasted is enough to feed 50 million people a year.

In monetary terms, the value of food wasted annually is worth US\$1.6bn - which is about US\$1,000 per head. Unsurprisingly, Japan ranks 27 among 67 countries in terms of BCFN and EIU generated FLW and FSI indices.

Further, given the estimated Japanese food self-sufficiency rate of 39 per cent (in 2015) and reports that 3 million children are undernourished, this large volume of food loss presents a rather unique conundrum.

Expectedly, Japan has embarked on multiple strategies to curb food loss and make food availability more sustainable and equitable.

Its Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries ministry collaborated with six other ministries and launched a No-Food Loss Project in October 2013. Further, in May 2019 a law was enacted calling for a 'national movement' to promote reduction of food loss.

The No-Food Loss project was meant to amend policies and programmes, with a view to minimising food loss at every stage of the food supply chain. It therefore entails reforming

the behaviour and practices of all stakeholders. For instance, one of the factors found to be for food loss is what is called as 'one-third' rule.

The rule stipulates that food makers or wholesalers should dispense with the food items within the first third of the interval between manufacture date on the product and expiry date. In the event of food makers or wholesalers failing to meet the deadline, then retailers would have the liberty of rejecting delivery.

While the rule is well intentioned in that it ensures consumers receive good quality product with a lead time on the expiration, the big number of hoops between production and actual delivery makes meeting the one-third time threshold impossible for many food makers and wholesalers and, consequently, edible quality food gets thrown out.

The Japanese Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries ministry has set up a commission to evaluate the one-third timeline, and proposals to reduce the timeframe from one-third to a half for drink products and snacks have been put forward.

Other initiatives include an increase in support for food banks providing food free of charge to welfare agencies, extension of expiration dates, and encouraging use of technology to link consumers to restaurants.

Yet others are appealing to the citizenry to change habits, this made via messaging from cafeterias, restaurants, convenience stores and supermarkets, promotion of use of doggy and popularising recycling processes.

The selection of a decade-old community programme in Nagoya to recycle food from supermarkets and school lunches that would otherwise have been thrown out to make compost for vegetable farming for the Biodiversity Action Award by the Japan Committee for United Nations Decade on Biodiversity (UNDB) is an illustration of that.

Additionally, attempts to increase awareness among local governments, grocery shops and consumers along with the featuring of benefits of cutting down food loss in the mainstream media and in politicians' discourses are noticeable.

Based on these initiatives in conjunction with Japan's compliance with the SDGs and the Japanese approach to waste exemplified in the idea of 'mottainai', it is reasonable to expect Japan's commitment to cutting down food loss will bear fruition in the near future.

'Mottainai', Japanese for consciousness towards waste and excesses, is a term popularised by the first environmentalist to win the Nobel Peace Prize - in 2004, the late Prof Wangari Maathai of Kenya.



# US-based NGO hopes Africa will 'grab' wildlife leadership

By Emmanuel Koro

ONE of the most outspoken ivory experts in the US has recommended a new approach for Africa to topple western animal rights groups from their harmful global leadership position in wildlife management.

"Given the overall dismal experience of the sustainable use forces at CoP18 in Geneva, Switzerland, it's time to consider doing something different now or forever risking being forlorn victims that complain endlessly about the failing policies of the victors - western animal rights groups," says Godfrey Harris, managing director of the Los Angeles-based Ivory Education Institute.

He declares: "Wrench the leadership of true wildlife conservation away from the animal rights groups requires a pivot to something outside of our past as well as our current comfort zone," adding: "In short, I am urging sustainable use advocates to move forward through alliances with those actively involved in opposing environmental degradation through climate change."

The call by Harris to put the impact of climate change high on the agenda of wildlife management came at a time when the world's wild-



life management specialists, including those from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, European Commission and the CITES secretariat were preparing to attend the Africa Wildlife Consultative Forum (AWCF) in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, from this November 11 through 15 to discuss African-wide sustainable use wildlife issues.

The Forum, sponsored by the US-based Safari Club International Foundation, was also expected to focus on the outcomes of the May 2018 Kasane Elephant Summit and the June 2019 Victoria Falls African Wildlife Economy Summit along with the August 2019 Geneva UN Convention on International Trade In Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

It was at COP18 that SADC (Southern African Development Community) countries suffered their heaviest losses in proposals to trade in wildlife

and its products. The losses arose from a rigged voting system that remains contested.

In a protest move last month in Tanzania, SADC countries agreed by a two-thirds majority vote, to submit protest documents that will allow them to legally trade in elephants, rhinos and giraffes without CITES control. These positions, known as "reservations", were due to be made known to CITES before this November 26.

Until now, the threat to wildlife survival from climate change has yet to be identified as a major risk to conservation efforts in Africa. Yet the ravages of climate change have the potential to destroy wildlife far more completely than poachers.

Drought related to climate change has already started killing elephants in a southern Africa over-populated with elephants. Zimbabwe has lost 55

elephants to drought in the past two months and Botswana has lost 100 during the same period.

These appalling numbers are far worse than anything any poaching gangs have ever inflicted on elephant populations in a two-month span.

Irritatingly, one of the world's biggest animal rights groups, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), chooses to talk about elephant resilience and not hunting or harvesting to help reduce population numbers to ensure that many of the species don't die needless, slow and painful deaths caused by climate change.

The WWF only says: "Identifying which traits contribute to a species resilience and vulnerability will allow us to develop more robust conservation action plans in the face of a changing climate."

Nothing, in other words, should alter the public's perception - and WWF's proven fundraising model - that has poaching gangs representing the greatest threat to elephants.

In sharp contrast, John Rance, the President of the South Africa-based True Green Alliance, disagrees with WWF's go-slow approach.

Clearly, severe droughts

linked to climate change are already killing African elephants and other wildlife, including those of Zimbabwe's Mana Pools National Park.

To solve the problem, Rance argues for limiting - or reducing - the populations to a number that can be sustained by the available habitat in drought times.

Harris elaborated: "It is even sadder to contemplate that when these animals die, probably in the thousands - from a lack of food and water, their products will not be able to be recovered and sold owing to the attitude of western animal rights groups who insist that a trade ban saves elephants," he said.

Meanwhile, he believes that western animal rights groups "are purposely ignoring" the obvious problems caused by climate change in African elephant range states.

"Deaths from a lack of food and water are an act of God, and allegedly nothing can be done about that. But collecting money to wage war on poachers is something that the animal rights groups have been doing for years," he notes.

If nothing is done to save wildlife from the effects of climate change, the world faces a needless and painful collapse in the population of elephants in southern Afri-

can countries.

Ecologists, park managers and their governments have recommended that large elephant populations be culled to levels that meet the ability of their habitats to sustain them.

"We need to start now to work with others, particularly young people, to show what it will take to save elephants and other species in the current changing climate conditions of Africa," says Harris.

"When they become our allies in the forthcoming political debates, they bring to the table the power of their numbers, their energy, and their idealism," he adds.

Harris says the leaders of the animal rights movement, led by dedicated vegans (people who don't eat or use animal products), argue that humans have no inherent right to interfere with and profit or otherwise benefit from other animals on the planet. The fact that humankind has risen to the top of the food chain seems to embarrass them.

"But if the world allows western animal rights groups to continue controlling how wildlife is treated, wildlife over-population within geographically limited habitats will do more harm to kill off each species than any gang of poachers ever could," he argues.

Harris also notes that changes are afoot that leave people wondering who will control our environment in the future. Vegans in California now not only refuse to eat anything other than food derived from plants but dress in clothing and furnish their homes without the use of leather, wool, mohair or silk.

California is about to ban all fur sales in the State, while New York City has just voted to ban all sales of the liver of a specially fattened goose or duck prepared as food.

"These developments illustrate that human beings are voluntarily quitting their leadership position over the animal kingdom and may soon make real what was only mythical in the film, Planet of the Apes," observes.

He says this in an appeal to African countries to dethrone the western animal rights groups from their misleading and harmful global leadership position in wildlife management.

**Emmanuel Koro is a Johannesburg-based international award-winning environmental journalist who has written extensively on the environment and development issues in Africa.**

# When a piece of paper stands between living and dying

By Ufieda Ho

Hope vanished fast the year Alem Ereselo was 23 years old. She was not going to be able to continue with her training in tourism and hospitality. Even the drudge job she had as cleaner, helping to support her family and her studies, would have to come to an end.

The year was 2009 and Ereselo and one of her brothers were to leave their home in Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia. They had to strike out for a better life in South Africa and leave behind their three siblings and their parents. Staying was becoming an increasingly bad idea.

"The economy was bad, also the politics. The government soldiers wanted people to join the army," says Dawit Assdome. He calls himself her brother and translates for Ereselo from their native Amharic into English. He's lived in South Africa for 19 years.

"Our story, for all of us, is the same when we have to flee. You take nothing with you; you take whatever transport you can get. First, we go to Moyale (a town south of the capital) - it's one day by truck, then there you cross into Kenya. But Kenya is still too close, they can still get you, so you must try come to South Africa," he says.

Ereselo and her brother did manage to find their way down the continent, bit by bit, until they passed into South Africa. They made their way to Durban and applied for asylum status in March 2010 at a refugee reception station.

As the months turned into years the siblings moved up to Joburg, settling in Mayfair. Ereselo had run a small grocery store in Durban and in Joburg was selling clothes in "Little Addis", the

few streets surrounding the blue-glassed skyscraper in Jeppe Street that's come to be known as the Ethiopian Quarter.

Human Rights Watch's 2009 report outlines the life Ethiopian citizens were facing at the time Ereselo and her family were forced to make plans to flee.

The report reads: "The Ethiopian government's human rights record remains poor, marked by an ever-hardening intolerance towards meaningful political dissent or independent criticism. Ethiopian military forces have continued to commit war crimes and other serious abuses with impunity in the course of counterinsurgency campaigns in Ethiopia's eastern Somali region and in neighbouring Somalia.

"In 2008 the government launched a direct assault on civil society by introducing legislation that would criminalise most independent human rights work and subject NGOs to pervasive interference and control."

Ereselo has not been back to Ethiopia and is still living in South Africa under asylum-seeker status. She brings out the document from her handbag. It's a folded A4 document she keeps inside a plastic folder. It gives her birth year as 1975, but that's an error, Assdome says - the kind of error migrants are used to when information is lost in translation and lost in careless data capturing.

She spreads the paper flat on the bed she's sitting on. In a matter of days, she'll be required to renew the document that Refugee Reception Offices only validate for six months at a time.

It's been the same back-and-forth story for the nearly 10 years that she's lived in South Africa. But this time she doesn't know if she'll be able to physically make it to Pretoria to renew her



**Alem Ereselo is an Ethiopian asylum seeker who has been denied renal treatment by South African medical authorities backed by a supporting judgement made by the Johannesburg High Court. She requires dialysis in order to survive before a kidney replacement becomes available, 16 November 2019.** File photo

papers.

Ereselo is gravely ill and in need of life-saving dialysis. Her kidneys are no longer functioning properly and she is at end-stage kidney failure - she needs dialysis to live and she needs to be put on a transplant list. But she has been denied further dialysis by the South African government - all because of the piece of paper on her bed.

She was told earlier this year at Helen Joseph Hospital that, as an asylum seeker, she would not be allowed to continue with dialysis treatment at the facility. She would also not be put on any transplant waiting list.

Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR) took up her case in April, about four months after Ereselo's illness was diagnosed, but the Johannesburg High Court ruled in October in support of the hospital.

"They let her go to die," Assdome says. He moved her in with his family in their flat in Yeoville so she can be better cared for. On bad days she's tired and has no appetite or is vomiting and can't get out

of bed.

"She is not my sister by blood; we are in the same church and in South Africa we are all family," says Assdome.

The curtains are drawn in the room. It's a hot Saturday on the afternoon she and Assdome meet Maverick Citizen, but she has a fluffy pink fleece blanket pulled up under her chin. There's a tremor, and when she speaks the words seemed squeezed out from an exhausted body.

Sometimes she shakes her head in resignation or runs her hands over her face when she speaks. Her cherry-red fake nails are growing out but her attention has not been focused here for months.

Stop-start dialysis treatment in the last few months has left her coughing up blood; water on the lungs has landed her in an ICU. She was supposed to be admitted to ICU for five days of acute dialysis but was only afforded one day's emergency treatment.

She's been to about six different facilities - a mix of private and public facilities funded by donations from an

LHR campaign that has been covered by overseas media. Some facilities have been able to offer elements of care she needs but have not been able to deal with complications.

Others have flat out turned her away and, worse perhaps, are the staff who have been rude, dismissive and dehumanising.

"I have seen it myself because I was with Alem in hospitals - some of the nurses they don't want to help. They will call me and say you come and wash your sister or feed her but they are not like this to other patients.

"It's always about the paper," says Assdome, referring to the asylum-seeker document that marks them for something different, something second class, something less worthy.

Assdome himself, after 19 years, is still living with asylum-seeker status in South Africa. There is still no outcome to his application for refugee status.

The Department of Home Affairs' long delays in processing these cases means some-

one like Ereselo is left in a nightmarish twilight zone. She has little protection and rights and limited access to basic services. Refugee status, in contrast, would compel the South Africa government, under the UN Convention of 1951, to grant rights, protection and services to refugees.

"South Africa doesn't want us to have basic things so we can be human beings," he says.

Ereselo's ringing phone disrupts the conversation. The ringtone is from an Ethiopian gospel singer, Ereselo explains, Googling him. While her phone is out, she shows pictures of her mom back in Ethiopia.

There's also one of her - in a crisp white pants suit, with matching white button earrings. She beams for the camera. Propped up on her bed, she barely resembles the person in the photo. Ereselo's sister has known since the beginning of a year about the seriousness of her condition. They kept it from their mother though till about a month ago.

"Sometimes when they phone her, they can't even speak, they are just crying," says Assdome of the anxiety, the heartache that stretches from Yeoville to the horn of Africa.

LHR will challenge the constitutionality of sections of the National Health Act and policies that deny asylum seekers access to dialysis and transplants.

"We will continue with supporting her in a fundraising campaign pending the constitutional challenge," says Jessica Lawrence, an attorney with LHR.

Lawrence has come to know Alem these past few months. Sometimes she's played medical officer more than lawyer, but also fundraiser, family spokesperson and friend.

"I think Alem has been very brave.

She left a country that was

persecuting her and came down to South Africa with nothing. She managed to support herself and to run a small store. All these years she's asked nothing of the South African government. But now that she's falling ill they are denying her treatment," says Lawrence.

Lawrence says LHR's advocacy on the case is also advocacy to raise the alarm about the scarcity of resources in the public health sector for the likes of dialysis treatment - even for South Africa citizens.

She says the case has been watched by medical professionals and some have used the October court ruling to deny asylum seekers treatment in their facilities.

"It's unlawful, unconstitutional and an incorrect interpretation of the judgment," she declares.

Lawrence says hospital policies are discretionary, they guide doctors in decision making, especially in a time of scarce resources and greater need. But she says questions need to be raised about how it is that the doctors' Hippocratic oath to care and treat has been trumped by a pursuit to execute policy.

Back in the Yeoville flat, Assdome's six-year-old son Jonathan calls for his dad from the passage. He speaks in English with a South African accent. He runs into Ereselo's room to hug and greet. He's South African-born, but his papers don't say that, Assdome says, shrugging his shoulders.

Outside the window, the streets of Yeoville are noisy with children screaming in play. Saturday afternoon music pumps from other flats and smells of dinner being prepared fill Ereselo's room. It's the normal weekend life of an inner-city suburb, only Ereselo knows there's nothing normal about her situation at all.



By NJ Ayuk

# Lessons Qatar has for Africa's LNG producers of the future

AS I got into the process of writing my recent book, *Billions at Play: The future of African Energy and Doing Deals*, the story of Qatar intrigued me. Its success is contagious and African LNG producers can learn from this country.

Qatar learned that it possessed truly huge reserves of natural gas in 1971, when Royal Dutch/Shell discovered the North Dome structure, also known as the North field. At the time, though, neither Shell nor Qatar's government had a great deal of interest in developing the site. Their focus was on crude oil, which was then making the country very rich.

As a result, nothing much happened at North Dome for more than a decade. Shell did not actively pursue development work there, and neither did Qatar General Petroleum Co. (QGPC, now known as Qatar Petroleum or QP), which was the beneficiary of Doha's nationalisation of the oil and gas industry in 1977.

Conditions began to change in the late 1970s. Qatari crude production started to decline after 1979 as the country's largest oil fields matured. In turn, international oil companies (IOCs) began to lose interest in signing service contracts with QP, since they did not believe that Qatar's aging reserve base warranted massive long-term investments.

These developments did not have much immediate impact, since crude prices were rising enough to keep revenues high. But in the 1980s, oil prices sank - and brought oil revenues down along with them. As a result, Qatar's government began looking for new ways to generate income.

Gas was an obvious option, since global demand was rising and national reserves were ample. Officials in Doha began to draw up plans for monetising production from the North field, which is now known to con-



tain at least 13 trillion cubic meters (450 trillion cubic feet) of gas in recoverable reserves.

Eventually, they developed a three-phase plan that called for beginning with domestic sales and then proceeding to pipeline exports before finally launching marine exports of liquefied natural gas (LNG).

To implement the plan, they set up a joint venture known as Qatar Liquefied Natural Gas Co. Ltd. (Qatargas) involving QP, BP (UK) and Total (France).

The first phase, which provided for domestic gasification, was a relatively simple process owing to the small size of Qatar's population.

But events in the late 1980s and early 1990s made the second phase, which called for the construction of an export pipeline capable of delivering up to 20 billion cubic meters per year to other member-states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), more difficult.

There were multiple reasons for this, including - but not limited to - the following: Saudi Arabia lost interest in Qatari gas after discovering reserves of its own, Qatar and Bahrain became embroiled in a border dispute, and Kuwait found itself preoccupied by the Iraqi invasion that led to the First Gulf War.

Doha floated proposals for alternative routes in the hope of drawing interest from markets outside the GCC, but to no avail.

The failure of the pipeline gave Qatargas an opportunity to skip the second phase of the project and proceed directly to the third - namely, using production from the North field as feedstock for a gas liquefaction plant that could turn out LNG for export by tanker.

At the same time, rising demand for gas in Japan, South Korea and Taiwan gave Qatar an incentive to focus on LNG. Additionally, BP made the decision to exit Qatargas, the venture formed to develop

North. This cleared the way for the US company Mobil (now part of ExxonMobil) to join the project.

Mobil was a good fit, partly because it had ample financial resources and partly because it had extensive experience with LNG through its participation in the Arun scheme in Indonesia.

Mobil was able to access and deploy the technologies needed to launch Qatar's first LNG plant. That facility brought its first 2 million ton per year production train on line in late 1996 and began commercial production and exports the following year.

Since then, Qatar has continued to ramp up gas production and to expand its LNG industry. It has worked with foreign partners to build more gas liquefaction facilities and is now home to three LNG mega-trains with a combined production capacity of 77 million tons per year.

These plants helped make Qatar

into the world's largest LNG producer in 2006, and they have kept the country at the top of the list ever since.

Meanwhile, Doha decided last year to build another mega-train that will raise the figure to 110 million tons per year by 2024. Qatar operates the largest fleet of LNG tankers in the world, and its LNG goes to customers all over the world. In short, Qatar's LNG programme has been a smashing success.

## Showing the way

The story of Qatar's success is interesting in its own right. But does it have any deeper meaning? Could it serve as a template - that is, as a map that other gas-producing countries can use to blaze their own trails towards success?

I believe that it can. Specifically, I believe that African gas producers pursuing LNG projects have a lot to learn from Qatar. They will have a better chance of maximising their gains if they follow Qatar's example.

Obviously, Africa can't duplicate Qatar's experience. Its gas-producing states don't have the same geography or demography, and they don't have access to the same marine trade routes. But it can benefit from some of the lessons that Qatar learned along the way. I'll list a few of them here.

One: A little help from my friends. Qatar began looking into plans for launching LNG production less than a decade after nationalising its own oil and gas industry. Even so, it had a clear understanding of the fact that it could not pursue this goal without outside help.

More specifically, QP and the Qatari government knew that they would need partners with plenty of cash, experience and access to gas liquefaction technology. They also knew that they would need partners willing to absorb the risks involved in opening up a new frontier. As happened, Mobil met all

these criteria.

Africa's future LNG producers like Tanzania, Senegal, Equatorial Guinea, Mozambique, Congo, Cameroon, South Africa, Nigeria and Angola will need help too.

Like Qatar, they will need to pair up with IOCs that can help cover the costs of establishing a new sector of industry, that have experience in handling all of the physical and logistical complications of such projects, and that can supply the sophisticated technologies needed to compress and cool gas into a liquid state that can be transported by tanker.

Also like Qatar, they will need investors ready to build this sector of the economy from the ground up. This last point is particularly important in countries such as Tanzania, Mozambique, Senegal and South Africa that are trying to launch LNG projects in short order after the first discoveries of gas.

Two: Staying flexible. Qatargas' original plan called for starting small, with domestic gasification, and then scaling up - first by building pipelines, a type of infrastructure that had already been in use for the better part of a century, and then by taking on the more complicated task of building a gas liquefaction plant, marine terminal, and other associated facilities.

But as noted above, efforts to move the pipeline phase of the project forward foundered owing to unexpected obstacles. Instead of focusing on these obstacles, though, Qatargas decided instead to take a different approach.

It accepted that its efforts to draw up new plans and engage in further negotiations had failed, and it moved on. It dispensed with the second phase of the project altogether and got to work on the third phase. And that marked the first step of Qatar's journey to becoming the largest LNG

producer in the world.

This is an important lesson for Africa's future LNG producers: sometimes the original plan simply doesn't work out, even when all parties make good-faith efforts to resolve their differences. So, it's time to try something different. It's time to look for a new solution.

For example, if an African gas producer reluctantly concludes that there's no way to build an onshore gas liquefaction plant without incurring unacceptable environmental, financial or social risks, it shouldn't give up. Instead, it should look into floating LNG (FLNG) options or consider the possibility of using gas liquefaction facilities in a neighboring country.

Three: Resource management. Qatar can also teach African gas producers a thing or two about resource management. This is a crucial consideration for QP and its partners in Qatargas, since most of their feedstock comes from a single source - the North field.

This field may be huge, but it is hardly inexhaustible. In fact, Doha imposed a moratorium on new development initiatives at North in 2005, saying that it needed to conduct a thorough study of the site in order to assess its long-term potential and keep reservoir pressure at adequate levels.

● **An African Energy Chamber dispatch distributed by APO Group on behalf of the African Energy Chamber. NJ Ayuk is an experienced oil and gas dealmaker who heads the Pan-African legal conglomerate Centurion Law Group and serves as executive chairman of the African Energy Chamber. He is a passionate advocate of the idea that oil and gas can help propel economic development in Africa, as detailed in his newly released book, *Billions at Play: The Future of African Energy and Doing Deals*.**

By Joe Kitchen

# This is the way the world ends...not with a bang, but a yawn

GIANT asteroid on collision course with earth! It is December 2019. The story about our approaching doom has just broken on CNN, Sky News, and all news media worldwide.

**We'll be extinct by Christmas!**

**Blown to smithereens! Death from the sky!!!! And on Network24: Die hele wêreld is moer toe!**

It is very very huge, this asteroid, so the scientists say. It is at least twice as big as the asteroid or the comet or the thing that wiped out the dinosaurs. If it splashes into the sea, it will cause tidal waves as colossal as the Himalayas. If it falls on land, it will obliterate an entire continent (and probably the one next door). The whole planet will be covered in dense dust clouds for decades to come, smothering and suffocating any living thing that might have survived the initial blast, except a few of the biggest cockroaches.

There will be no place to hide from this cataclysm... Of course, this is a fictional tale. No such deadly asteroid has yet been detected. The possibility of one being detected in the near or distant future is, of course, hypothetical. Yet, of course,

Indulge me, however, as I embroider some more on this hypothetical yet possi-

ble scenario. What fascinates me about such a hypothetical (yet possible) scenario is not the mayhem and destruction it could cause.

What fascinates me is this: how would humankind react to such breaking news?

No doubt, humankind will be very shocked and upset. Chaos would erupt.

As the asteroid approaches, and scientists start figuring out the most likely spot where this object is bound to crash-land - say, they decide it might fall on Disneyland - people are bound to flee from Disneyland and the entire area around it (in other words, the entire United States), in droves. The highways will be jam-packed with fugitives rushing off to places like Canada... Mexico... (thank goodness Trump hasn't built that wall yet).

Religious fanaticism will abound. The suicide rate will escalate. Political leaders will try to calm the populace in vain. Everything on Earth will change with this news. Not a single thing will continue as normal. Marriages will fall apart as couples start cheating on each other, trying to squeeze as much hedonistic pleasure into the remainder of their pathetically short time left on Earth. Drug overdoses will skyrocket. Helen Zille will delete her Twitter profile. Some of the "Afrikaans Is Groot" concerts



may be cancelled.

Wrong.

None of this will happen.

In fact, nothing will happen.

At least, nothing much. Some emergency meetings may be convened. There might be some lengthy and time-consuming debates by world leaders as to what the best response should be to the looming catastrophe.

In the end, they will decide that economic growth is still more important than anything else.

Oh, of course, there will be protests, especially among young people who still have most of their lives ahead of them. They will occupy some government buildings. They will debate it on social media. They will wear tie-dye T-shirts and they will listen to death metal and they will hold up banners protest-

ing the imminent extinction of the species and they will smoke a lot of dagga and be very pissed off.

The politicians will brush these protesters aside. "They're just a bunch of fanatics."

"They stink. They should get jobs."

Even if and when - and now I'm getting hypothetical to the extreme - a 16-year-old girl with pigtails and a serious face were to come from nowhere and make an impassioned plea to the United Nations to take this crisis seriously - to perhaps send a missile to try and intervene, to get all the best scientists together to investigate all the options, to try and do anything to stop the bloody asteroid - most people will hardly notice her.

Oh, there will be talk of giving her a Nobel Prize, but that

idea will soon dissipate. A publisher might publish her life story (hopefully just in time, just before Doomsday). Others will say: "Don't listen to her, she's just a spoiled brat, she will see things differently once she grows up." (Pity she'd be dead before she grows up. Like everybody else.)

I'm sure you know exactly where I'm going with this narrative.

Yes, you're perfectly right; I'm drawing a ridiculous and, admittedly, exaggerated parallel between two possible (but not quite equally hypothetical) end-of-the-world scenarios: humankind being wiped out by an asteroid, or humankind being wiped out by climate change.

"Oh, but an asteroid is much worse," someone might say. "It is very fast. We would see it coming on

TV. There will be a terrible noise."

Oh, pardon me. You don't see the Amazon forests burning, then. Not at all. That was on TV, wasn't it? You haven't noticed the increasing numbers of hurricanes and tropical storms, they're making a terrible noise, too, aren't they? And what about Venice and Hawaii sinking beneath the waves? Do you realise New Zealand may be next? With half of Australia already destroyed in a blazing inferno, what will happen to future Rugby World Cup championships?

Or what about the fact that in the five minutes while you were reading this column, at least three species have been wiped out?

"Oh, but death by an asteroid would be bang, all at once," someone says. "Climate change is gradual."

So, what is worse, the world ending with a BANG or the world ending with a whimper?

They're both quite shitty, in my book. In fact, personally I'd prefer an asteroid.

Being killed gradually by disease, drowning or hunger actually sounds much worse than being killed instantly.

"But it's not our fault," someone else might say. "It's not us who are causing climate change. The world is heating up naturally because that's what the world does from time to time. The world is like an old Ford bakkie. Everyone knows that."

There might be some truth in that. I had an old Ford bakkie, way back in 1989, and, believe me, those old Ford bakkies are very unpredictable. You never know what's going to happen next.

But is the fact that the world heats up all by itself an excuse for speeding up the process even more? Isn't that a bit like setting your old Ford bakkie on fire and watching it go up in flames like a Kuga? One would have to be really stupid to do something senseless like that...

But it's not just the heating-up thing that's the problem.

What about all those mountains of plastic in the oceans? And all the nuclear waste

piling up?

And all the pollution, and overpopulation, and all those cows they keep on breeding for human consumption and all they do is fart? Do these things all happen by themselves? Did McDonald's cause the last Ice Age?

It's a futile argument, anyway, because an approaching giant comet or asteroid would, after all, not be anyone's fault either.

But if such an asteroid ever approaches us, one would at least expect humanity to be quite shocked. That would make more sense than to react to the threat with such complete apathy. Say something, at least! Even a "My fok, Marelize!" will suffice!

No science-fiction writer would ever have concocted or even dreamed of such a plot for a story: humankind receiving the dreadful tidings that we are all going to be wiped out within a very short time frame, and humankind don't care.

We get a collective death sentence, but everybody just gives one collective shrug and carries on with their lives as if nothing has changed.

That's pretty unbelievable. That is not the way the world should end. It's just not right.

The world should end with a bang, if it ends. Or, at the very least, a loud whimper. But not.....a yawn!

DM



# Ending maternal deaths, GBV within reach, study reveals

By Guardian Correspondent

THE price tag to achieve three world-transforming results in the next decade - ending preventable maternal deaths, eliminating gender-based violence and harmful practices, and meeting the family planning needs of women in high-priority countries - is \$264 billion, according to new research made public today at the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25.

Currently, only US\$42 billion in development assistance is expected to be spent on advancing these goals. That means some \$222 billion in investments is required over the next decade, whether in the form of foreign investment, domestic allocation or private

spending.

These are the main findings of a joint study by researchers from UNFPA and the Johns Hopkins University, in collaboration with Victoria University, the University of Washington and Avenir Health. Achieving these results is a precondition to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals, a set of global goals agreed by the world's governments, by 2030. It will also generate cost savings over generations, as healthier women and girls are empowered to contribute their productivity and creativity to society.

"We now know how much and where we need to invest. These figures are a drop in the ocean compared to the dividend expected and the funds

available," said UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Natalia Kanem.

"These are smart, affordable investments that will transform the lives of women and girls, their societies, and our world. The cost of inaction is much higher."

The new research shows the cost of each objective to be within reach.

Ending preventable pregnancy- and childbirth-related deaths in the 120 countries that account for over 95 per cent of maternal mortality will cost \$115.5 billion in key maternal health interventions. This includes paying for medical staff, drugs and obstetric supplies, and is roughly equivalent to 46 of the world's most expensive military planes.

Ending unmet need for family planning in 120 priority countries - which comprise the majority of low- and middle-income countries - will cost \$68.5 billion. The money would go towards ensuring a steady, reliable supply of quality contraceptives and other efforts to strengthen national health systems.

Ending gender-based violence will require investing \$42 billion in 132 priority countries. That money would go to programmes that provide psychosocial assistance, medical treatment and rape kits to survivors, and promote the right of all women and girls to live free of violence and abuse, among other interventions.

Ending female genital mutilation will

require \$2.4 billion for interventions related to education and changing social norms in 31 priority countries. The research shows that just \$95 can prevent a girl from having her genitalia cut for non-medical reasons.

The price tag for putting an end to child marriage is \$35 billion. This would be enough to ward off 90 per cent of child marriages take place. In other words, it only takes \$600 to spare a girl from becoming a child bride.

But meeting these goals will require broad-based action.

"Without everyone pushing the oars together, the boat is not going to move far and if we are not in sync, we will simply turn in circles," said Victoria Chou, a researcher with the Johns Hopkins

Bloomberg School of Public Health.

"Closing the substantial gap with investment of urgently needed resources will ultimately improve health among women and their families and that vision is what should motivate us looking forward after the Nairobi Summit."

We have a collective responsibility and opportunity to deliver on our promises - now," said Dr. Kanem. "We cannot wait another 25 years. It's time to fill these resource gaps and make this a decade of delivery. It's time to get the job done. With strong financing momentum we can achieve these transformative results, complete the ICPD Programme of Action and meet the Sustainable Development Goals on time by 2030."



CCM Vice Chairman Zanzibar and Zanzibar President Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein unveils a plaque to launch the party's Uzi island branch in Central Unguja district yesterday. Right is branch secretary Simai Jabu Vuai. Photo: Zanzibar State House

## TanESCO, Ewura determined to root out unofficial electrical contractors

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

TANZANIA Electric Supply Company (TANESCO) in Arusha Region, in collaboration with Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) have mobilised to eliminate all people who illegally connect power to wananchi, popularly known as 'vishoka'.

Speaking yesterday to journalists at his office, the Arusha Region Tanesco manager Herini Mhina said all problems encountered by the wananchi after they are connected to power by the 'vishoka' will be history as they are well mobilised to put them out of the criminal business.

He said they have put in place various strategies against the breed including registration of all electrical contractors within the EWURA system and

whoever is not registered will not be allowed to do electrical work.

He said: "We will deal with all electrical contractors who sign customers' forms outside Tanesco offices because that is not allowed, because that has to be done inside our offices within the laid down procedure and there will be no bureaucracy."

He said they will ensure all electrical contractors who do wiring work are registered by EWURA so as to eradicate bureaucracy and misunderstandings encountered by the wananchi in the region, stressing that they will make a close follow-up of this to eliminate unregistered electrical contractors.

EWURA manager for Northern Zone, Eng. Lorivii Long'udu said the procedure for electrical contractors is clear and also in accordance with the

law hence they have mobilised to ensure their registration is sustainable so that power customers get consummate service.

He said in so doing last month EWURA met with all electrical contractors in the region for discussions on how to solve the challenges they faced so that they offer better services to customers.

He also asked the wananchi to send their complaints on energy and water services to EWURA.

He also said they found out that many electrical contractors were not registered in the areas they operate in the region; hence EWURA has planned to deal with this shortcoming.

The plan to eradicate 'vishoka' is a result of complaints from power users of unscheduled powercuts and when power suddenly returns it destroys their electrical appliances.

## Stakeholders in Dar to discuss future of mobile money platforms in Africa

By Guardian Reporter

KEY representatives from eight countries in Africa gathered at a workshop organised by Vodacom to look into trends and developments shaping the mobile money industry in Africa. The leading telecom company also released its Future-Proofing Mobile Financial Services report at the workshop. The report, the first of Vodacom's Public Policy Series, demonstrates how mobile money is driving economic growth and empowering lives through financial inclusion.

Managing Executive, Legal and regulatory from Vodacom Group, Judith Obholzer, said that sub-Saharan Africa including Tanzania has witnessed rapid growth in mobile money operations and innovations enabling broad based participation and access to financial services. Sub-Saharan Africa is home to the 10 economies worldwide where more adults now have mobile money

accounts than at a financial institution. A game changer in this region, mobile money continues to drive economic growth and social benefit by providing access to financial services to the millions of people who have a mobile phone, but do not have or have only limited access to a bank account.

"Our aim is to provide a platform for leading experts to express their views on trends and developments shaping the industry. The industry continues to evolve at a rapid pace with policy makers and regulators playing a central role in facilitating and enabling environment for financial inclusion," said Obholzer.

Representative of the Bank of Tanzania who is assistant manager-Oversight and Policy at the National Payment systems department, Albert Cesari underscored the important impact mobile financial Services have made on the economy and the important role of the workshop in

ensuring sustainability of the mobile financial service industry.

"The government is committed to ensure that mobile financial providers continue to be effective players in the future, and that they are able to provide the innovations and investments necessary in the technical and business dynamics in the financial payment market," Cesari explained.

M-Pesa has been Africa's most successful mobile money service. Research illustrates that mobile money has significantly contributed to social empowerment, economic growth and poverty reduction. It provides people with a safe, secure and affordable way to send and receive money, top-up airtime, make bill payments, receive salaries and get a short-term loan.

Speaking during the launch of the new research on mobile money, Hisham Hendi, managing director, Vodacom Tanzania said "Mobile money - supported

by extensive mobile reach - has proven to be a platform for economic opportunity, transforming the financial services landscape, in particular on the African continent." Hendi added.

"I am glad that this report brings together contributions by leading experts that speak to these three broader themes. They are diverse in their views and ambitions, critical and inspiring."

The event brought together representatives from mobile network operators and a cross section of sectors including Telecommunication, financial service providers, banking, CSO and regulators who addressed various topics including: Future-proofing mobile financial services, enabling interoperability frameworks - payment systems, regional integration and cross-border opportunities, how to solve the legal identity problem, best practice sharing and the cloud opportunity - getting the conditions right.

## Mayor issues one-week ultimatum to officials who pocketed council's 40m/-

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

THE Singida District Council has given one-week ultimatum to the council officials who collected more than 40m/- internal revenue but did not deposit the money in the council's bank account to deposit the same, at once, else legal steps will be taken against them including court action.

The council's chairman Elia Digha announced the decision while adjoining the meeting that took place at the Ilongero district hospital conference hall.

Digha who is the councilor for

Msange Ward also directed the District Council's Executive Director in collaboration with officials from his office to ensure they report to the PCCB about officers who will fail to bank the said money so that legal action is taken.

He said the government procedure governing tax collection calls for all revenue collectors to bank all the money collected and not putting the same in their bags or spend it in any other manner.

Digha also told the councilors that since they are farmers, when they go back to their areas they should mobilize wananchi in farming activities

as there are no campaigns for the civic elections because opposition parties have boycotted them.

On the issue of the revenue that was not banked the councilor for Mgori Ward selem Abdallah stressed that in the period beginning July to September this year the council collected more than 233m/- internal revenue.

He said he wanted proper explanation because this is the amount of revenue that has been officially collected and verified as having entered the council's accounting system therefore the report that some money had not been banked is incomprehensible.



### Employment Opportunity

At the heart of Pact is the promise of a better tomorrow. The promise of a healthy life. Of a decent livelihood. Of sustainable natural resources that benefit communities. Now more than ever in its 42-year history, Pact is helping millions of people who are poor and marginalized discover and build their own solutions and take ownership over their future.

Pact enables systemic solutions that allow those who are poor and marginalized to earn a dignified living, be healthy, and take part in the benefits that nature provides. Pact accomplishes this by strengthening local capacity, forging effective governance systems, and transforming markets into a force for development.

Pact Tanzania is looking for an enthusiastic, creative, energetic individual to fill the following vacant position for the Kizazi Kipya Project:

Job Title:	Cluster Administration Officer (1 position)
Location:	Dar es Salaam
Reporting To:	Technical Integration Cluster Manager/Administration Manager
Project:	Kizazi Kipya

#### Position Purpose:

The Cluster Administration Officer will be responsible for providing general administrative coordination support to the cluster office staff under the supervision of the cluster Managers/He Performs a combination of routines: Program administration and office and fleet management and logistics support functions. The job holder will spend 75% of his or her time with Coastal Cluster and 25% with Country Office.

#### Required Qualifications and Experience;

- Bachelor's in business administration or a bachelor's degree in Public Administration or Bachelor or Advanced Diploma in Human Resources Management. Knowledge of Fleet Management and Procurement is an added advantage.
- At least three years' experience in the INGO or NGO sector within Tanzania in office administration and a good understanding of Office management, Asset Management and Logistical coordination for large a large fleet of vehicles.
- Excellent knowledge of procurement guidelines of donor agencies such as USAID and other Donors.

- Demonstrated advanced computer skills with Good working knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook and PowerPoint
- A customer service-oriented individual with the ability to deal with all service providers
- A dedicated team player with good interpersonal skills
- Ability to work independently under pressure and take the initiative in resolving problems in a fast-paced and multi-tasked environment
- Must have effective communications skills, both written and spoken in both English and Kiswahili
- Must have a valid Tanzanian driver's license

#### Detailed Job Description and How to Apply:

If you believe you are the ideal person we are looking for, please submit your application describing why you are the right candidate for this position and a curriculum vitae detailing your experience and three (3) professional referees from previous and current place of employment.

Please send the applications through the following link:

Cluster Administration Officer  
<https://www.brightermonday.co.tz/job/cluster-administration-officer-x2gqv0>

The closing date for applications will be  
 Tuesday 26th November 2019

Qualified women are strongly encouraged to apply.

Please note only the applications sent to through this link will be reviewed.

(only shortlisted candidates will be contacted)

To learn more about Pact Tanzania visit:  
<http://www.pactworld.org/country/tanzania>

Pact provides equal employment opportunities to all employees and applicants for employment and prohibits discrimination and harassment of any type without regard to race, color, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, genetic information, age, national origin, marital status, disability status, political ideology, military or protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by applicable federal, state, or local law.



By Anne O Krueger

The US economy has long been among the most productive in the world precisely because it has maintained a relatively level playing field, where firms' costs are determined by how efficiently they respond to market signals.

Likewise, the US approach to international trade has long been based on predominantly economic considerations. Because parties to the World Trade Organisation had agreed that tariffs could not rise above negotiated levels except in specified circumstances (on national-security grounds, for example), governments could not use such measures to reward or threaten particular firms or industries.

Yet under US President Donald Trump, this is no longer the case. In March 2018, Trump invoked "national security" to justify new import tariffs of 25% on steel (and 10% on aluminium). While that rationale could be valid in some cases, this was not one of them: the US steel industry was operating at about 73% capacity, with just 3% of steel and aluminium production needed for defence.

Moreover, when announcing the tariffs, the Trump

administration stipulated that companies wanting to import domestically unavailable steel could apply for a waiver, meaning that the government would have the discretion to grant tariff "exclusions" to some firms while denying them to others.

Under this system, each waiver application must specify the type and quantity of steel needed, including "chemical composition, dimensions, strength, toughness, ductility, magnetic permeability, surface finish, coatings, and other relevant data".

A separate application must be made for each type of steel, and applicants must demonstrate that the type of steel needed is not available domestically. Given that there are nine separate criteria (plus other relevant data), the decision-making process for granting waivers is inherently opaque.

Once a waiver application is submitted, it is "posted" publicly, giving domestic steel companies seven days to object, on the basis that they can, in fact, furnish the type of steel in question. Their objections are then subjected to a seven-day review period. If the original applicant rebuts the objection, the objector has another seven days to rebut the

rebuttal.

As of March 2019, the government had received 51,345 requests for waivers and 19,543 objections. Delays had piled up, and commentators pointed out that a disproportionate share of the objections had come from just three US companies - US Steel, Nucor, and AK Steel - and applied to a volume of steel 169% above their combined capacity.

As of September 2018, the average number of waiver requests per firm was 43, with one firm filing as many as 2,563.

After almost a year, the Department of Commerce had approved just 59% of applications with no objections, and less than 1% of those with objections. Although national security had been the purported rationale for

the tariffs, far more imported steel from China received exemptions than did steel from Canada or Mexico.

Not surprisingly, this process has drawn multiple complaints. Even the Commerce Department Inspector General (IG), for example, has found that the system relies on "an unofficial appeals process" and may be subject to "improper influence",

given that procedures have been altered after an objection, and that there has been inadequate documentation of meetings and phone calls with interested parties. Perhaps worse, different companies applying for exemptions for the same type of imported steel have experienced different outcomes.

If some companies' requests are accepted

while others are not, those with waivers will have a de facto cost advantage over other firms. Clearly, the playing field is uneven, given that there have been enough complaints to trigger an IG investigation. According to Reuters, one US can maker has received a waiver for its imports while others have faced denials and delays.

But tariff exemptions aren't the only area where the Trump administration may be abusing its discretionary power. Earlier in November, Inside US Trade reported that the administration was "pushing auto companies to commit that all of their output - even autos manufactured and sold within the United States - will meet US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) regional value requirements, tying the demand to requests for longer transition periods for complying with USMCA auto rules of origin."

Or, to list one more example, the Department of Defence recently awarded a \$10-billion cloud-computing contract to Microsoft over Amazon. Amazon is now taking the Trump administration to court, alleging that it showed "unmistakable bias" throughout the tendering process. At a minimum, the decision raises eyebrows, given that Trump

has been openly antagonistic toward Amazon and its founder, Jeff Bezos, who also owns the Washington Post.

In all of these examples, the Trump administration has the discretion to grant favours and provide financial incentives for decisions that otherwise have little to do with economic policy-making. Some of the decisions are clearly motivated by electoral politics.

Since the election, notes a May 2019 ProPublica investigation, Trump "has made 35 claims that companies would create 8.9 million jobs in the US thanks to his policies and actions." In fact, out of just 154,000 jobs created, a mere 797 are "attributable to Trump, according to the companies that did the hiring".

Discretionary decisions that influence firms' behaviour and affect their competitive positions tend to inflict damage well beyond any single targeted company. Under such conditions, corporate executives will inevitably feel pressure to alter their decision-making to please the authorities. The current economic-policy environment has not made America great again. And the longer the government's interventions persist, the less great it will become.

BM

## Making America mediocre



## Achieving the possible: Weapons of mass destruction free one in the Middle East

VIENNA

A historic conference on the Middle East opened at the United Nations in New York on 18th November and will continue until 22nd November. The Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction is presided over by Ambassador Sima Bahous of Jordan.

This matter has been before the international community since 1974 and remains controversial and unresolved to this day. On the one side, the Arab States of the region of the Middle East and Iran have called for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and the dismantlement of Israel's clandestine nuclear weapon programme.

On the other side, Israel supported by the EU member States, Canada and the US, maintain that regional peace and security is a pre-condition for any negotiations on such a zone and that concerns about nuclear programmes in certain Arab States also need to be resolved first.

Thus, this matter has simmered for decades, plagued the proceedings and outcomes of the review conferences of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, the annual General Conferences of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), as well as the First Committee and the United Nations General Assembly.

Now finally, pursuant to a decision by the General Assembly in December 2018, this conference is going ahead albeit without the participation of Israel and the United States.

### Nuclear-weapon-free zones

The original concept of establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWFZs) was conceived with a view to preventing the emergence of new nuclear-weapon possessor States.



Efforts to ensure the absence of nuclear weapons in other populated parts of the world have led to five regional denuclearization agreements—the 1967 Treaty of Tlatelolco covering Latin America, the 1985 Treaty of Rarotonga covering the South Pacific, the 1995 Treaty of Bangkok covering Southeast Asia, the 1996 Pelindaba Treaty covering Africa, and the 2006 Central Asian NWFZ treaty, all are in force—thus the entire southern hemisphere below the Equator is covered by NWFZ treaties.

In addition, in 1992 Mongolia declared itself to be a nuclear-weapon-free space that was approved by the Great Hural in 2000 and endorsed by UNGA in 2002.

Also, certain uninhabited areas of the globe have been formally denuclearized. They include Antarctica under the 1959 Antarctic Treaty; outer space, the moon, and other celestial bodies under the 1967 Outer Space Treaty and the 1979 Moon Agreement; and the

seabed, the ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof under the 1971 Seabed Treaty.

General Assembly resolution 3472 B (1975) defines a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone as

● any zone recognized as such by the General Assembly of the United Nations, which any group of States, in the free exercises of their sovereignty, has established by virtue of a treaty or convention whereby:

a) The statute of total absence of nuclear weapons to which the zone shall be subject, including the procedure for the delimitation of the zone, is defined;

b) An international system of verification and control is established to guarantee compliance with the obligations deriving from that statute.

NWFZs ban the production, testing and stationing of nuclear weapons, permit peaceful uses, include verification provisions and in some cases an institutional set up; and require security assurances from

nuclear-weapon States.

Article VII of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) affirmed the right of States to establish NWFZs in their respective territories and the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference (NPTREC) expressed the conviction that regional denuclearization measures enhance global and regional peace and security.

The NPTREC adopted a Resolution on establishing a zone free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction as well as delivery systems in the region of the Middle East. The 2000 NPT RevConf reiterated the importance of the 1995 Resolution, and the 2010 RevConf mandated that a conference be held on such a zone by 2012; and the 2015 RevConf came to an inglorious end over disagreements on the Middle East zone.

Earlier in 2000, the IAEA General Conference adopted a Resolution for the IAEA Director General to convene a Forum on Experience of NWFZs Relevant

for the Middle East. On joining the IAEA in 2002, the Director General assigned me the task to make the arrangements for holding this Forum - during the course of the summers of 2002-2004, I was able to get agreement on the Agenda but the Forum itself was convened only in November 2011.

Representatives from all five zones and Mongolia attended and made presentations at the IAEA Forum; however, under the then Director General the Agency acceded to pressure from certain sources to ensure that the Forum was a one-off event and that there would not be any follow-up activities.

In terms of new NWFZs, the Middle East remains an old unfulfilled aspiration. First jointly proposed by Egypt and Iran in 1974 through a General Assembly resolution, the concept was broadened in 1990 through the Mubarak Initiative to cover all weapons of mass destruction.

There is as yet no general agreement on the contours and details of a WMD-free zone (WMDFZ), however keeping to basics it is possible to identify practical measures and elements - as is endeavoured in the draft treaty text prepared by The METO Project.

### Middle East

Traditionally, Egypt has taken the lead in promoting efforts for the implementation of the 1995 NPTREC Resolution on the Middle East in the NPT review process, as well as at the IAEA General Conference and at the First Committee of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) on the establishment of a NWFZ in the region of the Middle East.

Last year, UNGA First Committee adopted by voting (103 yes : 3 no : 71 abstentions) decision (A/C.1/73/L.22/Rev.1) co-sponsored by Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt,\* Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab

Emirates, Yemen and State of Palestine on Convening a conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

The UNGA decision A/73/546, adopted on 22 December 2018 by a vote of 88 to 4 with 75 abstentions, called on the UN Secretary General to:

- convene a conference for the duration of one week to be held no later than 2019 dealing with the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction;

- the conference shall take as its terms of reference the 1995 NPTREC resolution;

- all decisions emanating from the conference shall be taken by consensus by the States of the region;

- all States of the Middle East, the three co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, the other two nuclear-weapon States and the relevant international organisations (IAEA, OPCW, BTWC, ISU) to participate;

- the Secretary-General to convene annual sessions of the conference for a duration of one week at United Nations Headquarters until the conference concludes the elaboration a legally binding treaty establishing a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the States of the region Accordingly, Under-Secretary General and High Representative for Disarmament Izumi Nakamitsu and the Department for Disarmament Affairs made the preparations to hold the conference on 18-22 November 2019.

The main areas of contention between the Arab States and Israel can be summarized as follows: that there still continues to be a long-standing and

fundamental difference of views between Israel, on the one hand, and other States of the Middle East region, on the other hand, with regard to the establishment of a zone free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction in the region of the Middle East (MENWFZ/WMDFZ).

Israel takes the view that MENWFZ/WMDFZ and related regional security issues, cannot be addressed in isolation from the regional peace process and that these issues should be addressed in the framework of a regional security and arms control dialogue that could be resumed in the context of a multilateral peace process.

These should help reduce tensions, and lead to security and stability in the Middle East, through development of mutual recognition, peaceful and good neighbourly relations and abandonment of threats and use of force by states as well as non-State actors as means to settlement of disputes.

Following the establishment of full and lasting peaceful relations and reconciliation among all nations of the region, such a process could lead to the adoption of confidence-building measures, discussion of arms control issues, and eventually pave the way to regional negotiations of a mutually and effectively verifiable regime that will establish the Middle East as a zone free of chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons as well as ballistic missiles.

Israel also holds the position that any modalities, obligations or provisions should be solely addressed by the states concerned through direct negotiation.

The other States of the region maintain that there is no automatic sequence which links the establishment of the zone, the application of IAEA comprehensive safeguards to all nuclear activities in the Middle East, to the prior conclusion of a peace settlement, and that the former would contribute to the latter.

TO BE CONTINUED



# ONE AFRICA BROADBAND NETWORK IMPROVES TRANSCONTINENTAL COMMUNICATIONS

By Property Watch Reporter

**T**HE fastest direct land based fibre link connecting East to West Africa has been launched by Liquid Telecom last week in Dar es Salaam.

This breakthrough coast-to-coast digital corridor follows the completion of Liquid Telecom's new high-capacity fibre link running 2,600-kilometre (km) across the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The expansion connects millions of DRC citizens and thousands of businesses to Liquid Telecom's 'One Africa' broadband network linking the African continent to the rest of the world and will help to create a foundation for social mobility, economic diversification and private sector-led growth both in the DRC and more widely across Africa.

"Liquid Telecom has connected East to West Africa with the most direct digital corridor across the southern hemisphere. We have set a new benchmark and achieved a historic milestone in our vision to create a more connected Africa," said Nic Rudnick, Group CEO for Liquid Telecom.

"By linking the DRC to Liquid Telecom's rapidly expanding pan-African fibre network and the rest of the world, this transformative infrastructure is creating a foundation for digital growth. Fast, reliable broadband connectivity will advance society, fuel innovation and help champion pan-Africa trade," Rudnick said in a statement to mark

the launch.

Until recently, no direct, land-based fibre network existed between East and West Africa. Network traffic between Kinshasa in the DRC and Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, for example, was routed via London.

Liquid Telecom's East to West fibre link promises significantly reduced latency between major continents via Africa. It also meets the growing demand from global enterprises for fast, reliable, high-capacity and cost-effective communication across the southern hemisphere.

This new extension connects the DRC to neighbouring Tanzania and Zambia with onward connectivity to Liquid Telecom's 'One Africa' broadband network fast approaching 70,000km. It is central to the company's vision to create a single fibre network spanning the entire African continent - North to South and East to West.

Sound infrastructure development has the potential to transform the prosperity and livelihood of the DRC population. In Kinshasa alone, for example, some of the city's 11 million population will no longer have to rely solely on mobile broadband - they will have access to high-speed, reliable internet directly into their homes. Similar outcomes will be available in other DRC cities along the route - collectively comprising approximately five million citizens.

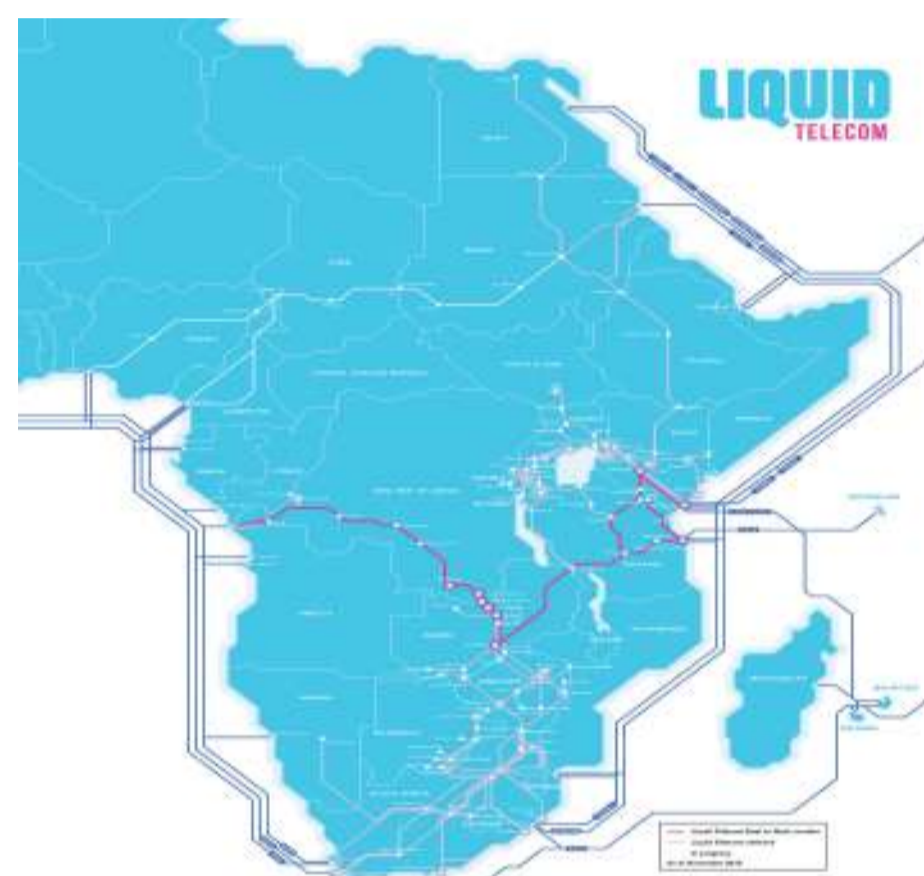
"What Africa has been lacking until now was a direct east to west telecommunications backbone.

Liquid Telecom has achieved what African states and organisations have been contemplating for years without success," said Dobek Pater who is Director of Africa Analysis.

Pater said the deployed a high-capacity fibre optic backbone connecting subsea cables on the East Coast of Africa with cables on the West Coast of Africa not only considerably shortened the communications route between East and West Africa and contributed to keeping the traffic local but also laid the groundwork for connecting millions of Africa's citizens (especially in the DRC) to the internet and the world.

"This is a significant milestone in continued expansion of modern telecommunications infrastructure across the African continent, supporting governments' policies aimed at closing the digital divide within their countries and ultimately ensuring ubiquitous connectivity," said Pater.

Liquid Telecom's latest fibre expansion connects the company's network on the Atlantic coast at Muanda in the DRC, via Liquid Telecom's international subsea cable partners. It then runs directly East to Kinshasa and through the DRC onto Lubumbashi in the South, connecting with other cities in between, including Kikwit, Kananga and Kolwezi. The link then crosses the DRC border into Zambia, integrating there with Liquid Telecom's existing and rapidly expanding pan-African terrestrial fibre network.



A map depicting Liquid Telecom's fibre cable in Africa.

## Lessons for Nigeria as Tanzania, Mozambique plan to develop East-Africa's natural gas hub

LAGOS

Tanzania and Mozambique are setting sail to ride the energy tide that will see economies choose natural gas as preferred fuel to power homes, factories and transport but Nigeria is barely scratching the surface of its gas potential.

The East African duo has the sub-regions brightest projects, located on the south-east coast of the continent in Tanzania and Mozambique. The massive Coral South Floating Liquefied Natural Gas (FLNG) Project sits atop the prolific Rovuma Basin, offshore Mozambique. ENI's Coral South FLNG facility is the first step in accessing the estimated 450 billion cubic metres of gas. The first gas is expected in 2022 and thereafter ENI expects to produce five billion cubic feet each year.

Further north is the Tanzania LNG Project that hopes to access the massive 1.6bn cubic metres of gas that lies in Tanzanian acreages. The \$30bn facility located at Lindi would sit on Tanzania's coast, acting as a terminal and gas liquefaction hub.

"When we first started in Kenya and then in Tanzania, there was very little understanding about the potential of the region; none of the gas in Mozambique had been discovered," said Brian Horn, senior vice president and chief geologist at ION, advisors to Exploration and Production companies. "But I would say that there is a lot of remaining potential. I think we probably have not found a tenth of what is out there."

Nigeria has a bigger gas potential



A model LNG plant being planned for Lindi region.

and a number of big-ticket gas projects at various levels of completion and scattered around the country. These big-ticket projects are expected to create thousands of new jobs, spur domestic gas demand and generate electricity. This will also help create an opportunity to diversify revenue of the Nigerian government, strengthen the country's revenue base and turn Nigeria into a dominant geopolitical player in Africa. Yet, these projects have stalled.

Some of the critical gas development projects in Nigeria include the development of the 4.3 Trillion Cubic Feet (TCF) Assa North/Ohaji South field by Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited (SPDC), a major momentum to the domestic

gas aspiration of the Federal Government for increased power generation and industrialisation.

SPDC is also participating in the development of the 6.4 TCF United Gas fields (Samabri-Biseni, Akri-Oguta, Ubie-Oshi and Afuo-Ogbainbri) in conjunction with the Nigerian Agip Oil Company JV while Nigeria Petroleum Development Corporation's (NPDC) is also developing OML 26, OML 30 and OML 42 which is expected to develop 7 Tcf.

"Some of the fields were discovered as far back as in the 1990s, and have been plugged after successful production test was carried out," Charles Akinbobola, energy analyst at Lagos based Sofidam Capital told BusinessDay in an early interview.

Over twelve months ago, Ghana signed a 12-year deal with Russia's Gazprom for liquefied natural gas (LNG) supply boycotting the West African Gas Pipeline (WAGP) and its inefficiencies. "The gas that will come from Russia to Ghana's regasification plant will cost \$12 per standard cubic feet (SCF). I can put gas at \$3 per SCF into the West African Gas Pipeline if it was efficiently managed and with an extra cost of \$2 per SCF for transportation cost I can deliver gas to Ghana at \$5 per SCF less than half of what the Russian gas will cost" said Austin Avuru, chief executive officer of Seplat, an independent indigenous Nigerian oil and gas exploration and production company in an earlier BusinessDay's report.

## Africa's infrastructure financing surpasses \$100 billion in a year

JOHANNESBURG

Infrastructure financing in Africa registered a rise of 24 per cent in 2018, surpassing \$100 billion for the first time, the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa (ICA) announced on Tuesday, November 18, 2019, through a statement.

The information is contained in ICA's Infrastructure Financing Trends in Africa 2018 report launched on November 12 at the Africa Investment Forum. It shows that financing of infrastructure in Africa reached a new high of \$100.8 billion in 2018, a jump of about a quarter on 2017 and 38 per cent up on the 2015-2017 average.

The report, however, indicated that significant financing gaps remain. Among the key findings of the report was an increase in financing commitments across all sectors, with a notable increase in the energy sector, which attracted financing commitments worth \$43.8 billion, an all-time high and a 67 per cent increase on the 2015-2017 average.

The ICT sector also saw record commitments in 2018 of \$7.1 billion, mostly from the private sector. Even with the significant increase in commitments in 2018, there remains a total financing gap of \$52 billion to \$92 billion per year, the report revealed.

It showed that yearly estimates of Africa's financing requirements range from \$130 billion to \$170 billion. Water and sanitation has the largest financing gap of all the sectors, based on annual financing needs of \$56-\$66 billion and a

2016-2018 average commitment of \$13 billion, it explained.

Mike Salawou, ICA Coordinator, and Manager of Infrastructure Partnerships, at the African Development Bank, commented: "Over the years the Infrastructure Financing Trends in Africa report has become an important document for presenting, in a consistent manner, how funding is being mobilised to develop the continent's infrastructure."

"The report's publication during the Africa Investment Forum is extremely timely. While the increase in financial commitments in 2018 is very welcome, the report also serves to highlight the size of Africa's infrastructure financing gap - one of the key issues addressed during the forum," Salawou said.

This year's report shows the role ICA continues to play in institutional and policy reform as well as its consistent financial contribution within the infrastructure space. This, along with a 65 per cent and 33 per cent increase in commitments over the previous 3-year average by China and African Governments respectively, and the role of other multilateral organisations resulted in the 24 per cent increase recorded in infrastructure financing for 2018.

Panellists Dr. T. Nyirenda-Jere, Dr. B. Ben Yaghlane, Dr. I. Urua, Mr. C. Kirigua and Mr. P. Guislain, addressed key messages highlighted in this year's report, which includes the need to increase both public and private sector financing, strengthen governance and improve the quality of infrastructure services.

## Treasury plans sixth bond in five months for road repairs

NAIROBI

The Treasury is heading back to the domestic market to raise billions of shillings for roads repair following damage in recent heavy rainfall.

Acting Treasury Secretary Ukur Yatani told Parliament on Tuesday that the government will be floating

an infrastructure bond of unspecified amount of cash. The Treasury has already floated five bonds since this financial year began on July 1. The debt instruments floated either for budget support or as infrastructure bonds include the Sh50 billion 10-year bond which closed on Tuesday. Others include the Sh60 billion 16-year bond

floated last month and a September tap sale.

Mr Yatani said that out of the Sh96.1 billion that the government owes contractors and suppliers, Sh76 billion is for roads works undertaken in last financial year. The pending bills include Sh2.6 billion owed to youth, women and the disabled who supplied government

under the Access of Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO).

"We have a plan and moving forward, we intend to come up with a roads bond. There were challenges in the regulatory framework. The amendments have been forwarded to the Attorney-General and in the next three days, it will be forwarded to this House for enactment.

This will get us clear framework to finance roads construction," Mr Yatani said.

He was responding to questions by Transport committee chairperson David Pkosing who wanted to know the progress made by the Treasury in implementing a House recommendation for establishment of a

roads and not infrastructure bond.

Mr Yatani said ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) of government reported pending bills relating to prior years amounting to Sh82.7 billion. He said effective Wednesday, the Treasury is likely to suspend expenditure by MDA apart of salaries until they pay pending bills.



## CRJE'S 5-STAR ROTANA JOHARI HOTEL SOFT OPENS IN DAR

By Property Watch Reporter

**C**HINESE contractor, CRJE East Africa Limited has opened its first 5-Star hotel in Dar es Salaam dubbed, 'Johari Rotana Hotel.'

Speaking after the hotel's soft opening earlier this week, Hu Bo, Chairman of CRJE (East Africa) Limited, Hu Bo said with 50 years of uninterrupted good performance in Tanzania, the Chinese conglomerate is excited to open the state-of-the-art Johari Rotana Hotel.

"We are proud to support the government's efforts to enhance the hospitality infrastructure and promote the country's famous tourist attractions, as well as its commercial capital Dar es Salaam," Bo said during the soft opening ceremony.

"Johari Rotana is the ninth international-standard 5-star hotel we have built in Tanzania. With our rich experience in the hotel construction business and the ever-changing local market, we understand the needs of travellers; the magnificent Johari Rotana will surely satisfy these needs," Bo added. He said the project has been realised in partnership to with International Finance Corporation (IFC), the investment wing of the World Bank and Rotana, which manages the property.

Further cementing its presence in Africa's fast-growing hospitality sector, Rotana, one of the leading hotel management companies in the region with hotels across the Middle East, Africa, Eastern Europe, and Turkey, announced today the soft opening of Johari Rotana in Tanzania's commercial city of Dar es Salaam. The new five-star property marks the company's entrance to the East African market.

Commenting on the soft opening, Guy Hutchinson who is acting CEO of Rotana said as part of the company's long-term strategy, Africa remained a



key focus market. "With the opening of the Johari Rotana, the company has reached a significant milestone in our journey. Setting new standards in architecture, design, technology, offerings, and service excellence, Johari Rotana, our first property in East Africa, heralds a new hospitality experience in the region," Hutchison said.

Offering diverse dining experiences, Johari Rotana features four stylish dining venues, including the lobby lounge Kibo, an all-day dining restaurant Zafarani, an upscale Chinese restaurant Noble House and the informal Hamilton's Gastropub. The new hotel also boasts the largest meeting and conference facility in Tanzania, a 900sqm ballroom with

a 6.5-meter ceiling height that can also be divided into three smaller venues.

"We are confident that our spacious rooms and suites, wide selection of food and beverage venues, advanced meeting and conference facilities - including Tanzania's largest ballroom - and unsurpassed wellness and recreation facilities will

appeal to our guests and provide a competitive advantage in the market," Hutchison added.

The property also features six additional meeting rooms with captivating views of the waterfront a dedicated business centre, Class-A offices, and an indoor parking facility, making it an ideal choice for both business and leisure guests.

## Nigeria's sovereign fund seeks co-investors for gas industrialisation projects

ABU DHABI

Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority (NSIA), the sovereign wealth fund of Africa's largest economy, is looking for co-investors to develop two gas industrialisation projects worth more than \$1 billion, as it continues to broaden its portfolio of investments.

NSIA plans to develop a basic chemicals platform with a project value in excess of \$1bn that will produce ammonia and fertilisers in Nigeria. The second one, a project to convert flare gas into LPG, could cost more than \$100 million, Uche Orji, the chief executive of NSIA, who is in Abu Dhabi attending a two-day Africa Investment Summit hosted by the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, told The National.

"We will be looking hopefully to develop [the projects] with sovereign wealth funds and other co-investors," he said. The talks are at early stages, he said and did not name any potential partners.

Nigeria, Opec's biggest crude producer in Africa, relies heavily on the oil and gas sector, which accounts for about 20 per cent of its gross domestic product, and 85 per cent of total exports, according to Opec data. The country expects investments worth \$48bn between 2018 and 2025 in the sector, Maikanti Baru, former managing director of Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) said in July.

Mele Kyari, who has replaced Mr Baru as the head of NNPC, said that state-owned energy companies Saudi Aramco and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company are also considering investing in Nigeria's energy sector.

"We are open to all partners, all like-minded partners. We have no restrictions, we have ongoing discussions with so many people," Mr Orji said of the potential deals with long-term investors across sectors of Nigerian economy. "We have health care, we have infrastructure [projects], it really depends on what the interest of our partners is."

Additional equity from the government, Mr Orji said, will help NSIA to broaden its investment base. The fund's current focus remains on achieving growth through joint investments. "I'm expecting more from the government but a lot of it would depend on the oil price movement," he said. "We are very hopeful that we will get some funds," he said. The current price level of \$62 per barrel for Brent crude is still above "our benchmark rate", which is \$57 per barrel, he said.

NSIA invests through its three main funds: the Stabilisation Fund, Future Generations Fund and Nigeria Infrastructure Fund, which account for 20, 30 and 50 per cent of its investments, respectively. NSIA not only manages its own funds, but it also those on behalf of the Nigerian government and its total assets under management are between \$2.5bn to \$3bn.

Over the years, NSIA has increased its focus on domestic infrastructure projects and it is investing in three major transport infrastructure schemes - the Abuja-Kano highway, Second Niger bridge and the Lagos-Ibadan road projects.

"These projects are quite significant altogether. When they are done, they would be around roughly \$2bn [in value]," he said.

The projects are being financed through the funds provided by the government and NSIA's own equity and it will look to raise \$500m in external funding from the market next year, Mr Orji said. "We are appointing advisers next year to commence the capital raising process," he said without specifying the timing of the deal.

## BRD to issue cheaper loans to first-time homeowners

KIGALI

Rwanda Development Bank (BRD) in collaboration with Rwanda Housing Authority (RHA) has launched a scheme that seeks to provide cheaper mortgages to Rwandans on their first house purchase.

The project known as the Rwanda Housing Financing Project promises cheaper mortgages and longer duration of payment. The \$150 million dollar project is a partnership with the World Bank and aims at addressing the shortage of affordable houses. Eric Rutabana, the Chief Executive Officer of BRD, said the scheme largely targets the youth.

Under the arrangement, BRD will lend money to local commercial banks, microfinance institutions, and savings and credit cooperatives at an interest rate of 6 per cent.

Then banks will be compelled to issue mortgages to Rwandans at an interest rate which is not higher than 11 per cent. The borrowers will have up to 20 years to clear their mortgage loans, the Bank said.

The loans will assist the recipients to buy houses that are at a cost of Rwf35 million or below and will not require the applicant to offer any collateral. The cost of the houses will go as low as Rwf10 million and may even be lower according to the design and cost of construction, BRD said. The recipients to the loans must be Rwandan citizens and residents who have a monthly income of not more than Rwf700,000.



Pupils of a school in Geita Region find comfort in the recent arrival of donated desks.

## Bank donates construction materials, desks to public schools, health centres

By Property Watch Reporter

NMB Bank Plc has continued to support public facilities with a donation of construction materials, desks and medical equipment to public schools and health centers in Geita and Morogoro regions valued at 70m/-.

NMB's Lake Zone Manager, Abraham Augustino handed over 275 desks worth 25m/- and 328 iron sheets worth 10m/- to Geita Regional Commissioner, Robert Gabriel on behalf of Kaseme Secondary School, Butundwe Health Center, Kilimani, Uhuru, Mchongamani, Shilabela and

Nyakamwaga Primary Schools in Geita region

Gabriel thanked NMB management for the support to public facilities saying it's a big boost to improving provision of health and education services to the public. "We are grateful to NMB for this assistance and we hope that you will continue to back government efforts to improve public health and education facilities," RC Gabriel noted.

He also received six hospital beds and mattresses including one labour ward special bed but also 50 pieces of bed sheets for Kashishi dispensary.

Speaking after handing over the donations, Augustino the bank will continue supporting public facilities as a way of showing appreciation to the people who support its businesses. "We have a 1bn/- allocation each year to finance community projects countrywide whenever need arises," the NMB Lake Zone Manager noted.

Meanwhile in Morogoro, Deputy Minister Agriculture Omar Mgumba thanked NMB for 275 desks worth 25m/- to Kibwaya, Bwakila Chini, Newland and Kinole Primary schools. "This support is timely and very much appreciated," Mgumba said.

Morogoro District Commissioner, Regina Chonjo also paid tribute to NMB management after receiving desks and iron sheets for several public schools in her district while warning rogue students who destroy public property of expulsions and possible prosecution.

"We all know that the government is spending huge sums of money to improve public schools and health centers in the interest of the people hence there is zero tolerance against anyone destroying the same," she warned.



## CONSTRUCTION

# The Guardian PROPERTY WATCH

DISCOVER INFORM INSPIRE

## LUXURY PROPERTY MARKETS FALTERING IN HIGHEST-PRICED CITIES LIKE LONDON AND NEW YORK

## NEW YORK

Luxury property prices in 45 global cities rose an average of just 1.1 per cent in the third quarter from a year earlier, the weakest annual gain since the end of 2009, according to a report from Knight Frank. They fell 4.4 per cent in New York, 3.9 per cent in London and 10 per cent in Vancouver.

No wonder. There's uncertainty at every corner, from trade wars to Brexit, Hong Kong pro-democracy protests and a populist backlash in some of the world's biggest and most affluent cities that are imposing new taxes on the rich.

"The safe havens are becoming less certain," said Dan Conn, chief executive of Christie's International Real Estate. "It's becoming much more challenging in the hubs to find a high quality place to deploy capital."

Global cities like London, Hong Kong and New York, which seemed to defy housing-market cycles year after year following the 2008 financial crisis, are losing their status as safe places for wealthy international buyers to park their cash – or themselves. The reversal has come in part as gov-

ernments erected barriers to slow runaway price growth driven – at least in part – by all the billionaire investors who came before.

The winners were cities such as Moscow, as rich Russians chose to buy at home, and Taipei, favoured over Hong Kong, the world's most expensive housing market. Even as the flow of investment has slowed, many developers are delivering projects started when the supply of rich buyers seemed to go on forever. Now there's a glut of luxury properties and – as anger mounts over wealth inequality – affordable units are in increasingly short supply.

"We've had an unprecedented run in high-end real estate and now many of these markets are struggling with excess supply or uncertainty," said Jonathan Miller, president of appraiser Miller Samuel. "Uncertainty" is the most overused word in real estate right now and probably for good reason."

London and New York, among other cities, passed taxes aimed at rich buyers. While the levies effectively raised prices even further, they also provided governments with extra cash for city services, as foreign buyers don't pay income taxes.



Luxury properties in New York.

On the other hand, rich buyers also spend money on goods and services that boost local economies and sales tax revenue.

Prices rose too high and economic conditions changed, said Thomas Veraguth, the Zurich-based head of global real estate strategy for UBS Wealth

Management. Waves of Middle Eastern and Russian buyers pulled back, for example, after the oil crash in 2014, he said.

"It's fatigue," Veraguth said. "Even the richest will say, 'I'm not going to pay that price any more.'" Markets are shifting based on local conditions, said Kate

Everett-Allen, a partner at Knight Frank in London. The US election may cause buyers to pause in New York while the stability of the Swiss franc will continue to drive demand in Zurich and Geneva, she said.

Moscow had the biggest price increase in Knight Frank's study, rising 11 per

cent. With Russia under international sanctions after its annexation of Crimea, and anti-money laundering measures tightened in London and other cities favoured by that country's elite, many opt to buy property at home. Developers also completed a number of luxury proper-

ties in the Russian capital, increasing supply.

Russia has plenty of rich people. There are at least 189,500 ultra-high net worth individuals in the country controlling about \$1.1 trillion (Dh4tn), according to Capgemini estimates. It's also incredibly unequal. There are 23 Russians on the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, a ranking of the world's 500 wealthiest people, worth about a combined \$271 billion.

In total, there are more than 100 Russians with more than \$1 billion. Chinese buyers have slowed overseas purchases, in part because of government restrictions on getting money out. And buyers everywhere are dodging risk, skipping Hong Kong, the world's most expensive market and one now with political unrest, in favour of Taipei, which saw an 8.9 per cent price increase in the third quarter.

While Brexit and taxes on second home buyers make London riskier and more expensive, buyers bid up prices by 10 per cent in Frankfurt, which is a banking capital with relatively affordable prices. When things go sideways around the globe, the US has traditionally served as an island of safety and se-

curity, particularly for the world's wealthy.

The two biggest cities in California, the state with America's worst affordability crisis, were near the bottom of Knight Frank's ranking. Los Angeles rose 0.2 per cent from a year earlier and San Francisco was flat.

The US is already home to more Hong Kongers than any country outside of mainland China, and recent data suggest more are looking to leave. Applications for a key emigration document, the "good citizenship card," are up 54 per cent in the past year, according to official data.

But anti-immigrant political rhetoric, high-profile incidences of gun violence and impending changes to the "investor visa" programme have encouraged Hong Kong's would-be émigrés to consider alternatives such as Australia, Canada, Singapore and Taiwan.

"Everybody's pulling back – it's a crazy time," Edward Mermelstein, a partner at One & Only Holdings in New York, which runs family offices for foreigners. "The wealthy have always been an easy target and now that's a popular theme globally. It's now so much more difficult."

## Investcorp buys \$800 million property portfolio in US

## BAHRAIN

Investcorp, the Bahrain-based company that counts Mubadala Investment Company as its biggest shareholder, bought a portfolio of 126 industrial properties in the US for \$800 million.

The properties are spread across five major cities including Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Charlotte and Memphis with a total area of 10.2 million square feet, the company said in a statement on Thursday.

"We are excited to build upon our position as one of the largest international buyers of US real estate through this transaction, which represents the biggest real estate portfolio acquisition in our history," said Mohammed Alardhi, executive chairman of Investcorp.

"This milestone demonstrates our confidence in the US market, our team's prowess in identifying attractive investment opportunities with strong underlying fundamentals, and our ability to deploy greater capital behind our convictions."

Investcorp ranks among the top 10 international investors in US real estate over the past five years and is one



An Investcorp logo stands at its offices in Bahrain.

of the country's top 50 overall investors in the sector for the same period, according to Real Capital Analytics. Abu Dhabi's Mubadala holds a 20 per cent stake in the company which aims to double its assets under management over the next three years.

The latest acquisition provides Investcorp with a 91.5 per cent leased portfolio of top tier warehouse, distribution, and light

manufacturing or research and development buildings across logistics, e-commerce, industrial chemicals, and food services industries, among others. Investcorp currently owns approximately 240 industrial properties across the US totaling more than 20 million square feet, including the latest acquisition.

With consumers and businesses increasingly demanding faster de-

liveries, industrial real estate assets close to major population centers will become important, Mr Alardhi said. "We have been actively building our industrial and logistics portfolio to capitalize on the opportunities of this secular growth trend and these transactions represent a major next step in our efforts," he added.

The company bought 11 properties in the US in June for \$370m.

Established in 1982, Investcorp is one of the oldest Middle East private equity companies and manages about \$28bn of assets across private equity, real estate, absolute return investments and credit. Investcorp entered into a partnership with Dock Square Capital – a firm founded by former Florida Governor Jeb Bush to expand its business in the US earlier this year.

## Russia approves \$1.3bn bridge for world's coldest city

## MOSCOW

Russia plans to build a \$1.3bn bridge across the Lena River in north-east Siberia in a plan to develop the remote Yakutia region, reports newspaper Kommersant.

The 3km bridge, which was approved by Russian president Vladimir Putin on 9 November, is intended to improve links to Yakutsk, the capital of the Sakha Republic.

Yakutsk is said to be the coldest major urban area in the world, with an average temperature of -9°C. It is also the largest urban area that cannot be reached by road. During the winter, cars drive across the frozen Lena, and in the summer they rely on ferries. There is no bridge over the Lena anywhere in the Sakha region.

A design for the bridge, completed in 2008, envisages a double deck, with a dual carriageway on the upper tier and a single-track railway line on the lower. It would be constructed at Tabaga, a site 40km upriver from Yakutsk, where the river narrows and does not create a flooded area in spring. About 11km of roads would also be built.

The Russian government hopes that linking the city to the federal road network would dramatically improve the city's accessibility and boost the region's GDP by up to 3%. Despite its hostile climate, the Sakha is a wealthy area. It is the second largest exporter of diamonds, and has large reserves of gold, gas and oil.

The Siberian Times reports that the bridge would also provide a route through eastern Siberia to the Sea of Okhotsk and Japan, via a corridor between Irkutsk and the port city of Magadan. The federal government is expected to cover around 65% of the costs, with the rest coming from private sources. The crossing will be free for cars but tolled for trucks.

## Election of Morocco as President of Organisation of United Cities and Local Governments

## DURBAN

The Chairman of the Moroccan Association of Presidents of Communal Councils (AMPCC), Mohamed Boudra, was elected on Friday, 15th November 2019 in Durban, President of the Organisation of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG-World) by consensus at the end of the

6th triennial World Summit of this organization.

The Mayor of the Russian city of Kazan, Il'surMetshin, was the main challenger to the Moroccan candidate, but he finally withdrew from the competition. As a reminder, the outgoing presidency of this organization was South African.

The election of Morocco to chair this World Organization

that contains more than 240 000 cities and local authority members is a significant recognition of the multi-sectoral structured development projects and workshops launched by His Majesty the King Mohammed VI, May God Assist Him, for two decades, in favor of decentralization, justice and social equity, aiming at the promotion of solidarity

values in terms of sustainable development in all the regions of the Kingdom, mainly in the northern provinces of the Country.

It is worth noting that with almost 3,000 delegates, coming from different regions of the world, the United Cities and Local Governments World Summit is considered the largest world gathering of

local and regional leaders and stakeholders interested in local affairs.

During this conclave, the elected officials focused basically on the definition of the global agenda of cities and regions for the coming years.

They also shed light on the progress of this World Organization in the framework of its 15th anniversary.



Mohamed Boudra Chairman of the Moroccan Association of Presidents of Communal Councils.



## Lawmakers to quiz eavesdropping US embassy official in Donald Trump impeachment inquiry

WASHINGTON

LAWMAKERS was expected to question an official from the U.S. embassy in Ukraine yesterday as they seek to learn more about a phone call in which he says he overheard President Donald Trump ask about the status of an "investigation" into a political rival.

The public impeachment hearing marks the last scheduled day of marathon sessions by the Democratic-led House Intelligence Committee focused on whether Trump wrongfully pressured Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden, a Democrat bidding to face Trump in the 2020 election.

David Holmes told lawmakers in closed-door testimony that he heard Trump's voice on a July 26 phone call with Gordon Sondland, the U.S. ambassador to the European Union, in which the Republican president asked about Ukraine's willingness to carry out an unspecified investigation.

"So, he's gonna do the investigation?" Trump asked Sondland, referring to Zelenskyy, according to Holmes' previous testimony.

"He's gonna do it," replied Sondland,

according to Holmes.

Sondland added the Ukrainian president would do "anything you ask him to," Holmes said.

Holmes' account ties Trump directly to an effort to get Ukraine to launch an investigation, though his recounting of the overheard telephone call does not explicitly cite the Bidens.

In his Nov. 15 closed door testimony, Holmes said that after overhearing Sondland's phone conversation with Trump at an outdoor restaurant in Kiev, he asked the ambassador if it was true that the president did not care about Ukraine.

In Holmes' telling, Sondland said that it was, and added that Trump only cares about "big stuff" that benefits the President, like the 'Biden investigation' that Mr. Giuliani was pushing.

Testifying before the impeachment inquiry on Wednesday, Sondland said he "followed the president's orders" to work with Trump's personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, who in turn was pushing Ukraine to carry out two probes that could aid Trump's 2020 re-election campaign.

The inquiry is focusing on Trump's request in a July 25 call that Zelenskyy in-



David Holmes

vestigate Biden and his son Hunter Biden, who had served on the board of Ukrainian gas company Burisma, and an unsubstantiated theory that Ukraine, not Russia, interfered in the 2016 U.S. election that brought Trump to office.

Trump has denied wrongdoing, verbally assailed witnesses, and described the proceedings as a "witch hunt." He also says he does not remember the call with Sondland.

Lawmakers on Thursday will also question Fiona Hill, former senior director for European and Russian Affairs on Trump's National Security Council, who recounted in prior testimony a July 10 meeting in Washington that she attended with senior Ukrainian and U.S. officials at which the investigations were discussed.

Sondland on Wednesday testified he could not remember the precise details of the call Holmes overheard, but said the president's mention of investigations did not strike him as significant at the time. "Actually, I would have been more surprised if President Trump had not mentioned investigations."

However, Sondland took issue with Holmes' recollection that he had talked to the diplomat about the Bidens, saying: "I do not recall mentioning the

Bidens. That did not enter my mind. It was Burisma and 2016 elections."

Sondland has previously testified that he was aware at the time Trump wanted Ukraine to investigate Burisma. But he said he realized only later that such an investigation would involve the Bidens - given Hunter Biden was on Burisma's board of directors.

He said that several officials at the top of the Trump administration, including Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, were aware of efforts to push Ukraine to launch investigations.

The Trump phone call with Sondland occurred one day after a July 25 conversation between Trump and Zelenskyy that is at the heart of the inquiry into whether Trump misused U.S. foreign policy to his political advantage. Trump asked Zelenskyy to investigate the Bidens on that call.

The inquiry is also looking at whether Trump may have withheld \$391 million in security aid to help Ukraine fight Russian-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine as a way of pressuring Kiev to undertake the investigations. Federal law prohibits candidates from accepting foreign help in an election.

Agencies

## Back to the caves? Putin warns ditching hydrocarbons would end civilization

MOSCOW

FULLY abandoning hydrocarbons in the energy sector may lead to the fall of civilization and mankind going back to dwelling in caves, Russian President Vladimir Putin cautioned on Wednesday at the VTB Capital Investment Forum "Russia Calling!"

Russia as a responsible country works to make its energy balance as green as possible, the head of state pointed out. The country is using hydropower generation, nuclear generation and gas generation to a significant degree, Putin noted.

"In this sense, discarding the purest hydrocarbon like gas seems utterly bizarre. When these types of ideas [the complete abandonment of hydrocarbons - TASS] are promoted, it seems to me that the human race may find itself again in caves, just because it won't be consuming anything," Putin stressed.

"Technologies are such that right now mankind cannot survive and preserve its civilization without raw hydrocarbons, without nuclear energy, and without hydropower," the Russian president noted.

By the same token, resources should be concentrated on developing renewable energy sources, hydrogen sources and other clean sources that will "preserve nature for many millennia to come and for future generations," the head of state added.

Agencies



## More US children die in mass shootings at home than at school - study

AUSTIN, TEXAS

THREE out of four U.S. children and teens killed in mass shootings over the past decade were victims of domestic violence and generally died in their homes, according to a study released yesterday by the gun control group Everytown.

While the specter of school shootings looms darkly in the minds of American parents who remember massacres in Newtown, Connecticut; Parkland, Florida, and around the country, the group's review of shootings from 2009 through 2018 found far more children are killed in their own homes.

"These are not random acts of violence, yet people have the perception that the killings come out of nowhere," said Sarah Burd-Sharps, Everytown's research director. "That is simply not the truth."

The Everytown report, based on police and court records, as well as media reports, found that 54% of mass shootings involved the shooter killing a family member or intimate partner.

A total of 1,121 people were killed in 194 mass shootings in the decade examined - one-third of whom were children or teens. Nearly two-thirds of all mass shootings took place entirely inside homes, the study found.

Burd-Sharps said Everytown hopes that its report helps the public gain more understanding about the statistical realities of mass shootings, which it defines as an incident that kills at least four people, excluding the shooter.

The federal government and other groups set a lower threshold for what constitutes a mass shooting. Those definitions can result in higher totals than Everytown's count.

Only 1% of the nearly 35,000 gun deaths averaged in the United States each year in the past decade involved mass shootings, but Burd-Sharps said she believes public interest in them can help propel gun-safety legislation that could cut gun deaths across the board.

At the top of Everytown's wish list is a "red flag" law that would allow family members or law enforcement officers to petition a judge to seize firearms from a person they think is a threat to themselves or others.

The group also believes a comprehensive federal law requiring background checks on all gun sales would quickly be effective in decreasing gun deaths.

The link between domestic violence in mass shootings was seen this week in San Diego, when a man who had a restraining order against him killed his wife and three of their four young sons before taking his own life.

"When you look at all these cases of kids who lost their lives, if some family member had been able to heed the warning signs and temporarily had guns removed from the home, many of those children would still be alive," Burd-Sharps said.

Agencies

## AU urges S. Sudan's parties to utilise extension period to complete outstanding matters

ADDIS ABABA

THE African Union (AU) has called on South Sudan's parties to agree on a systematic approach to address remaining outstanding matters within the agreed 100-days extension period.

The call was made by the Peace and Security Council of the 55-member pan-African bloc on Wednesday, following the council's latest meeting that dwelt upon the current situation in South Sudan.

The council underscores the

need for the parties to agree on a systematic approach for addressing outstanding matters, with a view to effectively and efficiently utilize the coming 100 days to complete the remaining crucial tasks, notable security arrangements and the number of states and internal boundaries of South Sudan, according to the statement.

The council, which welcomed the extension of the Pre-Transitional Period, also noted that the outcome creates a conducive environment for the Intergovern-



mental Authority on Development (IGAD) to decisively give impetus to the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement. It also commended IGAD "for its continued efforts to address the situation in South Sudan."

The council called on "all regional and international stakeholders to further enhance their coordination and to harmonize their efforts, under the leadership of IGAD for the promotion of peace, security and development in South Sudan."

The AU Peace and Security

Council made the call weeks after South Sudan's President Salva Kiir and the country's main opposition leader Machar agreed to postpone the formation of a transitional government of national unity by 100 days.

On Nov. 7, Kiir and Machar agreed to postpone the formation of a transitional government of national unity by 100 days in a bid to iron out contentious issues like security arrangements, number and boundaries of states alongside constitutional amendment.

Xinhua

## US denies report it's mulling troop reduction in ROK

By Bloomberg

THE US dismissed a report that it was considering a withdrawal of thousands of its troops to gain leverage with the Republic of Korea as the Trump administration seeks to have it pay five times more to host American service members.

The ROK's daily Chosun Ilbo reported yesterday the US was considering withdrawing one of its brigades if ongoing defense cost talks with Seoul don't go as it wants. Jonathan Hoffman, chief Pentagon spokesman, later said in a statement that "there is absolutely no truth" to the report, which the paper attributed to a diplomatic source in Wash-

ington familiar with the talks.

US Defense Secretary Mark Esper "reiterated our ironclad commitment" to the ROK and its people during discussions in Seoul last week, Hoffman said. Earlier Thursday, the defense chief had told reporters that the US wasn't using troop levels as a bargaining chip in funding talks with host countries.

"We aren't threatening allies over this. This is a negotiation," he said.

Last week, questions were raised about the stability of one of America's most important military alliances when US negotiators walked out of a meeting in Seoul on cost-sharing. The



ROK balked at a Trump administration demand for a five-fold

increase in funding.

The current cost-sharing agreement reached earlier this year expires at the end of 2019. The ROK's Defense Ministry said that despite the latest acrimony, the US has vowed in its latest meeting that its forces would stay.

President Donald Trump has demanded the ROK contribute about US\$5 billion for hosting US troops, well above the current one-year deal where Seoul pays about US\$1 billion.

The price tag originated with the White House, according to people familiar with the matter, and administration officials justify it by saying it reflects the costs the ROK would incur

if it takes operational control of combined US-ROK forces in the case of a conflict.

The US has about 28,500 service members in the ROK.

Trump has repeatedly expressed frustration with the open-ended troop deployment, saying after his first meeting with Democratic People's Republic of Korea's leader Kim Jong-un last year that he would "like to bring them back home, but that's not part of the equation right now."

At the same time, he has accepted a long-standing Kim demand and suspended major joint military exercises that the US and the ROK have relied on to maintain readiness.

Agencies

## Bolivian interim leader proposes new elections as toll rises

LA PAZ, Bolivia

BOLIVIA'S self-proclaimed interim president sent a bill on holding new elections to congress Wednesday amid escalating violence that has claimed at least 30 lives since a disputed Oct 20 vote and the subsequent resignation and exile of former leader Evo Morales.

Officials raised the death toll by eight a day after security forces cleared a blockade of a fuel plant by anti-government protesters in the city of El Alto, near La Paz.

The public defender's office and the state Institute of Forensic Investigations said the latest deaths happened in El Alto. People gathered at a Roman Catholic church to mourn the dead said they were fired on by security

forces there.

Police and soldiers were escorting gasoline tankers from the Senkata fuel plant to ease food and gasoline shortages in some Bolivian cities. The plant provides fuel to more than two million people in El Alto and neighboring La Paz.

Demonstrators were attempting to blow up the plant with explosives, which could have caused a "massive tragedy," interim Defense Minister Fernando López said.

Bolivia has been in a state of turbulence since a disputed vote that, according to an international audit, was marred by irregularities. Morales resigned Nov. 10 after weeks of protests against him and pressure from security forces, but his supporters oppose



the interim government that took his place.

Interim President Jeanine Áñez on Wednesday sent to the legislature a bill that would allow the scheduling of new elections, without providing a date.

"This bill can be perfected and serve as a basis for consensus," Áñez (pictured) said at a news conference. She was referring to the legislators of Morales' Movement Toward Socialism party, which has a majority in congress.

"The electoral fraud caused the convulsion that the country is experiencing," she said.

Congress does not have a fixed deadline to respond to Áñez's proposal, but it is expected to deal with the matter urgently. Legislators were scheduled to meet Wednesday night.

Bolivia's constitution says elections must be called within three months of an interim president taking office, which Áñez did on Nov 12. If the bill is approved by legislators, the date

would be set by the new Supreme Electoral Tribunal, whose members will be elected within the next 15 days by lawmakers, Justice Minister Álvaro Coimbra said.

After almost a month of protests first by Morales' opponents and then by his supporters, fuel shortages are suffocating El Alto and La Paz. Control of the Senkata fuel depot has become the most recent symbol of the struggle between the interim government and the former president's followers, who are demanding that Áñez resign.

Speaking at a news conference in Mexico on Wednesday, Morales said he wanted to return to Bolivia and would help in any dialogue and efforts to restore peace if he were allowed to do so.

Morales said he was Bolivia's "president-elect," a reference to his claim to have won the Oct 20 vote despite allegations of fraud.

He also criticized the Organization of American States, whose investigators concluded there were flaws in last month's election. In Washington, the OAS passed a resolution to help Bolivia hold elections quickly.

Áñez has said Morales, Bolivia's first indigenous president, could face prosecution for fraud if he returns to the country.

Morales upended politics in this indigenous-majority nation long ruled by light-skinned descendants of Europeans when he took office by vowing to reverse deep-rooted inequality.

Agencies



# Pope in Thailand calls for action to protect women, children

HONG KONG

BANGKOK – Pope Francis called yesterday for women and children to be protected from exploitation, abuse and enslavement as he began a busy two days of meetings in Thailand, where human trafficking and forced prostitution help fuel the sexual tourism industry.

Francis pleaded for action against one of the region's greatest scourges at the start of his weeklong visit to Asia.

He praised the Thai government's efforts to fight human trafficking in a speech delivered at Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha's Government House offices. But he appealed for greater international commitment to protect women and children "who are violated and exposed to every form of exploitation, enslavement, violence and abuse."

He called for ways to "uproot this evil and to provide ways to restore their dignity."

"The future of our peoples is linked in large measure to the way we will ensure a dignified future to our children," he said.

The United Nations considers Thailand a key trafficking destination as well as a source of forced labor and sex slaves, who are trafficked at home or abroad.

The UN drug and crime agency said in a report this summer that trafficking for sexual exploitation accounted for 79% of all trafficking cases in Thailand from 2014-2017. Of the 1,248 victims detected, 70% were underage girls, the report said, citing data from Thai authorities.

The UN says sex tourism is a factor in fueling the trafficking of more victims, who often are forced, coerced or deceived into sexual exploitation.

The Thai government has insisted it

has made significant progress and has vowed continued cooperation with international bodies.

Prayuth didn't make any reference to the problem in his remarks to Francis, though he stressed that Thailand had made great strides in promoting human rights.

"We have sought to strengthen the family institution and ensure equal opportunities for all groups in society, especially women and children," he told Francis after a brief private meeting.

Francis has made the fight against human trafficking one of the cornerstones of his papacy, calling it a crime against humanity. Under his express wishes, the Vatican has hosted several conferences on eradicating trafficking, featuring women freed from forced prostitution.

And during his papacy, an international network of religious sisters, Talitha Kum, has gained greater prominence following decades of quiet efforts to rescue women from traffickers.

In his comments made alongside Thai authorities, Francis thanked the country for its historical role welcoming migrants from across the region, who are drawn to Thailand for economic opportunities. But he said all countries must do more to resolve the conflicts that fuel the "tragic exodus" of forced migration.

While Thailand has a tradition of taking in migrant laborers and sheltering people fleeing from danger in neighboring countries, it also has a checkered history of deporting foreigners who are in the country illegally, even if they are recognized by the United Nations as refugees who are fleeing persecution. In addition, up until it signed an agreement with the UN refugee agency this year, Thailand held child asylum seekers in detention centers.



Pope Francis, left, visits the Supreme Buddhist Patriarch of Thailand Somdet Phra Sangkharat Sakonlamahasangkhaparrinayok at the temple in Bangkok, Thailand, yesterday. (AP)

Francis had a busy schedule on his first full day of activities of his week-long tour, which will also take him to Japan. Small crowds of Thais greeted him at each destination, including a few hundred who gathered under a scorching sun to wait for Francis at the St. Louis Hospital, a private nonprofit founded by then-Siam's Catholic archbishop in 1898.

Piyanut Phatpirom, a Thai Catholic, said Francis' visit would help strengthen her faith.

"I intend to follow the teachings that the pope has given, for example kindness, mercy, loving others, having kindness, helping those in need," she said.

Francis also met with Thailand's Supreme Patriarch of Buddhism at

the Wat Rachabophit temple and dutifully followed the custom to remove his shoes before entering the jeweled, intimate room.

Amid the scent of fresh roses inside, Francis committed the Catholic Church to working more with Thailand's majority Buddhists to launch projects to care for the poor and the environment, "our much-abused common home."

There are fewer than 400,000 Catholics among Thailand's 65 million people, yet Francis said they nevertheless have enjoyed freedom in their religious practice. On that note, he gave the patriarch a copy of his much-vaunted human fraternity document calling for interfaith solidarity, which he penned this year with the grand

imam of Al-Azhar, the seat of Sunni Muslim learning.

Francis's visit was the second time a pope has called on the spiritual leader of Thailand's Buddhists, after St John Paul II in 1984. And Francis cited one of John Paul's documents in praising the influence of faith on Thai culture.

"The majority of Thais have drunk deeply from the sources of Buddhism, which have imbued their way of venerating life and their ancestors, and leading a sober lifestyle based on contemplation, detachment, hard work and discipline," he said, speaking with his second cousin by his side – an Argentine nun who has worked in Thailand since the 1960s and is serving as his interpreter for the trip.

Agencies



## Chinese envoy urges Britain to stop interfering in HK affairs

LONDON

CHINESE Ambassador to Britain Liu Xiaoming has met with British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, urging the British side to immediately stop any form of interference in Hong Kong affairs, according to a statement released by the Chinese embassy on Wednesday.

During his meeting with Raab on Tuesday, Liu emphasized that the nature of the situation in Hong Kong has nothing to do with the so-called democracy or freedom claimed by some Western politicians and media.

The nature of the issue is that extreme violent offenders have trampled on rule of law, disrupted public order, severely undermined the prosperity and stability in Hong Kong, and challenged the principled bottom line of "one country, two systems," said Liu.

Their behavior is purely extreme violence and criminal offence, he added.

Liu also urged the British side to have a clear understanding of the current situation in Hong Kong, immediately stop condoning extreme, violent offences, and immediately stop interference in Hong Kong affairs, which are China's internal affairs, according to the statement. *Xinhua*

# Moscow suggests Malaysian experts should look into Russian data on MH17 crash

MOSCOW

MOSCOW has suggested that Malaysia send its experts to look into Russia's data on the Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 crash, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said following a meeting with his Malaysian counterpart Saifuddin Abdullah yesterday.

"Today, we have discussed what Russia did to ensure an impartial and thorough investigation into the crash, including the information that we provided and field demonstrations concerning how it all could have happened and what conclusions may could be drawn," Lavrov (pictured) pointed out.

"We provided it all to the Joint Investigation Team but as far as I understand, Malaysia was not informed about the data we had presented."

"This is why we have invited our Malaysian friends to send their experts so that our experts can tell them what information they had submitted to the Joint Investigative Team in the Netherlands," he added.

According to Lavrov, Saifuddin Abdullah noted that Malaysia had been invited to join the Joint Investigative Team in late 2014,

several months after the tragedy. "As far as we know, before Malaysia was invited to join the team, other members had made a decision that any information would be made public only if all of them, including Ukraine, agreed on that," the Russian foreign minister noted.

He emphasized that there was no need to go to great lengths to provide the world with facts about the MH17 crash. "Some phone records were published a while ago, but it had taken five years to make them."

However, it won't take much effort to present the long existing facts to the world," Lavrov stressed.

"It includes, the records of conversations with Ukrainian air traffic controllers, data from Ukrainian radars that Kiev is reluctant to provide saying that those radars went out of service right before the crash, and, certainly, satellite data that the United States had vowed to present," Lavrov said.

### MH17 crash

Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17, a Boeing-777 passenger plane travelling from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur, was shot down over Ukraine's eastern region of Do-



netsk on July 17, 2014. The crash killed all the 283 passengers and 15 crewmembers. There were nationals of ten states among the dead. The Joint Investigation Team comprises representatives of the Netherlands, Australia, Belgium, Malaysia and Ukraine.

On May 24, 2018, the team gave an update of the state of affairs in the criminal investigation, claiming that "the BUKTELAR that was used to down MH17, originates from the 53rd Anti-Aircraft Missile brigade (hereinafter 53rd brigade), a unit of the Russian army from Kursk in the Russian Federation."

Russia's Defense Ministry rejected all allegations and said that none of the missile sys-

tems belonging to the Russian Armed Forces had ever been taken abroad. The missile, which downed Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17, had been made in the town of Dolgoprudny outside Moscow in 1986, delivered to a military unit deployed to Ukraine and never brought back to Russia, Chief of the Russian Defense Ministry's Missile and Artillery Department Lieutenant General Nikolai Parshin said at a briefing.

On June 19, 2019, the Joint Investigation Team announced that it had identified four suspects involved in the crash (three Russian nationals and one Ukrainian), adding that a trial was expected to begin on March 9, 2020.

Agencies

# Colombia ambassador criticizes State Department in recording

SANTO DOMINGO

COLOMBIA'S ambassador in Washington was embarrassed Wednesday by publication of a recording in which he trashes the State Department as a feeble institution subjugated to the whims of the White House.

The Colombian newspaper *Publimetro* posted the recording of a 24-minute conversation between Ambassador Francisco Santos and Colombia's foreign minister-designate, Claudia Blum. The paper said the private conversation took place last week at a Washington cafe and was recorded by a third person it did not identify.

In the conversation, Santos (pictured) complains that the State Department has lost the muscle as a driver of US policy in Latin America that it had a decade ago when he was Colombia's vice-president. He says policy decisions are now primarily made by the National Security Council's director for the Western Hemisphere, Mauricio Claver-Carone.

"I used to come to the US because I was responsible for human rights ... So you would arrive to the State Department and you knew how things worked," said Santos, who then recounts a conversation with an Asian ambassador who seemed similarly concerned.



"The State Department, which used to be really important, is destroyed. It's non-existent, non-existent," Santos continues.

Colombia has long been the United States' staunchest ally in Latin America and Santos' reflections about whom he refers to as the "gringos" are bound to irritate some of the country's backers in Washington. There was no immediate comment from the State Department.

The office of Colombian President Ivan Duque said Santos had been summoned back to Bogota for a meeting with the president.

The ambassador, a former journalist whose kidnapping decades ago at the hands of drug boss Pablo Escobar was the subject of a book by Nobel

Prize-winning novelist Gabriel Garcia Marquez, apologized for his comments. He said the conversation was illegally recorded but offered no details to back the claim.

The conversation reflects the mounting internal frictions inside Duque's conservative-led government.

Duque, a 43-year-old former senator, was elected largely thanks to the support of former President Alvaro Uribe, who remains the country's most-skilled politician though one lionized and despised in almost equal measure.

Hard-liners within his Democratic Center party want to see Duque take a tougher stance against a 2016 peace accord signed by the previous administration with leftist rebels. They also urge him to strike harder against dissident guerrillas who reject the accord and resume aerial spraying of booming coca crops.

Santos is aligned with the hard-liner wing and known for having an independent streak.

The release of the recording comes as Colombia braces for major nationwide protests Thursday in which Colombians are venting frustration over tepid economic growth and what critics see as the haphazard implementation of the peace accord.

Agencies

# Commissioner Hogan says EU and China must work together

BRUSSELS

"THE European Union (EU) and China must work together... I believe China is open to do business with the European Union on trade, but also on like-minded issues like the reform of the WTO (World Trade Organization)," Phil Hogan, the European commissioner in charge of agriculture and trade commissioner-designate of the new European Commission, said on Tuesday.

Addressing the 9th Europe-China Forum, a joint initiative of Friends of Europe -- a European think-tank, and the Chinese Mission to the EU, Hogan (pictured) hailed the deal on geographical indications between China and the EU "as a very good start."

"China and the European

Union are very important partners in finding solutions, not just for usual trading relationship, but also more and more for the international challenges of our time," he told a 200-strong audience.

"And we have to face together on issues like climate change, like strengthening international peace and security, promoting sustainable development, supporting the effective multilateralism of the World Trade Organization," he noted.

On WTO reform, he warned that the organization is "facing an existential crisis." Commenting on the the deadlock over the WTO Appellate Body, which is caused by the United States' blocking of its new members' nomination, Hogan told the audience that "We don't agree

with this."

"The United States seem to want to collapse the Appellate Body system and go back to the old pre-1995 system," he said.

The Appellate Body functions as the de facto court of appeals at the WTO and is comprised of seven members.

At least three members are needed to hear an appeal, but the nomination of new members has been blocked by the United States. If that remains the case, the body will have too few members to function by the end of this year.

According to the WTO, a dysfunctional Appellate Body and a crippled dispute settlement system are very worrisome and will open the door to more unilateral actions.

"So we have to be prepared to



look at Plan B if this is necessary to maintain the rules-based multilateral system. And this is where the European Union and China can work closely together," he said.

Discussing the trade tensions between China and the U.S., Hogan acknowledged that there are differences of opinion

between China and the EU on certain issues, but "that doesn't mean we have to abandon cooperation and dialogue and engage in confrontation to try to solve these issues."

Organized jointly with the China Institute for Reform and Development and the China Public Diplomacy Association, the two-day forum was dedicated to the theme of "convergence, divergence and the vital space between."

Commenting on the divergences between the EU and China raised by some participants, including the level playing field, market access and the so-called "promise fatigue," Wang Hongjian, charge d'affaires of the Chinese Mission to the EU, said in his opening remarks at the forum Tuesday

that "in all fairness, in a global environment of rising protectionism, China's determination, intensity and speed to open its doors still wider are rare and deserve recognition."

"While urging China to be more open, the EU itself must keep to the basic principles of market economy and treat Chinese companies in a fair, equitable and non-discriminatory manner," he said, taking 5G and the screening of foreign investment, as examples.

The fulfilment of any agenda in China-EU relations must call for concerted efforts from both sides toward a win-win solution. China and the EU do not have fundamental conflicts of interest, said Wang.

"Our relations are defined by cooperation. Convergences

prevail over divergences ... It is normal that there are differences, which must be treated with an open mind," he told the audience.

"We need to manage the differences and strive to solve them by building consensus. China will continue to do the right things and work with the EU with utmost sincerity to implement the agreed agenda," he said.

Co-funded by the Europe for Citizens Program of the EU, the forum gathered policy makers, business representatives and leading academics from across Europe and China to discuss issues of shared interest as well as areas of disagreement, while at the same time addressing pressing common challenges.

Agencies





Los Angeles Clippers guard Patrick Beverley, right, reaches in on Boston Celtics forward Jayson Tatum during the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019, in Los Angeles. (AP Photo)

## Clippers edge Celtics 107-104 in OT with Leonard and George

LOS ANGELES

WITH Kawhi Leonard, Paul George and Lou Williams on the court, the Boston Celtics had to pick someone to leave unguarded.

They chose Patrick Beverley and he made them pay.

Beverley shone on both ends, playing his usual ornery defense while scoring 14 points and grabbing a career-high 16 rebounds to help the Los Angeles Clippers win 107-104 in overtime with Leonard and George playing together for the first time Wednesday night.

"If I was a coach, I'd leave me open all the time," Beverley said.

Williams scored 27 points, George added 25 and Leonard had 17 for the Clippers, who improved to 9-1 at home after rallying from a 10-point deficit in the fourth quarter.

It was a wild and sloppy game for both teams. The Clippers committed 23 turnovers (Williams had seven while Leonard and George had five each) to 17 for the Celtics.

"That was an ugly win, but it was beautiful," Clippers coach Doc Rivers said.

Leonard blocked Kemba Walker's potential tying 3-point attempt in the left corner after injury and rehab had prevented him and George from playing in the same game over the first 14 of the season.

"He got enough separation to get it off against most of the league," Celtics coach Brad Stevens said. "The problem is, that guy's not normal. He's not most of the league, and he made a great play to block it."

In overtime, George hit a 3-pointer after he missed his first attempt and Beverley got the offensive rebound, then George fed Beverley for a 3 of his own. George's free throw on a technical foul against Stevens completed a run of seven straight points, and the Clippers led 104-99.

"He literally singlehandedly willed that game with his effort, rebounding, making plays," Rivers said of Beverley, who got the game ball. "He's a tough kid."

The Celtics pulled to 104-102 on Jayson Tatum's basket after a wild sequence in which bodies crashed to the floor as both teams chased a loose ball before Boston got possession. "Defensive mistakes, costly turnovers," Tatum said. "If we would have won it still would have been a learning experience."

Beverley hit a 3-pointer from the corner in front of the Clippers' bench for 107-102 lead, revving up Los Angeles fans and quieting the large contingent of Celtics fans in the stands.

"It was a playoff atmosphere," said Marcus Smart, who had 14 points for Boston.

Tatum's basket left the Celtics down by three. Walker, who had 13 points, got free in the corner for the last shot but Leonard leaped to deflect it.

Tatum led the Celtics with 30 points and Brad Wanamaker added 14.

Williams hit a go-ahead 3 with 31 seconds remaining in regulation.

With the crowd on its feet shouting "Defense! Defense!" Williams stole the ball at the other end and got fouled, making both for a 97-94 lead.

After a timeout, Tatum hit a 3-pointer with George falling down defending him to tie it 97-all with 13 seconds left.

Leonard's potential game-winning 3 rattled in and out as regulation ended.

"We've got some kinks to work out," Williams said. "Just understanding what everybody brings to the table."

The Celtics led by 10 early in the fourth but got outscored 13-7 over the final 3:16.

Boston missed 17 of 18 3-pointers in the first half.

## Ditram makes most of Taifa Stars opportunity

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL MWEBE

FOR some players, life in football starts with a quick explosion of instant success but for others, it's a long and arduous road to the top.

The likes of Mbwana Samatta and, more recently, Kelvin John, made their statements as fresh-faced teenagers, tearing defences apart from an early age and never looking back in the senior national team 'Taifa Stars'.

Samatta made his senior national team debut at 18 years while John earned his Taifa Stars cap at 16 years, both achieving that feat after impressive outings with the junior national teams.

However, for majority of Tanzanian players, they have to wait till when they are into their mid-20s to don the senior national team jersey. That is the case for Ditram Nchimbi.

Nchimbi has made a remarkable turnaround after having originally been considered a flop.

He is now in his fifth Tanzania Premier League Club after not so successful stints at Mbeya City FC, Njombe Mji FC, Mwadui and Azam FC.

It was at Azam FC where he struggling to truly show just what he could be considered a top striker.

Azam FC signed him for two years but deemed him surplus to requirement. He made not more than three appearances before being loaned out to Mwadui where he formed a good partnership with Salim Aiyece.

Despite his good outing with Mwadui he was still considered not good enough for Azam FC and was once again loaned out to Police Tanzania for the 2019/20 season.



Ditram Nchimbi

Luckily, Nchimbi has managed to establish himself as one of the Vodacom Premier league's dominant forward.

He scored a hat-trick against Young Africans 'Yanga' which earned him a senior national team call up.

There was murmur of disapproval but coach Etienne Ndayiragije stuck with his decision.

Nchimbi who had his fair share of doubters, had a wonderful second half national team debut against Rwanda before he struck a wonderful goal and grabbed an assist

against Sudan to announce his arrival in senior national team colours in a grand style.

It is a goal he will remember all his life but more significantly, it is one that has pressed his claims for the national team centre forward jersey. It was no surprise he was picked as the first substitute against Equatorial Guinea and went on to grab an assist when he set up Salum Abubakar 'Sure Boy' sweet winning goal in injury time.

Things could not have gone much better for the 24-year-old since, with Nchimbi scor-

ing one goal and assisting two in three competitive matches for Taifa Stars.

Since the decline of Thomas Ulimwengu, Taifa Stars had missed a striker with physicality and movement until the arrival of Nchimbi.

With Nchimbi in the side, Taifa Stars have a forward who can bother defenders. He is ever chasing balls, vies for the 50-50 aerial balls by using his muscular frame to legally wrestle them.

His detractors still point to the number of chances he puts to waste, and his lack of hold up against, but strikers are nominally judged on the goals they score. Goals stick in the memory, missed chances fade.

Nchimbi is already a dead cert for Africa Nations Championship (CHAN) Cameroon 2021 and is increasingly looking like he will figure highly in Ndayiragije's plans for the rest of this AFCON qualification campaign and the 2022 World Cup qualifiers next year.

It also helps Nchimbi that he is playing regularly for Police Tanzania at home and Ndayiragije together with his assistants Juma Mgunia and Selemani Matola can easily check his progress.

Timing is key in sport and, with the injury of John Bocco and the lack of game time for the more talented Shaban Chilunda at Azam FC, Nchimbi could not have picked a more opportune time to properly announce his arrival after a fledgling career.

WASHINGTON

FORGIVE Gregg Popovich for not being in much of a mood to discuss the current state of the San Antonio Spurs.

Fact is, he's just not used to losing like this.

Here's how long it's been since the Spurs dropped seven games in a row, the way they now have after DeMar DeRozan, LaMarcus Aldridge and the rest of the team were beaten by the lowly Washington Wizards 138-132 on Wednesday night: You have to go all the way back to the 1996-97 season to find such a rut for Pop and Co.

That was before Tim Duncan had even played a game for them – and that guy was in the arena Wednesday, sitting on the sideline as an assistant to Popovich. Before Popovich led the franchise to five NBA championships and 22 consecutive playoff appearances. Before folks such as Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili and Kawhi Leonard had come and gone.

After the latest setback, Popovich spoke to reporters only briefly.

"All in all, if you score 132 points, you should probably have a pretty good chance to win a game. The bad news is, if you give up 138, you are not going to win," he said. "I'm a really smart guy. I'm figuring that's logical. I could be wrong. ... There's not much else to say."

His players didn't offer a whole lot in the way of explanations, either.

DeRozan, who scored 31 points but missed a pair of free throws with 9.9 seconds left and a chance to cut San Antonio's deficit to two, called the way things are going at the moment "extremely frustrating."

"Every single game we've lost," DeRozan said, "feels worse than the last game."

The Spurs led this one 69-63 at halftime, but let it get away with some lax defense.

They let Bradley Beal score 21 of his 33 points in the third quarter, when he shot 9 for 9. As a whole, the Wizards made 58.7% of their field-goal attempts, 60% on 3-pointers.

Washington, remember, began the day last in the Eastern Conference, with a 3-8 record.

San Antonio started off this season well enough, going 4-1. Since then, though, the Spurs have gone 1-9, so their skid has put them at 5-10 entering Friday night's game at the Philadelphia 76ers.



Washington Wizards forward Davis Bertans (42) goes to the basket past San Antonio Spurs forward DeMarre Carroll (77) and center Jakob Poeltl (25) during the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019, in Washington. The Wizards won 138-132. (AP Photo)

## Popovich, Spurs on 7-game losing streak; worst since 1996-97

They hadn't lost seven straight since Feb. 23 to March 5, 1997, under Popovich, and the last time they had a longer drought was eight defeats from Nov. 15-30, 1996, under Bob Hill. It was during the next month that Popovich, the team's general manager, fired Hill and moved from the front office to the sideline.

San Antonio finished 20-62, won the draft lottery and took Duncan as the No. 1 overall pick.

The rest, as they say, is history. Now Popovich will try to figure out a way to turn things around this season. There's plenty of time left, of course.

"The important thing is that we're holding strong to our core values and we're going to find a way," said Patty Mills, who made his first start of the season Wednesday and scored 16 points. "We've just got to stay positive. We've got to stick together. We've got to find a way and we'll get through it."

Meanwhile, The front of their jerseys said "San Francisco" and the names on the back weren't the same Golden State Warriors that reached the past five NBA Finals.

The Dallas Mavericks took full advantage.

Luka Doncic scored 33 of his 35 points in the first half and had yet another triple-double to help Dallas hammer short-handed

Warriors 142-94 on Wednesday night.

Doncic fell a point short of matching Dirk Nowitzki's team record for points in a half, set Nov. 3, 2009, against Utah. Doncic was 10 for 11 from the floor, making 6 of 7 3-pointers, and hit 7 of 8 free throws.

The second-year star from Slovenia was coming off a 40-point triple-double Monday. With his team up big on this night, Doncic played only 25 minutes total, but still managed 10 rebounds and 11 assists. He has an NBA-best seven triple-doubles in 14 games.

"If he had kept playing today, he probably would have had 50 (points)," teammate Tim Hardaway Jr. said. "He's doing a great job playing with the utmost confidence."

Doncic had 22 points, five assists and five rebounds in the first quarter alone.

"I see (the stats), but I don't know what to say," Doncic said.

"It's great to read about. I just enjoy the basketball."

The Mavericks tied a franchise record with 22 3-pointers while sending Golden State to its worst loss since a 1973 playoff game. "Flush it down the toilet," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said when asked what his team can take away from the game. "Literally, you just move on. You don't take anything from a game like this."

Rookie Eric Paschall led the Warriors with 22 points.

Tim Hardaway Jr. added 20 for Dallas. Kristaps Porzingis had 14 points and 10 rebounds for his fourth-straight double-double.

**WOUNDED WARRIORS**  
The Warriors are an NBA-worst 3-13. Their five-year run of at the top of the NBA has collapsed under a weight of injuries, with Draymond Green out Wednesday because of right heel soreness.

With Green out, Golden State dressed only eight players, none of whom suited up for the team last season when it made the NBA Finals for the fifth consecutive year.

Kerr could at least find humor in the Warriors' result.

"Tough to lose by 48 points, but a break here or there and it only would have been 42 points," Kerr said, then paused and added, "Nobody caught the sarcasm? I was trying to be funny."

**SUPERNOVAS**

Paschall, Warriors teammate Omari Spellman and the Mavs' Jalen Brunson all started for Villanova during their run to the 2018 national championship. All finished in double figures on Wednesday, with Brunson scoring 15 on a perfect 6-for-6 shooting night. Spellman had 11 for Golden State.



## Jose Mourinho: Miracle worker or busted flush?

LONDON

JOSE Mourinho, the new man in the Tottenham hot seat, is back in the Premier League with a point to prove.

The Portuguese is a serial winner across Europe but his reputation was badly tarnished in the final few months of his Manchester United reign, which ended late last year.

The man who charmed English football when he arrived as a fresh-faced manager at Chelsea in 2004, labelling himself the "Special One", left Old Trafford last December under a dark cloud.

Now Mourinho has a chance to prove his doubters wrong at a club without any silverware since 2008 but with a sparkling new stadium and a squad of players who reached the Champions League final in June.

"I am excited to be joining a club with such a great heritage and such passionate supporters," said the 56-year-old, hours after Mauricio Pochettino was shown the door.

"The quality in both the squad and the academy excites me. Working with these players is what has attracted me."

Mourinho's arrival in English football from Champions League winners Porto had a seismic effect.

He put Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich's billions to spectacular use to end the Arsenal-Manchester United duopoly, winning the Premier League title in his first season and repeating the feat the following year before things turned sour.

Next stop was Inter Milan, who became the first Italian side to complete the treble of league, cup and Champions League.

At Real Madrid he tussled with Pep Guardiola's great Barcelona side, winning the league title in 2012.

He failed to lead them to European glory, although he did take them to three straight Champions League semi-finals after six years without winning a knockout tie in the com-

petition.

- Irritable -

In June 2013, Chelsea appointed Mourinho -- now the "Happy One" -- as manager for the second time.

He won a third Premier League title in his second season in charge before a poor start to the next campaign cost him his job.

Even though he failed to win the league title at Old Trafford he still added the Europa League and the League Cup to United's trophy cabinet.

However, in the irritable final months of his tenure there, Mourinho fell out with senior squad members including Paul Pogba, blamed his superiors for a lack of backing in the transfer market and oversaw a drastic deterioration in performances and results on the pitch.

Mourinho did little to help himself, particularly in a short-lived third season, which has become an unwanted hallmark of his managerial career.

Although he suffered damage to his reputation, the Spurs appointment shows his stock is still high, with chairman Daniel Levy hailing him as "one of the most successful managers in football".

But he now brings baggage as well as trophy-winning nous. Will Spurs fans get to witness the "Special One" or, perhaps, the "Surly One"?

When the Portuguese joined United, there were questions about how his pragmatic approach would fit in with their famous culture of attacking football nurtured under Alex Ferguson.

Those questions did not go away as he failed to recapture the Premier League title.

He will face the same issues at Tottenham, with the club wedded to a tradition of flair and exciting forward play, summed up in their slogan, "To Dare is To Do".

AFP

## The highs and lows of Jose Mourinho

LONDON

A BRIEF history of the career of Jose Mourinho, 56, who was named as Tottenham Hotspur manager on Wednesday:

- The translator -

After an undistinguished playing career in Portugal and a spell as a PE teacher, Mourinho worked as an interpreter for former England manager Bobby Robson at Portugal's Sporting CP and then Porto, where they enjoyed huge success before moving to Barcelona in 1996. Robson lasted only one season at the helm of the Spanish giants but Mourinho remained as assistant to Dutchman Louis van Gaal, before securing the manager's role at Benfica in 2000.

- The European Cup-winner -

Short spells at Benfica and Leiria were followed by a move to Porto in early 2002, where he won the UEFA Cup, Portuguese league and Portuguese cup in his first full season, with future stars such as Deco, Ricardo Carvalho and Vitor Baia. An even greater success was to come the following year when Porto were the shock winners of European club football's biggest prize, the UEFA Champions League, beating Monaco 3-0 in the May 2004 final after eliminating Manchester United, Lyon and Deportivo La Coruna along the way.

- The Special One -

Chelsea, bankrolled by Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich, immediately came knocking and Mourinho was unveiled to great fanfare in June 2004, memorably describing himself as "The Special One" to assembled media. It was not an idle boast: Chelsea won the next two editions of the Premier League, and added one FA Cup and two League Cup titles in a successful first stint at the London club. Mourinho's meticulous attention to detail, hitherto unknown in the English game, and attritional, pressing style cut a swathe through English football. But relations with Abramovich soured and Mourinho departed early in the 2007/08 season.

- The Italian job -

Mourinho joined Italy's Inter Milan for 2008/09 where his legend

grew with two Scudettos in his first two seasons plus his second Champions League title in May 2010, beating Bayern Munich 2-0 in the final. At the time Mourinho, who clinched the Italian treble that year, was only the fourth manager to win the European title with two different clubs.

- The Real deal -

Despite his success Mourinho immediately departed for Real Madrid, a dream move for a manager, but his return to Spain proved ill-fated. Real won the Spanish Cup in Mourinho's first season in charge, but arch-rivals Barcelona beat them to the La Liga title and knocked them out in the Champions League semi-finals. The following year, Real won La Liga but again fell in the Champions League semi-finals. Mourinho's tenure unravelled in the third season as he feuded with players including Cristiano Ronaldo, the media and officials, and poked Barcelona assistant coach Tito Vilanova in the eye during a mass brawl. He departed at the end of the 2013 season.

- The second coming -

After being snubbed by Manchester United, who chose David Moyes to replace the retiring Alex Ferguson, Mourinho rekindled his affair with Chelsea in 2013. Chelsea won the Premier League title and the League Cup for a domestic double in 2014/15, but with enthusiasm dwindling for Mourinho's defence-minded football, passions cooled and he left in December 2015.

- The Manchester hotel -

Manchester United, struggling to find a viable replacement for Ferguson, turned to Mourinho in 2016 but the long-awaited match was not a happy one. Mourinho, lacking the charisma of earlier incarnations, and choosing to live full-time in a hotel, won the Europa League and League Cup in a promising first season. But as relations with the media deteriorated, and fans grew unhappy with United's style of play, Mourinho was unceremoniously sacked in December 2018.

AFP

## What were Spurs thinking with Mourinho hire?

BY LEANDER SCHAERLAECKENS

For the fourth time in his career, Jose Mourinho has been hired for a Premier League job. On Wednesday, Tottenham Hotspur installed the Portuguese in his ninth managerial position, following the instantly controversial sacking of Mauricio Pochettino on Tuesday.

Mourinho's English appointments trace the arc of his much-discussed career, spanning from the cocky-yet-charming managerial prodigy upon his first appointment at Chelsea in 2004, to his return in 2013 as a highly decorated manager, to his 2016 arrival at Manchester United as both a three-time Premier League champion and damaged goods, to, now, a point where his signing by Spurs is widely considered a huge risk.

It is, any way you look at it, a strange marriage. Mourinho, somehow still only 56 and out of work for almost a year since his December firing by United, might well be the most divisive manager in the sport's history. His personal trophy case is inarguable: three Premier League titles; two Serie A titles; a La Liga title; two Champions League trophies; two UEFA Cup or Europa League trophies; eight domestic cups. The thing is, Mourinho has provoked as many crises and skirmishes and meltdowns as he has won prizes. And you don't get one without the other.

So for Spurs, of all teams, to hire him under the rule of the ever-sensible, risk-averse chairman Daniel Levy, feels like an odd fit.

But there are other pressing and worrying considerations.

The downturn in Pochettino's last eight or so months in charge - the miraculous run to the Champions League final very notably excepted - was much to do with a widespread



Jose Mourinho

fatigue among the players, who slumped to their present 14th place in the league. Pochettino was a demanding manager, imposing a strict and imposing playing system. There is a habit among soccer teams to vacillate between opposites in your managerial hires. After the disciplinarian, you go with the nice-guy players' manager to give the players a fresh experience. And then the cycle resets.

Yet Mourinho is no less demanding than Pochettino, albeit in different ways. Rather than a dogmatic, Marcelo Bielsa-inspired high press, Mourinho applies something antithetical, a sort of reactive non-press. But he drains his players in different ways. Mourinho creates a culture of perpetual tension through instigation and conflict.

That might not work particularly well on players who appear to be burned out as it is, while many of them were already itching to leave the club.

What's more, Mourinho relies

heavily on massive investment in his teams to solve problems, rather than developing existing players or ushering in academy products - although Mourinho has always disputed this reputation of ignoring youth, even if the stats clearly support it.

"The quality in both the squad and the academy excites me," Mourinho said in a statement. "Working with these players is what has attracted me."

Yet historically, that's not what he has actually ever done. It could be that he may have evolved during his time away from the game, mostly spent doing TV punditry in England, but that feels unlikely when you consider that Mourinho has replicated the same playbook everywhere he's gone - until it stopped working, and then simply did it all over again someplace new. Mourinho would arrive, demand heavy spending on new players, foster urgency in a pressure-cooker environment, win a few major trophies, and move on when it all

blew up.

But at Spurs, the institutional lack of investment in players drove Pochettino to despair - and it's likely that the failure to refresh the squad caused its steep decline. It's doubtful that Mourinho got concessions from Levy that he denied his predecessor.

Taken together, it's hard to see how any of this ends very happily. Mourinho doesn't give you happy endings. He gives you a few highs and then a crash.

And maybe that's the plan. One of the many things that jarred about Pochettino's firing is that the timing was so awkward - toward the end of an international break with almost no qualified managers available. But then maybe this is a short-term play. Veteran regulars Christian Eriksen, Toby Alderweireld and Jan Vertonghen all have expiring contracts. Perhaps hiring Mourinho is a last-ditch attempt to win something with a splendid, carefully cultivated squad before it inevitably breaks up.

Because the only structural problem Mourinho will solve in short order is the erosion of intensity. He isn't a long-term solution because he doesn't do the long term. He's a fresh face, yet a familiar one.

"In Jose we have one of the most successful managers in football," Levy said in the statement. "He has a wealth of experience, can inspire teams and is a great tactician. He has won honors at every club he has coached. We believe he will bring energy and belief to the dressing room." Belief? Perhaps.

Energy? Sure. But what kind, exactly?

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## Ronaldo has goal record in his sights, Kane hot on his heels

BY MARK OGDEN, SENIOR WRITER, ESPN FC

CRISTIANO Ronaldo had scored 32 goals for Portugal before celebrating his 27th birthday. With the Juventus forward now just one goal away from breaking the 100 barrier on the international stage, it is worth remembering where he stood when he was the same age as Harry Kane.

Kane, who is 27 next July, took his own international tally to 32 during England's 4-0 Euro 2020 qualifying victory over Kosovo on Sunday, and his goal in Pristina was enough to move him one clear of Ronaldo -- and Israel's Eran Zahavi -- to end the qualifying campaign as Europe's top scorer with 12 goals.

Ronaldo will be 35 next February, but despite the years in his legs, he was still able to make 2019 the most productive year of his career in terms of goals for his country by netting 14 times for the European champions. During 2019, Ronaldo has scored hat tricks against Switzerland and Lithuania, who he also hit four against in Vilnius in October.

But if there is a sense of Ronaldo scoring goals like a man in a hurry, it is probably because he knows that he must set the bar incredibly high during the final years of his career in order to ensure that any milestones he goes on to set prove to be beyond the chasing pack. The 100th goal will surely come before the Euro 2020 finals (stream live next summer on ESPN+ in U.S.).

Ronaldo, Portugal, and every company associated with the former Manchester United and Real Madrid star will want to make sure that the century barrier is broken sooner rather than later so that the achievement attracts the spotlight it deserves. Who, and where, Portugal play next will almost certainly be arranged to suit the Ronaldo machine, although it might be pushing it to suggest that San Marino should be offered a friendly game in Lisbon next March.

But once the 100th goal is scored, the next target will be the world record of 109 goals, set by Iran's Ali Daei between 1993 and 2006, and few would bet against Ronaldo making it 110, and beyond, in 2020. Time will catch up with Ronaldo soon, however, and he will be acutely



Cristiano Ronaldo

aware of who is most likely to go close to whatever tally he ends up with.

Lionel Messi is now on 70 goals for Argentina following his penalty against Uruguay on Monday, but at 32 and having already announced one international retirement, in 2016, it is doubtful that the Barcelona star will stick around long enough to hit at least another 40 international goals.

Neymar, with 61 goals in 101 appearances for Brazil, has a chance, but with his 28th birthday looming in February and his career treading water at Paris Saint-Germain, it is fair to question whether his best days are already behind him.

Romelu Lukaku is two months younger than Kane and the Inter Milan forward has already bagged 52 goals for Belgium, so he is a clear

threat to Ronaldo's eventual tally if the Belgians can sustain their status as one of the world's best international teams.

But Kane is perhaps the one player who Ronaldo should fear most, simply because he appears to share the same voracious, even selfish, appetite for goals. The Tottenham striker has scored 18 goals for England since the start of the World Cup last year -- the same as Ronaldo -- and he has become as lethal against the weaker nations as the Portuguese forward. Since the start of Russia 2018, Kane has hit hat tricks against Panama, Bulgaria and Montenegro and also boosted his tally with two goals against both Tunisia and Kosovo.

Kane went into the World Cup as

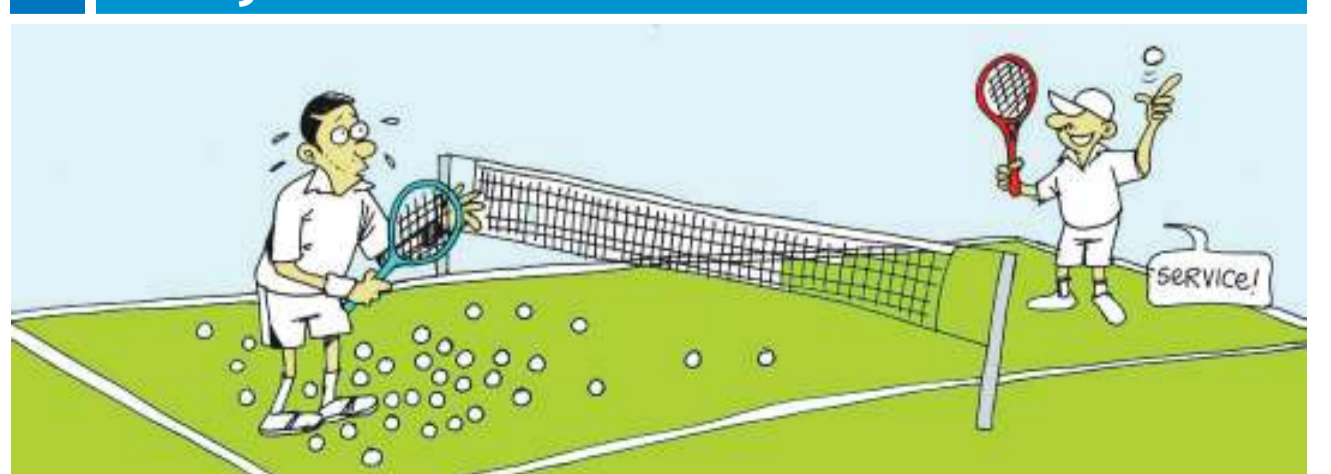
England's joint-32nd highest scorer on 14 goals -- level with Paul Scholes -- but less than 18 months later, he stands in sixth place, on 32, with a serious chance of breaking Wayne Rooney's record of 53 within the next few years. The Tottenham man certainly has momentum on his side, and, like Ronaldo, he has claimed penalty-taking duties for his country. Ronaldo has scored three penalties for Portugal in 2019, while Kane has scored four, and missed one, for England this year.

But although Kane now has a virtually identical record to Ronaldo at the same stage of his international career, the latter accelerated toward 100 by hitting 67 goals for his country since turning 27. Emulating that incredible consistency will be the big challenge for Kane, who has already suffered a number of ankle injuries during his career. Form and fitness are everything for a top player, but Kane possesses the same determination as Ronaldo to score at every possible opportunity.

And with England appearing to be a nation on the rise under Gareth Southgate, the likelihood is that there will be more emphatic victories over the lower-ranked nations in the years ahead -- fixtures that will give Kane the opportunity to do what he has become so good at recently, by taking advantage of weaker opponents.

Ronaldo is in a different league right now, but with luck on his side, Kane might prove to be the one who goes closest to catching him.

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

What were Spurs thinking with Mourinho hire?

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

## Samatta snubbed in 2019 CAF African Team of the Year



Mbwana Samatta

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE 2019 CAF Best XI nominees list has been leaked by various reputed African media houses.

However, there is no place for Tanzania's national team 'Taifa Stars' skipper Mbwana Samatta, who has scored 19 goals and grabbed six assists across all competitions for club and country so far in 2019.

Samatta could hardly have enjoyed a better 2019 year. He fired Genk to Belgium's Jupiler League title and won the Ebony Shoe for his efforts, an award given to the best African or player of African origin in the Belgian top-flight. He also helped Tanzania qualify

for the AFCON finals for the first time in 39 years.

The 26-year-old striker and 2015 best African player based in Africa has hit eight goals in 19 games this season as well as 32 goals in 51 appearances last term to attract interest from English Premier League clubs.

Uganda captain Dennis Onyango, who plays for Mamelodi Sundowns in South Africa, and Kenya's skipper Victor Wanyama, who plies his trade in Belgium, are the only East African players

on the list.

The 2019 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) champions Algeria dominate the list with a total of 10 players amongst the full list of 55 players.

The final team will be announced on January 7, 2020 at the CAF headquarters in Cairo at the annual awards ceremony.

Nominees in full:

Goalkeepers:

Moez Ben Cherifia, Yassine Bonnou, Mohamed El Shenawy, Sylvain, Gbohhou, Rais M'bolhi,

Edouard Mendy, Richard Ofori, Andre Onana, Denis Onyango, Francis Uzoho.

Defenders:

Youcef Atal, Serge Aurier, Mehdi Benatia, Ahmed El-Mohammedi, Lamine Gassama, Faouzi Ghoulam, Achraf Hakimi, Ahmed Hegazi, Kalidou Koulibaly, Christian Luyindama, Issa Mandi, Joel Matip, Noussair Mazraoui, Yassine Meriah, Youssef Sabaly.

Midfielders:

Andre-Frank Anguissa, Ismael Bennacer, Sofiane Feghouli, Id-

rissa Gueye, Tarek Hamed, Alex Iwobi, Wahbi Khazri, Naby Keita, Franck Kessie, Wilfried Ndidi, Riyad Mahrez, Thomas Partey, Mubarak Wakaso, Victor Wanyama, Hakim Ziyech.

Forwards:

Pierre Emerick Aubameyang, Jordan Ayew, Anis Badri, Cedric Bakambu, Youcef Belaili, Baghdad Bounedjah, Odion Ighalo, Sadio Mane, Moussa Marega, Mbaye Niang, Nicolas Pepe, Mohamed Salah, Islam Slimani, Percy Tau, Wilfried Zaha.

**TONIGHT @ 21:00**

**FRIDAY**

10:59 Jikoni Na Jani  
11:00 DADAZ (live)  
13:30 Kati Za Wana  
14:00 Radio:PlanetBongo Live  
15:00 FUGUEKA  
16:30 RHASHTAG  
17:00 SSELEKI  
17:55 KURUSA  
18:00 #HAWZ  
18:30 Skonga  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
19:30 NJADALA  
21:00 Friday Night Live

**FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE (FNL)** is where EATV and East Africa Radio combine to bring you an explosion of Friday Night entertainment. The date 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 Supemix  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM**  
DAR ES SALAAM

## Australia strike in bursts to dismiss Pakistan for 240

SYDNEY

MITCHELL Starc took four for 52 as a middle-session blitz and some late new-ball fireworks helped Australia dismiss Pakistan for 240 to bring a close to the opening day of the first test in Brisbane on Thursday.

Pat Cummins took three wickets (3-60) and the third quick, Josh Hazlewood, grabbed two as the Australian bowlers took the honours on a sunny day at the Gabba.

Pakistan's Asad Shafiq offered most resistance to the barrage from the Australian pace battalion with a fine knock of 76 before he was ousted by a Cummins delivery that removed his middle stump.

Left-arm Starc took the second new ball in the final hour of the day and made good use of it, dismissing Yasir Shah (26) with a trademark yorker and Shaheen Shah (0) in successive deliveries to put himself on a hat-trick.

Naseem Shah, the 16-year-old fast bowler who was playing his first test, faced the next delivery and, without appearing to know much about it, managed to keep the ball from hitting his stumps with a thick inside edge.

The teenager was the last batsman to depart, caught and bowled by Starc for seven to bring an end to a day that ebbed and flowed with long periods of Pakistani resistance punctuated by bursts of wickets.

"In the end, not a bad result," said Australia captain Tim Paine.

"We weren't quite at our best in that first session, we thought we bowled a bit short ... But apart from that we stuck to the task and got better as the day went on."

After losing the toss, Australia had been frustrated by an opening stand of 75 from Azhar Ali (39) and Shan Masood (27) in a partnership that lasted throughout the first session and into the second.

The Australian quicks finally found their length, however, and removed both in three deliveries before swiftly adding the wickets of Haris Sohail and Babar Azam for one run apiece.

That spell of four wickets at the cost of three runs had the tourists rocking and a rout looked in order when Iftikhar Ahmed departed for seven to leave Pakistan on 95-5.

Cummins was fortunate to make the next breakthrough when he dismissed Mohammad Rizwan for 37 as the replays, when reviewed, showed what looked to be a no ball.

"I look at the scoreboard, it says a wicket," Cummins added. "I'll take it but I was really nervous until they put the finger up."

Asad clearly enjoys playing Down Under, however, and backed up centuries in Pakistan's two tour matches at a ground where he scored 137 when the tourists came close to chasing down an unlikely victory in 2016.

Reflecting the discipline that the openers had earlier employed, he brought up his 24th test half century in a partnership of 84 with Yasir before Australia took the new ball and seized the day.

"We are not too unhappy but it could have been a lot better," said Pakistan bowling coach Waqar Younis.

"The first session we thought would be difficult we got through pretty well, but then we gave it away. We need a really good session tomorrow to be in the game." **REUTERS**

## Government targets to end misuse of public recreational centers

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Dodoma

THE government has ordered Ward Executive Officials (WEOs) across the country to closely monitor all public recreational centers and see to it they are used for the intended purpose.

The official, moreover, have been asked to take action against people that have invaded the areas.

Deputy Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Juliana Shonza, issued the order when she launched the sports for health care campaign at Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma recently.

Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, in cooperation with other government sectors, organized the campaign that aimed at backing efforts to curb such non-communicable diseases like diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular, sickle cells and mental disorder.

The weeklong event, which brought together government officials, saw participants compete in events, which include bas-

ketball, tug-of-war, marathon and netball.

Juliana pointed out communities have to embrace fitness exercises, since report by the World Health Organization (WHO) and Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children show non communicable diseases affect low income earners.

"Prevention is better than cure, let all people do exercises wherever they are, the government spends 40 percent of its annual budget in health," she disclosed.

She emphasized citizens should use commuter buses for early morning routes from their residences to training centers, instead of using private cars to do away with traffic jam.

The sports for health care campaign's netball coordinator, Chantal Mishako, said the sports for health care campaign will be hosted on regular basis.

The event, she disclosed, is set to be part of the Uhuru torch race's slogan, given the event is organized by the Prime Minister's Office.



Deputy Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Juliana Shonza.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

