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## Kenyan MP arrested after threatening foreign traders

NAIROBI

A Kenyan MP has been arrested after saying he would beat up foreign traders if they did not leave the country.

Charles Njagua Kanyi said in a video that Tanzanian and Ugandan traders were taking Kenyan business and "enough is enough."

A diplomatic row erupted and Tanzanian Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa summoned the Kenyan High Commissioner for an explanation.

Kenya is East Africa's economic hub, attracting people from across the region to move there to make money.

Kanyi was recorded issuing the comment in a video widely shared on social media.

"When you look at our market, Tanzani-

**“A diplomatic row erupted and Tanzanian Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa summoned the Kenyan High Commissioner for an explanation**

ans and Ugandans have taken our business, enough is enough. If we will give them 24 hours and they will not leave, we will beat them and we are not scared of anyone," the MP declared as people around him cheered in agreement.

The MP from the ruling Jubilee Party, who is also a singer by the stage name Jaguar, then repeats the phrase "enough is enough" as people applaud.

He has since said on Twitter that his comments had been misinterpreted and "all foreigners are welcome to our country."

Other Kenyan politicians distanced themselves from the comments, and the government has said it condemns the comments in the strongest possible terms.

An opposition leader in the Tanzanian parliament, Freeman Mbowe said the comments could not be ignored.

After Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa met High Commissioner Dan Kazungu, Majaliwa said he had been reassured that the comments were not coming from the Kenyan government.

# Standards Act now shifts foods, cosmetics to TBS



A fruits vendor points the direction to her colleague in seeking out customers after walking a long distance along Samora Avenue as captured yesterday in Dar es Salaam. Women have increasingly upped their role in ensuring family upkeep. Photo: Selemani Mpocho.

**TMDA** will continue with supervision of drugs, medical devices and medical reagents. The changes are meant to enhance the authority's effectiveness in the area, she pointed out

By Guardian Reporter

**T**HE National Assembly yesterday endorsed changes to the Standards Act where the Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority becomes the Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA), with supervision of foods and cosmetics shifted to the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS).

Tabling The Finance Bill 2019, the Deputy Minister for Finance and Planning, Dr Ashatu Kijaji said the bill proposed amendment in Section 130 of the Standards Act. With the amendments, TBS will also be responsible for registration of buildings, products and control of imported goods, she said.

Dr Kijaji said the changes in Section 30 of the Act shifts regulatory activities of foods

**“The schedule amendments proposes changes to the Foods, Drugs and Cosmetics Act 2019 to give TBS responsibilities to oversee issues**

and cosmetics from TMDA to TBS.

"The schedule amendments proposes changes to the Foods, Drugs and Cosmetics Act 2019 to give TBS responsibilities to oversee issues related to the quality of foods and cosmetics," she explained.

TMDA will continue with supervision of drugs, medical devices and medical reagents. The changes are meant to enhance the authority's effectiveness in the area, she pointed out.

The Finance Bill 2019 also seeks to amend nine other laws related to finance, taxes, levies and various charges to reduce or scrap some levies. The move will help to create a friendly and coordinated tax regime, she said.

TMDA operates under the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children.

Previously it was responsible for regulating the safety, quality and effectiveness of foods, medicines, cosmetics, medical devices and diagnostics. It will now be responsible for regulating drugs, medical devices and medical reagents specifically.

TBS was established through the Standards Act, number 3 of 1975 with the main responsibility of formulating standards, metrology quality control, testing and calibration, as well as overseeing training.

## Key Lake Rukwa fish stunted, diminishing

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE National Assembly yesterday heard that human activities along Lake Rukwa are causing serious stunted growth of fish in the lake.

The Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, Abdallah Ulega said research conducted by the Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI) earlier this year revealed stunted growth and reduction of the local fish species *Oreochromis rukwaensis*, which scientists say has its



origins in the lake ecosystem.

He said the species was abundant in the lake but was rapidly decreasing compared to *Oreochromis esculentus*, a species that researchers say was imported to the lake.

The deputy minister mentioned human activities as causing environmental degradation due to increased number of livestock like cows, goats and sheep which graze on the lake shores and damage the edges when large numbers drink water at the

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## Big projects: Fears raised on participation, transparency

By Songwa wa Songwa

AS Tanzania implements mega infrastructure development projects worth trillions of shillings, a call has been made for the government to ensure that competent local companies supply materials manufactured in the country and procurement processes are more transparent.

Speaking to The Guardian in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the third Africa Ports Expansion forum, Kazungu Magili, the chairman of CoST

**“Magili argued that since the projects gobble up trillions of shillings, it makes a lot of economic sense for as much of that money as possible to remain in the country**

Tanzania—an infrastructure transparency initiative hosted by the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication-- said participation of local companies is key to boosting the Tanzanian economy while transparency is

crucial in ensuring tax payers get value for money.

Some of the mega projects under construction or extension include the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), Stiegler's Gorge hydroelectric power project,

Ubungu Interchange, Bus Rapid Transit, Terminal III of the Julius Nyerere International Airport and a number of highways.

"We have visited some of the projects being implemented and one area that needs improvement is local participation. Quality materials that are made in the country should be supplied by local firms instead of being imported by contractors," he said.

Magili argued that since the

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## Key Lake Rukwa fish stunted, diminishing

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same place repeatedly.

He mentioned other causes as agricultural activities along the lake, gold mining where mercury used for processing the mineral spills into the lake and the use of petrol in mining processes, which spreads lead into the lake.

Ulega went on to say that illegal fishing using banned fishing gear is also on the rise in the lake.

"Human activities are the root cause of the stunted growth and reduction in the number of the fish in Lake Rukwa," he said, noting that additional research will soon be conducted to find out the impact of economic activities, as well as fish produce conformity to World Health Organization (WHO) standards.

The deputy minister was responding to a question by Lupa MP Victor Mwambalasa (CCM) who demanded what the government was doing to save fish species in the lake from extinction.

Straddling four riparian regions, Lake Rukwa was in 2017 officially designated an environmentally sensitive area on account of serious degradation from unsustainable economic activities, putting at risk the livelihoods of fishing communities and spelling ecological disaster for scores of species in the wider ecosystem.

Illegal cultivation on buffer zones by the side of rivers has led to siltation, while overuse of pesticides for agriculture has also affected the health of the lake.

The lake is within the East African Rift Valley, which covers an area of about 2,650 square kilometers between Lake Tanganyika and Nyasa, while the lake depth averages three to five meters.

The depth of the lake significantly dropped from 9.5 metres to 3.4 metres in the last 10 years, analysts say.

In April 2017, the Shared Resources Joint Solutions (SRJS) in collaboration with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature- Netherlands (IUCN NL) and the World Wildlife Fund- Netherlands (WWF NL) launched an initiative aimed at saving the lake and the entire Rukwa-Katavi landscape from further degradation.



Deputy Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson congratulates Prof Teddy Malyamkono the author of the book titled "Viwanda: Moving Tanzania Forward", after the inauguration in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Parliament

## Big projects: Fears raised on participation, transparency

FROM PAGE 1

projects gobble up trillions of shillings, it makes a lot of economic sense for as much of that money as possible to remain in the country.

And there is a legal mechanism to ensure that the locals bite a piece of the big pie.

"There is a provision in the Public Procurement Act that permits preference for local companies. It can be used to make this happen," he said.

As for procurement, Magili said since big money is involved in such projects, the best way to avoid corruption is transparency.

"Procurement entities should share information with the public from the project inception to completion," he emphasized.

On May 10, it was reported that the SGR project would gobble up more than half of the development budget in estimates for the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communications in the next financial year.

The 2019/20 budget proposals tabled by the minister, Isack Kamwelwe, showed that 2.5trn/- of the 4.8trn/- development budget, equivalent to 52.1 per cent, will be set aside for the construction of SGR from Dar es Salaam to Tabora, Isaka and Mwanza, as well as the Isaka to Rusumo portion.

Out of 2.5trn/- for SGR, over 2.4trn/- is meant for construction of the Dar es Salaam-Makutupora section, he said. The remaining sum will go into preparations for construction of the Isaka-Rusumo railway line and the section from Makutupora to Tabora and Isaka.

Activities to be undertaken include completion of the construction of the 300 kilometres between Dar es Salaam and Morogoro and 422 kilometres from Morogoro to Makutupora.

The construction of the SGR first phase-Dar es Salaam-Morogoro stretch (300 kilometres) will be completed by November 1, the minister declared.

## EAC engaging media outlets for 50MAWSP project launch

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community (EAC) Secretariat under the 50 Million African Women Speak Project (50MAWSP) has engaged different media houses in Rwanda and Burundi in efforts to gain support as key project stakeholders.

Speaking during the discussions on how best to ensure effective media coverage during the 50MAWSP platform launch and as well as awareness raising campaign after the launch in December this year, EAC principal gender and community development officer, Genereose Minani noted that the EAC was keen on informing women in business in the region on this valuable resource.

"We decided to consult with you on the implementation of this 50MAWSP project because of the important role that media can play", she added noting the technical development of the platform has been finalized and that partner states are embarked on populating the platform with information.

Representatives of media houses in Burundi pledged and affirmed their commitment with the EAC to further advance the women empowerment agenda. They suggested the use a media synergy to sensitize and raise awareness around issues that are affecting women in business.

"Media synergy in Burundi has proven to be the best way to reach out to many people at the same time in the country", the representative reaffirmed.

In the Rwandan context, media representatives have proposed to use more radio for efficient outreach. Surveys conducted so far show that most Rwandans get information through radio as compared to other channels.

Authorities from ministries of gender that are coordinating the project's implementation in each partner state noted with appreciation the media commitment to promoting the platform.

"We leave the meeting with the confidence of seeing a quick popularity of the platform when it is launched", they noted.

Media houses representatives however expressed the need of the 50 Million Project to fund some costs and media houses to bring in their expertise in that partnership.

All media outlets including radio, TV, print and online, agreed to tackle one topic at the same hour across the whole country. That way, all consumers of information in the country are exposed to same information at the same time.

The meetings were attended by CEOs, directors, chief editors, program managers and journalists from various media houses in the two partner states.

The EAC Secretariat plans to carry out similar activity of media engagement in all partner states.

## World Bank reaffirms commitment to Ethiopia in spite of debt concerns

ADDIS ABABA

Holding its second IDA19 replenishment meeting in Addis Ababa this week, the World Bank Group and one of its major lending arms dedicated to providing favorable credit facilities to middle and low income countries—the International Development Association—has reaffirmed commitment of support to Ethiopia's ongoing market reform process, while recognizing the concern of rising external debt levels across half of IDA borrower countries.

Targeting an ambitious replenishment size of USD 80 billion for the nineteenth round of IDA stretching from 2021-2033, the Group's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Kristalina Georgieva, negotiated the replenishment of re-

sources and the direction of IDA's credit policy for the upcoming three years with over two hundred participants representing IDA donor countries a.k.a. Deputies and IDA borrowers (beneficiaries) from June 17 to 20, 2019, in Addis Ababa.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD), who lost his father this week and attending his funeral ceremony on Wednesday, made it in time to speak briefly at the closing of the IDA meeting with Finance Minister, Ahmed Shide, and Chief Trade negotiator and policy advisor to the PM, Mamo Mihiretu, on his side. Reassuring the participants of the real and material gains of IDA's support to Ethiopia by recounting economic and social improvements his country has registered in the past 15 years,

Abiy stated that most of the development that happened in Ethiopia would not have been possible if it was not for the support of development partners like IDA.

"I would like to tell you that IDA is effective, innovative and transformative," Abiy told the gathering adding that Ethiopia is a clear case study that shows "IDA indeed delivers". The Prime Minister who also held a brief sideline consultation with the CEO was mindful of his country's debt and macroeconomic challenges. In that, Abiy acknowledged rising indebtedness in sub-Saharan Africa including Ethiopia and conceded to the fact that the responsibility of controlling rising debt levels lies squarely on the borrowing countries. Nevertheless, Abiy argued that huge gap in development financing in

these countries cannot go without reliable and affordable development assistance from donors like IDA. "We are still counting on you," he underscored.

On the economic front, Abiy revealed to IDA Deputies and borrowers that his administration has embarked up on a major market reform process that involves the opening up of key service sectors like telecom, energy, logistic and the like. As Ethiopia moves out of a growth paradigm which is "driven by public investment" and into an approach that "emphasizes productivity and job creation", Abiy said, the introduction of competition to sectors which remained closed to private capital in the past will be the primary policy objective.

"We recognize the reforms are

very bold and that they do take time," PM said, while also admitting that the process is "politically complex and costly" to the country. Nevertheless, "it [the reform] promises big paybacks for tomorrow although it appears costly today."

The Group's CEO also agrees that the reform is a critical factor in the economic prospect of Ethiopia. "Really, the scale of the reform conceived is remarkable," she said in an exclusive interview with The Reporter. And that introducing competition to sectors like telecom, power and logistic will contribute to overall growth and development of the country by bringing the price of these useful services down and inducing quality improvement, Kristalina argued. **AGENCIES**



Tabora regional commissioner Aggrey Mwanri (2nd R) stresses a point during his visit to the construction site of infrastructures in Sikonge district hospital yesterday. Photo: Daud Tiganya



# Chinese embassy donates sewing machines, assistive devices to PwD

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Chinese Embassy in Tanzania yesterday donated 330 sewing machines to various women groups and 370 assistive devices to people with disabilities across the country.

Speaking at the handing over ceremony at the Chinese liaison office in Dodoma, the Chinese Ambassador, Wang Ke said last year her office donated 350 sewing machines to four regions in the country, adding that this year's will go to some six regions.

"It is another gesture of sharing relationship in Tanzania," she said adding that the beneficiaries do not only need skills but the means to support their families.

She added that the donation is under the Embassy's Rafiki Programme which

is aimed at helping the marginalised groups of people. The diplomat noted that the plans is to make it an annual event.

Speaking while officiating at the event, minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office responsible for Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and the Disabled, Jenista Mhagama thanked the ambassador for the generous gesture.

"I would like to take this opportunity, to thank the ambassador in particular and all colleagues for the support of 370 assistive devices. The government appreciates the continuous support from the Chinese Embassy," she said.

She said the government of Tanzania has long-standing official cooperation with the government of China in number of areas which has cemented

an everlasting relationship between the countries and for this reason, the friendship between Tanzania and China will continue to grow.

According to the minister, the group of people with disability is one of the marginalised groups and the only solution to help this group is to give them education.

Basing on this, she said the government under the leadership of President John Magufuli has put much emphasize on the free and inclusive education from primary to secondary school.

This, she argued will provide opportunities especially to children who are unable to participate in socio-economic activities in adulthood.

"The provision of these assistive devices will help the students to easily

get education and achieve their goals in life," she observed.

People with disabilities require technical aids to enhance their functional ability such aids include white canes, hearing aids and writing frame with stylus, hats and sunglasses.

Other technical aids are tricycles, motorized three wheelers, crutches, and Braille's. The government of Tanzania is budgeting for purchasing these assistive devices and also receives support from development partners.

The use of various assistive devices enhances functional ability of people with disabilities. The government of Tanzania in collaboration with stakeholders provide assistive devices to people with disabilities who have no means to buy them.

She added that the government is

assisting people who are interested to build industries in the country for the manufacturing of assistive devices, to start with all the materials for manufacturing of the devices are tax free.

"We are assured that this step will help to rise up small industries from SIDO (Small Industries Development Organisation) to put a mechanism to ensure the production of technical aids in the country," she noted.

Despite of various efforts and initiatives done by the government of Tanzania in collaboration with stakeholders, persons with disabilities are still facing challenges that put them into a disadvantageous position in all social and economic aspects. It should come to our cognizance that, disability is in the mind of the individuals and

members of the society around them.

It is a mere fact that "Disability is not inability". A person will feel disabled only when faced with a stumbling block put by another person. Therefore, this support surely will alleviate those obstacles.

"These devices have come at the right time and place whereby 370 People with Disabilities by support of these assistive devices will suit the demand. May I take this opportunity to request your continuous support to persons with disabilities in our country."

Assistive devices for people with disabilities we receive today will enhance their functional ability. Such devices includes 50 wheelchairs, 50 white canes, 95 underarm and elbow crutches, 100 sunglasses, 50 wide brim hats and 25 braille kits.



A Cross section of scientists listen to National Institute for Medical Research director general Prof Yunus Mgaya (not in picture) launching the Young East African Health Research Scientists Tanzania chapter in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Selemani Mpochi.

## WHO underscores need to beef up Universal Health Coverage

By Correspondent James Kandayo

WORLD Health Organisation (WHO) has underscored the need to create a forum for stakeholders including Member of Parliaments to chart best ways the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) could be achieved in the country.

The WHO Country Representative Dr Tiget Mengestu said that yesterday in Dar es Salaam when winding up the Brown Bag meeting on UHC: Global update and the Path United republic of Tanzania is following:

Dr Mengestu said the move is aimed at helping the country to achieve the UHC without leaving anyone through having a common understanding about it.

She called on the stakeholders in the country to join the efforts made by the

WHO and the government as a whole in addressing issues relating to UHC.

"There is a need to have a forum for all stakeholders including MP's to discuss issues related to UHC and how we can best achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 3," she said.

For his part, the WHO Professional Officer-Health Economist in the country Maximilian Mapunda commended the decision of the government to come up with single health insurance fund.

"I commend the government's decision to have single health insurance fund but it must be comprehensive and leave no one behind," he said.

Earlier, in his presentation, he said increased awareness was highly needed so as to achieve the goal - 3 from the SDG's, adding that the findings points

out the bottlenecks and proposed idea.

In the case of governance, he said there was strong commitment from the government to ensure there was quality health services offered in public as well as private health facilities.

Mapunda added that despite the commitment, there were some challenges including fragmented community health, swapping dialogue and poor understanding of the UHC especially at lower level. "Poor awareness of the community on UHC is a big challenge in the community especially at low level. As a results it sometimes hinder efforts to attain the common understanding," he said.

"Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen partnership among stakeholders in the country to achieve the goal," he said.



### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR DESIGN THINKER SERVICES FOR FINSIGHTS LAB

#### 1. ABOUT FSDT

The Financial Sector Deepening Trust (FSDT) was incorporated in Tanzania on 1st July 2004. The FSDT's overall aim is to make a contribution to All Tanzanians to (derive value) from regular use of financial services which are delivered with dignity and fairness. FSDT's objective are:

1. Advocating for an improved policy, institutional, legal and regulatory framework at national and sub-national levels of financial services
2. Promoting more relevant market infrastructure and ways to reduce transaction costs between FSPs and potential clients
3. Stimulating improved access to financial products and services that respond to the needs of MSMEs
4. Stimulating improved access to financial products and services that respond to the needs of households and individual.

#### 2. BACKGROUND

FinSights Lab is a solutions-drive interactive research platform, set up by FSDT to support financial service market actors. It will do this by working with clients in the public and private sectors to build new solutions or improve on existing ones, taking each client along a journey through understanding, designing, testing, and scaling. FinSights Lab is designed to be flexible and nimble, providing solutions in a variety of environments at optimal speed and low cost.

#### 3. OBJECTIVE OF ASSIGNMENT AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CONSULTANT

FSDT is looking to recruit an experienced design thinker that will:

##### Offer technical support in the FinSights Lab's Design Pillar

A problem brought into FinSights Lab goes through 4 stages (Understand / Design / Test / Scale) in pursuit of a market solution, each of the stages form the core pillars on which FinSights Lab supports the market in developing appropriate solutions for different problems. In order to strengthen FinSights Lab as a vehicle for delivering market change, we would like to recruit a design thinker/agency to work with FSDT and the implementing partners to strengthen FinSights Lab's design pillar. Which will assume that the selected design thinker will have reviewed the existing FinSights Lab Charter Document and previously developed design materials. Below is the actual scope of work at the programmatic level;

1. The Design Thinker is expected to develop DIY (Do IT Yourself) design sprint toolkits and programmes for three categories of market problems (E.g. New solution, New features, Policy recommendation and Process Improvement)
2. The Design Thinker is expected to provide constructive feedback to work done by other design thinker towards finalization of the DIY toolkits.
3. The Design Thinker is expected to collaborate with colleagues and FSDT to develop final FinSights Lab design framework and programme.
4. The Design Thinker is expected to train the market on how to use the toolkit during one of the Executive Education Programmes.

##### Offer technical support in the design of two market solutions

Upon the launch of FinSights Lab, market players were asked to apply for a project with FinSights Lab. Through a free and fair process, FinSights Lab selected 4 partners in the round one application.

Below are the specific responsibilities of the design thinker / agency will take up in the development of the two solutions:

1. Provide inputs to the research design and survey instruments
2. Organize a design sprint programme for two market players
3. Develop content / tools for each of the problems at hand
4. Conceptualize and facilitate a design sprint for two market players
5. Work with the market player and the implementing partner to design the solution

The consultants will be expected to collaborate with the second independent design thinker as highlighted above.

#### 4. SUBMISSION DEADLINE

The deadline for submission of the tender documents is Friday 26th July 2019.

For more details on application requirements and full scope of work visit: [www.fsd.or.tz/opportunities](http://www.fsd.or.tz/opportunities). We will only consider applications that adhere to expression of interest requirements.

215296601

## ZANZIBAR REVENUE BOARD



### PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT REFORM PROGRAMME (PFMRP)

TENDER NO. SMZ/PFMRP/ F0111/C/ ICB/2018~19/05

FOR

CONSULTING SERVICES FOR DESIGNING AND SUPERVISION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ZANZIBAR INTEGRATED DOMESTIC REVENUE ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM (ZIDRAS) FOR ZANZIBAR

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

(Re-advertised)

1. The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has received funds from donors under Basket Funds arrangement toward the cost of Public Finance Management Reform Programme (PFMRP) Phase V and intends to apply part of the proceeds for eligible payments under the contract for Designing and Supervision for the Development and Implementation of Zanzibar Integrated Domestic Revenue Administration System (ZIDRAS) for Zanzibar.
2. The overall Scope of assignment will involves designing and supervision at all stages of Development and Implementation of New Domestic Revenue Management Information System for Zanzibar Revenue Board. The scope of services is categorised into three phases namely; Phase I: Analysis and Design, Phase II: Supervision of Development and Implementation and Phase III: Defect Liability Period
3. The Zanzibar Revenue Board (ZRB), on behalf of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, now invites eligible consulting firms to express interest in providing the above-mentioned services. Interested consulting firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (description of similar assignments, experience of working in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff including Team Leader, Web Developer, Tax Expert and other relevant information of the firm). Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.
4. Consultants will be selected in accordance with the Zanzibar Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act No.11 of 2016 (Goods, Works, and Consultant Service by Tender) and its Regulations of 2006 (Selection and Employment of Consultants based on Quality and Cost Based Selection i.e. QCBS). In assessing the submissions, consideration will be given to the technical competence of the consultants, the qualification, and experience of key staff to be proposed for the assignment, experience in similar projects and the capacity to undertake the assignment.
5. Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below from 08:00-15:00 hrs, Monday through Friday.
6. This is not a request for proposals. After a review of expression of interests, only the best-qualified consultant will be invited to submit the technical and financial proposals. The consultancy will be for a period of forty (40) months in which four (4) months will be for phase I and twenty four (24) months for Phase II and twelve (12) months for Phase III and is expected to commence on **November, 2019**.
7. Any request for clarification with regard to this assignment shall be addressed to the undersigned. The Client shall respond to clarifications received not less than one week before the deadline for submission.
8. Expression of Interest in one (1) original and three (3) copies must be delivered to the address below at or before 10:00hrs **Tuesday 30th July, 2019** and marked **"DESIGNING AND SUPERVISION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ZANZIBAR INTEGRATED DOMESTIC REVENUE ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM (ZIDRAS) FOR ZANZIBAR"**
9. The Expression of Interest (EOI) will be opened immediately after deadline for submission in Public and in the presence of Consultants' representative who choose to attend in the opening at the Conference Room, 4th Floor of the Zanzibar Revenue Board Building- Mazizini- Zanzibar.
10. Late Expressions of Interest shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances

Secretary  
Tender Board  
Zanzibar Revenue Board  
P. O. BOX 2072, 2nd Floor, Room No: 209  
Mazizini- Zanzibar

215296601





Information, Culture, Arts and Sports Deputy Permanent Secretary Nicholas William officiates at the workshop on Kiswahili for African countries in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## State paid 2,608.564 million/- compensation to over 400 residents

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government paid a total of 2,608.564 million/- for compensation to some 433 residents who paved way for the construction of the Makutano Juu-Sanzate road project, the National Assembly heard yesterday.

It is the road section of the Makutano Juu-Magumu-Loliondo-Mto wa Mbu road whose project had delayed since 2013.

Deputy Minister for Works, Transport and Communication, Elias Kwandikwa told the lawmakers that other eight people who were not previously been paid were recently paid 12.871 million/- for the Wasso-Sele's 49 kilometre project.

He was responding to a question by Serengeti MP, Marwa Chacha (CCM) who had wanted to know when the residents would be paid and when the

project would be completed.

Last week, the deputy minister said the construction of the 450.2 kilometres road, under construction had reached 70.77 per cent of the whole project.

He was responding to a question asked from Bunda MP, Boniphace Getere (CCM) had wanted to know when the Makutano, Sanzate to Natta road would be completed, arguing the construction had taken too long.

"When shall the road project be completed to end woes that people who use the road are facing?" She asked. The MP also wanted to know if the government experts had visited the road to ascertain the quality of works being carried out done.

The deputy minister in response said the mentioned road is part of the Makutano Juu-Natta-Mugumu-Loliondo-Mto wa Mbu-Makuyuni road, stretching 437 kilometres.

He said some 50 kilometres from Makutano Juu to Sanzate is under construction to tarmac level by the contractor of M/s Mbutu Bridge JV at the cost of 50.4 billion/-.

Kwandikwa noted that the construction began on 5th April, 2013 and was scheduled to end by 16th May, 2015 but the contractor was given more time to 28th February, 2019.

"Following various challenges including change of the design, late payments and heavy rainfall forced the project to stall for a long time," he said.

He told the lawmakers that the contractor requested for more time to be able to complete the project until January, 2020.

Kwandikwa maintained that the government through TANROADS and other experts including the consultant on the ground had confirmed that the ongoing construction had met the expected standards.

## WB: Mini grids have potential to bring electricity to 500 million people by 2030

By Guardian Reporter

THE new World Bank study has shown that mini grids have potential to bring electricity to half a billion people and help close the energy access gap.

The report titled 'Mini Grids for Half a Billion People: Market Outlook and Handbook for Decision Makers' said that mini grids can provide electricity to as many as 500 million people by 2030.

"The combination of falling costs, dramatic increase in quality of service, and enabling policies has made mini

grids a scalable option to complement grid extension and solar home systems", says the report.

Senior director of energy and extractives at the World Bank, Riccardo Puliti said that mini grids are now one of the core solutions for closing the energy access gap. He said there is great potential for mini grid development at scale as the bank is working with countries to actively mobilize public and private investment.

Puliti said: "The WB has been scaling up its support to mini grids while helping countries develop comprehensive electrification programs. Our commit-

ments to mini grids represent about one-quarter of total investment by the public and private sector in our client countries. The Bank's portfolio spans 37 mini grids projects in 33 countries, with a total commitment of more than \$ 660 million. This investment is expected to leverage an additional \$ 1.1 billion in co-financing".

According to the report, apart from being cost-efficient, mini grids have many other benefits and positive environmental impacts. A total of 210,000 mini grids powered by solar energy would help avoid 1.5 billion tons of CO2 emissions globally.

They also offer national utilities a win-win solution in the electricity sector by paving the way for more financially viable future grid expansion. By the time the main grid arrives, significant demand for electricity would already exist and customers would have greater ability to pay through the generation of productive uses made possible by mini grids

Compared with main grid and solar home systems, mini grids are a more viable solution for areas with high population density and medium electricity demand since extending main grid to serve remote communities is often pro-

hibitively expensive.

Globally, at least 19,000 mini grids are already installed in 134 countries, representing a total investment of \$ 28 billion and providing electricity to around 47 million people. Most are deployed in Asia, while Africa has the largest share of planned mini grids.

The report showed that total mini grid investment in countries with low levels of electricity access in Africa and Asia totals \$ 5 billion. It is estimated that \$ 220 billion is needed to connect 500 million people to 210,000 mini grids in these regions by 2030.

It insists on countries around the

globe to actively mobilize private sector investment. This can be achieved by setting up policies that support comprehensive electrification programs, promoting viable business models, and providing public funding, for example through performance-based grants.

The WB study provides policy makers, investors, and developers with insights on how mini grids can be scaled up. It takes stock of the global market and industry, analyses costs and technological innovations, and shows the importance of microfinance and income-generating uses of electricity.

## 'Government training over 100 doctors in this year'

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government is training over 100 doctors this year, in efforts to end the shortage of specialised doctors in public hospitals.

Deputy Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, the Elderly and Children, Faustine Ndogulile told the National Assembly here yesterday that last year, the government sent 100 doctors for specialized training in different fields, adding that the aim is to improve provision of health services in the country.

The deputy minister was responding to a question from Special Seats MP, Ritha Kabati (CCM) who in a supplementary question had wanted to know what the government was doing to ensure availability of specialised doctors in all hospitals in the country.

In the basic question, the lawmaker had also wanted to know when the government was doing to help improve working conditions for the

doctors.

"Iringa regional hospital faces acute shortage of houses for the specialised doctors, forcing them to live far away from their working station. What is the government doing to solve the problem?" She asked.

In response, the deputy minister said the hospital has 26 doctors, four of them specialized ones. He said in the 2018/2019, the hospital set aside 40 million/- for motivational purposes for the doctors by paying house rents for them.

"Until May, 2019 some 25 million/- have been paid by the regional authority in rents to the doctors" said the deputy minister, adding that the government will continue improving working conditions for doctors depending on the availability of funds.

He added that the government plans to employ more than 11,000 health workers to be posted to different health facilities in the country.



Illegal immigrants from Ethiopia nabbed by Immigration officers at Lugono village in Mvomero district in Morogoro region seated at Immigration office in Morogoro yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Idda Mushi.

## Agency verifies 1,259 sesame weighing scales in southern regions

By Guardian Correspondent, Ruvuma

WEIGHTS and Measures Agency (WMA) has verified and certified 1259 special weighing scales to be used in this year's buying season in southern regions of Ruvuma, Lindi and Mtwara.

WMA regional manager, David Makungu told this paper here that the exercise in line with education provision to farmers on the best use of weight and measures.

According to Makungu, the exercise was conducted in the regions of Mtwara, Lindi and Ruvuma and they have managed to reach out to 270 Agricultural Marketing Co-operative Societies (AMCOS) in all the regions.

He said that all the weighing scales have been stamped ready to be used for purchasing the drought tolerant crop.

"In six districts, Masasi is leading to have more AMCOS whereby it

has 51, Nanyamba (41), Tandahimba (11), Nanyamba (6) Newala (5) and Mtwara rural (4)," he said.

In his remarks, the WMA manager for Lindi Region, Yunio Mbwambo said in his region 521 has been inspected for the purpose.

Sesame is the second most important cash crop in south-eastern Tanzania after cashew. Like cashew, sesame is grown by small-scale farmers in mono-crop farms.

On Tuesday, authorities in Katavi Region called on tobacco and sesame buyers to ensure that they comply with the laws and regulations governing Weights and Measures Agency when buying those crops.

"We're encouraging all buyers in this season to adhere to the guidelines that the industry is required to operate within as the law is very clear that anyone who will go against, the fine can go up to

100m/- or five-year sentence," said Phanueli Matiko, WMA regional manager.

Matiko was speaking at the ongoing regional wide inspection for weighing scales ahead of tobacco and sesame selling season. The inspection is part of the countrywide weighing scale inspection in an effort to ensure that farmers benefit from their rights to profits from their agricultural produce.



# CSOs: Special Bill amendment has more negative impacts

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

CIVIL Society Organizations in the country have called for the Parliament and the government to remove the Special bill to amend various laws governing CSOs in the country from the certificate of urgency saying it has more negative impacts than positive ones.

They said the Parliament should read the Bill carefully and offer recommendations to reform the provisions that affect CSOs in the country, during the parliamentary sessions.

Reading a joint statement on Monday at press conference the Director for Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC's), Onesmo Olegurumwa said that the CSOs are the stakeholders and the number one victims of this Bill. They said they are ready to be involved in every step as well as collecting their opinions and considering them.

"In case this Bill is passed as it is into law, we Civil Society Organisations are ready to go to court to object it because it has more negative impacts than positive ones. We ask all internal and external stakeholders and partners to join together in raising our voices so as to ensure that this Bill is not passed as it is into a law, said part of the statement.

The CSOs said that the parliamentary review of the

Bill should be postponed until the next parliamentary session in September to give people a chance to review it, recommend changes and incorporate them.

"According to the initial analysis of this Bill conducted by more than 300 CSOs, if this Bill is passed as it is, it will bring many challenges and obstacles in its implementation and the operation of CSOs in Tanzania. Among these challenges is the suppression of CSOs independence against the Constitution and other International Agreements ratified by Tanzania, the Registrar of NGOs has been given vague mandates that are not properly regulated on how to monitor CSOs including de-registration of CSOs without following legal procedures," they said.

Reading the Contentious Issues in the Bill, Ismail Suleiman from NaCoNGO said that after reviewing this Bill, the CSOs perceived several challenges and negative effects that stand to occur if this Bill is passed which include: This Bill require all CSOs registered under the Companies Act as company limited by guarantee, which did not apply for certificate of compliance under the NGOs Act, 2002 prior to this amendment have to comply with the Companies Act to become business entities or else they will be de-registered in two months automatically.

He said the Proposed Bill deletes the existing definition of the term NGOs and substitutes it for a new definition that does not recognize the aspect of protecting, defending and promoting human rights in Tanzania as well as the charitable status of all CSOs. It has to be remembered that Tanzania does not yet have a law that recognizes Human Rights Defenders. Also the definition excludes Companies limited by guarantee not having a shares capital; Trusts formed by Trustees Act, microfinance groups (VICCOBA), religious organizations, etc. On the same tone the definition of what is a company has been narrowly defined to ensure that NGOs will no longer be Companies Limited by Guarantee not having shares capital. Therefore companies have to do investment or trade to be registered as a company limited by guarantee.

Also in the list are, the Bill adds Section 8A that automatically de-registers NGOs currently registered under the NGOs Act, 2004, that are not included in the current definition, within two months after the Bill is passed into an operating law. Such resort violates freedom of association, other means should be provided for these currently legal NGOs to transform to the side they suit best and not automatically de-registration.



Zanzibar Second Vice President, Ambassador Seif Ali Idd (R) clarifies a point at a meeting with manager at Bank Of Africa (BOA) in Zanzibar, Juma Burhan Mohamed at Zanzibar Representatives Offices early this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

## Korean firm to invest 133bn /- in coffee plantation, processing plant

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast, Bukoba

A Korean investor is set to invest in over 133bn /- (US\$ 58 million) in coffee plantation and processing plant, the move which is expected to employ more than 3,000 people in Kagera region.

This came after the Ngara District Council approved the Korean firm-FRIIUP company limited to invest in the north-western Tanzania's area.

The plant will be installed at in Kazingati village, Keza ward.

Members of the council endorsed the project yesterday during the full council meeting led by the district council chairman, Erick Nkilamachumu.

Ngara district executive director, Aidan Bahama, said the company intends to invest in large scale coffee farming whereas it has allocated more than US\$ 58 million for the project.

"The Korean firm will provide all the funds. We expect the project to provide jobs to at least 3000 young people who will work in the plantations and processing plant," Bahama said, insisting priority will be given to youth from Kagera.

He said the company has applied for 5000 acres of land for first phase implementation of the project scheduled for 2020.

He said the land leasing contract will be renewed after every ten years.

He explained that before signing

of the land leasing contract, the investor's application was discussed by district officials at various levels including the district council committee.

He however said the district authority will have to seek accreditation from the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government.

According to Bahama villagers in the earmarked areas will be compensated for their crops and properties.

"The company expects to harvest 4,550 tonnes of coffee annually. The yields are expected to increase as the project reaches second and third phase of implementation", he noted adding the district expects to benefit from revenues of approximately

500m/- to be paid as taxes.

In 2014, the company exported coffee worth \$ 186 million whereas more than 90 percent of the coffee was from small farmers.

The biggest buyers of Tanzania coffee are Japan (22 percent), Italy (19 percent) and USA (12 percent). The Korean firm expects to export coffee to southern Korea, Japan, Vietnam and Myanmar.

Coffee production in Tanzania has stagnated over the years, despite the fact that new farms are being established, especially in some rural areas where farmers have opportunities for buying or change land use. The current total number of coffee farmers is 225, 947 with 149,318,404 coffee trees and 123,295 hectares.



### INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

- Marie Stopes Tanzania (MST) is a registered Non-Governmental Organization providing Integrated Reproductive and HIV health services country wide. Established in 1989 under Marie Stopes International, MST operates 11 health facilities and 59 outreach teams.
- MST under projects fund invite sealed tenders from eligible and reputable company/individual to provide the below mentioned services. Interested bidders are free to participate full or partial on below tenders.

Tender No	Tender Description
IFT/MST/15/2019	Consultancy services for conducting salary and benefits survey for MST Staff
IFT/MST/16/2019	Provision of taxi services for MST Staff
IFT/MST/17/2019	Provision of courier and transportation of goods
IFT/MST/18/2019	Provision of translation services (MST Website, Video Animation and various MST documents)
IFT/MST/19/2019	Collection of Hospital wastes products
IFT/MST/20/2019	Provision of Security Services
IFT/MST/21/2019	Disposal of Hospital wastes (incineration services)

- Interested and eligible bidders must confirm their intention to bid indicating all relevant contact information including an e-mail address to tenders@mst.or.tz, Attn: Procurement Manager. Bidders will be responsible for following up to ensure that MST has received the notification.
- Within 48 hours after receiving the bidder's intention to bid, a complete set of tendering document (s) in English language will be sent to interested bidders by e-mail. Interested bidders shall be responsible for confirming receipt of tender document(s) within 48 hours after receipt of tender document(s). MST will not be held responsible for any costs related to printing, preparation or submission of the tender documents.
- All tenders in one original, properly filled in, and enclosed in plain and sealed envelopes marked "Tender number and description of Tender "must be delivered by hand or post to; The Country Director, Marie Stopes Tanzania, Plot no. 421/422 Mwenge, Kijitonyama Area, P.O. Box 7072, Dar es Salaam, at or before 14th July, 2019 at 16:00pm.
- Late and unregistered Tenders shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

Country Director  
Marie Stopes Tanzania  
P.O. Box 7072  
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania  
Tel: +255 22 2774991-4  
Fax: +255 22 2774990  
E-mail: tenders@mst.or.tz

NOTE: MST takes any unethical action very serious, therefore; any form of fraud and/ or corruption is not tolerated in MST. If any of our staff ask for kickback and/ or commission, Please report the incident to the Country Director, Phone No. +255 757 170 042

For any enquires relating to this tender document please contact Procurement & Logistics Lead. Phone No. +255743495035



11 Kinyonga Street Mwenge



### CAREER OPPORTUNITIES Director of Finance

Marie Stopes Tanzania (MST), a local Non-Governmental Organization, is a social enterprise and a leading provider of family planning, sexual and reproductive health care and allied services. MST is a partner of the Government of Tanzania and a member of the Marie Stopes International (MSI) Global Partnership, which operates in over 37 countries worldwide. MST's mission is that all women and men in Tanzania will have "Children by Choice, Not Chance".

**Our organisation is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and post holders to share this commitment.**

**The Role:**

Marie Stopes Tanzania has an exciting opportunity for an organized and proactive individual looking to work as **The Director of Finance**.

The Director of Finance acts as a business partner to the Country Director (CD) ensuring that all financial risks and projected returns are considered and robustly evaluated when making strategic and operational decisions.

The Director of Finance is responsible for supporting the Executive Management Team (EMT) to achieve sustainable growth through improved financial management to drive the organisation's performance.

The Director of Finance is the final authority for all accounting matters within the organisation and must ensure Marie Stopes International's (MSI) Group Financial policies are implemented while observing the needs of the country programme's local statutory requirements.

The Director of Finance must build and maintain a motivated and productive local finance team capable of implementing MSI's strategy Scaling Up Excellence, developing proper monitoring and follow-up systems to ensure financial sustainability and providing advice and support to the programme on financial management.

**Minimum Requirements:**

- At least 5 years' experience in a senior management position, preferably in the donor environment;
- Demonstrable experience in a leadership role for a large division or company;
- Experience in strategic planning and execution of plans to achieve objective and targets;
- Demonstrated success in formulating policy, and development and implementing strategies and procedures;
- Excellent knowledge of financial management systems and reporting;
- Hands-on experience with computerised Accounting Systems; Knowledge of Sun Systems is desirable;
- Knowledge of donor contract requirements for budgeting and reporting;
- Ability to establish and maintain contacts with senior-level government and donor officials;
- Experience of working with colleagues in geographically separate locations;
- Cross-functional team player and flexible to operate in a changing environment;
- Qualified Accountant (ACCA/CPA)(essential);
- Degree-educated or equivalent (essential);
- Current with any necessary donor-specific training requirements (specifically but not exclusively this applies to USAID) (essential: that this is achieved within 6 months of joining and then maintained); and but not limited to
- Ability to communicate effectively (both written and oral) at all levels.

**Marie Stopes Tanzania**

If you feel that you are able to meet the requirements and you are motivated enough to be part of the team, please send your applications including a cover letter detailing your suitability and why you are interested in this post to the address below.

Director of Human Resources and Administration  
Marie Stopes Tanzania  
11 Kinyonga Street – Mwenge  
P. O. Box 7072, Dar Es Salaam.  
Telephone: +255 22 2774991 / 4  
VOIP +255 768 987 780  
E-mail: jobs@mst.or.tz

Closing date: All applications should reach the addressee before **Sunday, 7th July 2019 COB.**

**Only short-listed candidates will be contacted**



# Indigenous knowledge key in designing climate change adaptation measures

By Guardian Reporter

DEPUTY Head of program at the World Food Programme (WFP), Juvenal Kisanga has suggested the need to blend indigenous knowledge and scientific ones to design climate change adaptation efforts in the country.

Kisanga was speaking last week in Dar es Salaam at the national stakeholders meeting organised by Farm Radio International (FRI), which implements a WFP-funded a Delivering Climate Information Services Project.

He said: "There's much we can learn from indigenous, traditional and community-based approaches to natural disaster preparedness."

Citing examples from the strong cultural areas like the Maasai, Kisanga said: "Indigenous people have been confronted with changing environments for millennia and have developed a wide array of coping strategies – their traditional knowledge and practices provide an important basis for facing the even greater challenges of climate change."

In many cases, indigenous knowledge helps people predict disasters and mitigate the effects of climate change and this could be deployed in designing large-scale adaptation efforts.

The WFP official described the indigenous knowledge as key in scaling

up weather and climate information services.

"Indigenous knowledge is one of the strong components in strong cultural areas like the Maasai, so the component is run by other partners such as University of Dar es Salaam, and they are who are trying to do research on how to blend indigenous knowledge and scientific information from TMA, extension officers and the research component. The key issue here is documenting indigenous knowledge because it is there but nobody to do it."

"This documentation is in terms of research because you never go and tell people on how indigenous knowledge is carried out."

For his part, FRI regional programme manager for east and southern Africa, Rex Chapota, described the organization as the only international non-profit organization dedicated exclusively for using radio as a tool for rural development in Africa.

He said that the project is geared to build capacity to provide weather and climate services in two radio stations which reach small-scale farmers and pastoralists as well as providing effective and valued gender equal and listener-responsive weather services via interactive radio, mobile services and listeners groups



Fish monger hunts for customers along Samora Avenue in Dar es Salaam without taking caution of dust lifted by wind which can cause serious diseases as captured yesterday. Photo: Selemani Mpochi

## Villagers in Rufiji fear of farmers-pastoralists land use conflicts

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

NYAMWAGE villagers in Rufiji district, Coastal region are in fear of the escalating land use conflicts due to the swift influx of pastoralists in their village saying if

immediate solution is were not sought, heavy fighting pitting farmers and the pastoralists will happen in the near future.

They said that the pastoralists don't respect land use plan as they graze in the crop fields such as rice and forests on the village land

in search for pastures and water without knowledge of the farmers.

The village chairman Ibrahim Said Mboweto said that currently there are more than 90,000 cattle loitering in the village while the village carrying capacity of the cattle is 350.

"The village has conducted land use plan, and set aside 3500 ha to accommodate 350 cattle but the current population of cattle is more than 90,000. Many have refused to respect land use plan," he said.

We requested support from Rufiji district Com-

missioner early this month to help remove the cattle but our request has never yielded desired results," he added.

He said that at one point of time, the village government arrested some of the pastoralists and took them to court but to their shock, they could not win the case and the pastoralists were left to walk free.

Commenting on the challenges facing forest conservation, the village chairman said that there are still illegal timber harvesters although not many and this is caused by lack of working tools for the village land and Natural resource committees to effectively and efficiently patrol their forest.

The village chairman commended forest conservation efforts being done by the villagers, the district council and partners such as Tanzania Community Forest Conservation Network (MJUMITA), Mpingo Conservation Development Initiative (MCDI) and WWF.

He said that the benefits accrued from the forest products have enabled the villagers to construct the village office worth 33m/- and constructed classrooms at two Nyamwage primary schools worth 15m/-.

The village has also constructed four classrooms at one of the village hamlets worth 60m/-, built maternity ward at the village dispensary worth 44m/- . According to the village chairman, the village raised other money from selling the forest products and bought a motorcycle which is used for patrol activities of the committee.

Nyamwage village executive officer Evana Nyaromba emphasized on the need for CBFM and more environmental conservation education saying that is the only way the villagers can conserve the forests willingly.

"Once the villagers benefit from the forest products they will participate in the conservation efforts. For example we have raised money and constructed the village office, made 14 desks for the students, extended the maternal health care facility. The villagers are happy and are ready to conserve," she said.

She said despite the achievements registered, there is a need for more support from the district government to address cattle problem and ensure the

natural resource committee is well equipped to conduct fruitful patrols.

The chairman of the village land and natural resource committee Sudi Abdallah Kinawilo said the district should support the patrol team because it is ill-equipped because at times they fight in the forest with criminals who tend to sneak in the forests to harvest forest products.

"Currently the forest condition has improved, thanks to the intervention efforts from MJUMITA, MCDI and WWF."

"We have our own by-laws, if we arrest cattle and goats in the forest the owners are fined 10,000/- for cows each and 5,000/- for goats and sheep. This has deterred other pastoralists from invading the forests," he said.

Sought for comments, Acting District Executive Director for Rufiji district, Brighton Kilimba directed the pastoralists to respect land use plan. He said the district is working on the problem and soon will be addressed.

"Despite these few challenges of cattle, Nyamwage villagers are very committed to conserving the forests because they have received education and are benefiting from the forests," he said.

"The villagers have managed to construct the village office, classrooms and desks for the schools, we encourage them to continue with this spirit and the district will support them," he said.

Rufiji District Commissioner Juma Njwayo admitted that influx of cattle is a big challenge saying the district government is taking possible measures to ensure their presence do not cause land use conflicts.

Citing an example he said that in the past, the district received a total of 50,000 cattle from Ihefu that was approved early before but currently the number has increased to 100,000 cattle.

He said that the pastoralists are Tanzanians like other people, the district cannot remove them out, instead the district is putting plans to re-allocate them and manage them properly in a way that will not cause land use conflicts.

He called for other partners to join hands with environmental conservationists like WWF, MJUMITA and MCDI to support the district's conservation drive.



TPB Bank PLC board chairman Dr Edmund Mndolwa (L) inspects one of the Rumanyika primary school classrooms in Karagwe district, Kagera region which had been built by the bank. Also in the picture are the bank's and district's officials. Photo: Courtesy of TPB

## Climate change: Energy demand could rise up to 58 pct by 2050

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

IN the next 30 years, the world will see a dramatic rise in energy demand due to the impact of climate change, say researchers.

In a study published in Nature Communications journal, the researchers maintained that the energy demand would rise by at least 11 percent due to global warming by 2050.

For the study, the researchers' team led by International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Austria carried out an analysis using temperature projections from 21 climate models, and population and economy projections for five socioeconomic scenarios.

They tried to determine how energy demand would shift relative to today's climate under modest and high-warming scenarios around 2050.

The study's findings indicated that under

'modest' global warming conditions, the energy demand would rise between 11-27 percent, whereas, under 'vigorous' warming conditions, the global energy demand would rise between 25-58 percent.

The largest changes in demand are due to the electricity needed for cooling and occur in the industry and service sectors of the economy.

The magnitude of the increase depends on the future pathways of global greenhouse gas emissions, different ways that climate models use this information to project future hot and cold temperature extremes in various world regions and the manner in which countries' energy consumption patterns change under different scenarios of future increases in population and income.

They observed that the rising temperatures due to climate change would fuel energy demand significantly higher as compared to population and income growth.

"An important way in which society will adapt to rising temperatures from climate change is by increasing cooling during hot seasons and decreasing heating during cold seasons," explained study's co-author Enrica de Cian, Associate Professor at Ca' Foscari University of Venice.

"Changes in space conditioning directly impact energy systems, as firms and households demand less natural gas, petroleum, and electricity to meet lower heating needs, and more electricity to satisfy higher cooling needs," she added.

The study's findings represent the initial impacts of global warming. They do not account for the additional adjustments in fuel supplies and prices, the researchers asserted.

"The lower the level of income per person, the larger the share of income that families need to spend to adapt to a given increase in energy demand," noted lead author Bas

van Ruijven, a researcher with IIASA Energy Programme.

"Some scenarios in our study assume continued population growth and in those cases, temperature increases by 2050 could expose half a billion people in the lowest-income countries in the Middle-East and Africa to increases in energy demand of 25 percent or higher," Ruijven said.

The study's results can be used in the future to calculate how energy market dynamics will ultimately determine changes in energy consumption and emissions, the researchers said.

While societies are doing their best to mitigate climate change, policymakers have to be aware that even moderate levels of climate change will lead to increases in energy demand for several areas around the world. Economic development in impoverished countries will be essential to help people adapt to the impacts of climate change.



## CSO consortium announces Africa's Journalism Awards on the AU Charter

By Guardian Reporter

A consortium of 14 prominent civil society organisations working to advance the implementation of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) has announced an award scheme for African journalists whose reports advance the course of the Charter.

The competitive awards scheme forms part of activities under the Africa We Want project, titled "Mobilising Civil Society Support for Implementation of the African Governance Architecture," which is being implemented by the consortium across the continent with funding support from the European Commission.

The Africa We Want project consortium is made up of the Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA), ActionAid Denmark, the West Africa Civil Society Organisations' Forum (WACSOF), ActionAid Ghana, Southern Africa Development Community Council of Non-Governmental Organisations (SADC-CNGO), ActionAid Mozambique, ActionAid Nigeria, Mass Public Opinion Institute (MPOI) in Zimbabwe, ActionAid Zambia, ActionAid Tanzania, East African Civil Society Organisations' Forum (EACSOF), ActionAid Uganda, ActionAid Sierra Leone and ActionAid Zimbabwe.

"The Awards is an initiative to recognise and honour African journalists who have been promoting the course of the ACDEG through excellent journalistic pieces," said Sulemana Braimah, Executive Director of the Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA).

"We hope that the Awards will also inspire more journalists on the continent on reporting issues that advance good governance, democratic practices and peaceful elections on the continent as espoused by ACDEG."

An awards ceremony to honour African journalists whose works over the last two years have advanced the spirit and letter of the ACDEG will be hosted by the MFWA in Accra on October 19, 2019 during this year's West Africa Media Excellence Conference and Awards (WAMECA 2019).

"Applicants of the Awards must be citizens of AU member states and must be working with a media organisation (print, electronic, online) in any AU member state. A call for entries, which will provide additional information on requirements on how to submit an entry, will be announced by the end of June 2019."

The ACDEG focuses on promoting human rights, democracy, the rule of law and good governance on the continent.

## EAHRC launches YEARS' Forum for empowering young researchers in the East African Community

By Aisia Rweyemamu

THE East Africa Health Research Commission (EAHRC) yesterday launched the Young East African Research Scientists' forum (YEARS' Forum) with the objective of empowering young researchers in the East African Community (EAC).

The YEARS' forum was approved by the 15th EAC secretarial council of ministers of health and endorsed by the 35th extraordinary council of EAC ministers to bring together post graduate students in health sciences from each of the EAC partner states.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam during the launch of the YEARS', The National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) Director General Professor Yunus Mgaya said the programme will empower young researchers to be able to shape the future of research for health in the region.

The DG added that, YEARS are involved in several activities coordinated by EAHRC which allow them to grow and develop skills and leadership in health research.

"The programme is operated in different levels with a focus on a strong national network", Prof. Mgaya explained.

The NIMR boss urged

Tanzanian YEARS to take advantage of the program and work hard for their own success and the success of health research in the country and the region as a whole.

Speaking at the sideline of the conference, the YEARS' regional coordinator Dr. Tolbert Sonda said the program expand a room of r conducting joint proposal by cooperating with other experts in the region.

However, the program was launched March this year by the Vice President Samia Hassan Suluhu and involved members from all countries within EAC region.

EAHRC is established as a mechanism for making available to the Community, advice upon all matters of health, and health-related research and findings that are necessary for knowledge generation, technological development, policy formulation, practice, and other related matters.

The vision of EAHRC is high quality health research for improvement of health and wellbeing of the people of East Africa. The mission of EAHRC is to coordinate, conduct, and promote the conduct of health research in the region, and source, gather and disseminate findings from research for policy formulation and practice.

# International organisation conducts complex operations for the children

By Guardian Reporter

AL-BALSAM International Organization's medical team carried out three complex surgical operations for children on its first day to Tanzania.

The team is chaired by consultant paediatric surgeon at King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre Dr. Zakaria Sobhi Habib, specialised nurse in children resuscitation at intensive care units Julia Anthony of Malaysia, together with two Saudi nurses.

Head of the paediatric surgery department at King Faisal

Specialist Hospital Professor Zakaria Habib said that Al-Balsam International Organization's medical team conducted three complex operations on its first day for children suffering from congenital anomalies since birth. The surgical operations took more than seven hours and ranged between congenital defects in the digestive system and abnormalities in the reproductive system of children. These operations were carried out by using enteroscopy.

Dr. Zakaria Habib added: "The visit to Tanzania's children hospital is aimed at transferring

experiences and training Tanzanian medical cadres to be able to carry out complex surgical operations including ones by using enteroscopy instead of conducting the traditional operations. The Tanzanian medical team began to conduct the surgical operations by themselves. The first operation was carried out successfully."

Head of the paediatric surgery department Zeitun Bukhari at Tanzania's Muhambili National Hospital extended gratitude to Al-Balsam International Organisation's medical team for coming to Tanzania with the aim

of providing medical assistance and carrying out the difficult surgical operations. She also praised the strenuous efforts exerted previously and currently by the organization that organized medical visits to Tanzania since 2015.

The visit is considered an extension of the previous ones in last March in response to the request of the Tanzanian government and in coordination with the Tanzanian Ambassador in Riyadh Hamid Eid Maghazi and with the Ministry of Health of Tanzania. The previous visit

included carrying out 46 surgical operations for forty children.

It is noteworthy that Al-Balsam International Organization is a non-profit organization licensed by Switzerland since 2017. It provides medical services to the needy patients in different countries. The organization also aims to make an observable change in the field of humanitarian medicine worldwide and serve the patients in the poor areas. Furthermore, the medical team of the organization does its best to treat the largest possible number of patients in areas needing medical services.



## INSTITUTE OF TAX ADMINISTRATION

Accredited by the National Council for Technical Education

### INVITATION FOR APPLICATION FOR 2019/ 2020 ACADEMIC YEAR ADMISSION

The Institute of Tax Administration (ITA) invites applications for entry into **Certificates and Diploma programmes** for academic year 2019/2020. Qualified applicants for admission into its competence-based Customs and Tax Management programmes, are required to apply for programmes specified hereunder:-

- 1) Post Graduate Diploma in Taxation (PGDT) - 12 months (Full-Time) or 18 months (Executive). Minimum entry qualification: A Bachelor's Degree in any business-related field or equivalent qualification from a recognized institution.**
- 2) Bachelor of Customs and Tax Management (BCTM) - Three years (full-time)**  
**Minimum entry qualification:** Either Two Principal Passes at "A" Level in business related subjects with a minimum total of 4.0 grade points or a minimum of Second Class (Lower Division) Ordinary Diploma in Customs and Tax Management or any other Ordinary Diploma in a business related discipline. All applicants for the BCTM should have FOUR passes at "O" Level (including passes in English and mathematics).
- 3) Ordinary Diploma in Customs and Tax Management (DCTM) - Two years (full-time)**  
**Minimum entry qualification:** Basic Technician Certificate (NTA level 4) in Customs and Tax Management or in any other business-related discipline; OR One Principal Pass and one Subsidiary Pass at "A" Level in business related discipline. All applicants for the DCTM should have FOUR passes at "O" Level (including passes in English and mathematics).
- 4) Basic Technician Certificate in Customs and Tax Management (CCTM) - One year (Full-Time).**  
**Minimum entry qualification: FOUR passes in business related subjects at "O" Level (including passes in English and mathematics).**

The Institute also invites applications for the **East African Customs Clearing and Freight Forwarding Practising Certificate (CFFPC) - Four months (Full - Time) or Six months (Part-Time). Minimum Entry Qualifications: Two (2) passes at "O" Level excluding religious subjects**

#### MODE OF APPLICATION

- Application should be done through [www.ita.ac.tz](http://www.ita.ac.tz) online application <http://212.71.252.209/ita-oas/>
- Applications for **BCTM, DCTM and CCTM** must be accompanied with evidence of payment of a non-refundable application fee of **TZS. 10,000/=** for East Africans or **US\$ 30** for Non-Tanzanians
- CFFPC and PGDT** applicants must pay non-refundable application fee of **TZS. 30,000/=** for East Africans or **US\$ 30** for Non-East Africans
- The fee may be paid through **M-pesa, Tigo Pesa and Airtel Money**
- The application Fee for foreign applicants should be paid through Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) Tanzania, **ITA fee collection account Number: - 3300481074.**

CCTM and DCTM applications' deadline is **2nd September, 2019**. Applications for **BCTM and PGDT** will start **15th July 2019 to 13th September 2019**.

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## Wanted: Creativity and innovation in commercialising the dairy sector

In spite of a rapid increase in the number of small scale milk producers and expanding demand for milk in Tanzania, marketing functions of the dairy industry seems to be lagging behind. Unlike the beef marketing system where cattle markets, holding grounds, slaughtering houses/slabs and butcheries are found in most urban and rural areas, marketing system for milk is less organised.

Identifying priority areas of improving the efficiency of the marketing systems in crucial for the socio-economic development in the dairy industry. Such as evaluating the performance of dairy industry and the impact of changing socio-economic environment in milk demand. The socio-economic changes considered are liberalisation of markets, rapid urbanisation, urban agriculture including livestock keeping and changes in demographics such as human population age distribution.

In the same vein, we ought to map out at ministerial and higher levels as to how Tanzania may obtain a fairer market share for milk especially in regional markets, now that Kenyan companies export plenty of milk here, and even South African firms and well beyond. A strong lobby was in the past years making efforts to simply ban milk imports, and it is this lobby whose wish list led to pernicious trade wars between Tanzania and Kenya, which authorities now realise can't be won, and are potentially destabilising. They now seek some proactive balancing of milk trading.

The problem with that situation is that it is being discussed as if it was a matter of commercial relations or diplomatic disputes instead of competition. It is an area where Tanzania doesn't have much experience, as during the 1990s when the country started emerging into businesses, and in the

early next decade when the EA market was being homogenized and regulated, local bureaucrats were feeling at home arbitrating between SAB Millers, Kenya Breweries, Tanzania Breweries and Serengeti Breweries. They weren't putting up strategy to corner any markets there.

In that case there is a virtual regulatory element in the manner in which top level bureaucracy has taken up the milk issue, where the simple fact is that Tanzania doesn't have the sort of layout for competitive participation in that market. There are opportunities for instance of milk producers in Tanga selling across the border, or those in Iringa finding niches of that sort in other markets within the SADC zone for a change.

While evidently the country is quite mindful of its obligations under existing treaties or conventions governing trade in the region and beyond, it is spending too much effort battling these same premises of industrialisation.

Since Tanzania is part of wider trade structures based on the supposition that open trade between countries fosters healthier competition in each country's industrial activity, trying to build an industrialisation project based on protectionism shall not work. The protectionism is based on state willingness to interfere with protocols by raising non-tariff barriers, but while with our neighbors this is just a failing that is noticed in a selective manner, with us it seems to constitute a strategy. It makes the whole notion of patriotism, used this way, become an illusion that we can protect industries from competition because we love one another. No, it is better to stick to the patriotism of paying taxes and let every producer seek to attain standards and pricing enabling such producer to penetrate local and regional markets.

## Africa's rising rates of violence against women demand unified approach

Gender violence, also known as gender-based violence or gendered violence, is the term used to denote harm inflicted upon individuals and groups that is connected to normative understandings of their gender. This connection can be in the form of cultural understandings of gender roles, both institutional and structural forces that endorse violence based on gender and societal influences that shape violent events along gender lines. While the term is often used synonymously with 'violence against women', gendered violence can and does occur for people of all genders including men, women, male and female children and gender diverse individuals.

Activities heavily associated with violence are overwhelmingly shaped by understandings of gender and gender roles. War, for example, in contemporary understandings is divided between civilian and combatants with a general understanding that men make up the vast majority of combatants and women and young children the majority of civilians. In cases like the Srebrenica massacre, in which 8,000 men and male children were killed, the basis of their murder was a gendered understanding that they had the potential of being, or becoming combatants in the Bosnian war.

In discussing gender and violence at regional levels, the experiences of people who exist in transition between spaces or who are not counted within regional data can potentially be omitted from this discussion; these include displaced persons, people seeking asylum and refugees.

The prevalence of violence against women is very severe in Africa where around one third of African women report experiencing domestic violence both physical and sexual. Violence within the family, especially

experienced by women, is attributed to ancient socioeconomic conditions that shape social norms about marriage patterns, living arrangements and the productive role of women. Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is considered a form of gender based violation that has a great influence on women and girls' bodies. More than 200 million girls and women alive today have been subjected to FGM in 30 countries in Africa and the Middle East. FGM is not only a matter of discrimination against females, but it violates a person's rights to health, security and physical integrity. It is practice which conflicts with the right to be free from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, and the right to life when the procedure results in death. Gender violence does not only target women. In 33 African countries, adult same-sex acts are illegal, including 24 that criminalize lesbian acts. Many other countries have recently passed laws that restrict and punish groups that support work on sexual orientation and gender identity issues. Consequently, sexual minorities are subjected to gender violence, including being harassed, threatened and even killed in some places.

In Tanzania, the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children has introduced a special desk and toll free number for the public to report cases of gender-based violence. The desk will open soon and will offer services for 24 hours.

This will enable victims as well as witnesses of gender-based violence and child abuse to report the cases without delay for ministerial authorities to take appropriate measures. This comes after a recent human rights report launched mid last month by the Legal and Human Rights Centre indicated that sexual violence against children almost tripled last year, making it the most violated human right.

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## Unprecedented violence: Sudan at a crossroads

By Special Correspondent

The unprecedented violence in Sudan's capital Khartoum in the past few days has led to a stand-off between the Transition Military Council (TMC) who took over after President Omar Al Bashir was ousted on April 11, and the Sudanese people demanding democracy. This was a calculated move from the TMC to limit the leverage of the opposition forces with the end of the sit-ins not just in Khartoum but in cities throughout the country.

It certainly emptied the streets, but it may be a pyrrhic victory in the long run.

The people still have an ace up their sleeves and that is civil disobedience - people staying at home and refusing to work, paralysing the economy.

This move already brought the country to a standstill at the end of May and the opposition intend to do so again next week.

While the TMC are counting on the fact that the people will not be able to maintain this forever, there is a real danger they do not understand the level of desperation of the people after the near economic collapse that prompted this revolution in the first place.

Years of corruption

It is the years of corruption, mismanagement and sanctions of the economy that brought Sudan to its knees and gave the people no recourse but to take to the streets.

Amid chronic shortages of bread, petrol, diesel and cash, people queued in scenes reminiscent of Communist Soviet times. The black market value of the Sudanese pound dropped from 26 to almost 100 to the USD in one year, instantly wiping out the emergent middle class. The flow out of the country of people competent enough to rebuild the economy was constant.

People who have nothing left, have nothing to lose.

Al Bashir underestimated the power and determination of the people and paid the price.

This means that the first task for any new government - whether it is military or civilian depending on who blinks first in the current impasse - will be to deal with the crumbling economy.

Occasional donations from Saudi and the UAE may help prolong the lifespan of any military government but, as Al Bashir discovered, this will not resolve the underlying problems - especially in the midst of a global recession.

### Real economic reform

Sudan needs real economic reform and to be reintegrated into the international economic community.

The removal of Al Bashir - wanted by the ICC - as head of state removed the largest barrier to that.



Protestors converge on the sit-in in Khartoum last month

But the killing, rape and beatings on June 3, will likely also make the current military leaders unacceptable to international reintegration.

The TMC may point to Egypt as an example. President Abdel Fattah Sisi committed atrocities in Tahrir Square, was suspended by the African Union and now sits at the head of the organisation as its chair. But Egypt is a regional superpower and key ally for the USA in the Middle East and its policy of support for Israel.

A successful military government needs regular funds, a blind eye from superpowers and apathy from the media (including social media).

Sudan, quite simply, is not a foreign policy priority for the Western powers and is key for China and Russia mostly in its position in the regional proxy war against the West.

This can swing both ways - the TMC might see this as a way to get away with what they did and continue. Certainly Trump has remained silent and his administration has paid the minimum of lip services to the bloodshed. The UK and Europe are currently distracted with the self-destruction of Brexit.

However, Trump may not be in power for long and, if the winds of change usher in a new US President next year, it will likely be one more concerned about the public repercussions of supporting atrocities in Sudan.

### Sanctions

The lifting of decades of sanctions and the opening of international markets to Sudan will more than likely now require a civilian government as its premise.

Without it, Sudan's economic woes will continue longer term and the cycle of protests will continue.

The kingmaker is paramilitary leader Hemedi. Commanding the most powerful armed force in the country and now firmly entrenched in the capital and the epicentre of influence, he has the power to put the benefit of the country first and take a step back or drive Sudan

straight down the path of Syria and Libya - a descent into civil war.

Probably the only power capable of influencing Hemedi would be Saudi Arabia. And a U-turn on Saudi support of the TMC requires heavy American engagement which we are not yet seeing under Trump.

However, Sudan is not just an Arab country. It plays an important African role.

While the intervention of the Arab world with all its money and current carte blanche from Trump's USA has no interest in a popular revolution succeeding, Sudan is now at real risk of becoming yet another failed state.

This would spell disaster for the region and the African Union can well see that.

Sudan's regional position is key. Already crumbling with the secession of South Sudan as well as conflict in Darfur, The Blue Nile, Nuba Mountains and Abyei, conflict in the centre of Khartoum could push it over the edge into an abyss.

Sudan has always been a strong buffer surrounded by troubled states (South Sudan, Libya, Somalia, Chad, CAR, Eritrea). Any further destabilisation of Sudan could spill over and threaten key regional economies like Egypt, Kenya, and now Ethiopia.

Recent gains in the region by Ethiopia's reconciliation with Eritrea are at risk by a troubled Sudan, hence the choice of Ethiopian leader Abiy Ahmed to mediate.

Ethiopia is the example of where Sudan could end up, if it embraces reconciliation instead of repression and ensures a transition to civilian rule.

The African Union can see its interests lie in a stable Sudan and will likely play a mediation role to that end.

The TMC would do well to consider that, longer term, the road of repression could end up with them meeting the same end as Al Bashir, albeit with more blood spilled, in a few years. Worse still - they could end up ruling over a Somalia-like disjointed and failed state.

Deep mistrust

Moving forward, talks will be difficult now as there is a deep mistrust between the TMC and the opposition forces. The opposition says the TMC broke its promise not to disperse the sit-in and the arrests of opposition leaders Yasir Arman and now Mohamed Esmat after meeting Ethiopian leader Ahmed did little to rebuild bridges.

From its side, the TMC bemoaned the level of unprofessionalism and lack of organisation among the opposition negotiators. They said the coalition agreed on points and then backed out when public opinion turned against them and requested written minutes signed after every negotiation.

The opposition forces must unite and accept that they are negotiating for a civilian, technocratic government with a clear mandate to end conflict, corruption and rehabilitate the economy, health and education.

There is now no time to negotiate a new constitution acceptable to all parties or to debate the separation of religion and state. A timely transition to civilian rule using the original and well-negotiated 2005 constitution as a starting point is a priority.

Every delay from their side, every disagreement between them, is a nail in the coffin of the revolution.

The author of this Op-ed is a Khartoum educator who has asked Radio Dabanga to withhold their name for safety reasons, as writers and journalists are still regularly harassed by government forces in Sudan.

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the contributing author and do not necessarily reflect the position of Radio Dabanga.

Our editorial independence means that we can continue to provide factual updates about ongoing protests to Sudanese and international actors, educate people about how to avoid outbreaks of infectious diseases, and provide a window to the world for those in all corners of Sudan. Support Radio Dabanga for as little as €2.50, the equivalent of a cup of coffee.



# Women and work life balance



IT'S a fallacy to think that as a woman, you have to choose between a corporate career or your home life.

Last week, attending a Google organized event on Leadership and work life balance for the loser woman in Africa, confirmed something intriguing I have seen in recent years: that female employees seem to approach the question of career or family as black and white. Either you work full time, with all the joys of long hours, overtime and commuting that come with it, or you become a stay-at-home mum. There's no in-between.

In the hundreds of career conversations I have engaged in, read or even watched on tv, I have found time and time again that career women after becoming unhappy in their careers, decide to drop out of the workforce completely.

These women work full-time and do far more than their fair share of the house chores and also take on the vast majority of the 'emotional labour' at home, like setting up doctor's appointments for the kids, organising birthday parties, and making sure grandma receives enough attention et al. Add to all of this a horrendous commute and replying to work emails day and night, and it's no wonder, they feel as though their mental and physical health is compromised.

Compared to what they are earning, it just doesn't seem worth it to them. And so these women quit their corporate careers, feeling that is the only viable option to keep their family - and themselves - ticking over.

If staying at home full-time makes you happy, more power to you. But what I so often hear is that this new life at home doesn't make them happy, either. The daily grind of permanent childcare turns out to be neither easy nor fulfilling; many share their sense of guilt and regret at "throwing away" their hard-earned education and experience. Becoming financially dependent on their partner puts pressure on their partners and the relationship, and making their kids the centre of their universe can also be a huge burden to put on little ones. Was leaving their job, they wonder, really the right decision?

Meanwhile the companies they parted ways with lose touch with them, too. I know from experience that facilitating a set-up that works for both the employee and their family is far better than their splitting completely; an outcome that is, for both sides, completely unnecessary. It's a fallacy to think that as a woman, you have to choose between a corporate career or your home life - that it's a black or white, all or nothing, zero sum game. You are made for more than just one or

the other. There is third way, a golden middle ground, in which you can have both a fulfilling career and a healthy and happy life.

In order to get there, you need to have a meaningful career conversation with your boss. Find out what it is that they truly need, and share with them how you're going to achieve that, considering what would have an impact on your home and work life, then have a conversation with your

boss. And, importantly, discuss what framework you need to reach those goals. If they're excited enough about the future you have envisioned together and have faith enough you can enact it, they'll want to set you up for success.

Would it make your world easier if you could start half an hour later every day to drop your children off at daycare in relative peace? Would it

help if, one day a week, you could work from home and plough through the unread messages in your inbox without being sidetracked by colleagues' interjections? What would make the biggest difference for you?

"My boss will never let me do any of those things!" I can hear your comeback.

Fine, but have you tried? I mean, really tried? Prepared thoroughly for this career defining conversation and

practiced it with someone you trust until it felt comfortable and authentic?

It's imperative that you get a job your desired with a set-up (and salary) that works for you. So before you take the drastic decision of quitting your job and staying at home fulltime, give negotiating your role and set-up a genuine chance: just have the darn conversation. You never just how much it could change your life for the better.

# Engaging business in war against graft a double edged effort

BY MICHAEL ENEZA

WITH authorities in Kenya having taken up the war against graft to be top of the agenda in the second term of the current presidency, efforts are being made to involve the business community across Africa in that effort, especially those with strong presence in Nairobi. Business executives from a stretch of countries in the Sub-Saharan zone were reportedly "renewing commitment to support the war against graft that is responsible for the loss of about 30 percent of the continent's GDP." It is hard to find a credible source for this sort of estimation, and indeed to verify that it is accurate.

Were it that the formulation was referring to losses of the government in development projects, and even in recurrent expenditure when there are ghost employees or false billing for non-existent services, that could be termed a loss. But it is a different matter to say that money that is lost to the government is also lost to the economy, as that isn't accurate, since no money is lost in an economy. It is used for different purposes, builds capacities in other regards for instance in widening rental facilities or helping to keep the price of land steady, which was evidenced in the drastic fall in city land prices in the first year of the fifth phase government, to wit.

Executives who attended the Africa Business Ethics Conference in Nairobi were on record as declaring their willingness to "rally behind government-led efforts to stamp out corruption which is to blame for stagnating economic growth and jeopardizing security and cohesion." That assertion also had plenty of inaccurate formulations, for instance the idea that stagnation in economic growth is caused by corruption, as that isn't accurate. Corruption mitigates inefficiency, not create it in the first place.

Major corrupt economies like those of Russia and China - and even the US has at times documented instances of corporate, procurement corruption - are not stagnating, but the contrary. Stagnation is a result of faulty state-led



Commissioner of Police (CP) Diwani Athumani taking the oath of office as the new Commissioner General of PCCB last year. File photo

policies, fighting the market to make state entities dominant in economic activities; those who manage them don't build but fleece them. Corruption transfers resources from the public to the private sector, thus enabling local accumulation, build a localized capitalist class, enhance market capacity, etc.

The idea that corruption is a threat to growth of businesses and continues to hamper efforts to address poverty and inequality in many African countries, an assertion attributed to Lee Karuri, chairman of the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) Foundation was

positively angled, a sort of spin to the issue, but essentially inaccurate. Looking at Tanzania and even Kenya for that matter, little can be said about private sector growth outside the way in which entrepreneurs used weaknesses in state-run firms to set up provisions for comfortable retirement, by over-invoicing, etc. Fleecing a state entity is natural for all officials, to obviate from poverty in retirement.

In that case it is vital that leaders of the business community make their own assessment and contribute more critically to policy making, instead of

being drawn into well meaning but unrealistic campaigns for instance what has largely characterised East Africa in the past two or three years. There are genuine efforts to combat corruption but seeking to assert that this is what unlocks a country's potential is faulty, as corruption feeds on inefficient monopoly, where a grossly mismanaged economic entity provides vast opportunities for clever people to make money. It has been a major aspect of African economic activity for 50 years, making it a mess but with growth.

The way in which post independence

policies were characterised by state bias, corruption and gradual development of the private sector can be said to reflect something like moving from an egg to larvae, pupa and then an insect flies out.

The egg stage is the vehemence that the nationalism spirit wishes to take economic activity out of formerly privileged groups, be it the departing Europeans or their allies in the Asiatic trading community, first.

The take-over of business activities to 'indigenize' economic activity basically threw out efficiency and competition, as a state-run enterprise

is far more comfortable when it faces no competition, just imposes its prices on the market, or say, the citizenry. As the currency declines and prices skyrocket, shortages follow and goods are rationed by the black market, a 'pupa' stage that virtually all African countries experienced. Some experiences were mild, others more intense like Tanzania while Zimbabwe and others had dramatic experiences of total collapse of a currency. In West Africa during the civil wars related to tribal campaigns to control the state and hence the public sector and Treasury, they used to weigh currency, not count it, in markets.

The growth dynamic in the pupa stage is access to foreign exchange that becomes the trend setter for the insect, development of the private sector. Those offering goods or services that are paid for in foreign currency quickly amass wealth, like via the purchase of collapsing enterprises of some local governments (what we used to call VIDECOs) in Dar.

The housing sector is in large measure the main beneficiary of the collapse of the state-led sector, and afterwards, currency is reformed, new rules of state control of economy are laid out, there is far less smuggling though protection of local industries leads to bribes, efforts to evade taxes, etc. The other part of corruption that basically preoccupied minds in Nairobi is procurement corruption, where delegates avoided mentioning that political loyalties are tied to expectations of gain, with politicians often in debt - seeking to reimburse campaign loans.

Ending corruption is basically a matter of building market-based economies that are not predisposed to favour state-controlled agencies, as once such features exist they are water pools for the larvae of bribes to grow, so that officials manning such units are rapidly enriched. The private sector is the main beneficiary of weak state-led economy and its legacy of graft, so the idea that business unites to fight corruption is plainly incomprehensible; all corrupt people buy assets and join the private sector. Money doesn't smell.



# Tanzania diaspora in Poland funds supply of electricity to villages in Mbeya Region

BY GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT

**T**EXPOL Company in partnership with Light for Africa Foundation from Warsaw Poland has been able to supply free electricity to eight villages of Ilungu ward in Mbeya district calling upon other stakeholders in private sector to support the government's industrialisation drive.

Electricity supply infrastructure in Ilungu ward is part of approximately 6.5 MW project of electricity in the Ilungu ward created by Texpol Development Company Limited (TDCL) and Light for Africa which is Tanzania Diaspora Institute of Poland as mobilisation entity.

Until now more than 800 people in Ilungu ward have access to electricity including in villages of Ifupa, Shango, Itiva, Mwela, Mashese, Ngole, Nzumba, Isyonje, Nyalwela A and Nyalwela B. In the exercise Texpol company has been able to supply electricity and water to Ilungu Secondary School, six primary schools and five clinics. The electricity has also been sent to all staff members of government institutions in the ward.

Ilungu ward is located on a very high mountain plateau, about 2800 meters above the sea level, making it inaccessible during the rainy season. Ilungu ward is 52km away from Mbeya city linking Mbeya to Njombe region.

The construction of the infrastructure began in 2013 by people of Ifupa village with their own funds after the long wait of electricity promised by Tanesco over 10 years earlier. The company urged villagers not to blame the government instead to cooperate and raise funds to start their own electricity project.

By 2018 the project had been completed by nearly 90 percent and more than 16,000 people had benefited from the electricity. The cost of construction work is approximately to be 6.8 billion and when it is completed it will be around 7.4 billion.

It should be noted that since 2003



people of Ifupa village have requested electricity from TANESCO. At that time the villagers were promised that they would be given the electricity and were told to make wiring in their homes. Some of them did the wiring since 2003 but until 2013 when the TDCL came to their rescue the village and the whole ward had no electricity from TANESCO.

During the exercise, Texpol company in partnership with the Light for Africa Foundation from Warsaw Poland

began to seek funding sources from financial institutions in Poland. Some Mbeya Rural villages still not integrated into the national grid include Nyalwela C, Nkumbulu, Mabande where the population is over 6,000.

The Light for Africa Foundation under the leadership of Mama WakaWaka (Alicja Bajowska) from Poland has helped several community projects in Mbeya district rural areas including sending a modern

stove, chairs and 200 tables, 123 iron stoves for schoolgirls' dormitories at Ilungu Secondary School which is a government school.

In October 2017, the Polish ambassador to Tanzania Dr Ewelina Lubieniecka, visited Ilungu Secondary and Ilungu community hospital and handed over the equipment to the District Medical Officer and during her speech to Mbeya district leaders and Ilungu Ward communities she told the

senior leaders and people of Ilungu ward that, the Polish embassy in Dar es salaam will continue to increase possible efforts to support Tanzanian rural areas wherever possible.

TDCL was promoted by the entire ward and was provided with funds for construction of the electricity supply infrastructure. The money came from outside and abroad mainly from Tanzanian diaspora in Poland.

Construction of the infrastructure

include constructing 33 kV from Tanesco's outlet from Mbeya to Makete and sending electricity to the village of Ifupa and later the entire ward. The electricity was built under the strict management of TANESCO where Texpol paid all the required fees for TANESCO to manage the work.

Texpol Company acquired all the necessary legal documents for the work including the electrical license (SPPA) from Tanesco. Other legal permits include acceptance from the Ministry of Energy, REA, MFA, NEMC, TIC, EWURA, Rufiji Water Authority and DED. After completing the distribution of electricity Zella initiated another project in efforts to build the hydropower plant on Ishinga River on the outskirts of Mwela village.

The main purpose of developing a hydropower plant project in Ilungu ward is to enable the ward community to get stable, cost effective, environmentally friendly electricity, to light rural areas lives and to limit deforestation. To introduce small scale industries such as carpentry, grain grinding, locking doors and windows to keep food and functional work at schools and health centers.

Hydroelectric power will also help to replenish large grams used to build electrical infrastructure for the entire electricity. Therefore, motivate creation of more employment opportunities in rural areas.

While the study of the potential of the hydropower project is underway, TDCL thought it was wise to build a distribution infrastructure near the project area so that the electricity could also help citizens.

Zella and Mama Waka Waka encourage all Tanzanians not to wait for the government to do everything alone but to help the fifth-phase government to focus on alternative electricity and distribute it to the needy citizens in areas where the government has not done so. Thus, to enable all Tanzanian in rural areas to access stable electricity and at a low cost.

## Is Africa cybercrime-savvy?

BY KAREN ALLEN

**I**T started with loud music and the smell of marijuana. When South African police stormed a hotel room in the Western Cape they found six people huddled over 32 computers and mobile devices. This extortion syndicate was extracting millions of dollars from unwitting individuals.

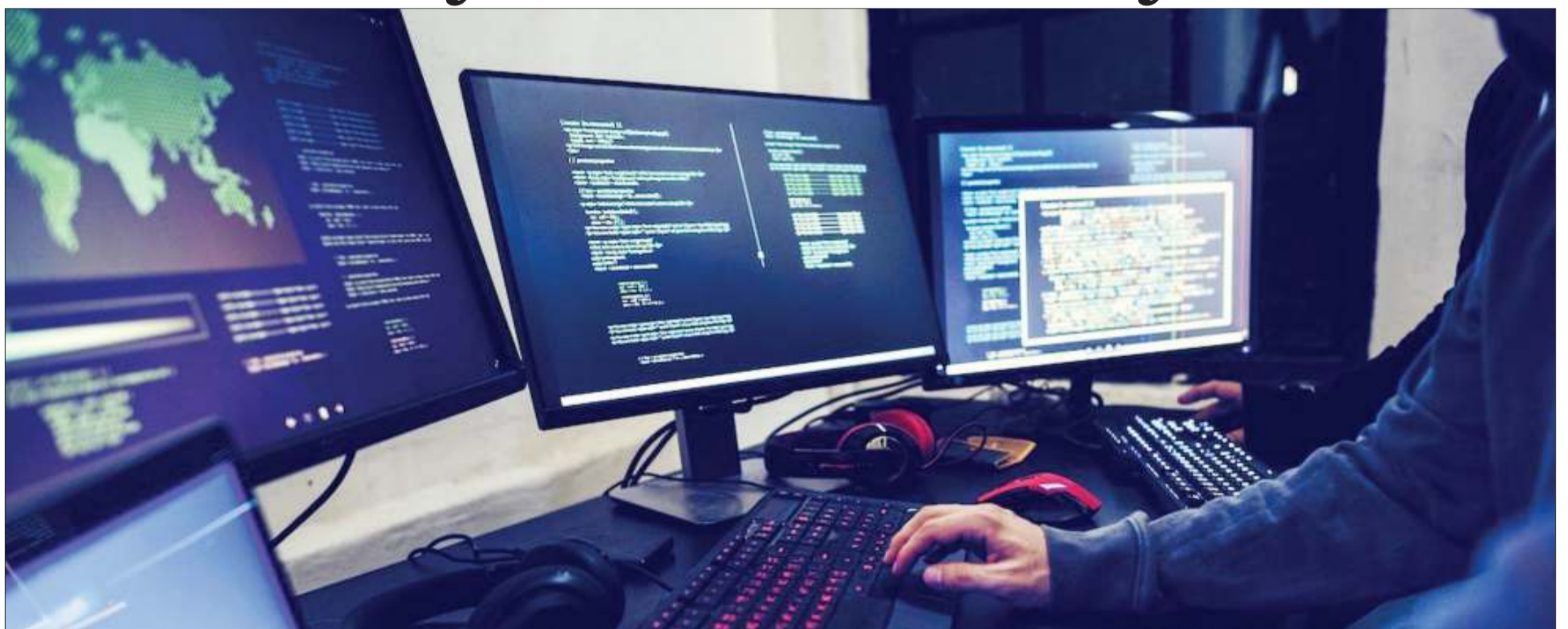
A senior source at South Africa's National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) says such 'boiler rooms' of malicious cyber activity are rapidly expanding. 'We have never had a major incursion or data breach referred to the NPA from the police ... no seminal event' - such as when Ukraine's power grid was taken down by hackers in 2016. But, says the source, it could just be 'a matter of time.'

Africa needs to be better prepared for both cyber-dependent crimes, in which new computer-based technologies form the basis of new crimes, and cyber-enabled crimes, in which new technologies are used to commit old-style crimes, such as money laundering.

In more developed economies there's been an increase in attacks from 'hacktivists' who use the dark arts of cyber to embarrass, advocate or protest. According to cyber analytics firm Kaspersky Lab, there are 13 842 cyber attacks daily in South Africa. That equates to more than 570 attacks every hour. Bank fraud, particularly the use of malware on mobile phones, has also increased dramatically, says the South African Banking Risk Information Centre.

Kenya is facing a similar problem. The Communications Authority has reported a dramatic rise with 9 million malware attacks in just three months from October to December 2018. With mobile phone subscriptions across sub-Saharan Africa expected to reach 930 million by the end of 2019 and the growth of e-commerce and e-banking continent-wide, the potential to inflict huge financial, reputational and political damage is clear.

South Africa, as a leading economy



Cyber awareness must become part of every aspect of life from doing business to alleviating poverty and providing security. File photo

in Africa, is acquiring new tools in its armoury to fight the criminals. The Cybercrimes and Cybersecurity Bill (2018) broadens the scope of cyber offences as set out in earlier legislation, permits extradition and offers tougher sentences.

Yet at a continental level the political will of many other states to take decisive action has been lacking. It is perhaps ironic that the African Union (AU), which has sought to encourage a continent-wide approach through the Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection (2014), was itself the focus of a major cyber attack, according to French newspaper Le Monde.

The alleged theft of data from the AU's Addis Ababa headquarters over a five year period was blamed on China, which built and kitted out the AU's Ethiopian hub. China's foreign affairs ministry denied the allegations made by AU officials, but the incident

exposed vulnerabilities and has led to a wholesale revamp of the AU's computer, security and telecommunications systems.

The AU Convention, also known as the Malabo Convention, seeks to harmonise legislation, regulation and governance strategies across Africa and establish 'institutions that share information on cyber threats and vulnerabilities such as the cyber emergency response teams.' Yet only a handful of countries including Ghana, Kenya and Mauritius have established such bodies.

Just four African states have ratified the convention, limiting its enforcement power. The same goes for the Budapest Convention, widely considered the global 'Gold Standard'. Only Cabo Verde, Ghana, Mauritius, Morocco and Senegal have incorporated it into national law. Countries such as South Africa, which has not yet ratified, are preferring to go it alone.

At a recent conference on cybersecurity hosted by the South African Police Service, plans for a 24-hour rapid response unit were enthusiastically debated. However until it becomes a fully funded reality, law enforcement agencies and the banking sector are relying on informal networks to try to prevent the country from becoming a safe haven for cyber criminals.

Data, which has become the 'new gold', has attracted crime syndicates to position themselves as service providers - hackers for hire. Advocate Wilma Germandt, who trains prosecutors in South Africa on the perils of cyberspace, believes there are 'at least 10 such criminal syndicates' operating in the country.

They compete by offering so-called offensive tools, explains Neil Walsh, head of cybersecurity and fraud at the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. These are computer networks and mobile

phones that are turned into listening devices. It opens opportunities to meddle in elections, steal data or seek ransom funds from targets that may include governments, utility providers, the military, manufacturing and commercial players.

To counter the threat, difficult trade-offs need to be considered by the public, according to Luca Viganò who leads cybersecurity research at King's College London. For instance, to build a firewall to protect individuals against data theft and fraud requires a delicate balancing act between personal privacy and security. For banks and governments to protect individuals, he explains, more personal data may need to be held, to make it harder for automated systems to steal data or mimic clients.

How cyber threats from states or non-state actors such as terrorist groups affect geopolitics in Africa also needs some consideration. Earlier this

year Israel set a new precedent when it launched air strikes against a Hamas target which the Israeli defence force claims was a 'digital warfare operative.' Imagine the same happening in Somalia, Yemen or Ethiopia? This use of military force in response to a cyber threat represents a shifting terrain.

With the rapid evolution of new technologies, and the dawn of 5G which will enable faster, real-time communication, the question of how to police this new space is a pertinent one. In particular, how to locate cyber awareness into virtually every aspect of life from conducting business to alleviating poverty, doing diplomacy and providing security.

African leaders cannot bury their heads in the sand and paint this as a developed country problem. Just as technology has the possibility to transform lives with the click of a mouse, it can also destroy them.

ISS



By Guardian Reporter

# College outlines key strategies to bolster public service training

**T**HE Tanzania Public Service College (TPSC) has unveiled strategies to scale up training on public services related issues to complement the government's endeavours of transforming Tanzania into an industrial economy.

The college which has six branches in Mtwara, Singida, Tanga, Mbeya, Tabora and Dar es Salaam, plans to launch short and long-term courses in the country's capital Dodoma to meet with the students' demands.

The move is part of the college's ambitious plans to build permanent headquarters in the capital city.

TPSC acting principal, Dr Emanuel Shindika said in an interview that the move is meant to provide a room for public civil servants in Dodoma and neighbouring regions to get trainings from the college.

Dr Shindika said that the college has leased buildings located at Tabora Street in Dodoma, "where we'll be offering short and long-term courses".

The college has refurbished the buildings for providing trainings to personal secretaries working in the public sector.

The idea, he said, is meant to complement government's move to shift all of its activities to the capital Dodoma.

"TPSC is part of this move," he said, revealing that the college, which came into existence more than 20 years ago, has expanded in terms of the number of students, working tools and the number of courses.

He said that the "Apart from operating in different areas across the country, TPSC is determined to work in line with the pace of the fifth-phase government of building Tanzania as an industrial economy. And this is possible by having well-trained labour force," he said.

Citing examples, Dr Shindika unveiled that last year the college offered courses for different public institutions such as local government



Tanzania Public Service College acting Principal Dr Emanuel Shindika speaks at the 30th graduation ceremony for TPSC Mtwara campus recently. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

authorities, where council directors from across the country were trained on public services related issues.

He said that Tanzania Public Service is running some projects on various disciplines in order to improve the quality of services.

Tanzania Public Service college was established to support public service departments on training, consultancy and research in order to meet customers' satisfaction.

Offering a wide-range of courses, the college now offers diploma course in

secretarial and records and achieves management at the Dar es Salaam campus.

"Our graduates are competent and well qualified in all branches of government but they have not yet been employed," he noted.

He said that TPSC graduates are normally employed in the public sector, "that's why we're urging public institutions to use this facility to train their staffs for better outputs."

The college principal urged public institutions to send their new

employees to the TPSC for training on values after identifying some few shortages with the newly employed public workers.

Speaking recently at the Mtwara campus' graduation ceremony, deputy Minister of State in the President's Office - Public Service Management and Good Governance, Dr Mary Mwanjelwa said that plans were underway to let all employers in the public sector to take their new employees to the college for specialised training on public service in an efforts to address challenges facing the sector including leakage of confidential information from public offices is caused by personal secretaries, who are not well trained.

"This can only be addressed if the workers can be trained on public service. Let me call upon all employers to take their new employees here, and this should be mandatory," she said.

The deputy minister advised the college to offer training that is in line with the government's agenda to build an industrialized economy adding that the college should also conduct research that is in line with the current government's agenda.

She added: "A guideline is under preparation that would compel all employers in the public sector to take their newly employed staff to TPSC to learn a number of public service related issues to increase performances."

"That's why it's important for employers to take this as a mandatory. They should make sure that their new employees are trained at this college," she said.

TPSC was established under the ambit of the Executive Agencies Act No 30 of 1997 to provide a comprehensive training facility for Public Service and to support the changing needs of Public Services resulting from instituted reforms. The priorities of TPSC are to provide demand driven training, consulting and applied/ action research to the public, non-governmental and private sectors of Tanzania.

## Relief as project empowers girls to stay in schools longer

By Felister Peter, recently in Uvinza

ACHIEVING sustainable development goal 4 on free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education is set to be reality in Uvinza district, Kigoma region following a number of interventions by the government and private organisations.

The interventions include construction of a dormitory at Lagosa mixed secondary school at Rukoma village in the district where most of the students walk for long distances to and from school, which affects their academic performance.

"We used to walk for more than 50 kilometres every day; our academic performances were poor because at home we were subjected to a number of activities. Studying at night was also a challenge as most of the houses do not have electricity", said students as they commend the Tuungane project for construction of a girl's dormitory. The school has a total of 350 students.

In November 27, 2015 the government issued Circular 5 about Education and Training Policy 2014 that directed public bodies to offer free primary and secondary school education to ensure that children in the country enjoy eleven years of free schooling.

Free education which includes the removal of all forms of fees and contributions support government efforts to attain the millennium development goals (MDG 2) now the sustainable development goals related to primary education and Sustainable Development Goal 4 which requires countries to ensure that everyone completes free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education.

Tuungane initiative implemented by the Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Pathfinder International is supporting the girls at Lagosa secondary school whereas apart from construction a dormitory, the organisation provide the girls with necessary educational materials, clean water and installed solar power to enable them study during night.

Zawadi Ramadhani, a Form Three student said: "My academic performance has improved since I started staying at the dormitory in January this year. We can study at night and conduct group discussions".

Zawadi who has a dream of becoming a teacher said that previously, her concentration on studies was too low due to various challenges she was facing including lack of electricity at home. She is optimistic of achieving her dreams after she now learn in a conducive environment.

"My dreams are to reach university level, I love science subjects but it is unfortunate that we do not have enough teachers", she said.

Stephania Majaliwa said: "There are many advantages of staying at the dormitory. I used to walk for more than an hour to and from school".

She explained that before her enrolment in the school's boarding programme, she was staying at a rented room shared by six girls. She commended the Tuungane project for providing them with clean water services, which are also benefiting people living near the school.

"I was walking for between two and three hours every day, at times I arrived at school late thus missing some classes. This dormitory has saved us from the many challenges we were facing when walking back home during evening", said Rahma Ramadhani.

The school's second headmaster, Fredinand Thomas said construction of the dormitory will improve student's academic performance since they can study at night.

"We expect our girls to excel in their national Form Four examinations next year. Previously, a small number of girls were completing ordinary secondary education due to various challenges", said Thomas.

He explained that only five girls completed their education last year while only two girls graduated in 2017 out of 15 who were enrolled in 2013.

He said the school has six male teachers only, calling for the government to allocate more teachers especially for science subjects.

"We commend TNC for the dormitory as well as sensitizing us on environmental conservation. We now have different environmental programmes which include tree planting", he noted.

The school's academic master, Francis Lashau added: "Construction of the dormitory has resulted into increased attendance and change of behaviour as most of the girls are motivated and inspired to learn".

Tuungane project's governance and gender officer, Jeremiah Daffa said the school supporting programme will last for many years. He said the target is to support 80 girls annually but only 67 girls qualified for the programme this year.

According to Daffa, the girls are also provided with school uniforms, shoes, exercise books, free meals and other relevant educational materials.

Uvinza District Commissioner, Mwanamvua Mrindoko commended efforts by TNC insisting that student's academic performance will now improve.

On teachers shortage she said the government has started to employ teachers who will be allocated to different schools including Lagosa secondary in Uvinza. She said the shortage of teachers in Uvinza district is 20 per cent.



A cross-section of students of Lagosa secondary school who are under the educational sponsorship programme by the Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Pathfinder International through the Tuungane project as captured recently in Uvinza District. Photo: Felister Peter

ABIDJAN

## AfDB approves US\$24.7million for water, sanitation development in South Sudan

THE Board of Directors of the African Development Bank has approved a proposal to commit \$24.7 million to finance the South Sudan Strategic Water Supply and Sanitation Improvement Project.

The Strategic Water Supply and Sanitation Improvement Project will support the rehabilitation of approximately 50km of the Juba town distribution network and related works, including metering and public water collections outlets. The project will also cover feasibility and engineering design for two other towns under the jurisdiction of South Sudan Urban Water Corporation. The project will additionally cover the development of solar powered water distributions systems and sanitation and hygiene promotion in high-density rural communities surrounding Juba, as well as capacity development in the relevant water institutions.

Implementation will commence during the 2019/2020 financial year, with the Ministry of Water Resources

and Irrigation and the South Sudan Urban Water Corporation serving as the executing and implementing agencies, respectively.

South Sudan's capital city of Juba, like many urban centers in the country, suffers from the effects of years of armed conflict and under-investment in the development and maintenance of basic water infrastructure. Increased numbers of displaced people and rapid urbanization have placed considerable strain on existing urban water supply infrastructure and the illegal supply of untreated water drawn from river Nile by private water tanker operators is common in the city and its suburbs.

On completion, the project will directly benefit 300,000 people in Juba and the surrounding rural Jubek state. The nearly \$2 million grant will ensure that schools and

communities in eight targeted rural areas of Jubek state, will benefit from 40 public/institutional latrines blocks to be constructed, as well as hygiene education.

"The incorporation of a rural water and sanitation component in areas that are relatively safe to reach indicates that the project opens a pathway for more support for rural WaSH going forward," said Oswald Chanda, Manager for the Water Security and Sanitation Division at the Department of Water Development and Sanitation.

"By helping to improve the quality and delivery of urban water supply services in Juba city and strengthening rural water supply and sanitation services, the project will greatly assist its target population," said Bank Country Manager for South Sudan, Benedict Kanu. He added that it will help

in combatting diseases, reducing health costs, improving quality of life, as well as helping women save time and increased convenience due to closer water supply outlets.

Since 2012, the Bank has contributed more than \$136.79 million in development aid across various sectors in South Sudan. Bank support has focused on capacity building, infrastructure development, and creating conditions for promoting peace, stability and state building, among the Bank's strategic priorities.

The project aligns with South Sudan's National Development Strategy (2018-21) and the orientation of the Bank's 2012-18 Country Strategy Paper, which was extended in May 2019 to 2021. Both strategies emphasize nation building through capacity building and infrastructure development.



# Why are British ethnic minorities more likely to be lonely?

LONDON, ENGLAND

It took Shuchi Sharma Bhatnaga months to realise that what she was experiencing was loneliness. She had moved to London in April 2018, after her husband was offered a job. They decided to take the opportunity to live abroad, and left their home in New Delhi, India - and the huge network of family and friends they had there.

The first month passed in a flurry of getting settled and finding somewhere to live.

After that, Bhatnaga signed up for dance classes and other activities to meet people. But she found herself feeling flat.

"I'd do a salsa class twice a week and really have a lot of fun, then I would come back and suddenly feel that overwhelming feeling again, like 'what do I do, who do I talk to?'" she recalls.

In recent years, there has been a spotlight on loneliness; figures published by the Office for National Statistics last year showed that 2.4 million adult British residents of all ages suffer from chronic loneliness.

Research has highlighted the medical dangers, leading some to suggest that loneliness in the United Kingdom is of epidemic proportions.

But until now, little research has been done into how loneliness specifically affects people from Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities.

Barriers to Belonging is a new report exploring experiences of loneliness among BAME people, commissioned by the Co-op and the British Red Cross.

Based on a survey of almost 1,000 people as well as focus groups and interviews, the research shows that people from BAME backgrounds may be more vulnerable to loneliness and face greater barriers in accessing help to overcome it.

"The research shows that people's ethnicity directly has an impact on their experience of loneliness," says Paul Amadi, British Red Cross chief supporter officer.

"One of the key findings was that people from BAME backgrounds are more at risk from the factors that cause



People from various ethnic backgrounds shop around the market on Whitechapel High Street in East London, United Kingdom. File photo

loneliness. Those factors include not feeling you belong to a community, if you feel you aren't going to be welcome, or you've been excluded, or have experienced discrimination."

One of its findings is that 67 percent of respondents who said they felt they didn't belong in their community were always or often lonely, compared with just 16 percent who felt they did belong.

This was true for Bhatnaga: she found herself longing not only for the people she had left behind in New Delhi but for the different social codes. In India, it had felt easier to strike up new friendships. "It's cultural," she says. "Here in London, I felt people are very busy and they take their time to get familiar."

The report does not distinguish between recent immigrants, like Bhatnaga, and people from BAME

backgrounds who have grown up in the UK; Amadi says that more research is needed.

But it appears that some of the risk factors are the same.

"There could be language barriers - or it could be people from within Britain leaving their community behind," says Ruwaida Adam Mohammed, cochair of the Co-op's Rise group, a diversity initiative.

Another clear driver for loneliness among BAME people is discrimination. Suhayla Ibrahim is British and has a big network of family and friends in London.

However, when she experienced workplace discrimination - both racial and gender-based - this year, she felt isolated. "Not everyone gets it," she says. "My parents are from Sudan, and they have had a very different

experience to me - my mum has never worked, and my dad has also had a completely contrasting experience. My friends are multicultural so they have a different experience too."

Ibrahim, the only woman of colour on her team, was demoted without explanation. She questioned herself. "I almost felt crazy," she recalls. "I just got crammed into this corner, and it was extremely lonely."

Her mental wellbeing deteriorated, culminating in her being signed off work with stress until the end of her contract.

Barriers to Belonging shows that almost half of people (49 percent) who experienced discrimination at work or in their local neighbourhood reported being always or often lonely, compared with just over a quarter (28 percent) of people who hadn't.

The turning point came when she decided to leave the job, and shared her experiences on a Facebook group offering support for BAME people.

"It was really great when I was able to share my story and people responded, saying they'd been through similar," she says. "I suddenly didn't feel alone".

Although, for Ibrahim, removing herself from the toxic work environment helped her overcome her loneliness, she points out that not everyone has the means to simply quit a job. And financial constraints can be severely limiting in more ways than one.

"Many BAME people [who responded to the survey] felt they didn't even have the disposable income to participate in social events," notes Amadi.

A further barrier to seeking help

can be the stigma: Almost 60 percent of survey respondents, across ethnic groups, admitted they did not feel confident talking about loneliness, with a third more saying they would never admit to feeling lonely. Mohammed suggests that this could be more acute for some BAME people.

"It's taboo," she says. "I'm from the Somali community - we have big families, so you think you will never be alone. It's almost like you can't talk about loneliness. I think a lot of people are suffering in silence. There's very little awareness about where you could go for help."

For Bhatnaga, the turning point was recognising that she was lonely, despite making an effort to socialise. "I was meeting people, but I still felt lonely," she says. "I was seeking those deeper connections which I had back home which I didn't have here. It wasn't enough for me to go out for a few hours, I wanted something more. Loneliness is not really about the number of people, the quantity, it's the difference between your expected level of social interaction and where you are."

She decided to look into volunteering, and last October, started working with the British Red Cross's Connecting Communities programme, which seeks to ease loneliness. Supporting other people experiencing loneliness gave Bhatnaga an immediate sense of relief.

"I was uplifted," she says. Through the voluntary work and the connections she made both with service users and other volunteers, Bhatnaga feels her loneliness is behind her for now.

The next steps might involve further research into BAME people and loneliness, a so far neglected area. "There's an increasing recognition of the importance of people feeling lonely, and there's a government response there," says Amadi.

"But there isn't a recognition that actually, there's a differential impact to loneliness. So that greater effort might potentially end up missing out on the people who are disproportionately at risk of being socially isolated."

Agencies

## Looking to the land in the climate change race

UNITED NATIONS

THE international community still has a long way to go to chart a new, sustainable course for humanity. But the upcoming climate change meetings provide a renewed opportunity to tackle climate change head on.

Ahead of the United Nations Climate Action Summit in September, governments are gearing up to convene in Abu Dhabi for a preparatory meeting Jun. 30 to Jul. 1. The meeting is expected to have the highest official international participation since the Paris Agreement in 2015.

"This summit is a unique opportunity to make sure that climate is not perceived as an environmental issue... the summit allows us to bring climate into the overall agenda of development of a country," said Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on the Climate Summit, Luis Alfonso de Alba.

"I think that's the only solution for the climate. As long as we keep climate as an environmental issue, we will never achieve the level of transformation that is needed to deal with the problem and particularly to move to a different way in which we consume and produce as a society," he added.

During the Abu Dhabi climate meeting, governments will make concrete proposals for initiatives on various climate change related issues from finance to energy. An agenda, recommendations, and draft resolutions will then be presented and adopted during the September summit.

In recent years, the climate change debate has been largely focused on energy, particularly the use of fossil fuels. Most recently, European Union (EU) leaders failed to reach a consensus on how to make the EU carbon neutral by 2050 as coal-reliant countries rejected the proposal. This sparked protests across the continent, including a 40,000-strong rally at a German coal mine.



As the world's soils store more carbon than the planet's atmosphere, the restoration of soil and degraded land is therefore essential in the fight against climate change with a potential to store up to 3 million tonnes of carbon annually. Pictured here is a 2012 reclamation project of desertified, sandified land on either side of the Sudu desert road in Wengniute County, China. Credit: Manipadma Jena/IPS

U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres also called for an end to new coal plants after 2020 as well as fossil fuel subsidies.

While such moves are essential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, sustainable land management is another crucial aspect that is often overlooked.

According to the U.N. Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the land use sector represents almost 25 percent of total global emissions. As the world's soils store more carbon than the planet's atmosphere, the restoration of soil and degraded land is

therefore essential in the fight against climate change with a potential to store up to three million tons of carbon annually.

Agroforestry could be an essential tool to address land degradation and help communities to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

A land management system where trees and shrubs are grown together with crops and pasture, agroforestry has been found to provide numerous benefits including improved soil and water quality, increased biodiversity, high crop yields and thus incomes, reduced greenhouse gas emissions,

and increased carbon sequestration.

In Niger, agroforestry has helped restore five million hectares of land through the planting of 200 million trees. This has resulted in an additional half a million tons of grain production each year, improving climate change resilience and food security of an estimated 2.5 million people.

Such sustainable land management is therefore a potential low-hanging fruit for achieving nationally determined contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.

Already, 40 percent of developing countries propose agroforestry as a

measure in their NDCs, including 70 percent of African countries.

However, current commitments for long-term climate action remain insufficient as it covers only one-third of emissions reductions required by 2030.

In fact, U.N. Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights Philip Alston that even if current targets are met, the world is still at risk of a "climate apartheid" where the wealthy are able to pay to escape heat and hunger while the rest is left to suffer.

"Maintaining the current course is a recipe for economic catastrophe," the

U.N. expert said.

"States have marched past every scientific warning and threshold, and what was once considered catastrophic warming now seems like a best-case scenario. Even today, too many countries are taking short-sighted steps in the wrong direction," Alston added.

De Alba echoed similar sentiments regarding the uneven commitment to climate action, stating: "If we are dealing and trying to improve the transition of energy, if we are concerned about land degradation and the protection of the forests, if we are all looking into innovation - I think we are all working for climate change whether we label it that way or not."

Countries must therefore not only scale up their commitments, but also address and close existing gaps.

For instance, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) found that agroforestry is not included in countries' measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) systems, including the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) own systems.

If agroforestry remains excluded from MRV, its contributions to national and international climate objectives will remain invisible.

"If agroforestry trees aren't counted in MRV systems, then in many ways they don't count. Only if agroforestry resources are measured, reported and verified will countries gain access to the financial and other support they need to effectively include agroforestry in climate change adaptation and mitigation," CGIAR said in a study, recommending the creation of guidelines for agroforestry reporting.

De Alba stressed the need for the international community to act quickly.

"Fighting climate change is compatible with growth, compatible with the fight against poverty... it is important that we continue the work from Abu Dhabi into the summit to get the best results."

IPS





Thursday 27 June 2019

## NIT gets over 48.8bn/- from World Bank for the Centre of Excellence

By Beatrice Philemon

WORLD Bank has given the government US\$21.25 million (over 48.8bn/-) to help establish a Centre of Excellence in Aviation and Transport Operation to train aviation personnel and equipment including light planes for training.

CATO's aeronautical engineer, Abubakar Noor said in Dar es Salaam earlier this week that 80 percent of the funds will be used to establish the centre of excellence at National Institute of Transport in Dar es Salaam.

Engineer Noor stated that the CATO will train and build capacity of aviation personnel such as pilot instructors, pilots, engineers but also purchase state-of-the-art training equipments, aircraft maintenance, cabin crew and other aviation related fields.

"These equipments includes three aircraft, two flight simulator, cabin crew, mock-ups, workshop materials and computer based training programs," Eng Noor noted adding that the World Bank approved the combined loan and grant earlier this month.

He said among other specific undertakings, the project will train 10 NIT



NIT Rector, Professor Zacharia Mganilwa. File photo.

aviation staffs at masters degree level, 30 instructors for brush up short and professional courses who will undertake the local training of pilots, engineers and cabin crew members.

"This financial support has come at the right time when the country's aviation in-

dustry is growing rapidly hence the need to develop the centre of excellence," he added.

Earlier this year, National Institute of Transport's Rector Professor Zacharia Mganilwa said NIT was set to receive nearly 200bn/- from the World Bank and China to

invest in transforming the institution into a fully fledged university for aviation-related studies.

Prof Mganilwa said NIT has already received a 60-hectare piece of land from Kilimanjaro Airports Development Company

(Kadco) in Kilimanjaro region where a College of Aerospace Science and Technology and a Flying Academy are to be built.

He said out of the money, the World Bank would provide a total of \$21.5 million (over 50.5bn/-) soft loan while the remaining \$62 million (over 146bn/-) will come from the Chinese government.

The World Bank granted three countries including Kenya and Ethiopia, the soft loan to develop their aviation industries by training personnel and buying modern equipments.

The NIT, through the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Vocational Training will sign a contract with Treasury to get the funds and implement the project. Prof Mganilwa said the 134.1bn/- Chinese grant will be used for the construction of a flying academy whose feasibility study is currently being conducted by Southwest Jiaotong University. The feasibility study commenced in November last year and expected to end anytime this year.

## Activists accuse Global North of muzzling Africa at climate talks

By Jenifer Gilla, BONN

ACTIVISTS have accused the rich nations and corporations of trying to silence African dissent on actions that fuel global warming at the ongoing UN Climate Change Conference being held in Bonn, Germany.

Activists from Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF), expressed concerns that the US and other Global North countries are bullying delegates from African countries in order to obstruct discussions on fossil fuel industry interference at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

"The U turn by the African negotiating bloc on the COI issue is suspicious. It is disheartening that an issue as important as protecting the climate negotiations from industry meddling is now subjected to a carrot and stick experiment by US and countries of the global North," Executive Director of HOMEF, Nnimmo Bassey said.

Bassey called on delegates from the African

region attending the experts meeting on the UN Climate Conference in Bonn, Germany to join the Least Developed Countries (LDC) in saying no to corporate bullying and demand a Conflict of Interest (COI) Policy as a framework of checks and balances for all non-party stakeholders," the activists said in a statement this week.

"This will help weed out those that greatly contribute to the climate crisis that use their access within the space to weaken policy. HOMEF observed that African negotiating block spoke strongly in support of the COI policy in the climate negotiations just last year in 2018 and now openly oppose the same recommendation," he noted.

The US has a long record of accomplishment of bullying the Global South, using development aid and other leverage points to silence countries. Given its opposition to this policy over the last four years, Bassey questioned whether the US was up to its old tricks again, especially given the country's veiled

threat in response to the LDC's position, that a conflict of interest policy would somehow harm parties with great interest in renewable energy, know in that this was an area of interest to developing countries.

Bassey said that the disappointing position of the African delegation on the COI issue in the Bonn talks, gave little hope for impacted citizens of the African continent who look up to them to lift off the heavy burden of the climate crisis weighing on their shoulders.

He commended Uganda for braving the odds to become the lead voice for a COI policy and framework in the LDCs, insisting that what delegates from other African countries should do is get out of their stupor and support the LDCs to save Africa.

A COI framework is key to keeping big polluters and their allies out of the room to pave way for real solutions to the climate crisis. Now is the time for African governments to take a stand.

## Economy cannot remain in the hands of a few - minister

PRETORIA

The SA government will not allow the country's economy to remain in the hands of a few, Minister of Small Business Development Khumbudzo Ntshavheni said on Tuesday. "To have economic freedom in our lifetime is our mission," she said.

Speaking during Parliamentary debates on President Cyril Ramaphosa's recent State of the Nation Address (SONA), Ntshavheni emphasised that the South African economy must be transformed for inclusive ownership. Reaching the goals set by the National Development Plan (NDP) is also crucial, she added.

Funding for young entrepreneurs is a key concern for her, as their businesses can in turn create jobs. At the same time, it is important for her that the government does not merely impose its views on the youth but obtain their input the process as well. "We have plans, which include the expansion of incubation centres to support village and township enterprises," she said. "The state must play an entrepreneurial role. The state is able to take some risks to enable the economy to grow."

Blended model

She is in favour of what she calls a blended entrepreneurial funding model, and undertook to explain more about this when her department's budget is tabled.

Lack of market access remains a challenge, she said. That is why her department wants to create five markets where SMMEs and corporates can trade and collaborate to scale up. "Government will provide technical support to address, for instance, product quality, which can prevent market access," she said.

At the same time, she acknowledged that the survival rate of both SMMEs and corporates are very low, according to Statistics SA. "It is common knowledge that the business world is moving online. Without an active role of the state, youth in rural areas and in townships are left behind. So, the government will be increasing enabling platforms for self-employed youth in those areas," she said.

"We are finalising agreements with the private sector for a much more coordinated effort for SMMEs and to have more impactful implementation."

## JKUAT's 118 PhD degree awards to be investigated

NAIROBI

The Commission for University Education (CUE) Tuesday announced that it will investigate the 118 doctor of philosophy (PhD) degrees awarded to graduates Friday last week following public outcry.

This is after it emerged that one Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) professor had supervised more than 10 PhD students in the School of Entrepreneurship, Procurement and Management against CUE requirement of three students per lecturer.

Some of the publications or refereed journals where the graduates published their works have also been put to question. A refereed journal contains scholarly articles that have been reviewed for their quality by recognised academics or experts in the field.

The CUE will be looking at the procedures the graduates used to defend their research works before JKUAT lecturers, supervision of the course among others as the regulator moves to maintain the credibility of doctorate and Master's degree courses awarded by universities in Kenya.

The Commission chairman Chacha Nyaigoti Chacha Tuesday said they will look into all aspects that led into the award of the PhDs even as the university came out fighting to protect its integrity. Prof Chacha said the Commission would not tolerate any shortcuts.



Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) Director General, Godfrey Mwambe (left) greeting NMB Bank Plc's Head of Business Banking, Donatus Richard after arriving to officiate a Makete Development Association's annual general meeting in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. The bank was the main sponsor of the event. Photo: Guardian Photographer.



## TMRC profit down by over 13pc due to declined in lending

By The Banker Reporter

PRE-tax profit for Tanzania Mortgage Refinance Company Limited declined by 13.7 percent last year due to a decline in borrowers appetite and huge increase in interest lending.

In its latest annual report for the year ending December 2018, the TMRC said pre-tax profit was 1.09bn/- which was lower than 1.27bn/- made in 2017.

"The decrease was mainly

attributed to slowdown in lending due to decline in borrowing appetite by Primary Mortgage Lenders (PML)," said the report which further pointed out that there was an increase in operating expenses by 13.7 percent.

"During the year, interest income increased from 11bn/- in the prior year to 14.69bn/-, an increase of 32.9 percent. However, the interest

expenses also increased from 6.9bn/- in the prior year to 10.1bn/-, an increase of 46.4 percent. The huge increase in interest expenses was due to additional borrowings from World Bank and TMRC corporate bond issued during the year as another source of funding," the report stated.

The report further noted that operating

expenses increased from 3.4bn/- in 2017 to 3.8bn/- in 2018 mainly as a result of increase in the number of staff to support TMRC strategy. "During the year TMRC balance sheet size grew from 102.8bn/- recorded in 2017 to 136.3bn/-, an increase of 33 percent while total loans recorded an increase of 25.5 percent to 103bn/- from 82.1bn/-," the report added.



TMRC's CEO, Oscar Mgaya.

## Mastercard, KCB, expand kiosk stocks credit line

NAIROBI

Payments firm Mastercard and KCB are set to roll out across Kenya a solution that enables smallscale traders running kiosks to access stock on credit.

The solution dubbed Koinekt, formerly Jaza Duka, was piloted in Kenya and is also set for further rollout in Egypt in partnership with the National Bank of Egypt. Kenyan traders

using the solution will be issued a card by a partner bank that will enable them access to credit.

Those accessing credit will not pay interest if the amount is paid within seven days while defaulters attract a 3.5 percent interest per month on outstanding balance.

"With this platform, merchants get to know how much in credit they can access at the

point of purchase. We have now upgraded the platform with advanced technology and now ready to scale it up," said head of Mastercard Labs for Financial Inclusion in Kenya, Salah Goss.

The partnership was first rolled out locally in partnership with Unilever, with more than 3,000 micro-retailers allowed to stock their shops on credit from its dis-

tributors.

The money is loaned to the distributors who supply the shop owners on credit, with the traders then repaying KCB directly, usually via a mobile money platform. It was launched in 2015 to ease traders' cash flow troubles that limit stocking. The bank sends a statement to kiosks every 10 days on their credit limit.

## Turkish Airlines debuts flights to Nigeria's Port Harcourt

ISTANBUL

Flying to more countries than any other airline, Turkish Airlines added Port Harcourt, an important city in Nigeria, to its flight network as the global carrier's 56th destination in Africa.

The Turkish flag carrier will operate four weekly reciprocal flights between Istanbul and Port Harcourt.

Already flying to Lagos,

Kano and Abuja in the West African nation, the airline added the Nigerian port city and thus increasing its flight network to 311 destinations. With this launch, the global carrier continues to be the leader as the airline that flies to more destinations than any other airline in Africa.

During the press conference in International Port Harcourt Airport held for

the inaugural flight, Turkish Airlines Senior Vice President of Sales, Kerem Sarp said the new destination has added a new milestone to Turkish Airlines' mission of growth in Africa.

"With Port Harcourt as our fourth destination in Nigeria, Turkish Airlines continues to be the bridge between cultures. We are happy to add Port Harcourt to our flight network, and

enable our passengers in here to experience a seamless flight journey with Turkish Airlines privilege," Sarp said.

Established in 1933 with a fleet of five aircraft, Star Alliance member Turkish Airlines has a fleet of 335 (passenger and cargo) aircraft flying to 311 worldwide destinations as 261 international and 50 domestic, in 124 countries.



Turkish Airlines and Nigeria officials during the inaugural flight.

## Central bankers weigh up Facebook's libra plan

GENEVA

A senior member of the Swiss National Bank said he was open-minded about Facebook's cryptocurrency project, while an Italian official looked for more information as central bankers try to get to grips with the initiative.

Facebook revealed plans last week to launch libra, the latest development in its effort to expand beyond social networking and move into e-commerce and global payments.

"Overall I think it's an interesting development and I'm pretty relaxed about it," Thomas Moser, an alternate member of the Swiss National Bank's governing board, said at the Crypto Valley Conference in Zug.

"They have clearly indicated that they are willing to play according to the rules, they have been contacting the regulators," Moser added. How regulators of the international financial system respond to the libra project, which Facebook aims to launch by the first half of 2020, will have a crucial impact on its prospects.

The cryptocurrency must respect anti-money laundering regulations and its backers must seek licences if it offers banking services, France's



central bank chief said in a magazine interview. Domenico Gammaldi, head of the Bank of Italy's head of market and payment system oversight, said he wanted more information on the project.

"I've read more than 200 pages of comments, and it's very strange for me to give a personal opinion on 12 pages in the white paper," Gammaldi said on Tuesday. "The white paper, that means 'white,' without any information."

Facebook has linked with 28 partners in a Geneva-based entity called the Libra Association, which will govern its new digital coin set to launch in the first half of 2020, according to marketing materials and interviews with executives.

## Instant bank transfers rise to N41.48tn in five months

LAGOS

The value of transactions via the Nigeria Interbank Settlement System Instant payment system rose to N41.48tn in five months of this year as banks, fintechs and telecommunications companies intensify efforts to deepen financial inclusion.

This is a 36 per cent increase in the value on the transactions compared with N30.448tn in the first five months of 2018. Similarly, the volume of transactions on NIP increased by 35 per cent, analyses of data on electronic payment transactions obtained from the Nigeria Interbank Settlement System showed.

Huge investment of financial institutions in technology that drives digital banking continues to yield results as further analysis of the statistics showed that the value of transactions on mobile devices from January to May this year was N183.7bn, a 31 per cent growth from N140.58bn in 2018.

In addition, the volume of mobile inter-scheme transfers increased by 115 per cent from 6.151 million transactions in the five months under review in 2018 to 2.856 million as of May 2019.

As regards the Point of Sales transactions from January to May 2019, transactions worth N1.137tn were carried out on the terminal all over the country, recording a 36 per cent increase as against N0.86tn in 2017.

According to the data, the volume of PoS transactions in the country also rose by 57 per cent from 97.49 million in January to May 2018 to 152.6 million in the

corresponding period in 2019. The growing adoption and investment in financial technology have earned 11 deposit money banks about N124.5bn revenue from electronic transactions in 2018.

Analyses of the audited 2018 annual reports of 11 banks showed their revenue from electronic transactions grew by 43 per cent year-on-year from the N86.72bn earned by the financial institutions in 2017.

The revenue was generated from the fees and commission that the banks charge their customers when they carried out transactions through Automated Teller Machines, USSD, Internet banking, Point of Sale payments and agency banking.

The Chief Digital Officer, Alat by WEMA, Mr Dele Adeyinka, recently told our correspondent that the target of all stakeholders, comprising fintechs, banks, card schemes, switches and the regulator, was to ensure that all Nigerians were financially included.

According to him, bank customers and non-bank customers should be able to use several alternative means of payments, except cash, to carry financial transactions.

Adeyinka said, "Techs and banks as well as several others in the ecosystem, our ultimate goal is to be able to bring a 100 per cent of the Nigerian population into the financial ecosystem. Meaning that we should allow everyone to have access to financial transactions using their devices at the comfort of their homes, offices and wherever they find themselves."

## South Africa's big 5 banks actually increased their dominance last year

JOHANNESBURG

Discovery is launching what promised to be a major assault on consumer banking, the tech-heavy Bank Zero is in beta testing, and TymeBank now has a large national footprint thanks to its kiosks in Pick n Pay stores.

But those challenger banks will have to get up very early in the morning to challenge the dominant Big 5 South African banks, new numbers from a SA Reserve Bank regulator suggest.

At the end of March this year, the Prudential Authority says in its annual report published on Tuesday, SA's five largest banks (Standard, First National Bank, Absa, Nedbank, and Investec) held, between them, 90.5% of the total banking sector assets in South Africa.

Despite new competition, the rise of cryptocurrencies, fintech innovation, and other pressures on the business models of the behemoth banks, that number is up slightly, from 90.2% at the end of March 2018.

The South African branches of foreign banks, of which SA now has 15, between them held 5.9% of banking sector assets. All other banks were left with just 3.8% of the pie. South Africa currently has 19 registered banks, not counting foreign banks with operations here, four more mutual banks, and four co-operative banks. The Prudential Authority's overview numbers of the banking sector also show it remains profitable, despite significant pressure.

Across all banks impaired advances, loans that are not being repaid as they should be and may have to be written off, were up nearly a quarter compared to the year before. But banks collectively were only marginally less profitable than in the previous year, with a 12-month moving average ratio for return on equity at 15.7%, compared to 15.8% in March 2018. The return on assets across banks also weakened, but not by much, standing at 1.28% in March 2019 compared to 1.31% the year before.



# Winners announced for African Banker Awards 2019

**MALABO**  
**W**INNERS of the 2019 edition of the African Banker Awards were announced at a prestigious Gala Dinner in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.

The Awards, held annually on the fringes of the Annual Meetings of the African Development Bank, have established themselves as the Oscars of African banking celebrating excellence in banking and finance on the African continent.

No one region dominated this year's awards although there was a call from the organisers for greater effort to ensure banking was more inclusive, both in terms of gender representation across senior management in banks and lending to the small and medium sized enterprises.

This call was echoed by the two main sponsors of the awards, the African Guarantee Fund and the Bank of Industry, both of whom have created a number of innovative instruments and mechanisms to lend to the SME sector.

The two big awards of the night went to development finance institutions. Afreximbank won Bank of the Year and the Trade and Development Bank's President, Ethiopian Admassu Tadesse, won African Banker of the Year.

TDB has grown its portfolio five-fold since Tadesse took over as President, largely increasing its presence in East and Southern Africa, where it operates. Afreximbank in the past 18 months has launched a number of game changing products.

This year's lifetime achievement went to former First Rand Group CEO, South African Sizwe Nxasana. Under his leadership, the bank grew at a compound annual growth rate of 20%. In his acceptance speech, he called for even greater investment in human capital if we wanted to accelerate growth on the continent.

The African Banker Icon went to Mitchell Elegbe, founder of Interswitch, the payments service provider. His company is predicted to be Africa's first Africa-led unicorn - tech start up whose value exceeds \$1bn.

Egyptian Central Bank Governor, Tarek Amer won Central Bank Governor of the Year, for his work in restoring faith in Egypt's markets and contributing to making it one of the fastest growing economies in the world and one of the best performing emerging markets.

Romuald Wadagni from Benin won Finance Minister of the Year.



Egyptian Central Bank Governor, Tarek Amer won Central Bank Governor of the Year.

He has managed to considerably improve the country's macro-economic indicators as well as embarked on a number of reforms to structurally transform of the economy.

South African banks dominated the investment banking and deals of the year categories. Absa won Investment Bank of the Year. Standard Bank and RMB won the equity deal of the year with the

VIVO Energy IPO. Deal of the year in the debt category went to Senegal €2.2bn Eurobond and Credit Agricole and TDB's financing of the Floating LNG platform in Mozambique won the infrastructure Deal of the Year.

In other categories, Ecobank won Retail Bank of the year; Kenya's KCB won the prize for innovation and Equity Bank for its CSR activities. Nigeria's Bank of Indus-

try won the prize for Financial Inclusion.

Commenting on the impressive achievements of the banks shortlisted for the 2019 awards, Omar Ben Yedder, Publisher of African Banker said: "We've been following the work of the financial services industry for many years. The sector over the years has seen great returns, and 2018 was another strong year for

banks. Undoubtedly FinTech was the most buoyant sector in terms of tech investments and we are yet to truly see the transformative impact it can have. Despite the positive stories from the banking sector, the words of the winner of our Banker of the Year still resonate when he said last year at the Africa Investment Forum: we need to speed up, scale up and synergise."

The Awards took place in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, on the sidelines of the African Development Bank. The country was for many years the fastest growing in Africa with massive capital expenditure. Following the fall in the price of oil however, the country is on a plan to structurally reform its economy.

The awards, which are held under the high patronage of the African Development Bank, are sponsored by the African Guarantee Fund as Platinum Sponsor, the Bank of Industry as Gold Sponsor and Coris Bank as Associate Sponsor. The Host Sponsor this year was Banco Nacional de Guinea Ecuatorial, by far the country's biggest bank in terms of assets and footprint. The awards were preceded by a cocktail reception hosted by Afreximbank.

## Reserve Bank of India's deputy head quits raising concerns about independence

### NEW DELHI

The resignation of the Reserve Bank of India's deputy governor has raised fresh concerns about the independence of the central bank.

Viral Acharya, the deputy governor of the RBI and a staunch defender of the central bank's need to act autonomously of the government, said on Monday he was quitting his role six months ahead of the end of his term. Mr Acharya simply cited "unavoidable personal reasons". But speculation has been rife that the move is connected to his vocal disapproval of what he considered to be government meddling with the RBI's work.

Mr Acharya had "ruffled feathers" and his views were "not in alignment with the approach of the government regarding the RBI", said Sujana Hajra, a former RBI director, who is currently the chief economist at Anand Rathi, a financial services firm based in Mumbai.

"Mr Acharya's departure is not a complete surprise, as frictions between him and the government on issues related to central bank independence had come to the fore," wrote Sonal Varma, the chief India economist at Nomura, in a research note.

It was Mr Acharya who last year sparked a bitter and unprecedented public row between the RBI and the government. In October, he delivered a scathing speech in Mumbai in which he said that undermining a central



Viral Acharya, the deputy governor of the RBI.

bank's autonomy could have "catastrophic" consequences.

"Governments that do not respect central bank independence will sooner or later incur the wrath of financial markets, ignite economic fire and come to rue the day they undermined an important regulatory institution," he said at the lecture.

Mr Acharya was also concerned about pressure on the RBI to release its surplus reserves to the government. A dispute ensued over the following weeks which saw the RBI and the government battle over other issues including the bad debt crisis in the country's banking sector and providing access to liquidity to non-banking financial companies.

That row culminated in the resignation of the then

RBI governor, Urjit Patel, who cited "personal reasons" as he stepped down. "Mr Acharya's resignation strikes a more than passing resemblance to the shock departure of Urjit Patel," said Shilpa Shah, the chief India economist at Capital Economics. He added that this once again "raises questions over the RBI's credibility and its inflation-fighting credentials."

Analysts say that Mr Acharya's departure should pave the way for further interest rate cuts by the RBI. When it comes to monetary policy, Mr Acharya is "a hawk", which means he veers towards keeping interest rates on the higher side in order to control inflation. The minutes of the latest monetary policy committee meeting, held earlier this month, reveal that although Mr

Acharya voted for the 25 basis point rate cut, he also raised concerns about the upside risk to inflation. In the previous two meetings, he was one of the two members who voted against the rate cuts.

The government is vocal about wanting the RBI to trim rates because this can help boost a slowing economy by bringing down borrowing costs, which encourages businesses to expand and consumers to spend using credit.

There are widespread worries about the economy after official data revealed that India's GDP growth slowed to a five-year low of 5.8 per cent in the first three months of this year. But following Mr Acharya's departure, Mr Shah said that the RBI now "has its work cut out to convince markets and investors that it remains focused on stabilising inflation close to the 4 per cent target."

Meanwhile, Mr Hajra believes that, going forward, it is not in the "economic interests" of the country to fight such battles in public. "Rather than voicing their opinions in an open forum, it is imperative that both government, as well as the RBI, share these opinions in closed door meetings," he said.

"Otherwise if there is a difference of opinion and that gets public, that creates credibility problems both for the central bank, as well as for the government."

## Iran's banking crisis to worsen as US sanctions continue to roil economy

### NEW YORK

US sanctions on Iran and their growing impact on the local economy are aggravating the country's banking crisis, forcing Iran to choose between deep reforms or preserving short-term financial stability of its liquidity-deficient financial institutions.

Significant liquidity and solvency problems are posing a "growing risk" to Iran's financial stability, according to a policy brief by the Peterson Institute for International Economics (PIIE). The banking system's problems also stem from the heavy-handed role of the state, banks' often "corrupt" relations with some semi-official corporations and the Central Bank of Iran's ineffectiveness in regulating lenders, it added.

"A substantial portion of banks' assets is impaired and their capital positions are very weak," Adnan Mazarei, non-resident senior fellow at PIIE and former deputy-director at the International Monetary Fund, said.

The US administration in November last year moved to reimpose sanctions on Tehran, leading to significant inflation and pressure on the country's economy as crude exports, the main source of income for Iran, fell sharply. Iranian banks, some of the state-related entities and the government officials, were also subject to US sanctions.

Earlier in 2018, the US administration announced unilateral withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), signed by world powers to restrict Iran's nuclear programme in exchange for economic relief. The US move led to pressures on the Iranian rial even prior to the sanctions taking effect. Iran's economy contracted by 3.9 per cent at the end of last year and the IMF expects a further 6 per cent contraction in its gross domestic product in 2019.

Mr Mazarei said, Iran's "precarious" banking system is expected to increase the economy's vulnerability to external factors.

"A worsening of the banking crisis can probably be avoided in the short run, but banking distress will continue to mount, making the system more vulnerable to an external shock - especially if Iran's oil exports are completely halted or if there is a major military confrontation with the United States - which could lead to much higher inflation and further financial difficulties," he explained.

**BANKING & FINANCE**

## China's Eximbank to finance Rwanda's private sector

### KIGALI

A leading Chinese lender, Export-Import Bank of China, has expressed interest in extending financial support to Rwanda's private sector, the Minister for Finance and Economic Planning Uzziel Ndagijimana has said.

He was speaking to The New Times from Beijing after holding a meeting with officials from the bank, also known as Exim Bank of China, or China Eximbank.

The minister was in China where he joined some 80 African ministerial-level officials for what has been dubbed the Coordinators' Meeting on the Implementation of the Follow-up Actions of the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), a cooperation framework between

China and Africa.

The two-day FOCAC meeting was described by delegates as an important opportunity to share insights into China-Africa relations, existing challenges and how best to strengthen the partnership for mutual interests.

Ndagijimana also held talks with officials from Export-Import Bank of China with whom he discussed avenues for supporting Rwanda's private sector, he said. "We had a meeting with Export-Import Bank of China. We are looking at ways that the bank can extend financial support to the private sector in Rwanda," he said. "We are going to work closely to implement the plan."

We are doing this under a new strategy, the minister added. "We

usually focus on government projects but we also want to support projects run by the private sector. We are going to prepare the action plan. The support will be provided through the banks to enable private sector operators to access long-term loans at a low interest rate."

According to Ndagijimana, the development will particularly help Rwanda's private sector in their import and export business.

"Our private sector has advanced over the years but there is still a long journey ahead. China has a big market and the support would effectively enable our businesses to access Chinese market in one way or another as well as impact the country's economic growth."

Reflecting on Rwanda-China

relations, Ndagijimana said the two countries have enjoyed strong friendship for many years, adding that the ties were stepped up follow mutual visits by the heads of state.

He pointed out that the friendship is not limited to politics but covered other sectors, such as the economy, as well. "Chinese support focus on developing infrastructure like roads and premises. In the infrastructure sector, there are various roads whose construction is being funded by the Chinese government."

"For instance, on the Rusizi-Karongi-Rubavu road there is a part of it that's financed by China, they are supporting on 54 kilometers of roads in Kigali

focusing on expansion, the road expansion from Sonatube to the proposed Bugesera airport among other projects," he said.

Last week a new grant agreement between Rwanda and China was signed for another 10 kilometres to expand the road from Giporoso to Kabuga. Commenting on the new development, Private Sector Federation (PSF) welcomed the move, saying it will help them reduce the challenges of access to capital.

Theoneste Ntagengerwa, the Spokesperson of PSF, said the move will help accelerate the implementation of some private sector led projects, which had been delayed due to financial constraints. He cited the proposed International Trade Fair Centre

the organisation plans to construct in Gahanga, Kicukiro District.

Ntagengerwa added that they have already secured the land but have failed to develop it because of financial shortfalls. Ntagengerwa believes such projects could potentially benefit from Eximbank financing. China also supports the Government of Rwanda in the health sector, including financing Kibungo and Masaka hospitals. The two countries also cooperate in education and agriculture.

As part of the over 60 billion US dollars development support to Africa announced last year by Chinese President Xi Jinping, we are also earmarking funds for expansion of industrial parks, Ndagijimana added.



## WORLD

# Boris Johnson fails to answer questions on private quarrel

LONDON

BORIS Johnson failed to shut down questions about his private life on Tuesday as a round of media appearances served only to bog him down further in questions about character and trust.

Johnson, who is running to be the next leader for both the Conservative Party and the nation, has refused to address personal questions despite an ongoing clamor to face public scrutiny after a reported quarrel with his girlfriend last week prompted a police visit.

In break from his previous strategy, the front-runner took part in three interviews in less than 24 hours, responding to challenger Jeremy Hunt's

criticism that he was a "coward" and needed to face greater public scrutiny if he is to become prime minister.

Johnson toughened his stance on Britain's pending departure from the European Union, promising he would take the country out of the bloc by Halloween "do or die." He challenged Hunt to do the same.

But the personal issues were never far away. Speaking on LBC radio, Johnson was questioned over a picture showing him and girlfriend Carrie Symonds in the leafy Sussex countryside amid speculation that it was staged and released by his campaign.

Symonds, a former Conservative Party press officer, has remained firmly out of the public eye since the reported quarrel Friday when a neighbor hear



Britain's prime ministerial contender Boris Johnson addresses Conservative Party members during the Conservative Party leadership contest at the ICC in Birmingham, England recently. (AP)

shouting, screaming and banging at the home the couple shares. "The difficulty is that the minute you say one thing, you obviously are bringing people, your loved ones, your family, into the public domain in a way that is not fair," Johnson said.

Asked where the photograph had come from and when it was taken, Johnson said "the longer we spend on things extraneous to what I want to do ... the bigger the waste of time."

LBC host Nick Ferrari pressed on. He said the picture showed Johnson with a hairstyle he no longer wears and suggested it was an old image. Johnson simply refused to answer.

"This conversation is now descending into farce," Johnson declared.

Johnson is the favorite in the runoff against Hunt but has refused to appear at some debates and shunned the media before changing tack. He granted the BBC an interview that was broadcast Monday evening and took on two other appearances by mid-morning Tuesday.

In all the interviews, the former mayor of London sought to turn the conversation back to his

wish to bring Britain out of the EU by Oct 31 – with or without a deal. He told talkRADIO that he would succeed where Prime Minister Theresa May had failed.

"I think a bit of positive energy would help, frankly. I've never seen such morosity and gloom from a government," he said. "For three years, we've been sitting around wrapped in defeatism, telling the British public that they can't do this or that. It is pathetic. It's absolutely pathetic."

The winner of the contest will replace May, who stepped down as party leader after failing to secure Parliament's approval for her Brexit deal.

What the public makes of the Johnson's personal life remains unclear. While chatting with supporters during a campaign visit Tuesday to the Royal Horticultural Society's gardens at Wisley, one supporter was caught by a BBC camera telling Johnson "we thought you were the best from the word go" before adding jokingly: "Just don't have any more rows."

Johnson replied: "No more rows. No, no, no. All quiet, all quiet."

Agencies

## US pushes peace plan in face of Palestinian disdain and doubts

MANAMA

THE Trump administration sought yesterday to win support for an economic plan it says will be a foundation for Israeli-Palestinian peace but which Palestinians and many other Arabs dismiss as pointless without apolitical solution to the decades-old conflict.

US President Donald Trump's senior adviser and son-in-law Jared Kushner (pictured) opened an international meeting in Bahrain on Tuesday evening by urging Palestinians, whose leadership is boycotting the event, to think outside the "traditional box" for an economic pathway that he said was a precondition for peace.

International Monetary Fund managing director, Christine Lagarde, told the first panel session

that the Fund's experience in conflict-riven countries around the world showed it can be a struggle to generate economic growth in such an environment.

Neither the Israeli nor Palestinian governments are attending the event. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a close Trump ally, said Israel was open to the proposal.

In Gaza on Tuesday, the Islamist group Hamas and its rival Fatah movement of President Mahmoud Abbas convened a gathering of leaders and activists in a rare show of unity to voice their rejection of the Manama conference.

Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh criticized Arab states participating in the workshop, which 300 delegates are attending including Israeli and Palestinian businessmen.



The conference aimed to finish off the Palestinian cause under the cover of economic and financial benefits, he said.

"The (Palestinian) people, who have been fighting for one hundred years, did not commission anyone to concede or to bargain. Jerusalem is ours, the land is ours, and everything is ours," Haniyeh said.

Although US allies Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates dis-

creetly support the plan, several Arab states, such as Lebanon, have stayed away while others including Jordan and Egypt, the two Arab nations that have reached peace with Israel, have sent deputy ministers.

The presence of Sunni Muslim Gulf states in Manama showed they want to encourage closer ties to Israelis - with whom they share a common foe in Shi'ite Iran - that have largely been under the table, said David Makovsky, a US-based Middle East expert attending the event.

"(But) it's clear they won't by pass the Palestinians and do anything they don't want," he told

HARD SELL

Washington hopes wealthy Gulf oil producers will bankroll the plan, which expects donor nations

and investors to contribute US\$50 billion to Palestinian and neighboring Arab state economies.

Saudi minister of state Mohammed Al-Sheikh told the panel that Kushner's plan was bolstered by inclusion of the private sector as a similar proposal, relying heavily on state funding, had been attempted during the Oslo interim peace deals of the 1990s that eventually collapsed.

"While I accept that peace is essential, back then it was the hope of peace that got them actually excited and moving," Al-Sheikh said.

But the "economy first" approach toward reviving the moribund peace process could be a hard sell as the political details of the plan, almost two years in the making, remain secret.

Agencies

## At least 13 security personnel killed during failed coup in Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA

AT least 13 security personnel working for opposing sides died from injuries during the failed coup attempt to overthrow the governance structure of Ethiopia's populous Amhara regional state, an Ethiopian official said on Tuesday.

Abere Adamu, Amhara region police commissioner, speaking to state-run Amhara Mass Media Agency (AMMA) on Tuesday revealed that six security personnel were killed during their efforts to counter the coup, while four others sustained serious physical injuries from gunshots.

He also disclosed that seven other suspected members of the

hidden team that orchestrated the coup have been also confirmed dead so far.

Adamu said that the regional security apparatus, working in partnership with the federal government, has so far arrested four senior regional officials as part of an ongoing high-level investigation into the coup attempt.

Among the four high-level suspects is Brigadier-General Tefera Mamo, head of Amhara region's special forces, the regional police commissioner revealed.

Adamu also said the coup attempt was orchestrated by Asaminew Tsige, who was the intelligence and security chief of the Amhara regional state.

Adamu said Tsige had con-



Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed

vinced a few members of the region's special forces to commit to the coup, adding the majority of the regional special forces members had no information about the planned coup.

Ethiopian Federal Police Commissioner General, Endashew Tasew, also told a press conference late Monday in the capital Addis Ababa that the Ethiopian

government has intensified the large-scale crackdown on the organized coup attempt.

The failed coup attempt had left at least 5 senior federal and regional government officials dead, including the Amhara regional state president, Ambachew Mekonnen, as well as Chief of Staff of the Ethiopian defense forces, Seare Mekonnen, according to the Ethiopian government.

Among the five senior regional and federal government officials who are so far confirmed dead from the gunshot injuries also include Migbaru Kebede, Attorney General of the Amhara regional state, Ezez Wassie, who was an advisor to the Amhara region's president, as well as Major-Gener-

al Geza'e Abera, a retired former senior official in the Ethiopian army, the Ethiopian government confirmed Sunday.

While three of the regional government officials were killed in the Amhara regional state's capital Bahir Dar, some 570 km from the capital Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian army chief and Abera were killed in an attack in the capital Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed disclosed in a statement.

"The two attacks in Bahir Dar and Addis Ababa were part of a highly coordinated mission led and masterminded by Brigadier-General Asaminew Tsige," Tasew said.

Agencies

## Online China-Africa economic, trade expo launched in central China

CHANGSHA

THE Online China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo was officially launched yesterday in Changsha, capital of central China's Hunan Province.

The online expo, Kili. co, provides a platform for cooperation and mutual exchange, showcasing tens of millions of commodities to make bilateral trade easier.

Kili. co is expected to serve nearly 500 million China and Africa customers as well as 1 million enterprises in the next five years, according to the operator, Kilimall International Limited.

The bilateral e-commerce platform is an upgrade of Kilimall, an African e-commerce platform now headquartered in Changsha, consisting of four e-commerce platforms and five infrastructures.

Among them, KiliSupply and KiliSelect are selling African products to China, and Kilimall and KiliBusiness are helping Africans reduce costs.

"With a few clicks on the Kilimall website, African consumers can buy more than 10 million different products online, including electronics, fashion and home appliances," said Yang Tao, CEO of Kilimall International Limited.

African companies can also buy products in bulk from China through the B2B platform KiliBusiness, such as manufacturing machinery, industrial equipment, lighting and building materials, he added.

Meanwhile, Kili. co infrastructures facilitate payments, logistics, warehousing and marketing between Africa and China. Kili. co has recruited hundreds of young graduates in Africa for technology and business empowerment to operate its services.

The platform is part of the first China-African Economic and Trade Expo to be held from June 27 to 29.

A total of 53 African countries have confirmed their attendance at the inaugural expo, which was established under the framework of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation as a new mechanism for economic and trade cooperation between China and African countries.

Xinhua

## Nigeria on the verge of bankruptcy, says former central bank governor

LAGOS

NIGERIA is on the threshold of bankruptcy as a result of unfavorable economic policies such as subsidizing petroleum products and electricity tariffs, a former apex bank chief has said.

Speaking in north-west state of Kano on Tuesday, Muhammad Lamido Sanusi, the former central bank governor advised President Muhammadu Buhari's administration to cancel petroleum subsidy and electricity tariffs if the economy must stabilize.

"The country is bankrupt and we are heading to bankruptcy. What happened is that the Federal Government do pay petroleum subsidy, pay electricity tariff subsidy, and if there is a rise in interest rates, Federal Government pays," Sanusi said at a forum organized by the office of the Accountant General of the Federation.

"What is more life-threatening than subsidy is that we have to sacrifice education, health sector and infrastructure for us to have cheap petroleum," he added.

"If truly President Buhari is fighting poverty, he should remove the risk on the national financial sector and stop the subsidy regime which is fraudulent," he said.

This is coming barely two months after a former chairman of Nigeria Governors Forum (NGF), Abdulaziz Yari, warned that Nigeria could be heading into another round of recession.

Yari warned incoming governors to be prepared for the possibility of another cycle of recession by the mid-2020 to third quarter of 2021.

Nigeria had officially entered a recession for the first time in more than two decades, in August 2016, according to figures which showed that the economy had contracted for a second consecutive quarter.

"The number of people living with poverty in Nigeria are frightening. By 2050, 85 percent of those living in extreme poverty in the world will be from the African continent. And Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo will take the lead," Sanusi (pictured) told his audience.

He lamented that for 30 years, successive governments have had this project called petroleum subsidy, insisting that this is the right time to stop it so as to save the nation's economy.

Xinhua

## Australia media demand press freedom law reforms after raids

CANBERRA

AUSTRALIA'S three largest media organizations joined forces yesterday to demand legal reforms that would prevent journalists from risking imprisonment for doing their jobs. The demands came after unprecedented raids against media organizations by police searching for leaked documents that some say were deeply embarrassing to the government.

News Corp Australia, Australian Broadcasting Corp and Nine Entertainment made their demands after raids by federal police on consecutive days ear-

lier this month at ABC's Sydney headquarters and a News Corp reporter's Canberra home in search of secret government documents.

The rival organizations want journalists to be exempt from national security laws passed since 2012 that "would put them in jail for doing their jobs."

They also want a right to contest warrants such as those executed in Sydney and Canberra. Both the ABC and News Corp this week lodged court challenges to both those warrants in a bid to have documents returned.

The organizations have called for greater legal protections for public ser-

tor whistleblowers as well as reforms to freedom of information and defamation laws.

ABC Managing Director David Anderson, News Corp Australia Executive Chairman Michael Miller and Nine Chief Executive Hugh Marks addressed the National Press Club on Wednesday as part of a campaign to gain public support for reform.

"Clearly, we are at a crossroads. We can be a society that is secret and afraid to confront sometimes uncomfortable truths or we can protect those who courageously promote transparency, stand up to intimidation and shed light

on those truths to the benefit of all citizens," Anderson said.

Miller described the police raids that have united media organizations in their demand for change as "intimidation, not investigation."

"But there is a deeper problem – the culture of secrecy," Miller said. "Too many people who frame policy, write laws, control information and conduct court hearings have stopped believing that the public's right to know comes first." Marks said "bad legislation on several fronts and probably overzealous officials ... in the judiciary, in the bureaucracy and our security services

have steadily eroded the freedoms under which we, the media, can operate."

"Put simply, it's more risky, it's more expensive to do journalism that makes a real difference in this country than it ever has been before," Marks said.

The demands come a week before Parliament resumes for the first time since the conservative government was elected for a third term on May 18.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison has not criticized the police raids, but has said he is open to suggestions for improvements to Australia's laws.

Denis Muller, from the Melbourne University Center for Advancing Jour-

nalism, said the three organizations had identified "real flaws" in the laws and their united front would put pressure on the government.

"The government is going to be kicking and screaming every inch of the way with this because they will be getting very severe pushback from the bureaucracy, from the Federal Police, from the intelligence services," he said.

Australia is the outlier among its Five Eyes intelligence-sharing partners the United States, Britain, Canada and New Zealand in not having oversight to balance press freedom with national security.

Agencies





Yang Jiechi, a member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the CPC Central Committee, meets with Sierra Leone's Foreign Minister Nabeela Tunis in Beijing on Tuesday. (Xinhua)

## China, Africa eye a community of shared future via cooperation

BEIJING

CHINA on Tuesday vowed to work with African countries to enhance cooperation based on equality and openness to build a community of shared future.

That came as Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi addressed the opening ceremony of the Coordinators' Meeting on the Implementation of the Follow-up Actions of the Beijing Summit of the Forum on the China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

After reading Chinese President Xi Jinping's congratulatory letter to the meeting, Wang said the letter fully expressed Xi's profound friendship toward African countries and their people, and demonstrated the Chinese government's strong willingness to engage in friendly cooperation.

In delivering on the blueprint for China-Africa cooperation in the new era, China stands ready to work with the African side in implementing promises with concrete and effective actions, and achieving full implementation of consensus and outcomes concluded at the FOCAC Beijing Summit, Wang said.

Wang also called for sticking to the fundamental purpose of building a community of shared future and the development path of jointly constructing the Belt and Road, upholding multilateralism, and safeguarding the common interests of developing countries and emerging markets.

"Any disturbance will not affect our resolve to enhance cooperation, and any difficulty will not hinder our joint advancement in achieving rejuvenation," he said.

After the opening ceremony, Yang Jiechi, a member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the CPC Central Committee, met with four foreign ministers from African countries, including Nabeela Tunis from Sierra Leone, Simeon Oyono Esono Angue from Equatorial Guinea, Naledi Pandor from South Africa, and Amadou Ba from Senegal.

Also on Tuesday, Wang Yi met with foreign ministers from Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Uganda and Libya, and an official on economics from Eritrea.

Xinhua

## Saudi Arabia vows to help South Korea if oil supplies disrupted

SEOUL, South Korea

SOUTH Korean President Moon Jae-in met yesterday with visiting Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who promised to help with possible fuel shortages in case of supply disruptions caused by tensions in the Middle East.

Moon and the Saudi prince also called for international efforts to secure safety at the Strait of Hormuz, where the US has blamed Iran for mysterious explosions targeting oil tankers, Moon's office said after the meeting at Seoul's presidential Blue House.

Tehran denied involvement in the attacks, which raised concerns among Asian countries of potential supply disruptions. South Korea gets more than 70% of its crude oil from the Middle East and most of the supplies flow through the strait.

Moon's office said the countries also agreed to increase exchanges in various sectors including technology and industry. Moon also pledged South Korean support for Saudi Arabia's national drive to diversify its oil-dependent economy by developing sectors such as health, education and tourism.

South Korea is the world's fifth largest importer of crude oil and Saudi Arabia has been its biggest supplier. South Korea imported nearly 101.5 million barrels of crude from Saudi Arabia from January to April, according to the state-run Korea National Oil Corp.

Prince Mohammed's visit came a week after a United Nations independent investigator called for him to be investigated over the death of dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi last October.

Following a months-long inquiry, Agnes Callamard, the UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, said she concluded that Khashoggi was a victim of a "deliberate, premeditated execution, an extrajudicial killing for which the state of Saudi Arabia is responsible."



South Korean President Moon Jae-in, right, shakes hands with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman during a meeting at the presidential Blue House, yesterday, in Seoul, South Korea. (AP)

## Point of no return far off: Envoy says diplomacy still viable to resolve Iran-US conflict

MOSCOW

THERE is a possibility of an armed confrontation between Tehran and Washington, but the conflict can still be ironed out using diplomacy, Russian Presidential Envoy for Afghanistan Zamir Kabulov told reporters yesterday.

"I really want to believe that there will be no war. When we say 'war,' we sometimes mean short-term conflicts, unfortunately, and this cannot be ruled out, because tensions are

running high," the diplomat explained. "But this does not mean that it is inevitable, it is still possible to return to a conventional political process, and Russia is doing its best to make this happen."

The situation around Iran deteriorated after June 13, when two oil tankers caught fire following an alleged attack in the Gulf of Oman.

The US blamed Iran for the incident, with the United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia supporting Washington's claim. Tehran has denied all the accusations.

On June 20, the Iranian armed forces shot down a US-made RQ-4 Global Hawk spy drone. In the wake of this incident, the United States, according to President Donald Trump, had hammered out a military operation, including pinpoint strikes against three facilities on Iranian soil.

Trump said he had called off the operation ten minutes before it was scheduled to begin, describing this as a disproportionate response to Tehran's actions.

Agencies



## Russia extends food embargo until 2020

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev has signed a decree on extension of the food embargo until December 31, 2020. The document was published on the official website of legal information yesterday.

The food embargo has been in force in Russia since August 7, 2014 regarding products from the US, the EU, Australia, Norway and Canada, later the list was expanded with other European countries and Ukraine.

"In item 1 the words 'until December 31, 2019' should be replaced with the words 'until December 31, 2020'," the decree said.

On Monday, President Vladimir Putin signed a decree on extension until December 31, 2020 of separate special economic measures against countries that imposed anti-Russia sanctions.

In March 2014, the European Union and a number of countries, including the United States, Canada, Australia, Japan, Switzerland, New Zealand and Iceland, began to impose sanctions against Russia over the situation in Ukraine.

In response, Russian President signed a decree "On imposing separate special economic measures ensuring security for the Russian Federation" on August 6, 2014.

On the following day, the government imposed restrictions on imports of certain goods from the US, the European Union, Norway, Australia and Canada based on that document.

After EU countries extended anti-Russia sanctions on June 22, 2015, Putin signed a decree extending the embargo for another year on June 24. Later it was prolonged twice, most recently on July 12, 2018 - by the end of 2019.

Agencies

## UN report on women urges transforming families into places of equality, justice

UNITED NATIONS

A UN report on women published Tuesday calls on the international community to transform families into places of equality and justice, where women can exercise choice and voice.

According to UN Women's new flagship report, "Progress of the World's Women 2019-2020: Families in a Changing World," as women's rights have advanced over the past decades, families around the world have become a place of love and solidarity but also one where fundamental human rights violations and gender inequalities persist.

The report calls on policymakers, activists and people in all walks of life to transform families into places of equality and justice, "where women can exercise choice and voice, and where they have physical safety and economic security."

"Around the world, we are witnessing concerted efforts to deny women's agency and their right to make their own decisions in the name of protecting family values. Yet, we know through research and evidence that there is no standard form of family, nor has there ever been," said UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka.

"This report counters that push-back by showing that families, in all their diversity, can be critical drivers of gender equality, provided decision-makers deliver policies rooted in the reality of how people live today, with women's rights at their core," she added. Anchored in global data, innovative analysis and case studies, the report shows the diversity of families around the world and provides robust recommendations to ensure that laws and policies support today's families and meet the needs of all their members, especially women and girls, with analysis of what it would cost to implement them.

Also, the report shows that families can be places of care, but can also bring conflict, inequality and, far too often, violence.

Today, 3 billion women and girls live in countries where rape within mar-



UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka speaks to journalists during a press briefing on the publishing of their flagship report, at the UN headquarters in New York, on Tuesday. (Xinhua)

riage is not explicitly criminalized. But injustice and violations take other forms as well.

In one out of five countries girls do not have the same inheritance rights as boys, while in others (a total of 19 countries) women are required by law to obey their husbands. Around one third of married women in developing countries report having little or no say over their own healthcare.

Women continue to enter the labor market in large numbers, but marriage and motherhood reduce their labor force participation rates, and the income and benefits that come with it.

Globally, just over half of married women aged 25-54 are in the labor force, compared to two-thirds of single women, and 96 percent of married men, new data in the report shows.

A major driver of these inequalities is the fact that women continue to do three times as much unpaid care and domestic work as men in the absence of affordable care services.

The report sheds some positive light on parental leave, with an increase of its intake by fathers, particularly in countries where specific incentives,

such as "daddy quotas," are in place that reserve a non-transferable portion of the leave for them on a "use it or lose it" basis.

The report proposes that family laws must be amended and reformed so that women can choose whether, when and who to marry and they have access to family resources.

The report also urges investing in public services, especially education and reproductive healthcare, so that women's and girls' life choices are expanded, and they can make informed choices about sex and childbearing.

The Progress of the World's Women report series, a periodic thematic investigation of women's rights since 2000, seeks to spur change in laws, policies and programs, creating an enabling environment for women and girls to realize their rights.

"Progress of the World's Women 2019-2020: Families in a Changing World" examines how the transformations in families impact women's rights and reveals most countries can afford family-friendly policies.

Agencies

## Pompeo meets Indian leader amid trade tensions

NEW DELHI

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo began official meetings in India's capital yesterday amid growing tensions over trade and tariffs that has strained the partners' ties.

Pompeo (pictured) called on India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday morning. No details were immediately disclosed about their almost an hour-long meeting. Pompeo is later scheduled to meet his counterpart S Jaishankar.

Pompeo arrived in New Delhi late Tuesday after visiting Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Af-



ghanistan on a trip aimed at building a global coalition to counter Iran.

His visit is the first high-level engagement between the two countries

since Modi's reelection last month. The countries call each other a strategic partner despite retaliatory tariffs they imposed on some of the other's goods this month.

India imposed tariffs on 28 American products including apples and almonds on June 16 in retaliation for the US ending India's preferential trade status on June 1. The Trump administration imposed higher duties on products including aluminum and steel.

The visit also comes ahead of the scheduled meeting between President Donald Trump and Modi on the sidelines of the Group of 20 Summit

in Japan later this week.

The two countries' officials are also likely to discuss India's plans to purchase Russia's S-400 air defense system. US has shown reservations about the deal. But still the US has become India's top defense supplier in last two years. India's trade with the US has also seen steady growth at US\$150 billion annually.

Indian officials say they have little differences with the US over political and strategic issues including on Iran, but they have cautioned the two countries need to be careful on trade and commerce.

Agencies

## World calls for joint efforts to protect global growth as G20 draws near

BEIJING

AHEAD of the Group of 20 (G20) summit in Japan, the international community is calling for joint efforts by major economies to help maintain global growth amid rising uncertainties.

### THREATS TO GLOBAL GROWTH

The bloc of major economies will soon be in the Japanese city of Osaka as the global economy

is increasingly threatened by protectionism.

In the name of protecting domestic industries, Washington has slapped steep tariffs on billions of U.S. dollars' worth of products from its partners, heightening trade tensions worldwide and rocking the foundation of the multilateral trading system.

"Today uncertainty is not so much about integration but about disintegration. Multilateralism and free trade have

come under pressure, for example, with international trade conflicts," said Burkhard Balz, a member of the executive board of Deutsche Bundesbank.

Moving towards isolationism and unilateralism damages the G20 spirit significantly, said Lee Hee-ok, a professor of political science at Sungkyunkwan University in Seoul.

Finance ministers from the G20 economies on June 9 issued a joint statement, saying global growth "remains low

and risks remain tilted to the downside" and listing trade tensions as the key factor.

The latest World Trade Outlook Indicator reading of 96.3 remains at the weakest level since 2010, signalling continued falling trade growth in the first half of 2019, said the World Trade Organization (WTO).

According to a key UN report released earlier in June, global foreign direct investment (FDI) slid to 1.3 trillion dollars in 2018, in its third straight annual

decline.

Factors such as escalating trade tensions "risk continuing to weigh on FDI in 2019 and beyond," said Mukhisa Kituyi, secretary-general of the UN Conference on Trade and Development.

"Economic prospects are now weaker in nearly all G20 countries than previously anticipated," said the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in its recent interim economic out-

look.

Besides, there are other major risks such as geopolitical tensions and climate crises.

Kituyi said the main drag on FDI in Europe is the "negative pull of Brexit in Britain," which has created considerable uncertainty.

In its latest monthly report, the U.S. Energy Information Administration cut its 2019 world oil demand growth forecast by 0.2 million barrels per day (bpd) to 1.2 million bpd, amid

escalating tensions in the Middle East.

"According to the World Bank, air pollution costs societies more than 5 trillion dollars every year," said Joyce Msuya, deputy executive director of UN Environment.

"This meeting is coming at a time which is seeing perhaps the most significant shift in the global environment since the Cold War," said Australian Treasurer Josh Frydenberg.

Xinhua





Novak Djokovic

## No grass courts? No problem, says Wimbledon king Novak Djokovic

BELGRADE

LACK of grass courts in Serbia will not be detrimental to Novak Djokovic's bid to defend his Wimbledon title, the world number one said in the early stages of his training for the July 1-14 tournament at the All England Club.

"Find me a grass court in Belgrade and I will practice there," Djokovic joked when asked last week by reporters why he chose a hardcourt complex in the Serbian capital's centre to start his preparations.

"We don't have any in Serbia, do we? I am really hopeful that we will build some grass courts soon enough, but these hard courts will do for the time being.

"The reason I am training here at the moment is because it's the most similar surface to grass in terms of ball speed and player movement."

Djokovic, who is aiming for a fifth Wimbledon title and his 16th Grand Slam crown, plans to play only one or two exhibition matches in the build-up to the grasscourt major.

Asked why he changed the routine and skipped this year's Queen's tournament in London, Djokovic pointed out that whereas he needed as much action as he could get ahead of last year's tournament, he opted for a different approach in 2019.

"The situation is a bit different this time because I played very few matches prior to last year's Wimbledon due to my injury and the elbow surgery," he said.

"I plummeted down to 22nd on the ATP Tour but the extensive layoff gave me enough time to prepare for Wimbledon by entering the Queen's tournament as a warm-up."

"This year, the exertions of a lengthy claycourt season prompted me to skip Queen's and go straight to Wimbledon."

Djokovic was exchanging stinging baseline shots with compatriot Viktor Troicki, a close

friend and also a member of Serbia's 2010 Davis Cup winning team, in hot and humid conditions which he said would play into his hands.

"I can't really complain because I chose to come to Belgrade this time to see my family en route from the French Open to London," he said.

"The weather could actually be a blessing in disguise because it will probably be much cooler in London so training in this searing heat might increase my fitness levels.

"That aside, grass is the rarest surface we play on and it requires a very specific routine and style of play. It requires a different approach and adaptation time."

Having missed a chance to win four grand slam tournaments in row for the second time in his career when he lost to Dominic Thiem in last month's French Open semi-finals, Djokovic said he was heading to Wimbledon almost devoid of pressure.

"I put a lot of pressure on myself before the French Open to make it four grand slams in a row again but having failed this time, I am going to Wimbledon with less weight on my shoulders as it's the start of a new cycle," he said.

"I always have the highest ambitions and this year is no different. I am top of the rankings and defending my Wimbledon title, hence I am hoping to go all the way again.

"However, reality can be very different. Apart from the usual suspects, there is a bunch of other players who are strong contenders at Wimbledon.

"Federer and Nadal are always among the top candidates of course and the three of us should be the favourites to win the title. It will be a tough tournament and I will have to take it one step at a time, match by match."

REUTERS



Super fans Tanisha Woods (right) and Dominic Lendo (left) dance as fans gather outside Michael Jackson's final resting place in Forest Lawn Cemetery in Glendale, California to remember the King of Pop on the 10th anniversary of his death. - AFP

## Jackson fans sing, sob, leave sunflowers and roses on 10th anniversary of death

LOS ANGELES

WITH roses crafted into heart shapes and crowns made of bright yellow sunflowers, Michael Jackson fans from as far afield as Iran and Japan paid tribute on Tuesday to the King of Pop on the 10th anniversary of his death.

Several hundred fans gathered outside his burial place in the Forest Lawn cemetery in Glendale, north of Los Angeles, and held a minute's silence at 2:26 p.m., the moment when Jackson, 50, was pronounced dead on June 25, 2009. They then broke into a rendition of "Heal the World" as some mourners quietly sobbed, hugged or wiped away tears.

Fans, some dressed like Jackson, placed posters, dolls, sequined gloves and even a red jacket like the singer's signature "Thriller" outfit outside the private mausoleum where he is buried.

"Forever King," "We'll never forget you" and "We'll

never let you part" read some of the messages from Iran, Hungary and Japan.

Joan Simons travelled to the cemetery from the Netherlands, meeting up with people she had met on fan Facebook groups over the years. "We all feel the same - the love for Michael as a person, his music," Simons told Reuters.

Jackson died at his Los Angeles home after an overdose of the powerful anaesthetic propofol, which he was using as a sleep aid. His doctor, Conrad Murray, was convicted at a 2011 trial of involuntary manslaughter.

"A decade later, Michael Jackson is still with us, his influence embedded in dance, fashion, art and music of the moment. He is more important than ever," the Jackson estate said in a statement marking the anniversary.

While Jackson's death was met with a wave of grief in 2009, his reputation has come under scrutiny again because of the documentary

"Leaving Neverland," in which two men gave emotional accounts of what they said was sexual abuse by the singer in the 1990s when they were boys.

Jackson was acquitted on charges of molesting a different boy in 2005, and his family have denied the accusations made in the documentary.

"People are going to believe what they want to believe. But if they really do their research, they'll know the truth," Rem Garza, 22, a Jackson impersonator from Long Beach, California, said on Tuesday.

Carla Tonti said she travelled from Florence, Italy, to the cemetery with her 79-year-old mother, Sabrina. "We feel like as if we are close to the people who just enjoy Michael as much as we did," Tonti said.

REUTERS

PHILADELPHIA

BILL Cosby's lawyers on Tuesday formally appealed his conviction for drugging and sexually attacking a former friend at his home near Philadelphia 15 years ago, citing what they called errors in legal procedure that allowed trial testimony and evidence the defense contends should have been excluded.

Attorneys for the once-beloved American actor and comedian, star of the hit television sitcom "The Cosby Show," urged the appellate-level Pennsylvania Superior Court to either throw out his 2018 guilty verdict altogether or grant him a new trial.

The 348-page appeal asserts that Cosby, 81, was wrongly convicted on the basis of "flawed, erroneous, and prejudicial rulings" by the trial judge, including the admission of testimony from several accusers other than the woman he was charged with assaulting.

A jury in Norristown, Pennsylvania, found Cosby guilty in April 2018 of drugging and sexually violating former Temple University administrator Andrea Constand, at his home near Philadelphia in 2004.

It marked the first such criminal conviction of a celebrity accused of sexual misconduct since the #MeToo movement that has brought down dozens of powerful, privileged men in American media, politics and business since the autumn of 2017.

In September of last year, trial Judge Steven O'Neill designated Cosby a "sexually violent predator" under state law, requiring Cosby to register as a sex offender for life, and sentenced him to a term of three to 10 years in prison.

Cosby, who is married, has insisted all along that any sexual encounters he had were consensual. He was found guilty on three counts of aggravated indecent assault.

### OTHER ACCUSERS

A major thrust of Cosby's appeal is the contention that his conviction hinged on testimony from six other women who had accused Cosby of sexual misconduct, "all having occurred approximately 15 or more years before the charged crime."

The defense asserted that allegations of the other women, five of whom testified in court, should have been inadmissible because they bore too little similarity or connection to the offense for which Cosby was prosecuted.

The appellate brief also said the judge should not have allowed prosecutors to introduce incriminating admissions by Cosby from a sworn statement he had once given in a separate civil case filed by Constand.

That 2005 deposition, in which Cosby acknowledged giving sedatives called Quaaludes to young women for purposes of having sex with them, was cited as a key piece of evidence in the criminal

## Bill Cosby appeals 2018 conviction for Pennsylvania sex attack



FILE PHOTO: Actor and comedian Bill Cosby leaves the Montgomery County Courthouse in handcuffs after sentencing in his sexual assault trial in Norristown, Pennsylvania, U.S., September 25, 2018. REUTERS

case brought a decade later by District Attorney Kevin Steele.

The defense argued it should have been excluded as irrelevant to the criminal case and a violation of Cosby's constitutional protection against self-incrimination.

Cosby's lawyers maintain the criminal case was itself a violation of a 2005 promise by Steele's predecessor,

Bruce Castor, to refrain from prosecuting Cosby if the entertainer agreed to sit for the sworn deposition in Constand's civil suit.

The two sides in the case are scheduled to present oral arguments over the appeal to the Superior Court on Aug. 12, according to a court spokeswoman.

REUTERS



## No specific Mahrez plan, says Senegal coach

**CAIRO**  
SENEGAL coach Aliou Cisse insisted there is no particular plan to counter Algeria star Riyad Mahrez in today's blockbuster Africa Cup of Nations group clash.

Algeria, like highly-fancied Senegal, won their opening game in Group C with captain Mahrez on target in a 2-0 victory over Kenya in Cairo.

"There's no anti-Mahrez plan or similar for (Sofiane) Feghouli or (Yacine) Brahimi, they're all good players," said Cisse at Wednesday's pre-match news conference.

"We're approaching this match trying to care of what we need to do. There's nothing definitive riding on this match because there's still another one after that against Kenya."

He added: "It's an important match, we have three points but we're not qualified yet. To go far in this competition you need to win as many matches as possible."

Senegal will welcome back Sadio Mane after the Liverpool forward missed the 2-0 defeat of Tanzania due to suspension.

Inter Milan's Keita Balde, who scored the opening goal against the east Africans, could be the player to make way for Mane, demonstrating the wealth of attacking options in the squad.

"The return of Sadio Mane can

give us a boost. He's one of our leaders and he's ready," said Cisse, who is looking to lead the Teranga Lions to a first continental title.

"What does a team need to be African champions? If I had the recipe I think I'd keep it to myself," said Cisse, captain of the team that finished runners-up in 2002.

"You need to be tough mentally and ready to suffer. It's not easy to play in Africa, you can do well in Europe but not find your bearings here."

"Being favourites in this competition doesn't mean much, if you look recently at Zambia or Cameroon two years ago for example, they weren't among the favourites."

Algeria coach Djamel Belmadi rejected any notion his team are overly reliant on Manchester City winger Mahrez, the 2016 African footballer of the year, ahead of a match he views as "important but not decisive".

"This comes from the journalists, even the players they don't have this feeling. Riyad Mahrez, we know he is very a good player in the team, he's one of them," said Belmadi.

"I'm sure Mohamed Salah and Mane have the same feeling. This way of thinking comes from the journalists and maybe fans, but not us at all."

**AFP**

## Bigirimana: I was destined to play for Burundi

**CAIRO**  
BURUNDI midfielder Gael Bigirimana says he had dreamed and planned of playing for England when he moved to Europe as a young kid, fleeing from the war in his home decades ago.

But, Bigirimana has found himself taking a different route and is currently pulling the strings for Les Hirondelles at the Total Africa Cup of Nations Egypt 2019, the first ever appearance at the flagship African football competition.

The hugely religious Bigirimana says him being in Cairo with the Egyptian team has been a divine plan.

"My thoughts and my intention was to play for England when I went abroad. That is what I wished for and that is what I worked for but God had other plans and I would rather be in his plans than my own," Bigirimana who started playing for Burundi in 2015 told CAFOnline.com.

"I was called up to the Under-20 team World Cup in 2013 and I ended up playing only six minutes and from then I knew I had to make a decision. My destiny was probably to play for Burundi, and not for England."

The 25-year old made the decision to play for Burundi in 2015 and four years later played a crucial role in the team's qualification to their first ever AFCON, something he says will forever be stained in his memory.

"It's as big as anybody can see. It's a huge tournament and for us to be here for the very first time is a memory that will never fade; it will never die. We saw how much it meant to the country when we qualified and the feeling we have being here is so big," he stated.

Had he dreamed that a day like this would ever come?

"Never, not even in my wildest dreams did I ever think this day will come. I was just a normal kid

born in Burundi playing football bare foot on the streets but then it never occurred to me that even after moving to England I will come back to serve my country in this capacity," Bigirimana notes with a tan of emotion splashed all over his face.

Born to a Burundian father and a Rwandese mother, the midfielder and his family went to the United Kingdom at the height of the civil war in their country, having first fled to Rwanda and then to Uganda when the situation got worse.

For him, football was second nature and just two months after arriving in Coventry, he joined the town's academy, in the most bizarre of ways.

"The Coventry Academy was just across the road from where we lived and one day, my mum sent my brother and I to buy milk from the supermarket and while we were coming back I saw kids my age practicing and a voice deep within me told me to go and ask whether I could play," Bigirimana stated. "The next day I asked my mum whether I could go register and she said she had no money but I told myself I should go. I was afraid because my English wasn't the best and I didn't know how to go about it but I kept pushing myself," the midfielder noted.

The long and short of it is that Bigirimana was enrolled in the academy and went on to play for the first team, helping them to the EFL trophy. He went on to make history by becoming the first Eastern African to play in the English Premier League when he joined Newcastle United.

He now plies his trade in Scotland with Hibernian, and he says he wants to use the opportunity he has to open up more doors for Burundian players to get exposure all over the world.

**CAFOnline.com.**

## David Silva set for final season at Man City

**LONDON**  
SPANISH midfielder David Silva has confirmed he will leave Manchester City at the end of next season when his contract expires.

Silva is one of City's most decorated players of all-time having won four Premier League titles, two FA Cups and four League Cups since joining from Valencia in 2010.

He scored his 71st goal in 396 appearances so far for the English champions in the FA Cup final last month as City completed a first ever domestic treble in English football.

However, the 33-year-old believes completing a decade in Manchester is the perfect time to step away.

"This is the last one," Silva told reporters in his native Gran Canaria. "Ten years for me is enough.

It's the perfect time for me.

"Initially, City were talking about two years, but I decided to sign another one, so I finished at 10 years.

"It completes the cycle. It's a nice round figure. I can never see myself playing against City for another team. So 10 years - that's it."

Silva missed chunks of City's title-winning 2017/18 season to return to Spain where his premature born son Mateo was being treated in hospital.

Mateo has since recovered and was in attendance for City's first home game of this season in August, when Silva scored in a 6-1 rout of Huddersfield.

However, Silva has previously spoken of his desire to return to Spain for family reasons when his City career comes to an end.

**(AGENCIES)**

# Premier League stars Mahrez, Mane renew rivalry in faraway Cairo

**CAIRO**  
RIYAD Mahrez and Sadio Mane resume an English Premier League rivalry Thursday on a different stage when Algeria and Senegal clash at the Africa Cup of Nations in Egypt.

Algerian winger Mahrez was part of the Manchester City team that pipped Senegalese forward Mane and his Liverpool teammates in a thrilling title race last season.

Now the stars swap the Etihad Stadium and Anfield grounds of their clubs for the 30 June Stadium in Cairo, and a Group C showdown likely to decide who tops the final standings.

While both countries seem sure to qualify for the round of 16, topping the table would theoretically offer less formidable opponents in the first knockout stage.

Here, AFP Sport previews a Group C double-header that includes an east African duel between Kenya and Tanzania, plus a Group B meeting of newcomers Burundi and Madagascar.

**Algeria v Senegal**  
While supporters, the media and publicists focus on Mahrez and Mane, Algeria coach Djamel Belmadi is less happy with that situation.

"I am not in favour of highlighting individuals over teams," said the former Manchester City midfielder. "We must put less emphasis on Riyad."

Belmadi was much happier when recalling a winning start for his team with Baghdad Bounedjah and Mahrez scoring in a routine 2-0 victory over Kenya.

"Collecting maximum points from our first match meant a lot because Algeria has a history of poor starts at the Cup of Nations." Mane returns after a suspension ruled him out of the 2-0 win over Tanzania and coach Aliou Cisse says he is happy, particularly with the half-volley goal of 20-year-old Krepin Diatta.

**Kenya v Tanzania**  
Tanzanian lawmakers who travelled to Egypt for the Senegal match returned home unhappy with the diet and allowances of the national squad coached by former Nigeria star Emmanuel Amunike.

"It is important for our footballers to have enough food to face a team like Senegal," said parliament speaker Job Ndagui.



Riyad Mahrez helped Algeria to an opening 2-0 victory over Kenya (AFP Photo)

"Taifa Stars, the national team, is the government team. The government has to invest money in the national team," added Juma Nkamaia from the ruling party.

Opposition member Pascal Haonga said: "Paying a derisory per diem is partly responsible for the loss. According to our information, they each receive \$100 (88 euros) instead of \$300."

Amunike had a different take on the defeat: "We lacked the experience and quality of Senegal, made a lot of mistakes and were naive."

**Burundi v Madagascar**  
This battle of countries making their first appearance at the Cup of Nations has huge significance for both the Burundian Swallows and the Malagasy Barea (prized cattle). Ordinarily, it would be a dead-rubber game

en that Nigeria and Guinea are expected to occupy the top two positions in Group B and secure automatic qualification for the round of 16.

But with four of the six third-place teams in Egypt also advancing after the tournament was expanded from 16 teams to 24, Burundi and Madagascar have it all to play for. Burundi were a well-organised outfit when losing 1-0 to a late Odion Ighalo goal for three-time champions Nigeria in Mediterranean city Alexandria.

Madagascar impressed going forward but were often suspect at the back when exceeding expectations by drawing 2-2 with Guinea, who lacked star Naby Keita for most of the match.

**AFP**



# Alec Mudimu: From Welsh Premier League to stopping Mohamed Salah at Afcon

**CAIRO**

ALEC Mudimu believes he "learned a lifetime's work" during Zimbabwe's Africa Cup of Nations opener on Friday, as the Cefn Druids defender swapped the Welsh Premier League for a showdown with Mohamed Salah and Egypt.

The Warriors ultimately fell to a 1-0 defeat following Trezeguet's 41st-minute winner in front of 75,000 spectators at Cairo International Stadium, but Mudimu is taking plenty of positives from the performance after testing himself against Salah only three weeks after the Pharaohs forward won the UEFA Champions League with Liverpool.

It's a far cry from the centre-back's club career, where he plays in the Welsh Premier League -- ranked No. 46 of the 55 European leagues on Uefa's current coefficient-- in front of Druids crowds that averaged fewer than 300 people last season.

"It's the biggest opportunity I've played in yet during my career," Mudimu told ESPN of the Egypt game. "It was massive, a huge honour, and I'm proud to be standing here today, facing the likes of Mo Salah, or [Arsenal's Mohamed] Elneny, and helping Zimbabwe move forward."

"It's unfortunate we didn't get the win, but all I want to do is make people back home in Zimbabwe very proud, because, being realistic, things aren't easy [there]; so to shed a bit of light through football is amazing."

Mudimu, 24, put in hours of research to ensure that he knew the intricacies and subtleties of Salah's game before going toe-to-toe with the English Premier League's reigning joint top scorer.

"I like to be very busy in terms of knowing my opponent," Mudimu said. "So leading up to this last week, I've been watching non-stop MyScout videos, watching Salah, watching Elneny, and watching all of the players."

"[I saw] their quality, how they got forward, and imagined myself how I would defend it, putting myself in someone else's shoes to imagine how I'd defend."

"I think I did well in terms of managing these players. It's a massive step forward, I learned so much; I learned a lifetime's work in the space of 90 minutes."

"In comparison with Cefn Druids, I can't tell you how much quicker the football is here. It's huge, so I've learned a lot, and also how to adapt in terms of different players and different styles of football."

Mudimu is a relatively new face in this Zimbabwe side, having made his debut only in March 2018, but



Alec Mudimu shares a word with Mohamed Salah after the Africa Cup of Nations-opening match between Egypt and Zimbabwe at Cairo International Stadium. (Agencies)

already he has won the 2018 Cosafa Cup -- the regional southern African championship for national teams -- and forged a promising partnership with Kaizer Chiefs defender Teenage Hadebe.

"[It's been] perfect," Mudimu said of his double act with Hadebe. "I couldn't ask for a better partner to be honest."

"We talk every day, and even when we're playing FIFA, we talk about combinations, about how I cover, about how he covers, what we're doing differently, and what we need to do the same. It's just communication, but it's huge, and I feel we're getting to master it."

"Moving forward, we're going to be per-

fect." After Zimbabwe's opening defeat by Egypt, Sunday Chidzambwa's side faces Uganda at Cairo International Stadium, boosted by their encouraging display in the opener and the opportunities for progression offered by the expanded 24-team Afcon.

The Cranes kept five clean sheets during qualifying, and neutralised the Democratic Republic of Congo with a 2-0 victory in their own opener, however, and they will represent a huge test for Zimbabwe's attacking line that failed to take its chances against the Pharaohs.

"At half time, I went straight to the strikers and I said: 'We're breaking them down -- quite amazingly-- but we're just not getting our shots off,'" Mudimu told ESPN.

"That's the tiny bit we just need to iron out moving forward, the shooting."

"I feel we're doing everything apart from shooting, so [we go] back to the drawing board, back to training, and shoot, for sure. We're more than capable of doing that."

Zimbabwe continue their Afcon campaign against Uganda at Cairo International Stadium on Wednesday, before Egypt host DRC at the same venue later in the evening.

**(AGENCIES)**

**Gwiji** by David Chikoko





# SPORT

No grass courts? No problem, says

Wimbledon king Novak Djokovic

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 18



Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) secretary general, Philbert Bayi, explains how a running tract for athletes, who are competing in the national primary schools games, Umitashumta, should be prepared. The tournament is taking place in Mtwara. PHOTO: MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

## Bayi salutes Umitashumta coordinators

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Mtwara

TANZANIA Olympic Committee (TOC) secretary general Philbert Bayi has congratulated coordinators of this year's national primary schools game (Umitashumta) for nurturing youths' talents.

The competition which involves schools from all over Tanzania is taking place in Mtwara. The region as well hosted national secondary schools games, Umisseta, earlier this month.

Bayi, who is one of sports administrators that are monitoring the 10-day games confirmed to The Guardian there is an improvement in performance in this year's games in comparison with the previous tournament.

"I congratulate coordinators from the President Office-Regional Administration and Local Government (TAMISEMI) for their efforts to tackle several challenges facing the tournament," he noted.

"They have set up rules and regulations on how the games should be run. This is the best way for identifying good performers in different sports disciplines."

He said a squad's performance is associated with many factors that include availability of good facilities.

Mtwara, the TOC official noted, has good pitches for a variety of sports, the venues make it easy for the participating teams to showcase their skills.

Leonard Thadeo, the games' coordinator from TAMISEMI said he has noted a couple of weaknesses in the tournament and promised they will solve them in future.

Thadeo congratulated Regional Education Officers for working on TAMISEMI's directives on identification of overage players.

The approach, he noted, has given players that merit a place in the tournament to showcase their prowess.

He disclosed overage players were, in the past, given opportunity to feature in the games in place of players whose age was right for the event.

Morogoro Regional Education Officer, Joyce Baravuga, had identified 30 overage players in the region's team for this year's games and demoted a section of regional sports coordinators that connived to involve the overage players in the games.

Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Harrison Mwakymbe, presided over the opening ceremony of the tournament last weekend.

“

They have set up rules and regulations on how the games should be run. This is the best way for identifying good performers in different sports disciplines

## MPs question Mwakymbe's absence in AFCON finals

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

MINISTER for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Harrison Mwakymbe on Tuesday had a rough time in the parliament as Members of Parliament questioned why neither him nor his deputy has travelled to Cairo, Egypt to cheer Taifa Stars in the AFCON finals.

The lawmakers, most of whom were among Tanzanians who watched Taifa Stars lose their first match against Senegal said it was quite disturbing that the ministry was not fully represented in Cairo.

It was until the Speaker of the National Assembly, Job Ndugai, joined in their efforts, calling on either the minister or his deputy to go and cheer Taifa Stars in their next match against Kenya's Harambee Stars, slated for today, that the house kept its cool.

"Either minister or his deputy has to travel to see the national team play their next match or else it will not be a good picture to the public," he said, adding that their presence will be highly felt.

His fellows from both sides of the House clapped in cheers to what he said, a sign that they were not pleased with the way the national football team has been handled in the continental tournament.

He called on Prime Minister, Kassim Mjaliwa, and the entire government to ensure that either of the ministry's top officials go to Cairo for it will help to boost players' morale.

The speaker also noted that the national squad had poor preparation, saying the government should, in its budget, allocate funds for the team. His comments were received by cheers from the floor.

"A national team is a government team which should fully be funded by the government budget as other stakeholders only chip in to boost the budget," he said, warning that in the 2020/2021 budget if the government fails to have money allocated to the national team, the squad will keep on performing horribly.

Ndugai, who led a delegation of 50 MPs to Egypt to support Taifa Stars, noted that the national team tried its best but there were some issues.

Declining to mention the issues in the House, Ndugai said he would have a discussion with Prime Minister on the issues and work on them.

He thanked fellow MPs for their unwavering cheering throughout the time Taifa Stars were playing. He said the second batch of MPs is leaving the country today to join other fans in Cairo cheer the team in an encounter with Kenya.

Earlier, Rombo MP, Joseph Selasini (CHADEMA), asked for clarification, calling on the government to explain why the minister and the deputy failed to either travel to Cairo or send any senior representative.

Mbeya Town MP, Joseph Mbilinyi (CHADEMA), also noted that it was a great shame for the ministry's top officials to stay back.



Taifa Stars' players attend training session in Egypt on Wednesday to shape for the Group C encounter of the AFCON finals against Harambee Stars of Kenya, scheduled for today. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TFF

## Taifa Stars eye Harambee Stars scalp

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TAIFA Stars confront their East African neighbours, Kenya, in a crunch Group C match of the AFCON finals in Cairo, Egypt today.

The duel promises to be more difficult and entertaining as either squad will be out to grab a win.

Both teams started the AFCON finals' group stage campaign on a bad note considering they conceded defeat in their respective opening matches in the continental showpiece.

Taifa Stars lost 2-0 to Senegal while Kenya lost to Algeria by a similar margin with both games having been played on June 23.

The two sides are mostly made up of players who play in their domestic leagues. Notable ones, who play in top European leagues, are Taifa Stars' skipper Mbwana Samatta who plays for Genk of Belgium.

Kenya's midfielder Victor Wanyama features for English Premier League side, Tottenham Hotspur.

After Taifa Stars defeat in the hands of Senegal, captain Mbwana Samatta said the focus is to win the match against Kenya.

He said although they did not play well against Senegal, Taifa Stars are capable of beating Kenya as his side's players will grow in confidence.

"We lost to Senegal, I can attribute the loss

to lack of experience, but I think by the time we face Kenya we will grow in confidence," he was quoted as saying.

Stars' midfielder Simon Msuva also shared the same views, saying the game against Kenya is a must win for the former.

"We must forget the results against Senegal and our focus should now be on the Kenya game, I am sure we can beat them and as well win our last match against Algeria," Msuva disclosed to the media.

The two East African sides have met 48 times, Taifa Stars have won 14 times, lost 20 times and posted draw in 14 games. The last time they face each other was in CECAFA Senior Challenge tournament in 2017 and Kenya won 1-0.

Harambee Stars' head coach Sebastian Migne is reported to have said that his team will give its all to win tomorrow's game against Tanzania.

He also attributed his side's 2-0 loss in the hands of Algeria to lack of experience, noting Kenya were short of on field leadership, a situation he said made them play well only in the second half. "Our showing in the first half was poor. I don't know if it was due to a lack of experience in such a competition. We were under pressure," Migne noted.

"There was no leadership in the defense. [Brian] Mandela got injured during our preparations and we had to rely on the young [Jo-

seph] Okumu, who was playing his first official match," he disclosed.

"Perhaps the game was too tough for him. However, we have to acknowledge the quality of the opposing team, who are one of the favorites for the title."

Stars' head coach, Emmanuel Amunike, said he hopes his players will be in great shape today and come out with victory.

The Nigerian tactician pointed out some of his players sustained injuries in the opening match and had time to rest, noting he hopes they will be fit and ready to play against Harambee Stars.

"Some of the players who faced Senegal had knocks which is normal. Hopefully they will be better before our next match against Kenya and will be in a position to compete against Kenya, we want to win, nobody comes here to lose," he disclosed.

"I can guarantee no team has come to the AFCON to lose...of course in a game of football you either draw, lose or win, it is a three-way option. The most important thing is to remain calm. I said right from day one this tournament is going to be tough, we have seen most of the games, no game is easy."

"Hopefully on Thursday we can be at our best to achieve our objective, winning our first match and securing our first three points and hopefully achieve something in our last game against Algeria."

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

MAINLAND Premier League defending champions Simba SC yesterday unveiled a Brazilian center back, Gerson Vieira, who signed a two-year deal with the side.

The 26-year old Vieira was playing for India Super League giants ATK and was brought in to Simba to fill the boots of Juuko Murshid, who is reported to have parted ways with the Msimbazi Street based side.

"Gerson Fraga Vieira (26) has signed a two-year deal with us, he has come through the ranks of Brazil youth soccer, he captained the national youth team which had the likes

## Simba rope in Brazilian midfielder

of Neymar, Philippe Coutinho, Casemiro and keeper Alisson, he was playing for ATK of India," said part of the information from the club.

The player has joined his fellow Brazilian Wilker Henrique Da Silva, who inked a two-year contract with Simba recently.

While with Brazil U-15 and U-17 squads, Vieira captained a team which won Mediter-

anean International Cup and he was also awarded player of the tournament honour in 2009 Sendai Cup which was held in Japan.

According to the information, Vieira is one of the most travelled players, he started his career at Brazilian giants Gremio.

In Uruguay, he plied his trade for a second division side Atenas where he played 26 games, but in most clubs, he was playing on

loan.

However, Tanzanians are waiting to see if he can perform well in the country as the former still have fresh memories of two players from Brazil, Andrey Coutinho and Genilson Santana Santos, who featured for Yanga.

The duo did not live up to expectations at Yanga, a situation which led to termination of their contracts with the squad.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko



**5 EATV**

**TODAY @ 18:00**

**THURSDAY**

11:00 DADAZ (live)  
12:00 Mpya  
13:00 FUNGUKA  
14:00 Bonga Hits  
15:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 SSELECT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Music  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
19:30 MJADALA  
21:00 Bonga Hits

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**eastafrika RADIO**

05:00 EA Breakfast  
09:00 Supamix  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bonga  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

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