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Agro-bank lends 23bn/- for coffee value chain needs

By Guardian Correspondent, Musoma

INVESTMENTS totaling around 23bn/- are being directed by the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) for enabling coffee farmers in Mara region get better yields from their crops.

The bank made this observation when participating in the launching of planting quality coffee seedlings in Mara region districts of Butiama, Rorya, Tarime and Serengeti.

It said that many farmers have so benefitted and more than 5,000 people have been employed in the sector including more than 1,000 women. This is part of efforts to orchestrate a great Arabica coffee growing revolution to multiply production ten times from the current 1,500 to 15,000 tonnes of coffee per year, in the next five years.

The region has been cultivating the coffee in small quantities despite being home to the best Arabica coffee in Africa grown in Tarime District, officials said.

In bringing about a coffee revolution, TADB have been working in partnership with various stakeholders including the Tanzania Coffee Board (TCB) and the Tanzania Coffee Research Institute (TACRI).



Mara regional commissioner Adam Malima who led the launching explained that up to now the country produces 48,000 tonnes of both Robusta and Arabica coffee and the target is 200,000 tonnes per year

Mara Regional Commissioner Adam Malima (pictured) who led the launching explained that up to now the country produces 48,000 tonnes of Robusta and Arabica coffee and the target is 200,000 tonnes per year.

He said Mara Region is among regions that produce the best coffee in the country, thus it seeks to assist farmers meet the target by working together with important stakeholders including TADB who have been assisting farmers, livestock keepers and fishing groups.

He said at present one coffee tree produces 250 grams of coffee per season, but the new tree seedling produces 3,000 grams which is 12 times than the traditional seedlings.

The new seedlings do not have higher production costs as they are largely immune to diseases, the RC specified.

He said on average the region produces

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Stampede victims given last respects



Caskets bearing the bodies of people who died at a congregation led by Pastor Boniface Mwamposa of 'Arise and Shine' ministry lined up at Mashujaa grounds for last respects in Moshi, Kilimanjaro region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Mary Moshia

Bishop Dr Stanley Hotay from the Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT), Farther Colman Siriwa from Catholic Diocese of Moshi and Sheikh Abdillah Ally from the Muslim Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA) expressed shock on the deaths, condemning innovations like the 'blessed oils' that people rushed to walk on, that such things are not in the holy books

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

A SOMBER mood was visible in the streets of Moshi yesterday as thousands of mourners from Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions attended a requiem mass and paid last respects to 20 bodies of people who died on Saturday evening during a faith healing service at Majengo Stadium.

Three police vehicles carrying the bodies arrived at the place also known as Mashujaa grounds at 1:23pm before the funeral ceremony proceeded, officiated by Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner Anna Mghwira.

The deaths at a stampede as people pushed forward to walk on anointment oil as part of a healing ministry by televangelist pastor Boniface Mwamposa, founder of 'Arise and Shine' ministry.

In her address, RC Mghwira appealed to residents of the three regions to maintain calm as security organs continue with investigations.



In her address, RC Mghwira appealed to residents of the three regions to maintain calm as security organs continue with investigations

"In conversation with President John Magufuli today, he insisted on authorities to work on existing crusade management gaps and avoid suspending such religious services. We will in future ensure that church congregations are well managed to prevent such incidents," she declared.

Kilimanjaro Regional Police Commander Salum Hamduni said the police received a letter from Pastor Eliya requesting permission to conduct a church service at Majengo grounds for three days from January 30th to February 1st. "It all went well in the first two days, but on Saturday things went wrong as people rushed forward to be anointed with blessed oil resulting into deaths of 20 persons."

Bishop Dr Stanley Hotay from the Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT), Farther Colman Siriwa from Catholic Diocese of Moshi and Sheikh Abdillah Ally from the Muslim Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA) expressed shock on the deaths, condemning innovations like the 'blessed oils' that people rushed to walk on, that such

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JPM swears in Prisons head, to oversee building projects

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday sworn in recently appointed top state officials, urging them to prioritize the national interest and work diligently for the benefit of Tanzanians.

The president was hopeful that appointed officials will obtain the necessary cooperation from permanent secretaries, ministers, judges, regional commissioners and the ruling party secretariat.

At the State House ceremony in Dar es Salaam, Dr Magufuli described their appointments as based on their working spirit.

He said the new Commissioner General of Prisons, Brigadier General Suleiman Mzee works



During the ceremony which was held at State House in Dar es Salaam President Magufuli noted that their appointments were based on working spirit

tirelessly, recalling how at Pangau camp, he managed to improve a number of things including construction of houses and purchase of vehicles using 'force account.'

"I have appointed him to speed up implementation of projects under the Prisons Department, as construction projects were implemented by National Service while there is plenty of prison labour," he explained.

The president had appointed John Masunga as Commissioner General of the Fire and Rescue Force, replacing Thobias Andengenge.

He directed the Commissioner for Land in the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human

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Chadema urges fair polls, reconciliation measures

By Guardian Reporter

CHADEMA national chairman Freeman Mbowe (pictured) has said that the party is seeking reconciliation with President John Magufuli on three issues that will make the forthcoming general elections free and fair.

Speaking at a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Mbowe said that the party wrote a letter to President Magufuli as part of their efforts to seeking his intervention on issues that will make the election plausible, free and fair.



In the letter Chadema advised the president to work on a number of sections of laws so as to come up with an independent electoral body.

He told journalists that the Chadema letter advises the president to revoke results of the local government elections held last year, which were boycotted by key opposition parties over constraints and disallowed candidates.

In the letter dated January 29th the opposition party maintained the need for the civic polls being held afresh alongside the general elections slated for October, under the supervision of an anticipated independent electoral commission.

The move will benefit the country as civic polls will be held at low cost and its results will be credible, supervised by an independent

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Stampede victims given last respects

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things are not in the holy books.

The clerics especially lashed at some pastors saying they were using people's problems to gain money, urging worshippers to be careful and make informed choices as to what kind of church services they want to attend.

At Police headquarters, SACP David Misime said investigations into the matter was ongoing and that the police will announce measures to be taken against pastors who conducted church service at Majengo grounds in Moshi on Saturday.

"It is only through police investigations we can prove that there were incidences of criminality during the church service. Once proved legal measures will be taken against all those

involved," he stated.

On Sunday, Home Affairs Minister George Simbachawene said police arrested Pastor Boniface Mwamposa in Dar es Salaam and six individuals who were with the pastor at the service were arrested in Moshi to help with investigations.

The minister said Mwamposa was arrested for questioning as he had prolonged the time allowed to conduct the service at Majengo Stadium.

In his condolence message, President John Magufuli expressed sadness at the large number of people who lost their lives in the church incident and in recent floods.

He prayed for their souls to be lifted to eternal peace and those injured quickly recover and proceed with their daily activities.



Minister of State in the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government, Selemani Jafu (C) hands over the ministry's four year performance report to NMB's Bank head of government business Vicky Bishubo in Dodoma over the weekend. Left is deputy minister for Local Government Mwita Waitara.

JPM swears in Prisons head, to oversee building projects

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Settlements, Nathaniel Ndonge to work on the challenges facing the land sector especially in Dar es Salaam.

In the new appointments, Judge Gerald Ndika becomes commissioner at the Public Service Commission and Advocate Julius Bundala will now serve as public service commissioner for the Judiciary.

Others are Christopher Kadio who replaces Maj Gen Jacob Kingu as Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Prof Riziki Shemdoe as Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Trade and industries, Zena Said as Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Energy, Mary Makondo as Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements and Dr Hassan Abbas who becomes Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports.

Dr Magufuli praised Dr Abbas for good performance as Director General of Information Services (Maelezo) as well as Government Spokesman.

"He will also continue serving as government spokesman until I appoint another person," the president noted.

President Magufuli swore in three regional administrative secretaries, namely Stephen Mashauri (Ruvuma), Emmanuel Tutuba (Mwanza) and Judica Omari (Tanga).

He commended the newly appointed Deputy Permanent Secretary in Energy Ministry, Leonard Masanya for properly representing and defended the country during negotiations in Ethiopia before implementation of the Nyerere Hydropower project in Rufiji, Coast region.

Others being sworn in were the Chief Court Registrar Wilbert Chuma and incoming High Court Registrar, Shamira Sarwat.

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electoral body.

The party also wants President Magufuli to form a truth and reconciliation commission that will respond to the need for healing what he termed 'injustices' as a way of bringing a new consensus and building national unity, he said.

He stated that the public has a

Chadema urges fair polls, reconciliation measures

number of complaints that needed investigations and truth be revealed in order to unite the country.

The proposed national reconciliation

is a solution to the country's political impasse, he stated, declaring that politicians have the responsibility to sort out the situation.

Mbowe tasked Dr Magufuli with the first line of duty as president. He has "an exceptional obligation toward the realization of that goal," he added.



Manager DTB-Nyerere branch Zainab Rashid (L) congratulated by Viju Cherian, country manager and CEO of DTB-Tanzania during the annual staff party which took place in Dar es Salaam over weekend. Nyerere branch was named the Best Branch for 2019 in terms of business operations. Mwanza and Masaki branches both tied for the runners-up position. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Agro-bank lends 23bn/- for coffee value chain needs

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1,000 tonnes of coffee hence the new seedlings are expected to enable the production of 15,000 tonnes of Arabica coffee.

"By working in partnership with TADB and TACRI, farmers and Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Societies (AMCOS) will be able to engage in better farming methods from planting to harvesting. This will ensure farming benefits to farmers by attracting new markets and employment," he said.

He said as of now a kilogram of coffee sells between 900/- and 1,000/- on average, but by using the new quality seedlings, the market price is likely to rise to 3,500/- or 4,000/- per kilogram, greatly increasing farmers' incomes.

He said this was proven by the few farmers in the region who adhered to better farming methods and who are now reaping financial benefits from the crop.

TADB Managing Director Japhet Justine said the bank will enable farmers and AMCOS in the region with capital for procuring the new seedlings.

It will also look into coffee-based investment opportunities and

construction of water wells for seedling beds during the dry season, he said.

TADB will similarly invest in education in taking care of the seedlings, best harvesting methods, market access and employment generation," he said.

RC Malima noted that this is not a new crop in the region, but it reached a point when the crop was being forgotten. "We're determined to seriously venture into coffee production," he emphasized.

He said that currently the region produces 1,500 tonnes but the aim is to increase production to 15,000 tonnes per year. "We want to be the leading region, whereby other people come to learn from us on how to grow the crop."

He hailed TADB for its readiness in enabling farmers relate to the entire coffee value chain, appealing to other stakeholders to invest in the sector as TACRI has already handed out 100 kilograms of quality coffee seeds.

The board had ensured that more than 100,000 seedlings are delivered to Nkongore farm in Tarime District, while the region as a whole needs more than four million seedlings, he added.

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

TRADERS at Beach fish market in Mwanza region have appealed to the government through the Ministry for Livestock and fisheries and Ilemela District Council to improve the infrastructure at the market that was destroyed since the start of rains.

Secretary of Butuja Mwalo Union (BMU) Emmanuel Nyagwesi said recently here that the road is virtually impassable to reach the market, areas for berthing the fishing vessels were destroyed while many canoes broke up, hence fish buyers lack the place to sit.

Fishermen appeal to govt to refurbish Butuja beach market

He said if the beach market had no good toilets, there would have been an eruption of water borne diseases such as cholera and added that they want the Council to understand that through the office of its executive director to treat us as its stakeholder as each month it collects over 2m/- levy from

the market's businesses.

"We have more than 100 fishing vessels all of whose owner pay levy, there is levy of the government's weighing scales for weighing the fish, hence the director should one day visit us to see for himself our predicament," he said.

Some fishermen said due to the challenges many fishermen have abandoned the market, hence even their incomes have plummeted. Hence expressed their call for their Council to come and refurbish the market.

The Council's deputy Mayor, who is Councilor for Ilemela Ward Wilbard

Kilenzi, said Butuja beach market is an important place as it contributes to the Council's revenues and employs many people from inside and outside the ward depend on it for their daily lives.

He said: "The situation cannot be left as it is because the obtaining environment also threatens people's

lives as health risk of waterborne and other diseases such as cholera and malaria so it is the responsibility of the government to see the lives of its people are not in danger."

On his part, the Ilemela district commissioner, Dr Severine Lalika who visited the beach market to see for himself said from the revenues paid to the Council there is need to make the market reachable especially for fish traders who go there to sell their fish for incomes.

He said there is the need for him to direct the executive director to renovate the market - first by sending experts to evaluate the damage.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa (L) in discussion with Livestock and Fisheries minister Luhaga Mpina (R), Livestock and Fisheries Deputy minister Abdallah Ulega (2nd L) and Agriculture Deputy minister Omary Mgumba in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: PMO

'Cancer projected to increase from over one million new cases in 2018 to over two million cases 2040'

By Guardian Reporter

AS cancer burden in the African region is projected to increase from over one million new cases in 2018 to over two million cases by 2040, globally, one in five people are diagnosed with cancer before the age of 75, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

In her message on the World Cancer Day which is commemorated on every February 4th, WHO regional director for Africa, Dr Matshidiso Moeti said in sub-Saharan Africa, deaths from cancer have increased by 13 percent since 2012, accounting for 506,568 deaths in 2018.

The day will this year be commemorated under the theme—"I am and I will", a three-year campaign which started last year calling on individuals, groups, communities and leaders, to take action against cancer to prevent millions of premature deaths.

"At WHO, we work with governments and partners to improve the availability of medicines and technologies, build capacities among health workers and communities to prevent cancer and care for patients", Dr Moeti said in a statement.

She said governments are integrating cancer interventions into national strategies, health benefits packages and social insurance schemes as part of efforts to achieve universal health coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals target 3.4 on reducing premature mortality from non-communicable diseases.

Dr Moeti added that in many countries, access to early screening and treatment is limited, particularly for children, women and older people. She said low immunization coverage and risk factors, such as harmful alcohol use, are also key contributors to the Region's cancer burden.

According to WHO, the most prevalent cancers are cervical, breast, liver and prostate which have all together caused over one third of all cancer deaths in the African region in 2018. Africa bears the highest burden

of cervical cancer among WHO regions and outcomes for children with cancer are among the worst in the world. The most common cancers in children are leukaemia and non-Hodgkin lymphomas.

"We are seeing progress in several countries. Botswana, Kenya, Mauritius, Rwanda and Seychelles have expanded the coverage and range of services available for cancer prevention and care in the public sector. Eleven countries have introduced the human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine to prevent cervical cancer and 27 countries are implementing demonstration projects towards national introduction", she noted.

Dr Moeti stated that the World Health Assembly will this year consider the WHO global strategy towards the elimination of cervical cancer as a public health problem, which sets clear goals to improve well-being among women and their families through vaccination, screening, treatment and palliative care.

Ghana and Zambia have started implementing the WHO Global initiative on Childhood Cancer, which aims to double the survival rate for children with cancer by 2030 (reaching a target of at least 60% survival) and saving one million lives.

"Learning from implementation in the two pilot countries, we will scale the programme to other countries in the region", said Dr Moeti.

To address risk factors for cancer, such as tobacco use and obesity, 45 countries have ratified the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and Seychelles and South Africa have increased taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages.

The Regional Director asserted that in the spirit of the "I am and I will" campaign, WHO will advocate to protect people from financial hardship caused by the cost of cancer care. She called on governments to continue improving cancer services, building capacities, and strengthening surveillance systems to better understand cancer burdens and trends.

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

Three police officers die in Njombe road accident

THREE police officers in Njombe region died and nine others injured after the vehicle they were travelling in was involved in head-on collision.

The accident involved Njombe-Arusha bound bus christened as 'Sharon' and a police vehicle.

Njombe regional police commander, Hamis Issa confirmed the accident, saying the accident occurred on Monday at around 6am when the bus with registration number T349 CXD collided with a police vehicle with registration number PT 3734.

The three police officers died on the spot and injured nine people who were rushed to Kibena hospital, the regional

police chief said. The RPC identified those who died as H 4401 Mariharus Said Hamis, H 6802 PC Michael Muhando and H7486 PC Henry Athmani Soka.

He however said five out of nine people who were injured were seriously injured and one of them has been referred to Muhimbili National Hospital for further treatment.

Doctor in-charge at Njombe regional

hospital Dr Alto Mtega confirmed to have received three bodies of the deceased and those who sustained injuries.

Those police officers were heading to their working stations when the accident occurred and the police vehicle had ten people on board.

Bodies of the dead police officers are to be transported to their homes for burial today.

The accident occurred barely a month as on December 30, last year six people were killed and 12 others were injured after a mini-bus collided head on with a lorry on the outskirts of the capital Dodoma.

Gilles Muroto, Dodoma regional police commander, said the accident occurred after the driver of the lorry tried to avoid a pothole and collided with the mini-bus.

Bunge committees hail investment law review

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

MEMBERS of Parliamentary Standing Committees showered their praise on Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) for a good job of promoting investments for both local and foreign investors, saying that amendment of current investment law will stimulate the sector's growth and development.

Speaking during Investment seminar organized by the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) for members of 12 Parliamentary Standing Committees here over the weekend, some of the members said the investment laws needed to be reviewed to enable the centre perform its duties professionally without any interference from other institutions. "You are doing a very good job no doubt about it. You are sometimes get frustrated by intervening government institutions when exercising your duties," Legislator Lucy Mayenga said, adding that the review of the current law will have greater impact on investments inflow in the country.

Mayenga said TIC should be given a mandate to coordinate and promote all issues related to investments and if there are other intervening institutions they communicate with the centre before they face investors.

Legislator Godbless Lema said the new investment law would be a panacea of confusions among government institutions on how best to deal with investment matters where TIC would also stand in a very better position to perform its duties.

"Personally, I recognize the good work being done by the centre in promoting and attracting investments, but sometimes government institutions let them down due the current investment law," Lema explained.

The Vice Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Budget, Mashimba Ndaki called the government to work on the amendments of the law so as to cope with the speed of the fifth phase government under the stewardship of President John Magufuli. "We are proud of TIC job. The amendment of the current law will boost investments

growth in the country," Ndaki said, calling for review of the law for the betterment of investments inflow in Tanzania.

Presenting a paper before the committees' members, TIC Executive Director Geoffrey Mwambe said the centre has been tasked by the government to supervise and promote investments in production industries and add value in all sectors of economy.

Mwambe named the top ten countries leading in investments between 1990 and 2018 as China, United Kingdom, United States of America, Mauritius, India, Australia, Kenya, Netherlands, Belgium and Egypt.

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VACANCY

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Kisarawe district commissioner Jokate Mwegelo (L) listens to the founder and ambassador of premature babies Doris Mollel foundation on how incubators operate after handing over various items worth 20m/- for Kisarawe hospital in Coast region over the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

Hyenas attack livestock and humans in Msalala district

WILD hyenas are claimed to have attacked livestock in Ngaya Ward in Msalala district while some villagers are reported to abandon their homes in fear of being eaten up the animals that have been terrorizing the area.

Speaking after the Msalala district Council meeting at the weekend Bulagaja Ward Councillor said the incidents started on January 30 this year and up to now the hyenas are still lurking in the Bulagaja Forest in the Ward.

"We have been attacked by two large hyenas who have been terrorizing

residents in the Ward, and after missing livestock and stalk school going students on the roads," said Mchui Charles, the Ngaya Ward Councillor.

Mchui said the incidents have been increasing but fortunately no person has been hurt, adding that authorities concerned are yet to take action against the beasts.

Richard Paul, a Ngaya Ward resident, speaking at the village said there are caves around in which the beasts hide during the day and added that some of them are "owned" by some people for witchcraft purposes.

He said many people believe that forest rangers have been failing to tame them allegedly due to these witchcraft beliefs.

The Msalala district executive director (DED) Simon Berege when called to comment on the matter, confirmed to have received the reports from the ward's Councillor and added he had already informed forest officials about it.

He said a team of experts consisting forest officials has already been dispatched to the ward.

Another HIV vaccine strategy fails in large-scale, says study

By Jon Cohen

THE failure-ridden search for a vaccine that can stop the AIDS virus has delivered yet another frustrating defeat.

The HIV vaccine that had moved furthest along in human testing does not work, and the \$104 million trial in South Africa evaluating it has been stopped early. "There's absolutely no evidence of efficacy," says Glenda Gray, who heads the study and is president of the South African Medical Research Council (MRC) in Cape Town.

"Years of work went into this. It's a huge disappointment."

The efficacy study, which began in October 2016 is known as HVTN 702, enrolled 5407 sexually active, HIV-uninfected men and women between 18 and 35 years of age at 14 sites across the country. Researchers randomly assigned half of the participants to receive a pair of HIV vaccines used in a one-two punch called a prime boost, while the other half received placebo shots. The trial was supposed to last until July 2022. But on 23 January, an independent monitoring board that takes scheduled, sneak peaks at the data to evaluate safety and efficacy informed Gray and the other leaders of the study that it was "futile" to continue. There were 129 infections in the vaccinated group and 123 in those who received the placebo. "I was catatonic," says Gray.

No evidence exists that the vaccine caused harm, as happened in a different large HIV vaccine study that was abruptly halted in 2007. Susan Buchbinder, an epidemiologist at the University of California, San Francisco, who co-chaired that earlier sobering study, congratulates her colleagues in South Africa for conducting a scientifically rigorous, complex trial. "The trial was incredibly well done and we got a definitive answer, and that's what science is about," says Buchbinder, who is the chair of a multi-country trial, Mosaico, that now is the most advanced large-scale HIV vaccine study underway.

In the halted trial, funded by South Africa's MRC, the U.S. National

Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the "prime" was a harmless canarypox virus that carries genes for HIV's surface protein and two of its other structural proteins. The boost contained a recombinant version of the surface protein mixed with an immune system booster, or adjuvant, called alum.

Many HIV scientists had doubted the South Africa study would succeed because the vaccines used in the prime-boost scheme had only produced lackluster results in an efficacy study in Thailand. In that study, which ended in 2009, HIV infections totaled 51 in the vaccine group and 74 in the placebo arm—an efficacy of 31%. The field widely agreed that this wasn't a high enough level of protection to bring the vaccine to market, but researchers were divided as to whether it made sense to try to build on the vaccine or abandon it.

Gray says that given the severity of the epidemic in South Africa—it is home to 7.7 million of the world's 37.9 million HIV-infected people—she and her colleagues, who slightly improved the vaccines used in Thailand, believed the new trial was worth the gamble. "The epidemic is out of control here and we have to take steps to have a biomedical intervention," says Gray. NIAID director Anthony Fauci says he has no regrets about backing the study. "I don't think it was a bad choice. It was the only choice."

To this day, no one knows which immune responses can prevent an HIV infection—the so-called correlates of immunity—but many researchers have focused on creating a vaccine that can trigger antibodies capable of "neutralizing" the ability of the virus to infect cells in lab studies. The Thai trial vaccines triggered production of antibodies that bound to HIV but did not neutralize, Fauci notes, raising the possibility this was good enough to offer some protection. "We were struggling for years and years, and so we grabbed onto the slightest positive effect, a potential correlate of immunity, and it looked interesting," he says.



Tanzania Association of Accountants chairman Peter Mwambuja talks with journalists in Dar es Salaam on TAA week to be held on March 9 in 2020. Looking on is TAA vice chairman Odemari Rushita (R) and planning and project director Ezekiel Stephen. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

DAKAR

THE number of people facing a critical lack of food and vital livelihood opportunities in the Central Sahel has spiked in one year due to rising insecurity and climatic shocks.

The situation may further deteriorate unless the international community acts now, three United Nations agencies warned today.

Despite an overall satisfactory agricultural production, 3.3 million people need immediate assistance in the Central Sahel, according to the latest Cadre Harmonisé food security analyses, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) said.

Experts forecast that close to 4.8

UN agencies raise alarm in the central Sahel

million people in the Central Sahel will be at risk of food insecurity during the lean season if no appropriate actions are taken urgently.

The unprecedented escalation of humanitarian needs in the Central Sahel is a major factor for the alarming situation that the overall West Africa region is facing in 2020, where the number of people at risk of food insecurity could rise up to a total 14.4 million, a level that has not been reached since 2012.

Of biggest concern are the Central Sahelian countries of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger, where conflict and its impacts on communities have become the main cause of food insecurity. The three countries are experiencing a rise

Meru district council convenes after three months suspension -DC

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE Office of the Arumeru district commissioner has now agreed for the Meru district council under its chairman Willy Njau (Chadema) to continue with its activities after it was suspended for six months.

The Meru district commissioner Jerry Muro suspended the Council's meetings August 28 last year for indefinite period following his claims that there it had pointers to the breach of the peace.

However during the Council's first sitting on January 24 after suspension, Chairman Njau was forced to adjourn deliberations for three hours from noon following some councillors expressing dissatisfaction by the sitting to be called annual meeting on reasons that four meetings had not been convened due to suspension.

The Council's Deputy Chairman Nelson Mafie said they ought to hold previous meeting that were due for going through various issues including those on revenue and expenditure.

However this was opposed by the Council's Executive Director Emmanuel Mkongo on claims that the sitting was the annual meeting and that the paperwork distributed contained all statements on revenue and expenditure.

"What I know, as Executive Director today's sitting is for deliberation annual report because the committees were continuing with their tasks as normal during the whole time the Council was suspended, and they discussed the report for the year's last quarter, and that if you do not want I will leave to give you time to argue among yourselves and will come back after you finish," said Mkongo.

He said on January 13 this year he had received a letter from the government (he did not mention from what level) to allow councillors to meet, but they will

not be paid allowance for past sittings when the council was in suspension.

After these words some of the Councillors started raising up their fingers wanting to know the fate of their allowances for the past meetings that never took place, indicating that spthese pu there own interests foremost, instead of those of the wananchi, hence the Chairman decided to adjourn the sitting.

After the Council reconvened the allowance issue came up again when Mafie (deputy Chairman) claimed that on August 28 last year they came to the Council's offices and signed the attendance register and the meeting started but was later it was stopped and they were never paid the sitting allowances and hence they wanted to know the authority that actually suspended their allowances.

Responding, Mkongo said despite the Councillors' absence his office in collaboration with Council staff have done their duty including making sure all Form 1 students started classes in time.

He said all that has passed and they are required "to continue with the Council's sittings for the 2020-21 budget and that the issue of holding past sittings did not hold water."

After these words by the Executive Director, the Council Chairman Willy Njau acquiesced with his point of the sitting becoming annual meeting.



...to continue with the Council's sittings for the 2020-21 budget and that the issue of holding past sittings did not hold water

to allow councillors to meet, but they will



Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office Policy, Parliament, Labour, Employment, Youth and Disabled Jenista Mhagama inspects agro processing machine donated by the Denmark embassy to improve businesses and investments to empower youth to employ themselves. Right is Joel Ngosso and Tanzania national business council executive secretary Dr. Godwill Wanga. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Mpina decries huge, unlawful fines against Katavi district herders

By Guardian Reporter, Katavi



MINISTER for Livestock and Fisheries Luhaga Mpina has given seven days to the country's chief veterinary officer (CVO), Commissioner of Tanzania Forest Services Agency and the Attorney General to meet and evaluate and remove the ongoing injustices against herders and prepare guidelines and regulations that will clearly spell out the enforcement of livestock and forestry laws.

Mpina (pictured) gave the ultimatum at the weekend following the decision of the Tanganyika District Council authorities in Katavi region to mete out a fine of 60m/- equivalent to 100,000/- for each head of cattle of the 600 head of cattle found grazing inside Tongwe East Forest owned by the Council.

Mpina reached the decision following gross violations of the laws and rampant seizure of livestock by the Council, as when the animals are seized, they are denied of basic services including fodder, water, and vaccination and dipping against diseases thereby causing many animals becoming weak and die.

He said other acts of injustices and humiliation include huge fines meted out to the herders that are not spelled out by the laws, being beaten, stealing of their livestock, shot at and others on pretext that the animals lack owners. He also said in many cases the number of animals mentioned in case proceedings is often smaller than the number actually seized.

Speaking soon after he arrived at the area holding the seized livestock, Mpina questioned how come for the Council disregarding the country's laws on people who are found with livestock in restricted areas and invented imaginary fines from their heads.

He said personally, as the chief administrator of the country's livestock

sector cannot defend herders who break the laws, but he said he has to intervene because there have been violations on Forestry Law No. 14 of 2002 which clearly spells out that whoever contravenes an offence inside a restricted forest area will be fined 30,000 and not exceeding 1m/-.

One herder Koye Mmela complained before the minister that he was arrested and held in the forest for six days consecutively without making court appearance, the act he said was gross injustice by forest patrol personnel.

The Council's legal officer Maraka Mrisho told the minister that the fine of 60m/- is not in the law but was charged following the agreement reached at a meeting with TFS and Council officials who blessed the 100,000/- fine for each head of cattle seized.

The CVO Prof Hezron Nonga said the people whose the livestock were seized contravened laws governing animal diseases (No 17 of 2003) following the over 600 head of cattle kept in a small pen fit for only 60 head of cattle.

On his part, the Tanganyika District Executive Director (DED) Rojaz Romuli said the Council has no budget for treating seized livestock in the forest and their responsibility is to protect the forests against poachers and herders.

Hence following debate that ensued, it was decided there was a huge violation of the laws, hence DED Rojaz Romuli rescinded the 60m/- fine.

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

Make donor funded projects sustainable, says Mhagama

MINISTER of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament, Youth and People with disabilities) Jenista Mhagama has called upon officials at all levels in the local councils to fully supervise projects funded by development stakeholders in their areas to be sustainable and run commercially.

Speaking at the weekend during her inspection visit of various development projects funded by the Danish embassy through Local Investment Climate (LIC) that aimed to economically uplift people from Dodoma region especially the youth and women, she said the projects must be sustainable.

Mhagama said a lot of money has

been spent in Mbande Chicken Auction project in Kongwa district, the project that enabled the youths to be self employed through Hombolo technical school and grapes processing factory in Dodoma City.

She said these projects aimed to solve the challenges in grapes processing as a big percentage of the crop rots for lack of processing factory.

She said these projects may be coming to their viability hence the

local councils must come with new strategies that will help to make them sustainable to alleviate the pangs of poverty in the society.

"It will be useless if donors finish their time projects stop, we have to sustain them so that the benefits from their inception are discernible to the wananchi," she added.

She said these projects contribute in the implementation of the government target to build middle income industrial

economy by 2025.

Meanwhile, minister Mhagama hailed LIC and Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC) for good cooperation towards the completion of the projects to the required standards hence, she added it was for the wananchi to grab the opportunities available.

The minister's one-day visit aimed to inspect the progress of the projects funded by LIC in collaboration with TNBC in Dodoma City.

TRA urged to review contracts of EFDs suppliers

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) has been challenged to review contracts of the suppliers of the electronic fiscal devices (EFDs) following complaints of poor performance from customers.

Mbeya Regional Commissioner, Albert Chalamila made the remarks yesterday when speaking at a meeting with region's business community. The meeting was purposely organised by TRA Commissioner, Edwin Mhede to educate traders on tax related issues.

Chalamila was concerned that suppliers of the EFD machines were not performing to the standards thus hindering government's revenue collection efforts. He said the agents in Mbeya region have yet to supplied the electronic devices for all eligible

traders.

"Some traders paid for the EFD machines but are yet to get them from suppliers. I was forced to arrest three EFD agents last year after traders complained to have waited for months despite paying for the machines", he noted.

TRA commissioner, Edwin Mhede said the government recognises the contribution of Mbeya business community in revenue collections as well as for the country's development, insisting the taxman is now sending officials to meet traders and listen to their grievances.

Mhede noted that paying taxes was crucial for the country's socio-economic development urging traders and Tanzanians to prioritise paying government taxes as per country's laws.

The Commissioner said TRA's target for the 2019/2020 financial year was to collect 19.1trn/- but until December 2019, the taxman had already collected revenues amounting to 9.2trn/-. He said the introduction of electronic fiscal devices was meant to boost collections noting the recently launched electronic auctioning will also enhance collections and lessen bureaucracy.

Those eligible to use the EFDs include persons who are not VAT registered with a turnover ranging from 14m/- and above per year, traders trading in the region's prime areas, identified on the basis of rent payable and traders dealing with selected business sectors such as spare parts, hardware, mini supermarkets, petrol stations, mobile phone shops, sub wholesale shops, bar and restaurants, pharmaceutical stores and electronic shops.



Public Accounts Committee chairperson Naghenjwa Kaboyoka talks at the seminar organised by Tanzania Investment Centre for 12 parliamentary committees held in Dodoma over the weekend. Others are TIC board chairman Prof Longinus Rutasitara (2nd L), Budget committee vice chairman Mashimba Ndaki (3rd L), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investment) Angellah Kairuki and TIC managing director Geoffrey Mwambe. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



JOB VACANCIES

DIRECTOR, SHAHIDI WA MAJI & RESEARCH COORDINATOR

Shahidi wa Maji is a Tanzanian NGO working for a fair water future where water is managed sustainably and equitably to ensure water security for all. We take action, generate evidence and advocate for the improved water and sanitation services, inclusive governance of water resources, and climate resilience which are necessary to underpin Tanzania's development. Based on our strong track record of driving system change and improving water security for vulnerable people, we are now expanding our team in Morogoro by recruiting these two new and influential positions:

Director, Shahidi wa Maji, based Morogoro. Regionally competitive salary and benefits. Postgraduate degree plus seven years' relevant experience. Closing date 21st February 2020.

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We are seeking an individual with the demonstrable relevant experience and skills to co-ordinate an innovative action research programme which seeks to strengthen water governance and service delivery. The post holder will provide administrative and technical support to partners and Research Fellows to ensure high-quality research, communication and uptake of results. This is an excellent opportunity for a gifted individual to shape research, policy and practice on water, and to build a legacy of impact for sustainable development and social justice. See <http://www.shahidiwamaji.org/recruitment> for the candidate pack.



Chadema chairman Freeman Mbowe addresses journalists on the political situation in the country including the need for a new constitution in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumaane Juma

Minister assures farmers of abundant availability of inputs

By Guardian Reporter

DUE to shortage of agricultural inputs in the country, the government has taken various steps to ensure the inputs are available in abundance to meet the needs.

The steps include the issuing of permits to large fertilizer dealers to import the commodity from outside the country under the Bulk Purchase System (BPS) whereas 200,000 tons has been ordered up to January 30 2020; to issue a permit for importing 45,000 tons to the country's association of fertilizer dealers and to order fertilizer via BPS, which has already started to be distributed since January 28 2020.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture Omary Mgumba revealed this yesterday in National Assembly here when responding to a question from Kavuu Member of Parliament Pudeciana Wilfred Kikembe who wanted to know of government's plans over delay of agricultural inputs, in particular fertilizer and seeds, the delay that results in losses to farmers.

Mgumba (pictured) said the government in partnership with other stakeholders continues to improve the productive, control and distribution

systems of inputs in the country whereas the public and private sectors will be incorporated and mobilized to manufacture agricultural inputs in the country to satisfy its needs.

On the shortage of fertilizer in the country Mgumba said it has been contributed by various reasons including the delay of the commodity's procurement from manufacturers, increase in demand due to affordable prices in 2018/19 season, increase in cash crop farming; government's assurance to remove price caps for various crops and plenty of rainfall in many parts of the country.

In 2019/20 season the procurement of inputs including quality seeds up to December 2019 was 71,155.13 tons, out of which 58,509.9 tons was manufactured in the country and 5,175.79 tons imported, while 7,469.44 tons is remainder from 2018/2019 season.

The availability of fertilizer up to 30 January 2020 was 410,499 tons that included 92,328 UREA and 84,311 tons DAP. Out of this 225,417 tons was imported and 16,685 tons locally manufactured while 168,397 tons is the remainder from 2018/2019 season.



By Guardian Correspondent, Mbarali

TARURA allocates 230m/- for road improvement in Rujewa

TANZANIA Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) in Mbarali district, Mbeya region has allocated more than 230m/- for the roads improvement in Rujewa town in the next two years to ease the town's transport problems.

This was revealed by Mbarali District TARURA manager Abdul Mfundili during the visit by Mbeya region CCM political committee to inspect various development projects in the district. Mfundili said in financial year

2018/19 200m/- has been set aside for improving 0.6 km Rujewa road including construction of 233 metre water drainage.

He said they had procured a contractor who did the job for 165.9m/-

but was paid him 150.6m/- as the road is still under construction after which the rest of the money will be paid out.

He said in FY 2019/20 230m/- has been set aside to improve another section of the road with a length of 1.1

kms, and added that the contractor for the work has already been procured.

He said the road links to the district hospital and will assist wananchi who visit the hospital to receive medical treatment.

Ummy launches cancer treatment guidelines

By Guardian Reporter

THE Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children Ummy Mwalimu has said out of 500,011 girls who received the first vaccination dose for cervix cancer in 2018/19 38 percent did not return for the second dose.

Cervix cancer leads among all cancers in the country for over 36 percent, and is 40 percent among cancers that affect women in the country.

Speaking yesterday at the launch of Cancer Treatment Guidelines in the country, the minister said the girls did not complete the dose adding that the vaccination aimed to protect girls of 9

to 14 years of age.

"In this group we were able to achieve 81 percent, equivalent to 500,011 girls who got the first dose but 38 percent did not return for the second dose," she said.

Speaking on the Guidelines, she said the cure that will be given by the Ocean Road Cancer Institute (ORCI) does not differ with that given by other hospitals and that the list of drugs and equipment for treatment is also given therein.

The Ministry's Director Dr Grace Maghembe (pictured) said the Guidelines that have been in preparation since 2017 will involve both government and private hospitals country-wide.



Cardiac surgeon from Medtronic Dr Hani Abdel Hadi explains about current approaches for treatment of coronary chronic occlusions at Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Anna Nkinda



By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

Mbeya city to establish English medium school

MBEYA City Council plans to build a special secondary school to cater for students who passed their primary education from English medium schools owned by the Council.

This was revealed here yesterday by the City Mayor Rev David Mwashilindi during a Council meeting that was also attended by Iringa Municipal Councilors who were on visit to study the operations of English medium schools.

Mwashilindi said the City runs two

English medium primary schools and is building a third at the old airport area.

He named the two schools as Mkapa and Azimio primary schools which he said were doing well academically refuting reports that some parents have started reallocating their children due to plummeting academic standards.

The Mayor said they have been con-

trolling the schools' academic standards and will continue to strengthen them to assure parents' good use of their expenses for their children.

He said the new school is being built by the National Service (SUMA-JKT) of Itende Camp.

Several councilors said they should not to ignore reports on the schools' plummeting standards, instead they

should address the challenges and look for solutions before opening another school.

Councilor for Mbalizi road Ward Adam Simbaya said he also heard of the reports of parents taking their children to other schools, hence the Council should investigate the reports.

However Sisimba Wars Councilor Geoffrey Kajigili said the step taken by

parents to shift their children from the two schools is a normal thing as there are so many reasons for them to do so including moving to other towns.

He said the Azimio primary school is not even two years old since its establishment hence it was too early to start evaluating its academic performance - whether it has been plummeting or not.



He said the new school is being built by the National Service (SUMA-JKT) of Itende Camp



Chunya district commissioner in Mbeya region Maryprisca Mahundi leads security committee to inspect three village boundaries yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

'Improve infrastructure at Mt Hanang to woo more tourists'

By Guardian Reporter

DEPUTY Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Constantine Kanyasu has directed Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS) to improve the environment at Mt Hanang by putting in place enabling infrastructures for tourists who come to climb the mountain located in Hanang District, Manyara Region.

Mt Hanang is the fourth tallest mountain in Tanzania - 3,423 metres high and has been attracting both local and foreign tourists as an important place for training before scaling up the 5,895 metre high Mt Kilimanjaro.

The Deputy Minister issued the directive at the weekend when visiting Mt Hanang area which is part of Mt Hanang Natural Heritage site under TFS control. He also directed TFS to immediately start advertising the mountain by appointing a special day for climbing.

He said the day should go in tandem with the World Mountain Climbing Day as listed in the international calendar.

Meanwhile Kanyasu wants TFS to ensure it builds toilets and rest areas for tourists, including a place for meals.

He also directed TFS to allocate special centres at the mountain for climbing tourists to rest before

reaching the summit.

In addition he directed TFS to purchase special gadgets for protection against various hazards the tourist may encounter including shoes, walking sticks, jackets and headgear.

The Hanang District Commissioner Joseph Mkarikiti said they are prepared to cooperate with TFS to ensure the infrastructure is improved to woo tourists to come and climb Mt Hanang.

A renowned athlete who is the mountain's Goodwill Ambassador Gidamis Shahanga said he is well prepared to ensure every tourist who dreams to climb Mt Kilimanjaro starts at Mt Hanang for training.

CHRAGG, Danish-based institute stakeholders to develop guidelines and tools for monitoring adults' detention facilities

By Correspondent Mbaraka

Kambona

THE Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) in collaboration with Dignity, Danish-based institute met with other human rights stakeholders to develop guidelines and tools for monitoring adults' detention facilities in the country.

Stakeholders convened at a workshop in Morogoro between February 3 and 4, this year, purposely to develop detention guideline, but also to share experience on basic concepts on preventive monitoring of detention facilities.

Addressing the workshop, CHRAGG commissioner, Dr Fatma Rashid Khalfan said that the workshop is a forum for the stakeholders to improve their practices and approaches on monitoring adults' detention facilities.

"This workshop is the opportunity for all of us to learn and share experiences on basic concepts, and also provide a forum for us to exchange ideas, discuss and agree on modalities towards developing the proposed monitoring tools and guidelines," Dr Fatma said.

According to her, she said that the workshop has come timely as the government through its key Ministries and Agencies are working hard to improve living conditions for inmates.

"In the process of improving living conditions for inmates, during the commemorations

of 58th Anniversary of Mainland Independence, on December 9, 2019, President Dr John Magufuli pardoned a total of 5533 prisoners," she added. "CHRAGG continues to commend the president decision, and

it is our expectation that other government and non-governmental actors will always work with CHRAGG to address challenges faced in detention facilities," Dr Fatma insisted.

Dr Fatma explained that

CHRAGG is optimistic that the workshop will contribute much in improving the promotion and protection of the rights of inmates in accordance to international, regional and national human rights standards.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



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

APPEAL NO. 1 OF 2020

BETWEEN

ZENGCHENG BENMA INDUSTRIAL COMPANY LIMITED APPELLANT

AND

WU ZHOU INVESTMENT COMPANY LIMITED..... 1ST RESPONDENT

FAIR COMPETITION COMMISSION (FCC) 2ND RESPONDENT

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

TAKE NOTICE THAT an appeal has been lodged in the Tribunal against the whole decision of the Fair Competition Commission (FCC), the 2nd Respondent herein, dated 16th January, 2020 in respect of a claim before the Chief Inspector of the Merchandise Act at the Fair Competition Commission on seizure of motorcycles and motorcycle spare parts alleged to be counterfeit. FCC decided that since the matter of trademark dispute has not been finalised at BRELA, it cannot rule on the matter and ordered that seized goods be returned to the 1st Respondent.

The Appellant contends, amongst other things, that the 2nd Respondent erred in law and fact by failing to decide on the main issue of counterfeit and returning the goods to the 1st Respondent. Thus, the Appellant prays that the decision of the 2nd Respondent be reversed and an order for payment of general damages be issued.

BY THIS PUBLIC NOTICE any person who considers that he has sufficient interest in the outcome of the appeal may apply to intervene in the proceedings within seven days of first publication of this notice to the Fair Competition Tribunal, 2nd Floor, Ministry of Works, Transport and Communications Building, Jamhuri Street, P.O. Box 79650, Dar es Salaam.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL of the Tribunal this 4th day of February, 2020.

REGISTRAR

Tabora district set to build vocational training college

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

TABORA District Council is set to build an ultra-modern vocational training college worth 1.5bn/-, in a new drive to empower primary and secondary school leavers with technical skills, hence be able to create jobs in their localities.

The proposed college under the Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA) will be built in Isikizya area.

The amount which has been issued by the central government will be used to construct buildings for different technical fields such as tailoring, electrical installation, secretarial, computer and welding courses.

This was announced yesterday by the Tabora District Council chairman,

Said Ntahondi during the council meeting to review the implementation of various development projects at the area.

He said the completion of the college will help young people who have completed their primary and secondary school to study a variety of courses that will allow them to employ themselves and stay away from poverty.

"We truly congratulate the President of Tanzania, Dr. John Magufuli for providing money that will facilitate the construction of a modern college in the Isikizya area," he said.

However, the chairman of the Council said that the district hospital had begun conducting operations and providing medical care to patients.

He said the move came after the Tabora Regional Commissioner Aggrey Mwanri directed the district medical doctor to start the provision of preliminary services in order to bring relief to the public.

He said that the introduction of outpatient services (OPD) has helped to bring relief to the public who were suffering by walking long distances looking for medical care.

Ntahondi added: the Council has allocated 60m/- for the construction of classrooms in seven secondary schools in order to reduce the student crowding.

Ntahondi said they are developing and continue with the preparation for the establishment of Form Five so that the district can have a high level secondary school.

TANZANIA FREIGHT FORWARDERS ASSOCIATION



VACANCY

Job Description for the position of Chief Executive Officer

1. Main Purpose of the Job

The position entails the overall management and administration of the Association and the coordination of its activities.

2. Reporting

Executive Council

3. Location

Dar, Tanzania

4. Terms of engagement

Contract

5. Duties & Responsibilities:

- a. Secretary to the Executive Council
- b. Head of the Secretariat
- c. Oversee all operations of the Association.
- d. Convene and provide secretariat services to the Executive Council.
- e. Prepare the Association's strategic plan, annual program of activities, budget, procurement plan and ensure implementation of activities.
- f. Ensure optimal utilization and management of all the assets of the Association.
- g. Implement policies and decisions of the Executive Council
- h. Fundraising for self-sustainability
- i. Mobilize required financial, technical and logistical support from development Partners.
- j. Develop and improve administrative systems of the Association.
- k. Promote a positive corporate culture and image of the Association.
- l. Design and deliver service services to members of the Association.
- m. Promote membership of the Association
- n. Represent the Association at meetings, conferences, symposia, among others.
- o. Ensure compliance of the Association with relevant legal requirements and internal policies
- p. Develop, foster and maintain relationships with local and international partners through engaging proactively with the industry, relevant government departments and other stakeholders.
- q. Perform such other duties as may be directed by the Executive Council from time to time.

6. Qualifications & Experience:

- a. A minimum Bachelor's degree from a recognized higher learning institution
- b. A minimum of 5 years working experience of which at least 2 years at a senior management position in the a freight logistics industry Possession of training qualification in the freight logistics industry will be an added advantage.
- c. Possession of other relevant qualifications will be added advantage

7. Skills and Competences

- a. Proven knowledge and track record in freight logistics industry.
- b. Excellent communication and report writing skills.
- c. Strong people engagement, negotiation and influencing skills.
- d. Strategic thinker with the ability to identify opportunities in a changing environment and capitalize on them.
- e. Adaptability to drive change and transformation, with a proven capability of resolving complex situations.
- f. Experienced team leader of diverse background with the ability to lead, develop and direct team members to deliver.
- g. Ability to work under pressure, with strong organizational, planning, prioritization and execution skills.
- h. A person of high integrity.
- i. Proficiency in computer operations

8. Travel

Interested candidates should note that CEO's responsibilities require extensive local and international travel

MODE OF APPLICATION

Interested candidates meeting the above criteria should send the application in writing including an application letter, current CV, copies of academic qualifications and details of two referees to info@taffa.org by 15/02/2020 Or physically send the CVs to

TANZANIA FREIGHT FORWARDERS ASSOCIATION

Gerezani Area, Plot No. 75, House No. 31

Behind Railway Club

Tel/Fax: +255(0)22 2118153/ 0715 855159

Late applications received will not be considered

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

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World Bank right about TASAF, but the problem of poverty is vast

FUNCTIONARIES in the World Bank and the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) who are likely to have been intensely involved in the work of the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) had something to smile about at the start of the week. Outgoing World Bank country director Bella Bird was fulsome in his praise of the anti-poverty government agency, advising the government to sustain and invest more in poverty eradication initiatives. She said the TASAF initiative has a hugely positive impact on the lives of needy groups and ought to be reinforced.

She emphasized this need as vital for the country to achieve its various development goals, where obviously attaining middle income status and a modicum of industrialization is primary. Obviously the atmosphere of these reflections on the work of TASAF was a bit relaxed as it was a farewell ceremony, but it is undisputable that most of what the outgoing director said could be pointedly affirmed in a more emphatic workshop environment. The issue is whether as director Bird appeared to suggest, the TASAF initiative comes close to providing an answer to poverty, or it is only about some particularly marginalized groups. Top officials may be pinning hopes on TASAF.

While there can be no disputing about the ground breaking work conducted by TASAF in finding a key to alleviate the more acute situations of poverty, it is also evident that its role is limited and likely to remain so. As director Bird noted, TASAF 'has played a major role in bringing down the level of abject poverty and hence ought to be sustained,' and for a top World Bank official leaving the country, the topic

she selected was well intentioned. It helped cultivate an atmosphere of harmony on strategic initiatives or performance.

What may especially elated PMO officials was the remark that a good number of countries are implementing the same project but TASAF shows the best and pioneer programme across Africa in ending poverty. "I wanted to say a few things about TASAF just as I leave Tanzania. I have been here for four years and seven months and I must say that when I first came and looked at our portfolio, I looked for the very impressive projects there. But what struck me about TASAF is that it is a powerful instrument to meet the poorest and most vulnerable people in the country." It was a deep seated avowal as to something that is close to her heart, and not just managerial experience.

But the outgoing director also touched on the statistical margins of TASAF contribution from which one gets a clear picture of its strategic positioning. She said that a recent joint assessment of poverty alleviation between the World Bank and the National Bureau of Statistics indicated that 'if TASAF had not been there, the rate of poverty in Tanzania would be at least two percent higher...This is the kind of independent assessments or validations that show how impactful is the work that TASAF is doing.' Given the fact that the rate of less than one dollar a day poverty level in Tanzania is still higher than 30 percent, it is clear that we cannot sit on our TASAF laurels but we must work harder. PMO must continue to labor on improving agro-sector productivity and removing obstacles to investment, to encroach on levels of poverty much more intensely.

Training of skimmers shall boost leather industry, to an extent

NEWS that the government has ordered all slaughterhouses to send their skimmers for training and being licenced in a bid to end destruction of up to 50 per cent of skins and hides due to bad skinning is sure to be welcome news to the industry. The only problem that may surface with the move is that the training may not be conducted for free while they remain in the pay of the butcheries in the process, unless of course the training is rapid. If so, it can be done by mobile teams on the spot, by demonstration and practice, as it is the case in crop extension services.

Already skinning licences were handed to 161 skimmers of Morogoro municipality, where the Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Abdallah Ulega said the ministry will shut down all abattoirs lacking trained and licenced skimmers. He made reference to provisions of the Meat Industry Act of 2006 which requires all abattoirs and meat processing factories to have skilled and licenced skimmers. Thus it is a bit interesting that nearly 14 years down the road the ministry is starting to put this provision into effect, which implies there were real drawbacks.

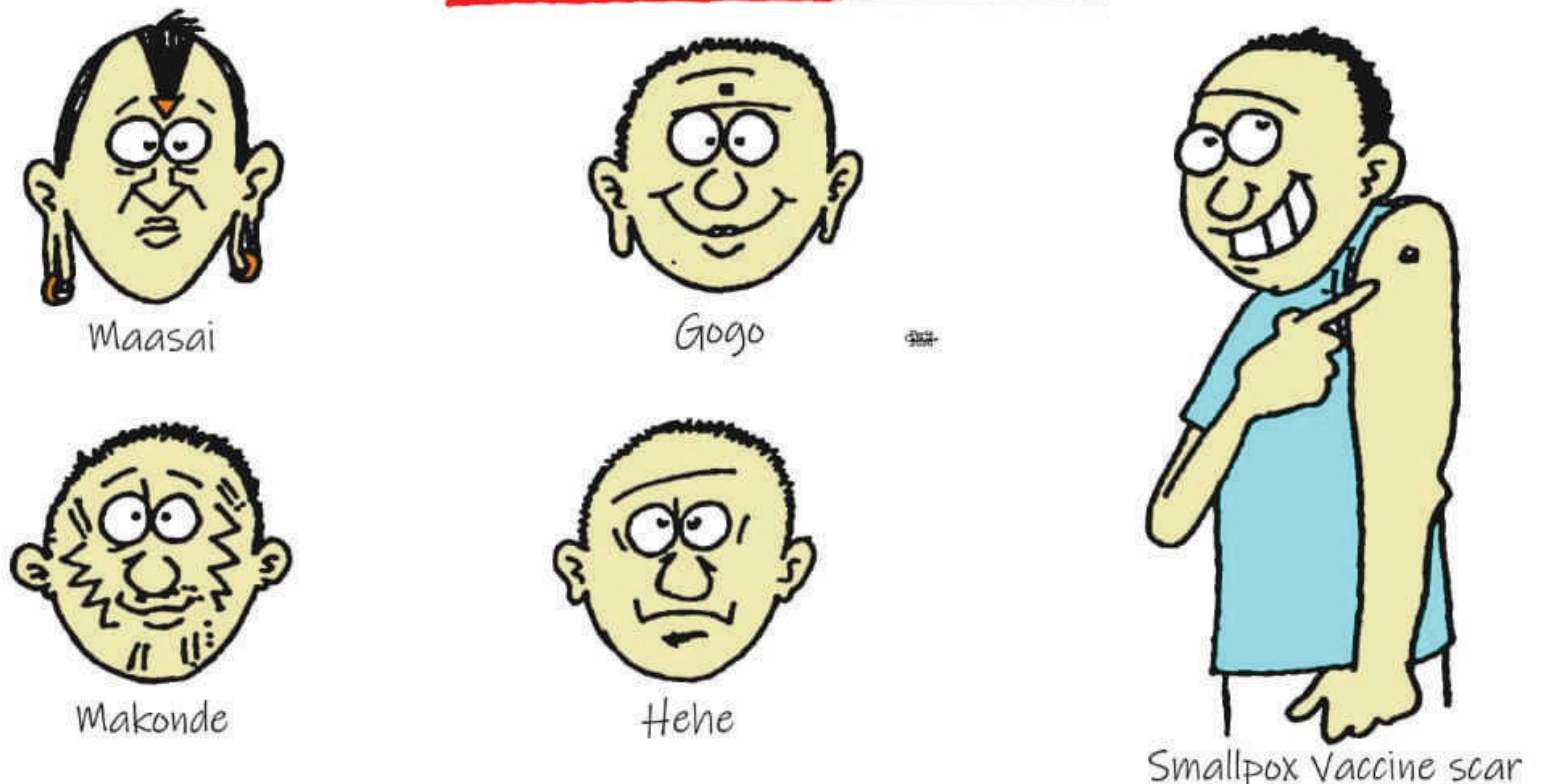
Measures to improve the skin part of the leather industry as a whole can readily be understood, as Tanzania has the second largest number of livestock (after Ethiopia) but 50 per cent of our skins and hides get damaged during skinning. The deputy minister noted that this situation leads to incurring losses of billions of shillings in wasted revenue annually, and hence the need to curb this specific wastage as part of constant measures to 'expand the

revenue base,' as this can also be done by making certain revenue sources more efficient in collection levels and thus improving their part in the overall Budget, reducing Treasury headaches.

Still there are questions if it will be easy for the country to realize its full potential in the leather sub-sector, despite that the government is determined to ensure that the country moves away from the business as usual mentality. It is a situation where skinning of animals is done by anyone who can hold a knife, on the basis of the deputy minister's remarks, though it must be said that even native or some environmentalists will say 'indigenous' skills in skinning aren't quite irrelevant. But they definitely have drawbacks that the ministry is working to rapidly absorb.

When the deputy minister for instance says that skinning as a skill must be given the respect and weight it deserves given the role it plays in the economy that shall work for municipal authorities who would conduct spot checks to ensure that butcheries have skimmers who are properly trained and licenced. The problem shall be at 'upstream' level, before the animals are put to auction and then to the butcher's knife, after which follows the skinning. Only the skinning was touched.

Noticeably, the ministry admits that the training drive is meant to ensure that Tanzanian leather factories do not import raw materials, thus the need to produce high quality skins and hides. Yet skinning destroys 50 per cent of skins and hides, whip lash marks and identity marks made by fire stamping add 30 per cent of damage and diseases around 25 per cent. How much can we do about the other causes of bad skins?



Let's invest more in coal power stations

By Special Correspondent

FOR the foreseeable future, Zimbabwe is going to be relying on coal fuelling thermal power stations for the bulk of its electric energy, and certainly for the base load, and it needs to take this energy source seriously if we are to achieve our Vision 2030.

For all its environmental advantages and low operating costs, hydro has one major problem, that if the Zambezi River is running at low levels in a regional drought, then we cannot generate much power.

The droughts that have hit Lake Kariba will obviously cause a serious rethink of the proposed Batoka Gorge scheme and bring up the question whether the huge sums needed in capital costs could not be spent better on a coal station.

Solar has major attractions, but a solar station only generates when the sun is shining.

Admittedly, with Kariba South being an oversized power station and the lake having a huge storage capacity, it is possible to run a solar station and Kariba South in tandem, cutting right back at Kariba when the sun shines and using solar for that period, and then opening up Kariba South to high output at night.

But there are limits as to what Kariba South can save in water in day time, and that is the maximum storage.

So, we are back to good old-fashioned coal if we want reliable and adequate electricity supply.

Hydro and solar can cope with the peaks and fluctuations in demand, but we cannot generate enough reliable hydro power or use solar out of hours.

Zimbabwe has the second or third largest coal reserves in Africa, depending on the exact size of Botswana's reserves when they are fully mapped, and so there is no excuse for us having to sit in the dark, close down a factory or tell a new investor that we are so sorry we cannot supply the necessary electricity.

Coal stations are an established mature technology, thus Zesa's mismanagement of Hwange Thermal should not be accepted.

The station is running at around a third of its rated capacity due to equipment not working, because it was not maintained or not replaced as it wore out.

Admittedly, political pressure prevented Zesa from charging what it needed to maintain and run the station, but the actual costs needed to be checked very carefully, and as we move



into tariffs that are viable, will continue to need checking and comparison with best international practice.

Zimbabwean consumers will have to accept that they need to pay the right price for electricity, but that does not mean they have to accept that they pay for Zesa's inefficiency.

And this weekend brought up another point to ponder when it comes to efficiency.

The three units operating at Hwange Thermal were shut down because the coal became wet during a serious storm over Hwange.

This startles just about everyone. And the new Zesa board now has another box to tick as it sets new standards and checks compliance.

At the same time, the Zesa board needs to have a serious talk to the mining companies, making it clear that they too are expected to keep to regular contractual supplies. Flooded mines can be drained.

The second area that needs fixing is the coal supply.

Three companies are now mining in the Hwange area, which introduces some much-needed competition and opens options for Zesa.

But already disputes are surfacing over Zesa's payment schedule for the coal and the quality of the coal being delivered.

In the real business world, both

would be contractual obligations and, in any case, power station designers would be taking into account the quality of the coal in the coal field.

Thermal stations can be designed and operated for a wide variety of coal types and qualities and there are formulas that allow the best design fit for the available coal.

The present six units at Hwange Thermal were designed to use an average quality that was below the best available quality, to ensure that costs were kept down.

Original planning saw the upper half of the coal seam being scrapped and just the better quality lower half used in the station.

Engineers re-did their sums and using the whole seam, mixing all grades, came out as the most viable solution.

If original planning had been followed, Hwange Thermal would have been adequately maintained.

Boilers and the coal feed were identified early as the most vulnerable area that would need replacement more frequently than the cleaner environments of the turbines and the generators.

In the 1990s, the next two large units, the two that we started fitting last year, would have been added. So, with decent maintenance and the extension, we would now have

a 1 500MW thermal output and very little load-shedding.

In fact, under the original planning, we would have been doing better. The second large thermal would be operating, the one that Rio Tinto is now keen to build once some serious discussion have been completed on how much Zesa will pay for the power from that station.

That station is designed as two 600MW stages, but if we had been serious both would now be in place, giving us 2 700MW of base load thermal, plus up to 1 050MW of peak power hydro from Kariba.

To put this into perspective, middle income countries around Zimbabwe's size need 5 000MW to 10 000MW, so two large thermals and one large hydro would just be a decent start, with more coming on grid every couple of years during the 2020s. We thus need to catch up quickly and start expanding fast.

Zesa needs to accept that best practice is just good enough and start having pride in supplying Zimbabwe's energy.

Backing its engineering talent would be a good start. Coal will be the centre of the expansion and so power needs to be correctly costed, using standard formulas not political guesses or desires of inefficient managers for luxury offices.

Lifting Botswana's hunting ban endangers its status as a global conservation leader

By Dereck Joubert

BOTSWANA'S unique natural wildlife heritage is one of the country's greatest treasures. These vast, unspoiled wilderness areas are not only the cultural and environmental heritage of the Batswana people, but they are also primary areas in conserving increasingly fragile global ecosystems.

The people of Botswana are justifiably proud of their culture and of their exquisite natural heritage. They are also extremely aware of their country's progress after more than 50 years of independence. Since 1966, Botswana has seen an average of 5% growth per year. Its per capita income has grown from some US\$80 per year at independence in 1966 to more than \$8,250 in 2018, according to World Bank data.

According to Unesco, it also has a largely successful basic education system that has some 90% of children enrolled in primary school and sees more than 96% of children go on to secondary school, leaving the country with one of the highest literacy rates in sub-Saharan Africa at 81%.

Botswana's greatest challenge, however, is unemployment, which has been running stubbornly high for years at

between 18% and 20%. This is partly due to an over-reliance on diamond production and a lack of industrial growth.

Botswana, though, remains one of the most stable, educated, democratic and prosperous countries in Africa. For all the decades of independence, this dependable stability has also seen wise and compassionate stewardship of the country's wonderful natural splendours.

People from all over the world have come to Botswana to marvel at its unspoiled wildernesses and at the vast herds of animals that populate them. The World Travel and Tourism Council for 2019 (WTTC) reports that one in seven of all dollars in the country comes from tourism, and it generates 84,000 jobs or nearly 9% of total employment, making up more than 13% of the entire economy.

Wildlife tourism is by far the largest drawcard for foreign tourists. Again, the WTTC reports that 73% of spending came from international travellers and only 27% from regional holidaymakers.

Clearly, the country's pristine wildlife reserves are more than a source of great pride and cultural history to Botswana's people; they are an important source of economic prosperity



and potential well-being.

However, the recent lifting of the ban on hunting, and specifically on elephant hunting, will endanger this critical natural and economic resource for Botswana.

Botswana's own Tourism Statistics Report for 2017 (published March 2019) shows that, after visitors from South Africa and Zimbabwe (many of whom are day visitors visiting friends and relatives), the United States is the second-largest source of tourists to

Botswana, making up some 26% of all visitors. A poll of registered voters in the US released by Humane Society International shows that an overwhelmingly large number of Americans polled do not support hunting elephants in Botswana. Some 75% believe

that elephants should not be killed for trophy hunting, while an even stronger number (78%) are convinced that elephants should not be culled.

Already there is a petition being circulated on the internet asking the Botswana government to bring back the ban on elephant hunting. This is clearly a negative development for the country's image as an ecologically sound destination.

Many argue that there are too many elephants in Botswana and that hunting them will help to reduce an excess population that is increasing. However, the African Elephant Status Report (AESR) published in 2016 shows that, in fact, the population of elephants in the country has decreased by some 15%.

Perceptions of human and animal conflict is a major driver of this lifting of the hunting ban, but not nearly enough work is being done to find non-lethal solutions to the problem, like, for instance, this study on appropriate land use patterns in Ngamiland for humans and elephants to live together.

Clearly, Botswana's reputation as a country where animals are protected and treated ethically is already taking massive blows. In a world where global understanding of true conservation and the interconnectedness of all life on the planet is growing at an exponential rate, Botswana cannot afford to be seen as an increasingly retrogressive force on the planet. We should seek solutions that allow humans and animals to share our pristine wilderness without danger to humans or the necessity to kill them.

Such an approach would make us global leaders in a world where we increasingly understand that our survival as a species is linked to the survival of all life on the planet.

Agencies

By Nigel Casey and Paulo Cuculi

IN December 2019 in Madrid, the world met to address our shared climate crisis, at the latest "Conference of Parties" to the UN Framework on Climate Change - or COP. This annual gathering sees negotiations that aim to secure a future where global temperature rise will plateau below 2°C, as agreed in Paris in 2015. COP25, as the event was known, underlined again how hard it is to reach consensus on tackling what is the ultimate shared global challenge.

The United Kingdom, in partnership with Italy, takes over the reins as the next COP President and will host the next summit - COP26 - in Glasgow in November 2020. We will put climate change and protecting the environment at the heart of the multilateral agenda. And we need to remind ourselves why 2020 is so important in addressing climate change as a global priority.

Climate impacts are being felt now

South Africa is no stranger to climate impacts. The drought that threatened the Western Cape made global headlines, but the Eastern and Northern Cape, and other provinces have had to contend with recurring and worsening droughts resulting in severe water shortages, losses to agriculture, and inflated food prices. In April 2019, flooding in KwaZulu-Natal led to the loss of over 80 lives and caused billions of rands damage.

Further afield, by 2050, 720-million people globally are at risk of being pushed into poverty by climate change - particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, where 65% of Africa's population is likely to be impacted by the consequences.

Why is 2020 so important?

When world leaders committed to a target well below 2°C temperature in Paris, they agreed to review progress every five years. This year, COP 26 is that critical moment to take stock.

As we stand today, we are not on track to achieve this target. We need a greater sense of urgency and commitment from the international community

and all of society. The UK and Italy want COP26 to be a milestone for ambition; for cleaner energy, a more resilient future supported by green financial systems; essential for green and sustainable economic growth. And we will work to build partnerships towards achieving the highest ambition, through new, or updated commitments from countries, regions and businesses that set a course for net zero.

Recognising the disproportionate impact that climate change will have on younger generations and hearing their growing call for global action, Italy and UK will host in October 2020 in Milan the "Youth for the COP" event - an opportunity for young people from around the world to present their proposals and actively be part of the COP negotiations.

South Africa's critical role

South Africa is a key partner for us, as it is influential in shaping and amplifying the voice of those developing economies which are most at risk and are least responsible for causing climate change. We want to work closely with South Africa to try to work through some of the seemingly intractable challenges that the negotiation process faces.

South Africa is also a globally significant emitter of CO2. The UK and Italy are acutely aware of the challenge faced by South Africa in delivering a just transition to a low-carbon economy, while also tackling unemployment, inequality and poverty. But for as long as greenhouse gases are above net-zero, the climate will continue to warm and the dramatic threats posed by climate change will continue to increase. So a transition needs to take place everywhere to help deliver global climate security and to support a new kind of economic development.

Governments need support from all spheres of society and there has been some progress. In September 2019, over 100 cities committed to net zero emissions by 2050 (this includes Glasgow, which wants carbon neutrality "well before 2045", and Milan, host to the COP26 preparatory events), and 130 banks, over a third of the global banking sector, signed up to align their

Time is running out to save our burning planet – 2020 is the year for action

business with the Paris ambition.

Both the UK and Italy have been through such transitions, and we want to share our experience and support South Africa in creating the conditions that allow for a phased transition, coupled with green growth, and creating the secure jobs of the future. The UK is already providing South Africa R3.5-billion in climate finance to support projects in solar, wind, carbon capture and battery technologies, and is developing a new bespoke technical assistance programme. Italian companies have already invested more than R30-billion in South Africa in the renewable energy industry, building innovative photovoltaic power plants and wind farms, and creating jobs and ca-

capacity-building opportunities throughout the country. Also, recognising the need for wider support for the continent, an African Centre for Sustainable Development (ACSD), has been established in Rome with the FAO and UNDP.

We are already feeling the impacts of climate change today. If we do not address emissions globally, then these will only worsen, making adaptation and building resilience increasingly challenging. This is the year for the world to stand up and recognise that time is running out. We need to come together with a shared resolve to do what is needed to save our planet for future generations.

Agencies



In South Africa, the Eastern and Northern Cape, and other provinces have had to contend with recurring and worsening droughts resulting in severe water shortages, losses to agriculture and inflated food prices. File photo

Thunberg, Trump and the future of capitalism

By Yanis Varoufakis

CLIMATE change is capitalism's Waterloo. There is simply no feasible path toward the re-stabilisation of the climate that is consistent with the maintenance of capitalism's main pillars.

Responding to Greta Thunberg's call for an immediate exit from fossil fuel investments at the World Economic Forum in Davos, US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said she should go to college "to study economics", before "she can come back and explain that to us". Two days earlier, Donald Trump had referred to climate scientists as "the heirs of yesterday's foolish fortune tellers".

The Trump administration's attitude to climate change, and those campaigning for drastic measures to contain it, is ugly, nasty and wrong. But behind the crassness and toxicity of Trump, Mnuchin, et al is cold logic and brutal honesty: Their politics is the only authentic defence of contemporary capitalism. And, judging by Mnuchin's patronising advice to Thunberg, they understand that mainstream economics, unlike climate science, is their friend.

I, too, could not contain myself after Mnuchin's Davos remark. "Mnuchin, sadly, makes sense," I tweeted. "If Greta were to study mainstream economics, she would spend several semesters studying models of markets in which neither a climate disaster nor an economic crisis is possible. Time to transform both economic policy and economics!"

Many fellow economists were unhappy with my tweet. One tweeted back: "Not sure which undergrad programs you're looking at, but all the Econ 101 courses that I know of involve market failures, where climate change is the main example." Quite right. But it is, I fear, beside the point. While many examples and concepts in economics courses would no doubt strengthen Thunberg's resolve and arm her with powerful arguments against the likes of Mnuchin and Trump, she would also feel frustrated and ultimately undermined by economics, and its effect on her fellow students.

One reason is the discipline's framing and default settings. We all know the power of the default, or baseline. In societies where organ donation is the default setting - automatic without a signed opt-out - the supply of transplant organs is substantially larger than in countries where people must carry donor cards. Framing is crucial in every setting where the human mind and heart must be energised against some ill.

Economics is no exception. The eco-



nomics textbooks Thunberg would have to read begin with models of markets where the unfettered private profit drive is shown mathematically to serve the public interest. Only after she has learned these theorems, and has practised the mental gymnastics needed to derive their mathematical proofs, will she be exposed to "exceptions" - for example, "externalities" of the production process, like climate-change-inducing pollution, which imposes costs not fully borne by the polluter. The very framing of market failures as an "exception", perhaps caused by some "externality", is an immense propaganda victory for the Trumps and Mnuchins of this world.

Worse, unlike organ donation, for which any society can decide to reverse the framing by making donation the default, college economics professors cannot simply reverse the framing by teaching externalities and market failure as the general case, and presenting perfectly competitive markets as excep-

tions. The iconic theorems of economics cannot be proven in the presence of externalities. Alas, it is these proofs that impress students and the rest of society, especially those in power, and give economics professors their discursive hegemony within the social sciences, not to mention the lion's share of public and private funding.

Viewed from this perspective, Mnuchin knowingly (or instinctively), delivered more than a sneering put down. Were Thunberg to take his advice, she would be weakened. A degree in economics, rather than in science, politics, or history, would either crush her spirit, or divert her from endeavours that could make her even more dangerous than she already is to the economic interests Trump represents.

Some lament the Trump administration's animosity toward young people and scientists who speak common sense about a massive threat that we should confront through global cooperation. But Trump and his cabal appear to understand something that their liberal detractors do not: One cannot acknowledge the perils of climate change, commit to doing whatever it takes to reverse it and continue to think of capitalism as a natural system that can be tweaked to deliver shared, green prosperity.

Trump gets it: climate change is capitalism's Waterloo. There is simply no feasible path toward the re-stabilisation of the climate that is consistent with the maintenance of capitalism's main pillars. The system we live in, unlike the one implied by college economics

textbooks, turns on a pathological dynamic recycling mechanism: Oligopolies extract exhaustible value from humans and nature at breakneck speed, financed by debt-turbocharged financialisation, which in turn fuels the extractive oligopolies.

This "technostructure," as John Kenneth Galbraith christened this mechanism in his 1967 book *The New Industrial State*, will never willingly accept the limits on physical growth and extraction necessary for containing climate change, because it could not survive. With the political class utterly dependent on it for campaign financing, any cap, quota, or emissions trading scheme imposed by the government will prove cosmetic and, ultimately, impotent. In the same way that economics students study

market failures as exceptions to an otherwise well-functioning market system, centrist reformers undergo the Sisyphean task of imagining a reformed, green capitalism.

Uncouth and disagreeable, Trumpism is nonetheless an honest manifestation of the historic moment when late capitalism pushed humanity past the point of no return. Trump urges us to carry on, while Mnuchin suggests that Thunberg numb her soul with the opium of mainstream economics. The only alternative to their policy of accelerated climate change, to the oil and finance curses that drive capitalism, is the wholesale disintegration of today's technostructure. Do we have the stomach for it?

Agencies

Remembering Neil Aggett – and others who fought apartheid from outside the ANC

By Imraan Buccus

THE inquest into the death of Neil Aggett is, as with the previous inquest into the death of Ahmed Timol, a most welcome development. This is not just because it raises the possibility of justice for Timol, Aggett and the many others who lost their lives under a brutal state. The renewed attention on Aggett, as we approach the anniversary of his death, is also welcome because it brings forms of leftism and anti-apartheid commitment outside of the ANC to public attention.

For a long time, the history of resistance to apartheid was told as if the ANC had liberated South Africa on its own. There was a particular focus on the Robben Islanders and the more or less completely failed attempt to organise a military strategy from exile. The history of the trade unions and the United Democratic Front (UDF) was constantly pushed to the margins. The same marginalisation was true of other liberation movements, such as the Pan African Congress and Azapo.

From time to time, as we witness the descent into kleptocracy, it is suggested that we replace the figure of Nelson Mandela with Steve Biko or Robert Sobukwe. Biko and Sobukwe are certainly giants in our history and there is much to learn from them.

But there are also many other figures who have not been given their historical due. Harris Dousemetzis's fascinating 2018 book, *The Man Who Killed Apartheid: The Life of Dimitri Tsafendas*, has an unfortunately overblown title. But it's a work of impressive research that shows Tsafendas has had a raw deal from our written history and needs to

be given a comprehensive reassessment.

The 2012 republication of Emma Mashinini's autobiography brought another marginal figure to the centre of public attention. Mashinini, who died in 2017, was an important trade unionist and deserves much more consistent public attention.

There are also plenty of important struggle veterans who have not received the biography that they deserve. Phyllis Naidoo, who spent her life in the ANC, Richard Turner, the academic and trade unionist, Victoria Mxenge, the UDF lawyer, and Alfred Temba Qabulua, the poet and trade unionist, were all towering figures in Durban and richly deserve proper biographical attention. In Johannesburg, names such as Abu Baker Asvat, who was known as "the people's doctor", David Webster, the academic, and Mthuli ka Shezi, the playwright, immediately come to mind. In Cape Town, figures such as UDF leader Johnny Issel and Mama Yanta, the first chairperson of the Crossroads Women's Committee of the 1970s, come to mind.

If we had a much richer sense of our history and of some of the personalities who rose up to challenge apartheid we'd also have a much richer history of ideas. That would give us a lot more space and freedom, as well as more tools, to debate the present.

We've slipped into a dangerous situation in which the struggle against apartheid, and the left more broadly, are both associated with an organisation that is in profound moral and political crisis. It is often assumed that the rot in the ANC has delegitimised all forms of progressive politics and that the only alternative to the ANC's kleptocracy is full-throttle



neoliberalism.

But if we had a better awareness of the history of the progressive movement in our country, and the ideas of intellectuals such as Neville Alexander, Richard Turner and many others who worked outside the ANC, we'd know that the progressive movement is far bigger and richer than the history

of the ANC in prison and in exile. It would then be easy to oppose both the kleptocratic and the neoliberal elements in the ANC and to offer viable solutions for moving beyond this narrow binary.

When it comes to Neil Aggett, we've been particularly well-served by Beverley Naidoo's extraordinarily accomplished 2012

biography. Naidoo's beautifully written biography of Aggett is, in terms of its sheer literary quality, up there with Mark Gevisser's biography of Thabo Mbeki as a truly great work.

Naidoo gives a real sense of Aggett as a person, of the radical milieu in which he moved with people such as Emma Mashinini and Johnny Clegg, as well as the politics of the late 1970s and early 1980s. In the wake of the Durban strikes in 1973, many young intellectuals joined the growing trade union movement. Aggett began his professional life as a doctor, working in Soweto and Tembisa, and learning some Zulu. But at the same time, he began working to support the trade union movement and by 1981 was a trusted and respected figure in the Food and Canning Workers' Union.

Like many of the intellectuals who joined the trade union movement, Aggett was inspired by the ideas of the anti-Stalinist new left, kept some autonomy from the ANC, and had a vision of a future society in which the black working class was not simply instrumentalised by the elites in the national liberation movements, but sustained its own independent power.

At the time there were brutal debates between people who took this position, often labelled as "workerists", and others, who were often described as "populists", who thought that all the organs of popular power should be subordinated to the ANC. Of course, with the benefit of hind-

sight, it is now obvious that the so-called workerists were correct and that vesting all power in the ruling party was a road to disaster. The trade unions should have retained some independence from the ANC and the UDF should have done the same.

Famously, the mass protest after Aggett's death in detention was the first time that all the black trade unions came out together and laid the basis for the solidarity that would later be formalised with the launch of Cosatu in 1985. To this day, in Cosatu and in Saftu, Aggett's name is revered by the progressives in the trade union movement and he continues to serve as a model for how a principled middle-class activist can commit to working to build popular democratic power among the oppressed.

Aggett's patient, self-denying and democratic form of activism is a world apart from the frequently nauseating self-promotion on social media that so often passes for activism these days. We have much to learn from him and have been very well served by Naidoo's superb biography. Hopefully, other figures from whom we also have a lot to learn, people such as Abu Baker Asvat, Johnny Issel, Alfred Temba Qabula and many others will also come to be remembered with the same care.

And hopefully, all the other activists whose deaths were never properly investigated will, finally, also get some sort of justice.

DM

Ukerewe intensifies efforts to tackle teenage pregnancies

By Lusekelo Philemon

TABITHA Manangu is a 16-year-old Form Two drop-out who at such a tender age is already a single mother and has to bear the heavy responsibility of raising her one-year-old child on her own.

We found her breastfeeding her baby in a village located 20km from Nansio Town, Ukerewe district's main town.

All factors considered, her future looks bleak and by extension so is that of her child. She says the man who made her pregnant took off after finding out about the pregnancy.

"He advised me to abort but I refused. He ran away and I have never seen him since then. My parents had been taking care of me and my unborn baby," she adds, noting that her dream was, and still is, to become a medical doctor.

"I conceived by accident, but that does not mean I should be looked at as an evil person just because I am still young," she says.

She says that members of her community shunned her and her family after she refused to get rid of the pregnancy. Like many teenagers, Tabitha was oblivious to the consequences of engaging in a premarital sexual relationship at such a young age.

"You never think this could happen to you, the only good out of all this is that I have my baby," she says.

At the moment she ekes a living venturing in petty trade, saying that she has no choice since no one besides her parents is willing to assist her and the father of the child has since been elusive.

"My advice to all young girls out there, please do not engage in sexual relationships outside of wedlock if at all you want to pursue your dreams," she counsels.

"I discourage teen girls not to expose themselves in premarital sexual relationship if they are to live their dreams," she suggests.

Msafiri Kanobo, a leader at Kibo village, says that Tabitha is one of many teenage pregnancy cases in the district, where people rely on fishing and tourism to earn a meager living.

He puts the blame square on parents, saying most of the parents in the area have not been to school thus they don't see the importance of taking their children to school.

According to him, only two girls from the village completed primary school education last year due to various reasons including absenteeism and teenage pregnancies.

Kanobo also reveals that only two girls sat for their Form Four final examinations in 2019 as the rest got pregnant.

The Kibo village chairman says the poor learning infrastructures and long distances to and from school have also contributed into dropping academic performance for both, primary and secondary school students in the district.

Kagunguri ward councillor, George Nyamaha also cites early pregnancies that lead to many girls dropping out of school as one of the factors contributing to declining pupils' academic performance.

Nyamaha who is the Ukerewe District Council chairman says that district had set a target of ensuring 85 percent of primary school leavers pass their national examinations, but the target hasn't been met due to a number of reasons including early pregnancies.

"We are in need of female teachers at our seven primary schools. Their presence will help in provision of reproductive health education but also girls will more openly discuss their challenges with female tutors," he says, noting that could be a step towards ending early pregnancies.

Nyamaha notes that girls need someone close to them to be able to openly share their life challenges. He mentioned the schools in need of female teachers as Busumba, Bwiro, Burubi, Kamasi, Sizu, Buruza and Kuluzu primary.

District Education Officer, Benjamin Sipetro (Secondary) describes teenage pregnancy as a challenge as young girls with little education and limited economic opportunities cannot contribute to the development of the country. It also harms not only individual girls and women, but also their families, communities and countries.

Teen pregnancy and childbearing bring substantial so-



cial and economic costs through immediate and long-term impacts on teen parents and their children.

He attributes the challenge to cultural hindrance, high illiteracy levels, poverty and negative attitude towards education of the girl-child.

"We're working hard to break the culture of negative attitude towards education of the girl-child because most parents still think educating girls is wastage of resources," Sipetro says.

He also cites distance to and from school as one of the factors that plunge many girls into premarital sexual relationship, which end up into teenage pregnancies.

"Some are pushed into premarital sexual relationship to get free transport to and from school and the situation becomes more serious in small islands where there are no secondary schools.

So, students are forced to join secondary schools located in main islands such as Nansio.

Transport between islands isn't reliable, the situation that puts school girls into trouble. Some girls get into such relationship only to get money for basic necessities including sanitary towels as parents are unable to provide them," he says.

He adds: "After realizing this, we came up with a new programme—where we buy sanitary towels on monthly basis and distribute to school girls."

Sipetro described the move as successful, "as we've reduced school drop-out as a result of teenage pregnancies in the district.

According to him, district authorities are also building hostels at Buguza, Bwiro, Mibungo and Bwisya secondary schools that will provide accommodations for girls, who come from small islands. "We also believe this will address the challenge as the move won't expose school girls to 'predators'," he says.

The DEO also says that his office has introduced new uniform that involves long skirts that don't expose girls to 'predators'.

Sipetro says he used the approach in Sengerema and Buchosa and it worked and in Ukerewe District with 25 secondary the approach has started bearing fruits.

Ester Chaula, Ukerewe District Executive Director (DED) also views teen pregnancies as a serious challenge, saying: "That's why we've put in place different interventions to address it involving different players such as parents, and religious leaders."

"We've also put in place stern measures against people who are behind teen preg-

nancies and parents who will be colluding with culprits."

According to Dr Raphael Mhana, Ukerewe District Medical Officer (DMO), despite the fact official data show that early pregnancies have been going down in recent years in 2016/17—teen pregnancies were 127, 2017/18 were 72 and last year were 19.

Dr Mhana says: "We're planning to have regular visits to schools to educate youth on the dangers of teen pregnancies and inform them on the ways of addressing the challenge, which has been plunging them into early adulthood responsibilities."

He also suggests the need to have an adolescent-friendly health service centers that would make teenagers feel comfortable and my not think of terminating pregnancies.

"Most teenagers fear of being stigmatized by the society. So, we need to put in place supportive environment that will make teen pregnancy feel free to access MCH service in health facilities. They need special attention rather than the current system, where they are being mixed with adults."

Dr Mhana says: "Most of the girls who get pregnant at an early age fear to visit the health facilities for antenatal services, which forces them to opt for termination. They are forced to abort the pregnancy

yet the complications are worse if it goes wrong."

He says abortion is an illegal act, which is characterized by numerous dangers to the lives of the girls.

"The practice of intentionally ending a pregnancy prematurely exposes these girls to both physical and psychological health problems," he says.

Adolescent pregnancy is a worldwide problem. In Sub-Saharan Africa, an increasing number of girls are becoming mothers by the age of 18 years old.

Tanzania as one of the countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, teen pregnancy is a very big problem among adolescent girls.

In 2016, there were 69,000 teen pregnancies in Tanzania, according to government data. About 21 per cent of girls aged 15-19 have given birth, with the figure rising to 45 per cent in some areas of the country.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that the risk of death following pregnancy is twice as high for girls aged 15-19 than for women aged 20-24.

The maternal mortality rate can be up to five times higher for girls aged 10-14 than for women aged 20-24. Illegal abortion also holds many risks for teenage girls in areas such as sub-Saharan Africa.

Silence the guns, GIMAC appeals to African leaders

By Correspondent Kenneth Simbaya, Addis Ababa

PEACEFUL and prosperous Africa as underscored in Agenda 2063 cannot be realized without mainstreaming gender equality in all our efforts that aim at attaining peace and security on the continent.

This was said yesterday by Sam Ntelamo, International Planned Parenthood (IPPF) representative to the African Union and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) during the 35th Gender Is My Agenda (GIMAC) pre summit, taking place at United Nations complex in Addis Ababa.

GIMAC is a network of over 55 civil society organizations (CSOs) promoting gender equality and accountability for women's right, that was established during the transformation of Organization for African Union (OAU) to ensure women are part of, and benefit from transformation processes. This year's GIMAC conference's theme is, "Recognizing and Amplifying Women and Girls' Agency to Silence Guns in Africa".

According to Ntelamo (pictured), armed conflicts are fuelling humanitarian crisis, consequently women, children, persons with disabilities are the ones that mostly endure so much injustices in complex emergencies that result in forced migration.

"In line with the African Union Heads of States Assembly decision to earmark the year 2020 as a leap towards ending all wars, civil conflicts, gender-based violence and prevention of genocide, we are gathered today at the GIMAC CSO's consultative meeting to deliberate on the contribution of gender equality in the effort to "Silence the Guns in Africa", said Ntelamo.

Ntelamo pointed out that, there are many risks associated with forced migration.

"For example, forced migration can affect expecting mothers forcing the expecting mother to endure severe complications from deliveries and in most cases there are no adequate facilities where services can be provided to the expecting mother" Ntelamo said.

The IPPF representative to the African Union and UNECA, further pointed that, teenage pregnancy, child marriage, trafficking, STIs, HIV, rape resulting in unwanted pregnancies, and sexual violence and unsafe abortions are high in conflict ridden country adding that.



Youngmen, according to Ntelamo, are recruited into militia groups due to man-

made humanitarian crises and hence shuttering the future of Africa's younger

generation while displacing families.

Our message to our lead-

ers is that man-made disasters should end, this can only be realised through

silencing the guns. Perhaps it even suffices it to say, there should be a ban on light arms trade.

IPPF, the organisation I'm representing and speaking on behalf of this morning, runs a humanitarian program in which we provide lifesaving sexual and reproductive health services in complex emergencies to ameliorate the scourge of internal and external displacements.

We have adopted the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for Reproductive Health in Crisis which provides a guide on life-saving health services to affected communities from the onset of crises.

Our humanitarian programme provides a distinct model for improving access to sexual and reproductive health and rights in crises, connecting key elements of humanitarian action through prevention, preparedness, response, recovery and resilience.

MS Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary of UNECA, reminded participants that, women form the fabric of societies, marginalizing them or undervaluing them is doing injustice to nations and families and there is no way Africa will realize its development blue print Africa Agenda 2063, if guns will continue going off.

"Every time a gun goes off, a girl stops to school," she point pointed calling for African leaders to do whatever it takes to silence the guns.

The GIMAC conference is taking place ahead of African Head of States slated to start next week.

No time to talk: What big business can learn from social enterprise

By Amanda Mackenzie

RHETORIC is used in all areas of life and none so more than in business – especially when it comes to companies outlining their sustainability efforts

‘Talking the talk’ rather than ‘walking the walk’ is one of humanity’s fundamental traits and age-old flaws. Socrates would often sniping about bluster and rhetoric, specifically the way we use language to convey a picture of the world that we want people to see rather than the world as it truly is.

Almost 2500 years on and not much has changed. Rhetoric, or talking a good game, is used in all areas of life and none so more than in business – especially when it comes to companies outlining their efforts to be responsible in relation to their carbon footprint and the environment.

Our research confirms this: an analysis of data from 64 major British companies in 24 sectors, with a combined turnover of over 100 billion pounds, shows that while 86% of them have a purpose statement, only 16% of them are actually doing anything about it.

As a symposium on improving the world, Davos is unrivalled, but when the world’s political, corporate and economic elites disperse, the grandiose plans set out in the popular ski resort tend to melt away like the snow.

This year, however, there was a sense that businesses finally have to start putting their promises into practice. The presence of Greta Thunberg in the Swiss ski resort underlined that the tendency of companies to ‘greenwash’, or pay lip service to decarbonisation, would no longer be tolerated.

But an open letter by Larry Fink, the chief executive of the world’s largest asset manager BlackRock on the eve of Davos was arguably more impactful still: it was a clear message to businesses that if they continue to fail to act on their words then they could pay for the consequences, losing consumers, the support of businesses in their supply chains, and investors – all of which will hit their share prices hard.

There’s certainly a feeling that we have reached a tipping point: that now is finally the time for action rather than words – for taking the magisterial corporate pledges that are often made about sustainability and ensuring, for once, that they are actually acted upon.

The challenge for companies in the 2020s is to finally implement the positive policies that most have signed up to – and not just internally but through their entire supply chains.

It is a daunting challenge but until more companies take those first few steps they will be doing society and the environment an egregious disservice.

What the world’s biggest companies can no longer do is use their size and complexity as an excuse for inaction. Yes, there’s no doubt that the attempt



of many companies to make themselves carbon-neutral – or carbon-negative in the case of Microsoft – will take time to get right.

After all, unlike many social enterprises and start-ups, the world’s biggest businesses were set up with the goal of delivering profit rather than doing good. They are now having to retrofit purpose, which for many will be an unprecedented challenge.

As contrarian as it sounds, big businesses should take the time to learn from infinitely smaller social enterprises, who have purpose and authenticity embedded in their DNA. If they can go at least some way to replicating that authenticity, the battle will be half won.

There’s certainly no shortage of inspiration, ranging from the seemingly mundane, with U.S. flooring company Interface ensuring every product bought from them is 100% carbon neutral, to NEMI Teas employing refugees to run tea stalls at London markets.

Businesses must use this critical moment in time to learn from non-profits and social impact companies in order to solve our planetary crises.

Those that win will be the ones that transform the products and services they offer, and the way they work, in order to repair and sustain our planet.

Those that lose, and who will be replaced by companies that are more in tune with the times, will be the ones that continue to hide behind rhetoric. Time is running out on talk.

Business is the activity of making one’s living or making money by producing or buying and selling products such as goods and services. Simply put, it is “any activity or enterprise entered into for profit. It does not mean it is a company, a corporation, partnership, or have any such formal organization, but it can range from a street peddler to General Motors.”

Having a business name does not separate the business entity from the owner, which means that the owner of the business is responsible and liable for debts incurred by the business. If the business acquires debts, the creditors can go after the owner’s personal possessions. A business structure does not allow for corporate tax rates. The proprietor is personally taxed on all income from the business.

The term is also often used colloquially (but not by lawyers or

by public officials) to refer to a company. A company, on the other hand, is a separate legal entity and provides for limited liability, as well as corporate tax rates. A company structure is more complicated and expensive to set up, but offers more protection and benefits for the owner.

Customers of the National Bank of Commerce (NBC) have convened at a capacity building validation workshop organized by the bank, which among other things aimed at discussing business opportunities offered by the bank.

The Workshop held recently in Dodoma featured both small and medium sized businesspersons who were taken through the various improved services offered by the bank, as well as how best they can interact with the various business institutions to help them achieve their goals.

Addressing participants at the workshop who were drawn from different districts of the country’s capital, the bank’s Business Development Manager in charge of the SMEs unit, Jonathan Bitabaje, said following the improved

services by NBC which can now cope with the current technology, there was a need to intensify capacity building programmes that can make customers to get accustomed to the services provided by the bank.

“Our bank, has now ventured into robust technological changes in service provision depending on the economic changes, therefore, we felt that it is important we embark on capacity building programmes for our customers,” he said.

He further emphasized that apart from capacity building, at the workshop, NBC customers had an ample time to offer their opinions and recommendations on the services provided by the bank, a move he said would help to improve services according to customers’ need.

At a one-day workshop, participants had yet another chance to receive and contribute on presentations from other institutions including the National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) and Tanzania Chamber of Commerce Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA) representatives who

expounded on various business and economic empowerment opportunities inside and outside the country, including how best they can interact and meet businesspeople from abroad.

“In collaboration with NBC, we have been helping many businesspersons and we expect in the next few days to take a group of Tanzanians to China where as they will only be required to pay US Dollars 2,500 which will cover their transport, food and accommodation, among others, said TCCIA Industrial Development Manager, Patrick Magai.

Speaking at the workshop, some participants commended the ongoing cooperation between them and NBC requesting the bank to continue helping them especially when seeking for loans and guarantee from the lender.

“There is a need by financial institutions to identify the challenges that we have been facing by coming up with new services that overcome those challenges,” said an architect and Dodoma based businessman Dr Steven Mangia.

Past interest rates and future growth

By Willem H Buiter

GIVEN all the options still on the table for boosting aggregate demand and the natural rate of interest, it is clear that secular stagnation is not a technologically determined necessity, but rather a dysfunctionally collective choice.

A new chapter has been written in the history of risk-free global interest rates. In a recent study, Paul Schmelzing of the Bank of England tracks global real (inflation-adjusted) interest rates over the period from 1311 to 2018. Despite temporary stabilisations during the periods 1550-1640, 1820-1850, and 1950-1980, he finds that global safe real rates have persistently trended downward over the past five centuries, and that negative safe real rates have steadily become more frequent since the 14th century.

In light of this historical record, Schmelzing questions the hypothesis, advanced by Lawrence H Summers of Harvard University and others, that advanced economies are experiencing “secular stagnation.” Insofar as the secular-stagnation narrative “posits an aberration of longer-term dynamics over recent decades”, Schmelzing believes that it is “fully misleading”. Some caution concerning Schmelzing’s empiri-

cal findings is warranted, however. The supposedly safe rates he catalogues may in fact include default risk premia that could vary systematically over time. The early inflation data are likely to be unreliable.

And even if Schmelzing’s data provide an unbiased and reliable picture of real interest-rate developments since the 14th century, they have no obvious bearing on the plausibility of the secular-stagnation hypothesis for 2020 and beyond.

That hypothesis holds that the natural real rate of interest – the safe real interest rate consistent with full utilisation of labour and capital, stable inflation and a sustainable current-account balance – has fallen to zero or negative levels for most advanced economies. One reason for this is a declining rate of potential output growth.

Today’s weak potential growth is attributable to a variety of factors, including societal ageing, de-globalisation (since the 2008 financial crisis), and possibly slower total-factor-productivity growth. Both the natural and the market rate of interest have been lowered by an increase in private saving propensities (which may reflect demographics, growing income and wealth inequality, and post-2008 balance-sheet deleveraging).

Moreover, today’s safe rates may

have been further depressed by higher demand for safe assets, which comes partly from emerging markets and partly from changes in financial regulations and financial-sector norms since the 2008 crisis. The neutral real rate is at or below zero, nominal policy rates are at or near historically low levels (and often constrained by the zero lower bound), and inflation is low and apparently impervious to central banks’ efforts to push it up decisively.

As a result, the market real rate now exceeds the neutral real rate, or will do so in the next cyclical downturn. Whenever that comes, it could result in a stagnationary equilibrium, as economic activity and realised private saving fall to match weak private investment.

Depressed aggregate demand, activity and employment could further weaken potential output, driving the neutral real rate even lower. In an inversion of Say’s Law, a lack of effective demand can create its own lack of potential supply.

Asset booms and bubbles can artificially and unsustainably prop up aggregate demand. These are driven by risk denial and a desperate reach for yield, itself in part a product of central banks’ long reliance on ultra-low nominal and real interest rates, quantitative and qualitative easing, and far-reaching



forward guidance and yield-curve targeting.

The policy prescription for restoring full employment and escaping cyclical and secular stagnation is straightforward. Governments should use expansionary fiscal policy and supply-side structural reforms to boost aggregate demand and raise the neutral real interest rate to the point that it can be equated with the market interest rate. The composition of the ideal fiscal package will be country-specific.

The United States, with its appalling

infrastructure, should boost public investment accordingly (and federal and state governments should have an extensive list of “shovel-ready” projects waiting). Public spending on health, education and research and development also has much to recommend it. As for many other countries, fiscal boosts to private consumption or cuts in corporate taxation might be appropriate.

And European Nato members, for their part, could make good on their commitments to raise defence expenditures to 2% of GDP.

The effects of fiscal stimulus on public debt should not be ignored, of course. But in most advanced economies, the GDP growth rate exceeds the interest rate on the public debt, which means fiscal space is unlikely to be a binding constraint on well-designed stimulus measures. We also should not underestimate the potential of labour-market reforms (particularly in France) and measures to restore competition in key product markets (particularly in the US). Both could lead to a healthy increase in private investment.



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CTI chiefs pleads with state not to allow Tasac monopoly at Dar Port

By Smart Money Reporter

MONOPOLISATION of cargo clearance at Dar es Salaam Port which involves raw materials may jeopardise government's industrialization agenda, Confederation of Tanzania Industries has warned.

CTI Chairman, Shubash Patel said in Dar es Salaam last week while giving a review of 2019 and what should be expected this year that reports that Treasury has plans to limited cargo clearance of sensitive goods including some industrial raw materials may badly affect the manufacturing sector.

"CTI members are manufacturers who import some of their raw materials hence need an efficient process of clearing them so that industrial production can go on smoothly," said Patel who expressed concerns that reports that Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation will be responsible to clear all sensitive goods at the port including raw materials are worrying.

He said despite its importance, Tasac is very new with very limited experience and capacity to handle all raw materials imported by CTI members through the country's prime port. "We have already written Treasury to express concerns of CTI members and certainly the government will listen to us," Patel who is also Executive Chairman of Motisun Holdings Group noted.

He said for many years now, the manufacturing sector has been growing as show by gross domestic product figures which show that the sector has sustained growth since 2017, being behind only transport sector overall.

"The major reasons for this growth include government's good reforms to encourage private sector investments but also presence of space for industries to grow in the economy.



CTI Chairman, Shubash Patel speaks at a past event in Dar es Salaam recently. File photo.

As I have said there are a number of reasons such as President Magufuli's focus on industrialization which has led to government's introduction of its development blue print which is an import document to encourage private investment," he added.

"This is the only president since independence

who has come out openly to champion industrialization which is very good for us. The government's blue print will ease the cost of doing business in the country. Our request as CTI is for the blue print to start implementation soon because it will bring major reforms including speeding up of cargo clearance at the port," Patel pointed out.

Africa pushes ahead on the world's largest free-trade zone

JOHANNESBURG

Cross-border trade in Africa brings to mind trucks backed up at border posts, corrupt officials and the smugglers trying to avoid them, and just all-around petty bureaucracy. That translates into delays, frustration and higher costs. No doubt it has limited trade between nations on the continent to just 15% of all export and import commerce compared with more than 70% in Europe.

In 2020, that's all supposed to change – or at least begin to change. The African Union, which will this year be under the leadership of South Africa, is backing the creation of the world's biggest free-trade zone by area, the Africa Continental Free Trade Area.

Of the continent's 54 nations all except Eritrea, a country in the horn of Africa that rivals North Korea in its isolation, have signed up. In an agreement that's supposed to be in full force by 2030, tariffs on 90% of goods will be dropped and there will be free movement of people and a liberalized market for services.

The goal of greater economic integration across Africa has long been to help some of the world's poorest nations. Now the project is even more important because it would provide greater negotiating strength in an environment where the top economic powers are at each other's throats. The US-China trade war may be calm for now, but the African continent remains a key proxy

in Beijing and Washington's longer-term battle for global supremacy.

Next week the US and Kenya are expected to announce they're starting negotiations on a free-trade agreement during President Uhuru Kenyatta's visit to the US capital.

In the Africa-wide deal, the winners initially will be the most developed nations – South Africa, Kenya and Egypt – which have the manufacturing bases that can produce the goods Africa's growing middle class wants. Still, there are measures to cushion the blow for less developed nations, and leaders ranging from South Africa's Cyril Ramaphosa to Ghana's Nana Akufo-Addo are enthusiastic advocates for the deal.

But, with truck drivers waiting for days in baking heat at border posts and South Africa's government struggling to contain regular eruptions of xenophobic violence, turning the optimistic rhetoric around the deal into reality will take a level of political will rarely seen on the continent.

Charting the trade war

Modern Americans strongly favour lean cuts on their plates, but China's appetite for tripe, liver and kidneys means offal imports from the US are worth about six times as much as the beef trade at present. At a time when as much as 40% of the US food supply is wasted, there's a pleasing symmetry to a trade deal that allows commerce between China and America to heal by letting the two countries divide their meat into the bits they respectively like best, says Bloomberg Opinion's David Fickling.

Major infrastructure projects increase import bill by 9pc

By Francis Kajubi

THE country's import bill grew by 9 percent to over US\$11.004 billion during the month of December last year because of major infrastructure projects being undertaken by the state.

According to Bank of Tanzania's Monthly Economic Review for December 2019, asserted that value of oil imports, which accounted for 23.1 percent of goods imported, rose by 30.2 percent to over US\$2.078 billion owing to increase in volume also much associated with the on-going infrastructural projects.

The report further stated that non-traditional goods improved recording annual growth of 11.9 percent to over US\$9.5bn during the period. The BoT report stated noting that the performance was on account of

an increase in the value of non-traditional exports and service receipts.

"The value of exports of non-traditional goods grew by 31 percent to US\$4.160 million in the year ending November 2019, largely driven by gold and manufactured goods," the report stated.

Going by the export details, the BoT report stated that gold exports which accounted for 51.4 percent of non-traditional goods exports, increased by 41.9 percent to US\$2.139.9 million on account of both volume and price at the world market.

"The increase in volumes exported is partly associated with government actions to effectively manage mining activities in the country," the report added.

Likewise, exports of manufactured goods improved by 28.4 percent to US\$996million during the period largely owing to good performance in exports of iron and steel products, glass and glassware, manufactured tobacco, sisal yarn and twine.

According to the review traditional goods exports continued to decline, contracting by 21.4 percent to US\$740.3 million of the period under review from the value recorded in the corresponding period of 2018.

The value of all traditional goods exports declined save for coffee, cotton and sisal noting that improved performance of coffee, cotton and sisal exports was mainly due to increase in the volume exported following favourable weather during the season. Contrary, the value of cashew nuts exports



Tanzania's gold bars ready for exporting.



British High Commissioner to Tanzania, Sarah Cooke (R) and Serengeti Breweries Limited's CEO, Mark Ocitti (L) tasting John Walker Blue Label Whiskey during a special tasting event held at the commissioner's residence in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. The event was allowing stakeholders to taste the strong beverages distributed by SBL which include Johnnie Walker, which celebrated 200 years since its inception. Photo: courtesy of SBL.

IMF says SA has no fiscal space, must push reforms

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa has no fiscal space left and must implement strong budget consolidation and state-owned company reforms to ensure its debt sustainability, the International Monetary Fund said.

The October medium-term budget policy statement showed gross government debt would surge to 80.9% of gross domestic product in the 2028 fiscal year unless urgent action is taken.

That trajectory is almost 20 percentage points higher than forecast in the February budget and showed no sign of stabilising. The fiscal shortfall will widen to the most in 11 years in 2020-21.

High deficits have not materially boosted economic growth as intended; instead they drastically lifted the debt-to-GDP ratio "and left South Africa with no fiscal space," the Washington-based lender said in an emailed statement after a staff visit to South Africa.

While the state plans to reduce spending by

a total of R50 billion by 2022, it should protect pro-poor social programs and make education and health delivery more efficient, the IMF said. It also backed Finance Minister Tito Mboweni's proposal to reduce the public-sector wage bill, which comprises 35.4% of national spending and said the government should reduce the contingent liabilities from state-owned companies.

Eskom's challenges

Power utility Eskom, which is seen as the biggest threat to the South African economy and fis-

cus, is the biggest recipient of government guarantees. The company, with R450 billion of debt, resumed controlled blackouts on Thursday.

The IMF said tackling Eskom's challenges would not only reduce fiscal deficits and debt, but would also boost business confidence, encourage private investment, including in green energy, improve macroeconomic policy credibility, and convey a genuine ambition by the authorities to address the legacy of corruption that allegedly happened under the previous

president. The lender also repeated a 2018 call for South Africa to introduce a debt anchor in its budget, which could complement the expenditure ceiling, to guide debt stabilisation.

South Africa's National Treasury said in a statement it's committed to "implementing prudent fiscal policy to achieve a low primary balance, excluding Eskom provisions, by 2022-23 in order to ensure a stabilisation of debt by 2025-26." The IMF cut its 2020 GDP growth forecast for South Africa to 0.8% from 1.1% last week.

CRDB, Sauti za Busara team up to sponsor TemboCard Visa customers



CRDB Bank's Head of Card Business, Farid Seif when he launched 'Chanja/scan, lipa, sepa' campaign in Dar es Salaam recently.

By Smart Money Reporter

TEMBOCard Visa holders who use their cards to pay for goods and services plus other transactions will now qualify for a paid up trip to witness the world class 17th edition of Sauti za Busara music and culture festival which starts in Zanzibar mid this month.

CRDB management signed a sponsorship deal worth 20m/- to back the annual festival which has attracted tourists from all over the world. Speaking in Dar es Salaam this week, CRDB Bank's Head of Card Business, Farid Seif paid tribute to Busara festival for playing a big role in promoting tourism in Zanzibar and boosting financial transactions.

"We are very pleased to be part of the Busara festivals 2020; this is a great stage for promoting local tourism and boosting economic activities in the Isles.

Over the years, the festivals have been instrumental in creating employment opportunities, increase business transactions and boosting the hospitality indus-

try," Seif said.

He also enlightened the fact that the bank will use the platform to push the ongoing card usage campaign named 'Chanja/scan, lipa, sepa.' "We will use the platform to push for cashless means of payments and card usage. I am pleased to inform all the festival goers that they no longer need to carry large amounts of cash, as they can do all their transactions using CRDB Bank's point of sale terminals everywhere in town," the Head of Card Business noted.

Seif also said that as a part of the ongoing 'Chanja/scan, lipa, sepa' campaign, the bank will offer customers the fully paid trip to attend Busara festival.

"We have five chances for our cus-

tomers, all they have to do is visit our social media pages and participate in the campaign," he added.

This year Busara festival is under the theme 'Raise your voice, say no to sexual harassment' to change attitudes, promote dialogue, and encourage respect for women by raising awareness about sexual harassment. The festival is expected to attract 7,000 local and international foreigners and employ 500 artists and 300 crew members.

CRDB offers a comprehensive range of corporate, retail, business, Treasury, premier and wholesale microfinance services through a network of 238 branches, 552 ATMs, 21 mobile branches, more than 10,000 agents, 1,184 point of sales and scores of microfinance partners institutions.

Minister Jafo lauds bank for backing government development efforts

By Smart Money Reporter, Dodoma

COMMERCIAL banks and other private companies have been challenged to emulate NMB Bank Plc's efforts to back state investments in social services such as education and health.

Minister of State in the President's Office responsible for Local Governments and Regional Administration, Selemani Jafo said last week while presenting achievements made by the Fifth Phase Government in the past four years that hundreds of new schools, district hospitals and health centres have been constructed.

"During the past four year the government completed construction of 97 health centres while many more were rehabilitated during the four years," Jafo said while praising NMB's management for backing such efforts by the state.

He also said hundreds of new schools have been constructed and renovated to improve the quality of the learning environment which has boosted morale among students and pupils who have performed well in their national examinations.

"I thank NMB Bank for working closely with us in by making donations to education and health sectors," he added while requesting the Dar es Salaam based lender to stay the course and invest more this year.

NMB allocate at least a percent of its net profits annually to invest in education, health and disaster relief assistance



Minister of State in the President's Office responsible for Regional Administration and Local Government, Selemani Jafo.

as an official policy of the bank. Last year, the bank posted 148bn/- profit which means that over 1bn/- will be available this year.

The bank's Head of Government Business, Vicky Bishubo pledged continued support to state efforts to improve education and health this year. Bishubo said, "NMB is the people's bank hence

we back government efforts in all corners of the country."

She urged the public to also continue supporting the bank by opening accounts as it is investing in more physical branches and digital platforms aimed at advancing financial inclusion as directed by the state.

"We will continue to invest in

physical branches countrywide and also install ATM machines so that we ensure that banking services are extended to everyone in the country," Bishubo promised while stressing that the President's Office remains a key partner of the lender as most district and regional employees bank largely with NMB.

Industrialists seek special fund for VAT refunds

NAIROBI

INDUSTRIALISTS are lobbying the Treasury to create a fund in the year beginning July 1 for timely payment of tax refunds to ease their perennial cash flow challenges.

The Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM), in its 2020/21 budget push wants changes to the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act to compel the Treasury and National Assembly allocate billions of shillings monthly to the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) to clear value-added tax (VAT) refund claims.

Mr Job Wanjohi, the lobby's head of policy and research, said KAM was looking at a monthly allocation of around Sh5.5 billion to clear backlog arising from zero-rated supplies every month. Manufacturers, he said, are currently owed about Sh27 billion in accumulated VAT refunds, a figure which mirrors Sh26.2 billion given by the KRA last September.

"We want to see this coming down to zero so that we can increase liquidity in the economy," Mr Wanjohi said during pre-budget hearings organised by the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) in Nairobi. "We need the creation of a special fund for the VAT refunds to be processed expeditiously. We are looking at an initial Sh5.5 billion per month which we think will be sufficient to clear outstanding VAT refunds."

The taxman has over the years struggled to pay VAT claims, largely due to inadequate cash provided by the Treasury and lengthy verification process. The mounting arrears, manufacturers have said in the past, have forced some of them to put on hold investment and expansion plans, hitting creation of jobs for growing unemployed skilled youth.

The KRA said it processed 1,136 claims worth Sh5.6 billion between July and September 2019, leaving a backlog of Sh26.2 billion at the time. The taxman has backed a separate system – dubbed Green Channel – for processing claims for firms operating in sectors and dealing in products with low risk of fraud to help expedite payments.

This initially targets companies in milling, horticultural and tea sectors whose claims will be processed and expressly paid through the new window. "Introduction of a green channel allows for express payment of refunds once lodged by taxpayers. This approach will favour taxpayers that are consistently tax compliant," Commissioner for Domestic Taxes Elizabeth Meyo said in a statement.

"(We have also established) a dedicated unit to undertake data correction and ledger update." The National Treasury in June formed a team to "quickly validate" the outstanding refunds which the then minister Henry Rotich acknowledged had hurt cash flow and liquidity of businesses, especially manufacturers in export business.

The pending bills related to VAT zero-rated supplies were to be settled in two months, according to the budget statement on June 13. Treasury statistics showed in December that only Sh14.99 billion, or 28.19 percent, of the Sh58.18 billion pending bills accruing to State ministries, departments and agencies at the end of the financial year ended June 2019 were validated, with the remainder either contested, still under verification or historical.



Workers load cartons of suspected counterfeit Lato milk in Kisumu on January 17. (File photo)

Uganda resists trade war push with Kenya over impounded milk

KAMPALA

UGANDA will not take retaliatory action on Kenya's move to confiscate and send back a consignment of milk that had been exported to the country.

President Yoweri Museveni said over the weekend that Uganda was not going to hit back at Kenya's move, bringing to an end fears that Kampala would escalate the issue to a trade war with restrictions on Kenyan goods.

Mr Museveni opposed the plans by his Foreign Affairs minister and other Ugandan State officials to impose barriers on Kenyan exports after Kenya Bureau of Standards and Kenya Revenue Authority nabbed 19 truckloads of Lato milk mid last month. Uganda's Foreign Affairs ministry wrote to the Kenya government last week demanding the release of the milk to avoid possible retaliation.

Kampala had sent a protest note to Nairobi demanding the immediate release of the consignments seized by Kenyan officials on alleged quality concerns. "I saw people say retaliate; I will not accept because President Kenyatta is a very friendly person, very clear-headed on business because he is a businessman himself. He's also very clear-headed on African issues," Mr Museveni was quoted saying by the Daily Monitor newspaper.

Mr Museveni pointed out that the countries in the region should do away with trade restrictions as it impacts negatively on integration. Kenya and Uganda have been locked on a trade tussle over cross-border business touching on a number of goods. The latest spat resulted from an influx of cheap Ugandan milk in the country that has seen farmers and Parliament raise concern over the negative impact that it has had on local prices.

Uganda is Kenya's biggest trading partner in the region. Kenya's imports from Uganda more than doubled between 2016 and 2017 from Sh19.28 billion in 2016 to Sh42.04 billion 2017. As at 2018, imports from Uganda to Kenya stood at Sh41.94 billion. Exports to Uganda from Kenya on the other hand dropped from Sh62.16 billion in 2016 to Sh61.88 billion in 2018.

CTI chief confident of sustained growth in 2020 thanks to Magufuli's reforms



Confederation of Tanzania Industries Chairman, Shubash Patel

CONFEDERATION of Tanzania Industries Chairman, Shubash Patel says the manufacturing sector will sustain its growth path in 2020 thanks to President John Magufuli's reforms and investment in major infrastructure projects. Patel spoke to Smart Money Reporter last week on the topic and other related issues, excerpts:

How do you describe the state of affairs in the manufacturing sector?

For many years now, GDP growth has shown that the manufacturing sector has sustained growth since 2017 and it has been one of the sectors with significant growth only beaten by the transport sector. The major reasons for this growth include government's good reforms to encourage private sector investments but also presence of space for industries to grow in the economy.

Official data shows that the manufacturing sector is the fastest growing in the economy, do you agree to this and why?

As I have said there are a number of reasons such as President Magufuli's focus on industrialization which has led to government's introduction of its development blue print which is an import document to encourage private investment. This is the only president since independence who has come out openly to champion industrialization which is very good for us. The government's blue print will ease the cost of doing business in the country. Our request as CTI is for the blue print to start implementation soon because it will bring major reforms including speeding up of cargo clearance at the port.

Why are you concerned about cargo clearance?

Because CTI members are manufacturers who import some of their raw materials hence need an efficient process of clearing them so that industrial production can go on smoothly. There have been reports that Tasac (Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation) will be responsible to clear all sensitive goods at the port including raw materials which is a bit worrying to us because Tasac is very new with very limited experience and capacity to handle all raw materials imported by CTI members through the port. In case of delays and inefficiency Tasac is protected by the law so manufacturers cannot do anything in case of delayed cargo clearance which attracts storage charges at the port.

Have you raised the matter with authorities?

Yes we as CTI have already written an official letter to Treasury showing our concerns and requesting that cargo clearance at the port which includes raw materials for industries should not be monopolised by any institution or company.

How do you describe the local and regional markets for manufactured goods?

The market is there although we are still facing a challenge of imported counterfeits involving almost all types of goods which is not good for competition especially to local industries which face high production costs. We appreciate that the government is taking measures against counterfeits although the problem remains big. For example, last year we imported over 40,000 metric tons of coloured iron sheets from China for our small market compared to Kenya which imported only 19,000 tons. As CTI we raised the matter with the government because our members such as ALAF are failing to compete with these imports which are mostly smuggled into the market.

What about the regional market in East Africa?

Our share of the regional market has also been increasing annually for the past three years but non-tariff barriers are still there which we need to urgently address if we are to make progress on Africa's free trade area opportunities, otherwise this will remain on papers. We also need to address high production costs which are making our industrial goods less competitive. As CTI we appreciate measures being taken by President Magufuli's government in investing in big power projects like Stiegler's Gorge in Rufiji which will help reduce costs of power locally.

What do you make of President Magufuli's position to fire his lieutenants who frustrate private sector investments in the economy, have you utilised this opportunity?

It is very good that the president has strongly spoken against bureaucracy in government and that now we are seeing action being taken to address some of these issues like numerous regulatory bodies most of which perform similar roles. We have seen the government merging some of these regulatory authorities which is very good to businesses as it reduces the cost of doing business and encourages start-ups as capital requirement is low.

Have you ever contacted Ikulu to seek help for any challenges you face with bureaucrats?

Unfortunately we have never reached that stage, most of our concerns are addressed by Tanzania Investment Centre at Prime Minister's Office so no need to seek State House intervention.

So we are on the right path towards becoming a semi industrialised middle income economy by 2025?

As I have said, we are still facing challenges such as power costs and other utilities which increase the cost of industrial production. But we also need heavy investments in human capital to help provide skills and expertise in industries and the entire economy because currently CTI members see a significant gap in existence.

Productivity loss due to ill-health

CORPORATE WELLNESS

By Bhakti Shah,

In ongoing business operations, maintaining appropriate levels of production is a managerial challenge. The loss of productivity due to illness is a constant concern for employers and employees alike. Workers suffer not only the consequences of the illness, but often, lost wages and loss of leisure and family time. Employers must deal with reduction in production output and finding the balance in proper personnel management.

Cost to Employers

Various studies have been conducted to measure productivity loss in the workplace due to worker illness, and the results show that not only does the business suffer when an employee is absent from job site, but productivity loss can also occur when an employee is suffering from illness and attempting to work. The costs of hiring and training replacements can be a significant expense to employers that is often difficult to measure across the broad areas of industry. Furthermore, employees without available sick days are less likely to take time off from work, thus remaining at job at a reduced level of performance.

Economic Impact

Last week, the World Health Organization - Brazzaville: Regional Office for Africa released a report titled "A Heavy Burden: the Indirect Cost of Illness in Africa, 2019". The report attempts to address the gaps between ill-health and expected outcomes. According to this report,

- 37% of productivity losses in Africa are due to NCDs;
- 27% are due to infectious diseases;
- Remaining 36% are due to neglected Tropical Diseases, road traffic injuries and maternal conditions;

- NCDs are the largest cause of productivity losses and accounted for about 47% of the productivity costs accrued in East African community whereas HIV/AIDS accounted for 13%;
- The total DALYs (Number of years lost due to disability, ill-health of early death) accrued in the East African Community in 2015 led to a productivity cost of International \$ 204 Billion, which is equivalent to 49% of the Region's 2015 GDP

Five countries Congo, Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Africa and Tanzania, accounted for almost 50% of the total DALYs (Number of Years lost due to disability, ill-health or early death) in Africa. Furthermore, the economically productive age group - 15-59 years bore the brunt of ill health and mortality - about 39%.

Link between Health and Productivity at Workplaces

According to Rand Corporation report titled "Health, Wellbeing and productivity in the Workplace", the following factors are negatively associated with productivity:

- Lack of sleep, financial concerns and providing care for family;
- Mental health problems
- Musculoskeletal and chronic health conditions

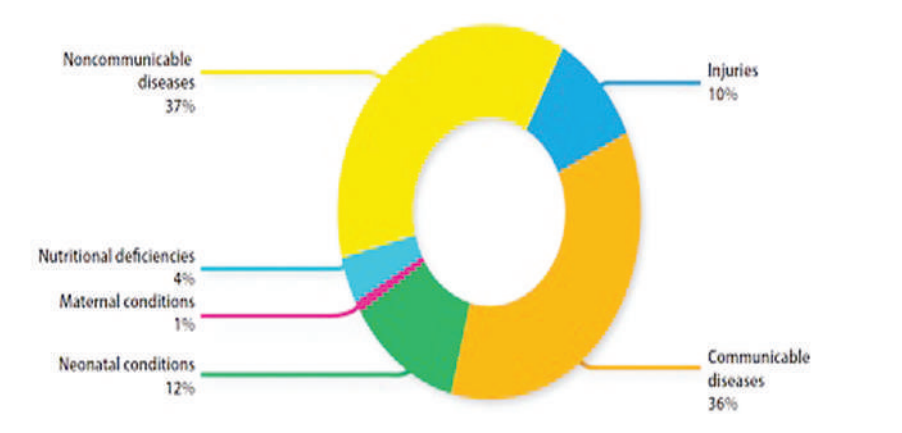
Their findings suggest that companies which pay attention to health and well-being at a board level report lower rates of absenteeism and presenteeism. There is an increasing acceptance that work productivity and performance are strongly linked with employee health and well-being. There is a strong business case for investing in staff health and wellbeing. The simple logic is that investment in health and wellbeing can save a company more in terms of lost productivity.

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

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

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VIEW FROM THE TOP



Soap wars: Securex isn't copying Protex, SA's ad regulator rules

JOHANNESBURG

SECUREX soap is not imitating Protex soap, at least not in such a fashion that it concerns the Advertising Regulatory Board (ARB), according to the latest ruling from that regulator in a bitter war between soap makers in South Africa.

On Monday the ARB published its finding in a complaint by the maker of Protex that the decade-younger Securex was copying its packaging's look-and-feel. If it had something to complain about, then Protex should have been complaining earlier, the ARB said.

But that is not the only complaint the ARB has recently faced between soap makers. Here is how the soap wars have been playing out in recent months. Protex vs Securex are fighting about packaging.

In the latest battle, Colgate-Palmolive complained its competitor, Bliss Brands, was ripping off its Protex brand. Protex has been sold in South Africa for nearly two decades, and Colgate-Palmolive says it commands nearly a third of the market.

Thanks to a remarkable similarity between Protex and Bliss' Securex, Colgate-Palmolive told the ARB, "a hurried consumer would no

doubt grab the wrong product off the shelf, or at the very least believe the two products to be from the same stable or somehow related," according to a summary of its complaint.

But the packaging for Securex has simply evolved since its 2011 launch, Bliss shot back - and Colgate-Palmolive was effectively seeking a "monopoly over commonly used and reasonably required packaging elements and the combination thereof."

The advertising regulator agreed with neither. Instead it looked closely at only recent changes to the packaging for Securex rather than how it now compares with Protex on shelves - and sent Colgate-Palmolive packing.

The elements that Colgate-Palmolive wants protected "should have been raised many years ago", the ARB ruled, and it would be against the spirit of its code of conduct "to allow a complaint of this sort after a competitor has participated in the market for 9 years, establishing its own brand goodwill in the process." The decision is still within the window for appeal.

Meanwhile, Lifebuoy and Dettol battle over an "extra" 25 grams...

The ARB also this month ruled against Unilever South Africa, makers of Lifebuoy

soap, in a complaint against its competitor Reckitt Benckiser Pharmaceuticals, the makers of Dettol. Unilever wanted "shelf wobblers" - small moving signs attached to retail shelves - banned for claiming that Dettol soap bars now come with "25g extra."

In reality, the Lifebuoy company said, Dettol had just introduced a bigger, more expensive bar of soap; where previously stores sold 150g Dettol bars for R11.46 each, retailers were now selling 175g bars for R12.99. (On a per-gram basis, that would equate to five free grams, with the other 20g paid for, by Business Insider South Africa's calculations.)

In response, the makers of Dettol said Unilever was acting "out of spite" because it had lost an earlier fight about the "25% extra" that Lifebuoy is advertising. "There is simply nothing misleading about claiming that a 175g bar of soap contains 25g more soap than a 150g bar," the ARB said in summarising Dettol's argument.

The regulator didn't quite agree. Consumers may see the ad that way, the ARB said - or they could believe that "extra" means "extra value," in which case Dettol would be required to make sure they get extra value.

Competition law effectively forbids Dettol

from forcing retailers to sell the new, bigger bar for the same price as they sold the old, smaller bars. But while the retail markup is out of their control, the makers of Dettol are going as far as they can by selling the new, bigger bar to wholesalers and retailers for the same price it used to charge for the old, smaller bars, the ARB found.

"It would therefore appear that, in so far as it is legally able, the Advertiser has endeavoured to ensure that consumers not only enjoy "25g extra" soap; but that they also get "25g extra" value by keeping their own pricing the same for both bars. This is as far as they are legally currently able to go to ensure the value is passed on to the consumer," the regulator ruled. ...after Lifebuoy lost a nasty fight about 25 grams of "extra value" to Dettol.

Just before Christmas, Lifebuoy maker Unilever lost an appeal against a decision on a slightly different matter - this time that Lifebuoy's new, bigger soaps offer "25g extra value." Dettol manufacturer Reckitt Benckiser had lodged a broader set of complaints about Lifebuoy, including its claim that the "active silver" in the soap kills 10 infection-causing germs. The ARB was happy it had enough evidence that Lifebuoy does indeed kill germs

- but was not happy about the claim of "extra value," which seemed aimed at Dettol. Dettol had replaced its 150g soap bars with new 175g bars, which were selling at roughly the same price. Lifebuoy had always been sold in 175g bars. Told they were getting "25g extra value", consumers would now "understand that the price of the Lifebuoy 175g is either the same or lower than a Lifebuoy 150g bar, or the same or lower than its competitors' 150g bars," the regulator said in its ruling.

But because there had never been a 150g Lifebuoy bar, the "extra value" could only be in relation to competitor soaps, as Lifebuoy claimed in fine print. Using external data, Lifebuoy proved to be cheaper than one leading competitor - Dettol - but its manufacturer had not show it to be cheaper than its other big competitor, Protex. On that basis the ARB ruled it had to withdraw the "25g extra value" claim.

Unilever appealed, but did not turn up for an appeal hearing that led to a judgment containing a different calculation on just how much Dettol and Lifebuoy actually cost, and an ultimate ruling by the Advertising Appeals Committee that the Lifebuoy claim was "ambiguous, inaccurate and exaggerated."

WORLD

China builds new hospital in 10 days to combat coronavirus

WUHAN

CHINA has built a makeshift hospital in 10 days to battle against the novel strain of coronavirus in Wuhan, the epicenter of the virus outbreak in central China's Hubei Province.

Huoshenshan (Fire God Mountain) Hospital was delivered Sunday in Wuhan. It is dedicated to treating patients infected with the virus.

A total of 1,400 medical staff from the armed forces are tasked with treating patients in Huoshenshan Hospital starting from Monday. The medics consist of 950 people from hospitals affiliated to the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Joint Logistic Support Force, and 450 from medical universities of the army, navy and air force of the PLA who were sent to Wuhan earlier.

Replicating Beijing's SARS treatment model in 2003, Wuhan started building two makeshift hospitals: Leishenshan (Thunder God Mountain) and Huoshenshan. On Jan. 23, workers broke ground on Huoshenshan Hospital, with a capacity of 1,000 beds.

"MISSION IMPOSSIBLE" MADE POSSIBLE

Chinese health authorities Sunday

said it received reports of 2,590 new confirmed cases of novel coronavirus infection and 45 deaths on Saturday from 31 provincial-level regions and the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps. All the deaths are in Hubei Province, according to China's National Health Commission.

As China feels the pinch of the outbreak, authorities have decided to replicate Xiaotangshan Hospital, a temporary medical center in the northern suburb of Beijing built in 2003. Beijing built Xiaotangshan Hospital in just a week in the treatment and control of SARS, or Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

When Fang Xiang knew he and his team had to finish the hospital in Wuhan in 10 days, he thought it was "mission impossible."

"For a project of this scale, it usually takes at least two years," said Fang, project manager of the Third Construction Co. Ltd of China Construction Third Engineering Bureau. "It takes at least a month to construct a temporary building, not to mention a new hospital for infectious diseases."

In addition, with a big number of migrant workers partaking, it is difficult to provide adequate food and shelter on-site, according to a staff member of



Photo taken on Sunday shows the interior view of a ward of Huoshenshan Hospital in Wuhan, the epicenter of the virus outbreak in central China's Hubei Province. (Xinhua)

Wuhan Urban and Rural Construction Bureau.

But the "mission impossible" had to be implemented under severe circumstances.

From Jan. 23 to Feb. 1, Wuhan's confirmed cases of infection rose from 495 to a staggering 4,109. This has put huge pressure on local medical facilities, which failed to supply enough beds. A good many patients had to stay home for quarantine and treatment. If not handled properly, the epidemic could exacerbate.

Located in a sanatorium near Zhiyin Lake in southwestern Wuhan, the hospital is far away from downtown areas where people converge. The area has sufficient transportation and pipeline systems, and existing dining halls and dormitories are ready to provide services.

Authorities spent five hours on the designing plan and created a designing draft within 24 hours. Three companies received an order to build the "Fire God Mountain" under the Third Construction Co., Ltd. of China Construction Third Engineering Bureau.

"I have never participated in such an urgent task, and I have never seen so many companies involved in a single project," said Fang Xiang's colleague Shen Kai. "It is a tough job, but we need to give it our best shot."

Thousands of workers were operating more than 800 equipment simultaneously as they rushed against time to save lives. They vowed to fight against the virus and worked in shifts to complete the construction. Some people only slept for four hours a day, Shen said.

Ma Jiaqiang, 47, volunteered for the project

when he read about the recruitment ad for Huoshenshan Hospital on social media.

"I have been working in Wuhan. It is my home," Ma said. "I just had to take part."

Ma operated a digging machine for eight hours a day at the construction site.

"I feel honored to be able to part of this," Ma said.

CHEER UP CHINA!

After the hospital work began, the Chinese public went out of their way to supervise the construction of Huoshenshan.

China's state broadcaster has been live-streaming the around-the-clock construction progress, which instantly went viral online. With no narration or background music, the livestream videos provide audiences a real-time bird's-eye view of the construction site.

Calling themselves "online supervisors," Chinese citizens have been keeping a close eye on the projects and exchanging their ideas and feelings in the comment section. They cheered when the hospital was delivered.

"Cheer up, China! I believe we can curb the epidemic," read a typical online comment.

"Salute to the workers working around the clock," read another comment.

The project is bringing hope to patients like Zhang Yue, a Wuhan resident, who has been suffering from fever for days.

"It feels like seeing the sunlight shining through the dark clouds," Zhang said.

Xinhua

Kremlin does not consider Pompeo's visit to Minsk 'ultra-rapid convergence'

MOSCOW

MOSCOW does not consider the US and Belarus rapidly becoming closer, the Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said, commenting on the recent visit by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to Minsk, where he held talks with Belarusian president Alexander Lukashenko.

"We hardly can talk about ultra-rapid convergence here," Peskov said.

He refused to provide further comments on the specific details of the negotiations.

"We cannot and we do not want to comment our partners' contacts with third countries; this is a totally sovereign right, implementation of their sovereign relations," Peskov said.

The Kremlin spokesman added that Moscow and Minsk has relations of their own, which have a "friendly, very close nature."

"There is a lot of questions on



agenda on how to develop our relations, including some problematic moments, which are in the talks right now," the spokesman said.

On Saturday, US Secretary of State visited Minsk. This is the first visit of a US administration representative of such level for the last 25 years. During his visit, Pompeo negotiated with President Lukashenko and the Foreign Minister Vladimir Makey.

In particular, Pompeo said that

the US are ready to provide Belarus with energy resources for a competitive price. Foreign Minister Makey said Minsk would like to see the US business come to the country.

Speaking on the political cooperation, the Belarusian foreign minister said that Minsk is ready to organize any meeting and negotiation format, including one with the US participation, to settle the Ukrainian conflict.

Agencies

UNSC to meet over Trump's controversial Mideast plan

UNITED NATIONS

THE United Nations Security Council is scheduled to meet in the week of Feb 10 to discuss the US-proposed Middle East peace plan, diplomatic sources said on Sunday.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas (pictured) and Israel's ambassador to the United Nations Danny Danon will attend the meeting, the sources said, adding that the Palestinian delegation is preparing a resolution that would condemn the controversial plan, though the resolution will likely be vetoed by the United States.

Danon is currently meeting with his counterparts on the Security Council to enlist their support for the joint US-Israeli action and "to prevent support for any Palestinian declarations of protest," according to a press note issued Saturday by the Israeli UN mission.

On Jan 28, US President Donald Trump revealed his controversial Middle East peace plan, also known as the "Deal of the Century," calling for a two-state solution while recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's "undivided capital."

The US president outlined the 80-page plan at the White House



along with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, saying that it proposes a "realistic" two-state solution.

A UN spokesman said Tuesday that the position of the United Na-

tions on the two-state solution of Israel and Palestine has been defined, throughout the years, by relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

He added the United Nations remains committed to supporting Palestinians and Israelis to resolve their conflict on the basis of United Nations resolutions, international law and bilateral agreements, to realize the vision of two states living side by side in peace and security within recognized borders on the basis of the pre-1967 lines.

Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations Riyad

Mansour on Wednesday said that Trump's plan "will fail."

"We believe that the Trump plan, (or) the Trump-(Benjamin) Netanyahu plan, which is an attempt to destroy the national rights of the Palestinian people, will fail," Mansour told reporters at the UN headquarters in New York.

In an emergency meeting at the Arab League (AL) headquarters in Cairo on Saturday, Arab foreign ministers unanimously agreed to boycott the US plan and not to cooperate "in any way" with Washington in its implementation.

Xinhua

Democratic White House contenders face first test in Iowa

DES MOINES, Iowa

IOWA Democrats kick off what could be a bruising nominating process when they gather at caucus sites around the state on Monday to begin choosing a challenger to President Donald Trump.

At more than 1,600 schools, community centers and other public locations, voters will render judgment on a field of 11 Democratic contenders led by front-runners Senator Bernie Sanders and former Vice President Joe Biden, who have battled for the top in recent Iowa polls.

Mostly white, rural Iowa is the first test in the state-by-state battle to

pick a Democratic nominee to face Trump in the Nov. 3 presidential election. After more than a year of campaigning and more than \$800 million in spending, the results in Iowa could begin to provide answers for a party desperately trying to figure out how to beat the Republican president.

Do voters want someone with appeal to centrists, independents and disaffected Republicans, like moderates Biden, Pete Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, and Senator Amy Klobuchar? Or should the party choose a candidate who energizes its liberal base and could bring out new voters, like pro-

gressives Sanders and fellow Senator Elizabeth Warren?

The race has been overshadowed in recent weeks, with Sanders, Warren and Klobuchar relegated to part-time campaigning in Iowa as they stayed in Washington for the Senate impeachment trial of Trump. They were to hear closing arguments on Monday, just hours before the caucuses.

Even if one candidate wins by a commanding margin in Iowa, Democrats may still lack clear answers as the race moves on to the other three early-voting states of New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina later in February. And whoever re-

mains in the race by Super Tuesday, when 15 states and territories vote on March 3, will also confront billionaire former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who is skipping the early states in favor of focusing on delegate-rich states.

Sanders, who finished in a virtual dead heat with Hillary Clinton in Iowa during his first presidential run in 2016, surged recently in many Iowa polls to move just ahead of Biden.

But Warren and Buttigieg remain in striking distance. Many polls show a big bloc of undecided Iowa voters, creating the potential for upsets and late surges.

RECORD TURNOUT

Iowa state party officials are expecting a record turnout, exceeding the nearly 240,000 voters who attended the caucuses in 2008 amid the excitement over Barack Obama's first candidacy.

The caucuses will begin on Monday at 7 p.m. CST (0100 GMT on Tuesday), and results are expected to begin rolling in within a few hours. Because voters may register as late as Monday, the caucuses could draw a late surge of attendance, particularly among independent voters or Republicans turned off by Trump.

During a final weekend of rallies across the state, all the contenders

made their case for why they would be the best choice to beat Trump.

Biden touted his experience after decades in elected office, particularly a track record of achieving progressive goals through bipartisan relationships with lawmakers.

"He is scared to death to run against me, and he has good reason to be concerned," Biden said of Trump during a rally in Muscatine, Iowa.

Sanders has shrugged off a barrage of attacks from rivals who warn the self-identified democratic socialist would doom the party to defeat against Trump, pointing to polls that show him beating the president.

Agencies

Central government offers favourable policies, funds to fight epidemic

BEIJING

SEVERAL departments of China's central government have rolled out favorable policies or provided funds for local governments and individuals to fight the new coronavirus, an official with the National Health Commission (NHC) said yesterday.

Patients confirmed to be infected with the virus will receive subsidies from the central and local governments for medical expenditures that are not covered by insurance or medical aid, said Li Bin, deputy director of the NHC, at a press conference.

Medical workers and other personnel involved in preventing and controlling the virus will also be subsidized and those who become infected with the virus on duty will be compensated, Li said.

The central government will also provide necessary help for local governments to purchase medical equipment and testing kits to battle the epidemic.

The Ministry of Finance has earmarked a total of 5.4 billion yuan (US\$ about 769.8 million) to support local governments across the country to prevent and control the epidemic, including 1.5 billion yuan to Hubei Province, the center of the battle, Li said.

The National Development and Reform Commission has also invested 300 million yuan from the central budget to support the construction of a new hospital in Wuhan, capital of Hubei, which is designated to treat patients infected with the new virus, he said.

Xinhua

Official: Coronavirus impact on Chinese economy to be limited

BEIJING

THE novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) epidemic will only have a temporary impact on China's economy, and the country's good economic fundamentals for long-term growth remain unchanged, an official said yesterday.

"We are fully confident in and capable of minimizing the epidemic's impact on economy," said Lian Weiliang, deputy chief of the National Development and Reform Commission, at a press conference in Beijing.

While the epidemic put a damper on industries like transport and tourism, fast growth has been registered in burgeoning sectors such as online shopping, food and entertainment businesses, he said.

Noting that some people compared the coronavirus outbreak with the 2003 SARS epidemic and made economic loss projections based on the SARS damage, Lian said: "China's current economic strength, resources and abilities to deal with emergencies have been significantly strengthened since that time, and we are fully confident in and capable of winning the battle against the epidemic."

Chinese health authorities on Monday said it received reports of 2,829 new confirmed cases and 57 deaths on Sunday from 31 provincial-level regions and the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps.

By the end of Sunday, the overall confirmed cases on the Chinese mainland had reached 17,205, according to the National Health Commission.

Though the epidemic posed direct harm on the service, manufacturing and trade sectors, the resilience of China's economy cannot be underestimated, according to a report released Saturday by the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies.

The potential impact of the epidemic can be different from all the previous epidemics and other incidents, and it is imprudent to judge the economic impact of the epidemic by historical experience, according to the report.

"Even in the short term, the epidemic has not caused a negative effect on all the sectors but has benefited industries such as electronic commerce and online games and entertainment," reads the report.

Xinhua

Chinese health authorities on Monday said it received reports of 2,829 new confirmed cases and 57 deaths on Sunday



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

Arab rejection eliminates chances for implementation of US peace plan - experts

CAIRO

THE rejection of Arab states of the recently-proposed U.S. peace plan to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict eliminates chances for the plan's implementation, said Palestinian and Egyptian experts.

In an emergency meeting at the Arab League (AL) headquarters in Cairo on Saturday, Arab foreign ministers unanimously agreed to boycott the U.S. plan, also known as the "Deal of the Century," and not to cooperate "in any way" with Washington in its implementation.

The final statement of the Arab meeting described as "unfair" the peace deal, announced on Jan. 28 by U.S. President Donald Trump, in the presence of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"The U.S. deal was born dead, as it does not respond to the minimum aspirations of the Palestinian people in the establishment of their independent state based on the pre-1967 borders," said Barakat al-Farra, former Palestinian ambassador to Cairo and former Palestinian representative at the AL.

Al-Farra stressed that the Arab consensus on rejecting the U.S. deal "eliminates any chance for its success," adding that the deal violates international legitimacy resolutions and it leads to neither peace nor stability in the Middle East region.

"Arabs opposed the deal for objective reasons, especially that it represents a U.S.-Israeli plan to take the issue away from the UNSC (United Nations Security Council)," the Palestinian ex-diplomat told Xinhua, describing the deal as "biased to Israel."

Al-Farra said that if Israel implements the deal unilaterally, it will be an illegitimate act without legal basis and so it will be rejected by the UN.

Mokhtar Ghobashi, deputy chairman of the Cairo-based Arab Center for Political and Strategic Studies, said that the Arab rejection of the U.S. deal is not enough unless it involves mechanisms to pressure the United States and Israel to give it up.

"The Israeli side has the green light from Washington to implement the deal and Trump has told the Palestinians that they have four years to study it," said the Egyptian political expert.

He added that relying on UN resolutions is insufficient because they have been disregarded when the United States relocated its embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

During the AL meeting on Saturday, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said that the U.S. deal is "completely rejected once they announced annexing Jerusalem to Israel," vowing to cut ties with Israel and the United States over

the deal.

The United States, Israel's main backer, officially recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital in late 2017 and relocated the U.S. embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to the holy city in May 2018.

While Jerusalem is to be Israel's "undivided capital," the Palestinian capital will include areas on the outskirts of East Jerusalem, according to the U.S. vision on the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

Tarek Fahmy, a political science professor at Cairo University, emphasized that "the U.S. deal shows persistence on legalizing Israeli settlement construction on Palestinian occupied territories, which is the most dangerous thing that could happen."

Along with Trump and Netanyahu, diplomats from the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Oman attended the announcement of the U.S. deal at the White House in late January.

"Washington tries to cause and invest a kind of division in the Arab world while luring some regional and international parties to support the deal," the political science professor told Xinhua.

Fahmy described the Arab rejection of the U.S. Mideast peace plan as "a good stance" that shows a united Arab position in support of the Palestinian cause.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict erupted following the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories and the Western-backed creation of Israel in 1948.

"The Palestinian plan to raise the issue at the UN and other organizations such as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the African Union is a good thing but it needs further practical mechanisms," Fahmy said.

He predicted that Trump's administration would attempt to ruin the Palestinian efforts and use the veto right against any future UN resolution in favor of the Palestinians.

The plan states that "the State of Palestine shall be fully demilitarized and remains so" and it will have to give up 30 percent of the West Bank.

"It also says that the future state of Palestine will not have any land, sea or air outlets or sea and air sovereignty. The deal seeks a demilitarized Palestinian state that is part of Israel," said Samir Ghattas, head of Middle East Forum for Strategic Studies and member of the Egyptian parliament.

"The Palestinians still seek negotiations to reach a solution based on the international references and the Arab Peace Initiative endorsed by the Arab League in Beirut in 2002, and they don't want the United States to be the sole mediator of the peace process," Ghattas told Xinhua.

Xinhua

WHO advises public on novel coronavirus

BEIJING

THE World Health Organization (WHO) released information and advice recently to the public regarding the novel coronavirus epidemic, which has struck China, particularly its central Hubei province.

"Antibiotics do not work against viruses, only bacteria," the WHO said on its official website, noting that as the novel coronavirus is a virus, antibiotics are not effective in preventing or treating it.

However, if a patient is hospitalized for the virus, he may receive antibiot-

ics since "bacterial co-infection is possible," the organization added.

Up to now, there is no specific medicine for preventing or treating the virus, but some particular cures are being studied and will be tested in clinical trials, the WHO said, adding that it is working with partners to help accelerate related research and development work.

"People of all ages" can be infected with the novel coronavirus, and elder people and people with pre-existing medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes and heart disease are more susceptible, the WHO said.

With regard to whether companion

animals like dogs or cats can be infected with the virus, the WHO said, there is no evidence on it yet.

But the organization advised people to wash hands with soap and water after contacting pets, which can help protect them against "various common bacteria such as E.coli and Salmonella that can pass between pets and humans."

Chinese health authorities said on Monday that it received reports of 2,829 new confirmed cases of novel coronavirus infection and 57 deaths on Sunday from 31 provincial-level regions and the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps.

Xinhua

'Britain will prosper': PM Johnson sets out tough terms for EU talks

LONDON

PRIME Minister Boris Johnson will lay out his negotiating terms for talks with the European Union on Monday, saying Britain will prosper even if he cannot strike his preferred trade deal.

After marking Britain's departure from the EU at a party in his Downing Street residence on Friday, Johnson will use a speech to ram home his message that Brexit, for him, means that sovereignty trumps the economy.

The sides have until the end of the year, when a standstill transitional period expires, to try to secure a deal on trade and future relations - something London and Brussels both say they want to do, but on very different terms.

Trade talks will begin in March. After criticizing his predecessor Theresa May's approach in negotiating a divorce deal with the EU, Johnson is striking a much tougher tone, saying Britain will not adhere to the bloc's rules and regulations.

And he will say that, if the EU fails to grant a trade deal allowing for tariff and quota-free trade in goods, similar to the terms the bloc now has in place with Canada, Britain will pursue a much looser arrangement, like one Australia has.

"There is no need for a free trade agreement to involve accepting EU rules on competition policy, subsidies, social protection, the environment, or anything similar, any more than the EU should be obliged to accept UK rules," Johnson will say, according to excerpts of his speech distributed by his office.

Promising to maintain "the highest standards", Johnson will suggest the EU has already offered a free trade deal along the lines of the one it has with Canada, which does not have to follow the bloc's rules.

"We have made our choice: we want a free trade agreement, similar to Canada's, but in the very unlikely event that we do not succeed, then our trade will have to be based on our existing With-



Prime Minister Boris Johnson

drawal Agreement with the EU," he will tell businesses, think tanks and ambassadors.

"The choice is emphatically not 'deal or no-deal'. The question is whether we agree a trading relationship with the EU comparable to Canada's - or more like Australia's."

'LEVEL PLAYING FIELD'

At the moment, much of EU-Australia trade runs along basic World Trade Organization rules, though there are specific agreements for certain goods. Australia is in the process of negotiating a trade deal with the EU, however.

One British source who declined to be named has said UK negotiators are furious because they believe the EU, Britain's biggest trading partner, is going back on the divorce deal by suggesting that London would have to adhere to the bloc's rules to secure a free trade agreement.

On Sunday, Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar and French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian repeated their fears that Britain could undercut the EU by failing to agree to what the bloc calls a "level playing field" - shorthand for shared rules on environmental standards, labor regulations and state aid.

The EU has repeatedly warned Brit-

ain that the level of access to its single market of 450 million people will depend on how far London agrees to adhere to such rules.

But Johnson, according to sources close to him, has taken last year's election, which handed him a large majority in parliament, as an endorsement of his policy of putting Britain's right to set its own rules above the demands of businesses.

Ministers have been briefing companies that they should adjust to such a future despite the appeals of many for the government to ensure goods can trade across borders freely.

More than three years after Britain voted to quit the bloc, Johnson, the face of the campaign to leave, wants to draw a line under an angry debate that has deepened divides across the country.

But he also wants to fulfill his pledge to "take back control" and, in his speech, will suggest that Britain would thrive either with a Canada-style deal or a looser arrangement.

"In either case, I have no doubt that Britain will prosper," Johnson will say. "And of course our new relationship with our closest neighbors will range far beyond trade."

Agencies

Adding reference to God in Russia's Constitution to be discussed - Kremlin

MOSCOW

ALL proposals on possible amendments to the Russian Constitution, including the one concerning a reference to God, will be considered by a working group that will eventually make a consolidated conclusion, Russian Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

"Discussions are underway within this commission [the working group on the development of con-



stitutional amendments], this is where they should be held.

The commission's members are diverse, express different views and put forward various proposals, so this one [concerning a reference to God] will also be discussed," the Kremlin spokesman said.

According to him, "the commission's job is to assess all the proposals and amendments and develop a consolidated view on whether they are relevant or not."

London police kill man after terror-related stabbings

LONDON

UK police officers shot and killed a man in south London who stabbed two people in a terrorism-related incident that the Metropolitan Police said was "Islamist-related."

Police said a third person received minor injuries probably caused by glass following the discharge of a police weapon. All three victims were taken to London hospitals, one with life-threatening injuries. Specialist officers established that a device strapped to the suspect's body was a hoax explosive.

Police officers were immediately on the scene in Streatham because of a "proactive Counter-Terrorism operation," Lucy D'Orsi, the Met's deputy assistant commissioner, said in a statement Sunday.

Sudesh Amman, the man shot dead by police on Sunday, had been jailed for promoting violent Islamist material and had encouraged his girlfriend to behead her parents.

In November 2018 he pleaded guilty to possession of terrorist documents and disseminating terrorist publications, and the following month he was sentenced to more than three years in prison.

When officers examined his computers and phone, they found he had downloaded material about making explosives and carrying out terrorist attacks, according to police.

Messages showed that he had discussed with his family, friends and girlfriend his extreme views and desire to carry out an attack, often focused on using a knife, police said.

In December 2017 Amman posted a picture of Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, who was killed during a US raid in Syria in October, and told his brother in a message that "the Islamic State is here to stay."

He also described Yazidi women as slaves and said the Koran made it permissible to rape them, and in another message he encouraged his girlfriend to behead her parents.

According to the Guardian newspaper, the attacker was under active surveillance and the subject of a live investigation.

"Terrorists seek to divide us and to destroy our way of life," Mayor of London Sadiq Khan said in a statement. "Here in London we will never let them succeed."

The attack is the latest in a series of terror-related incidents in the British capital. Two people were killed near London Bridge in November, and eight people died in another attack at the same location in 2017.

Before winning the UK's general election in December, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson said he wanted to toughen punishment for those convicted of terror or extremist offenses.

Agencies

After controversial trial, US Senate poised to acquit Trump

WASHINGTON

DONALD Trump was on the brink of ending the darkest chapter of his tumultuous presidency on Monday as the U.S. Senate began the final phase of his impeachment trial that will almost certainly conclude on Wednesday with his acquittal.

The 100 senators will hear four hours of closing arguments split equally between Trump's legal team and prosecutors from the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives, which charged him with abusing power by pressuring Ukraine to probe political rival Joe Biden, and then obstructing their inquiry.

The Republican-run Senate vot-

ed on Friday not to hear from witnesses including Trump's former national security adviser John Bolton, despite a strong push by Democrats and opinion polls showing most Americans wanted to hear from them.

When the arguments are complete, the senators will be able to make speeches until Wednesday when a final vote will be taken at 4 p.m. EST (2100 GMT) to determine whether Trump is guilty of the charges and should be removed from office.

The tenor of the speeches is expected to reflect the deepening polarization between Democrats and Republicans as senators seek to justify to the American public why they plan to vote yay or nay

for ousting Trump.

The Senate is almost certain to acquit the president, as a two-thirds majority is required to remove Trump and none of its 53 Republicans have indicated they will vote to convict.

Several Republican senators have said that what Trump did was inappropriate but not impeachable. The president says he is the victim of an unlawful Democratic effort to derail his campaign for re-election.

BRUISING BATTLE

During the trial, Trump's lawyers offered an expansive view of presidential powers as they argued that their client had wide latitude to conduct U.S. foreign



policy and that he could not be thrown out of office for abuse of power. They urged senators to let the people decide when they go to the polls in November.

Trump is only the third presi-

dent in U.S. history to be impeached and the first in an election year.

The vote on Wednesday is expected to be an anti-climactic end to a trial where the outcome was never seriously in doubt, despite testimony from former and current government officials that Trump, his personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, and others pressed Ukraine to announce investigations of opponents that would benefit him politically.

While all 100 senators took an oath to be impartial jurors, the top Republican in the chamber, Mitch McConnell, declared in December before the start of the trial, "We all know how it's going to end."

"There is no chance the president's going to be removed from office," McConnell said in an interview with Fox News.

While an acquittal will leave Trump still firmly entrenched in the Oval Office, the impeachment battle has renewed focus on the powers of the presidency and the power of Congress to hold a U.S. president accountable. Trump's White House refused to cooperate in the congressional inquiry, withholding documents and key witnesses in a bruising contest with lawmakers.

The confrontation has consumed Washington since last September, but has had far less impact on the campaign trail, where voters said they were more

concerned with bread-and-butter issues. Democratic candidates for their party's presidential nomination have rarely spoken about impeachment, amid polls showing voters had already mostly made up their minds about Trump's innocence or guilt.

Trump will deliver his annual State of the Union speech to a joint session of Congress on Tuesday night. Republicans had been pushing for a final vote on impeachment last weekend so that he could use the speech to reset his agenda. But late last Friday that timetable was upended for reasons that were not immediately clear, and the vote was pushed to Wednesday.

Agencies



Serbia's Novak Djokovic kisses the Norman Brookes Challenge Cup after defeating Austria's Dominic Thiem in the men's singles final of the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, early Monday, Feb. 3, 2020. (AP Photo)

Look out, Roger & Rafa; Nole keeps gaining on you

MELBOURNE, Australia

AS Novak Djokovic conducted yet another in a long string of interviews after earning his record eighth Australian Open championship, runner-up Dominic Thiem was sliding into the front passenger seat of a white tournament courtesy van.

It was past 1:30 a.m. local time, and Djokovic was toting his large silver winner's cup everywhere while explaining how he edged Thiem 6-4, 4-6, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 Sunday night for a 17th major title. Thiem, meanwhile, had just emerged from the locker room, his media obligations long finished.

Thiem was toting a much simpler runner-up tray in his left hand. Just another thing to lug home, along with his rackets, a mesh bag filled with shoes and plastic sleeve stuffed with sweaty clothes.

It is an all-too-familiar scene nowadays when a Grand Slam tournament wraps up: a member of the Big Three holding court and holding the biggest trophy; a younger man leaving the scene to plenty of praise but not the triumph he wanted. And, increasingly, the guy with the hardware that's the envy of all is Djokovic, more often than it is either of his rivals, Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

Which, of course, is the point right now. Roger and Rafa need to watch out, because the guy whose nickname is Nole is gaining on them. Djokovic has won five of the past seven major tournaments, a run that dates to Wimbledon in 2018.

So as the tour departs from Australia, Federer leads the men's list with 20 Slam trophies, one ahead of Nadal and, rather suddenly, just three more than Djokovic.

"Obviously, at this stage of my career, Grand Slams are the ones I value the most. They are the ones I prioritize," said Djokovic, who defeated Federer in the final at Wimbledon last year and the semifinals at the Australian Open this week. "Before the season starts, I try to set my form, shape, for these events, where I can be at my prime tennis, mental and physical abilities."

Then he added: "I mean, of course, there's a lot of history on the line."

Everyone can decide on their own what should determine who the greatest in tennis history is. Or not – and just appreciate all three of these tremendously successful athletes.

Consider this: Federer, Nadal and Djokovic have won the last 13 Grand Slam titles in a row. (Compare that with the women's game, where 11 women have divided up that many majors in that same span; the most recent first-time champ was 21-year-old American Sofia Kenin in Melbourne.)

Take it back to 2003, and the Big Three accounts for 56 of the last 67, too.

"These guys," said Thiem, who's now 0-3 in major finals, all against Djokovic or Nadal, "brought tennis to a complete new level."

Djokovic mentioned another category in which he is approaching a mark held by Federer: most weeks at No. 1 in the ATP rankings.

By winning the Australian Open, while 2019 runner-up Nadal bowed out to Thiem in the quarterfinals, Djokovic regained the top spot. Nadal slides down to No. 2, with Federer still No. 3, and Thiem up a place to No. 4.

Federer holds the men's record of 310 weeks atop the rankings, followed by Pete Sampras with 286, and Djokovic at 275.

"That's the other big goal," Djokovic said. "I put myself in this position that is really good at the moment. I'm super happy with the way I started the season. It kind of sets the tone for the rest of the year."

Consider that a warning.

Djokovic is the youngest member of the trio, still just 32, while Nadal is 33, Federer 38.

For all of their great success – no one has won the French Open more than Nadal, with 12; no one has won Wimbledon more than Federer, with eight; no one has won the Australian Open more than Djokovic – here's one tidbit that's fascinating: Each man has one major site where he has been limited to one title.

For Nadal, it's Melbourne Park. For Federer and Djokovic, it's Roland Garros.

Guess what the next stop is on the Grand Slam calendar?

AP

“

Obviously, at this stage of my career, Grand Slams are the ones I value the most. They are the ones I prioritize," said Djokovic, who defeated Federer in the final at Wimbledon last year and the semifinals at the Australian Open this week. "Before the season starts, I try to set my form, shape, for these events, where I can be at my prime tennis, mental and physical abilities"

Kobe Bryant mourning, Samatta shift and Bongo social media spectacle

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

THERE is an English expression which says 'tell me your friends and I will tell you who you are,' and there was something in the local social media channels lately that reminded some people of that expression. It is what the global news channel CNN would say are 'sights and sounds' from Dar es Salaam, not from what was happening locally but in terms of local reaction to a media conundrum taking place elsewhere.

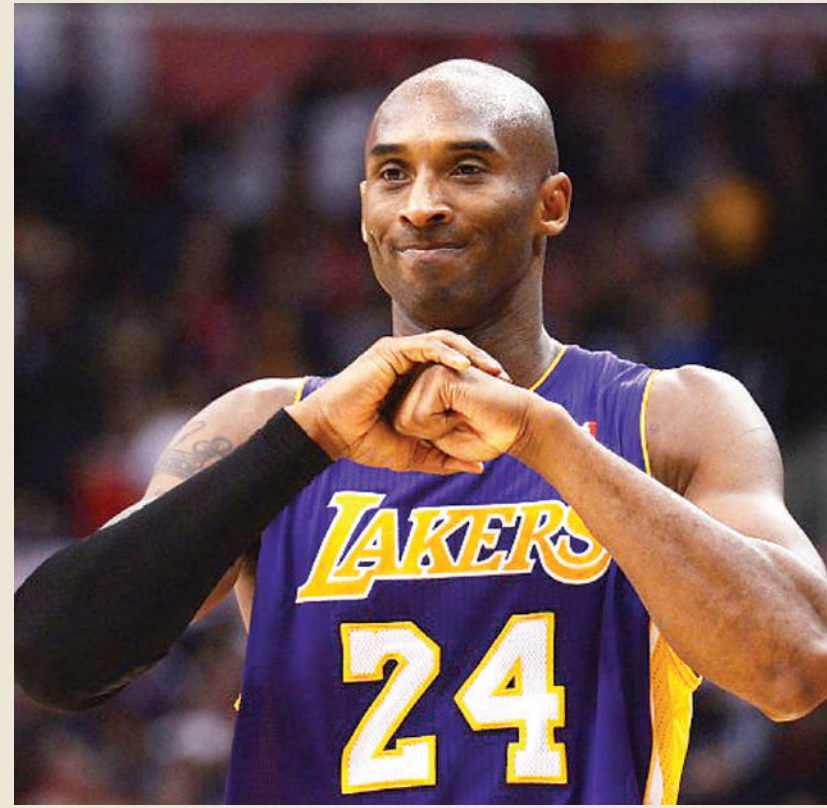
It was the death of basketball superstar Kobe Bryant in a personal helicopter accident in California, western rim of the United States, late January.

Obviously this ghastly accident did not have anything directly to do with Tanzania as the passengers in that plane, including Bryant and his school age daughter, have little social or other tie with Tanzania. But a sports megastar is by definition a global phenomenon, so no special links or roots are needed for local social media outlets to buzz up to that situation.

That is how the local exchange on the issue revealed a few elements of local culture, or some would say a bit of youth eccentric attitudes, instead of its being an actual cultural parameter for the country.

It was finally perhaps a case of mistaken identity that the social media contributor was thinking of a musician with a name distantly similar to Kobe Bryant, for instance if someone mentioned Ray Kelly, a scarcely known Irish musician who died in January 2013, three or so months before clocking age 60 that April.

Since there is a song he composed going by the rather familiar term 'Hallelujah' it is possible to imagine that someone may confuse Kobe Bryant with him. But for all intents and purposes it is far-fetched -



Kobe Bryant

though a distant resemblance can be intimidated with the late superstar who the local contributor said he 'liked his songs.'

There is however another dimension that is unmistakably local, in the sense of being Tanzanian, and that is the level of knowledge of the outside world. For a sports enthusiast who can write a word or two, and it makes no difference that he wrote in Kiswahili, to have no clear idea of Kobe Bryant is a bit surprising. But one would be hard put to bring up a sample of 100 smart phone users and lack one.

From the look of it this situation is likely to be a little widespread, given the fact of a cultural enclosure helped by Kiswahili, the difficulty with which most people face when exposed to a minimal conversation in English, etc.

It is from such social environment that when an event comes up that glues people on television, it is not surprising to hear reactions of this sort, where one feigns familiarity with the start, or seemingly feigns that awareness but inwardly he believed he was a musician.

In a more stereotypical mood, the idea that he was a musician naturally arose from the fact that he was a black star, and without watching other photos of him, one picks a smart phone and dots down a remark that goes viral, 'I liked your songs.'

What this illustrates is the fact that local smart phone users inwardly wish to be as knowledgeable as anyone else on what goes around the world, especially when it comes to sports and entertainment, but environment is a stumbling block.

When local soccer star Mbwana

Samatta was expected to sign for premier league side Aston Villa, pundits say the club's website was flooded with remarks from this side as to astonish the usual patrons of that website. And when he played his first match and they reacted, it was a sort of butt of jokes on what they had to say...

Still these events or couple of events within a short space of time may provide some lessons or rather enable an amount of learning on our part, as it becomes a kind of informal schooling. Local youths trying to make good use of smart phones to comment on events with which they have psychological affinity at the same time becomes a mirror, where they look at themselves to say how much they know, say of the United States and thus of Kobe Bryant, or of English Premier League soccer.

Local reflexes that 'they don't pass the ball to Samatta,' if they were in English, would to say the least be curious. It is a matter of inward acculturation where those who are rather familiar with mood neutrality will be educating others on the same.

What local smart phone using youths will be learning is knowing more facts on whatever it is before starting to say anything in particular, the opposite to which is the usual false idea that whatever one thinks it must be right.

Stereotypes that any notable black young man or superstar in the US must be a musician is something that exposure in smart phone communication will help to diminish, while from Aston Villa exposure the lesson is different. It is to learn neutrality and objectivity as otherwise openly biased sports commentary that is normal here looks awkward and entirely out of place.

Exposure shall help to brush up cultural attitudes a bit.

Lopez, Shakira in joyful, exuberant NFL Super Bowl halftime show

NEW YORK

SEIZING their opportunity to make a cultural statement, Jennifer Lopez and Shakira infused the Super Bowl halftime show with an exuberance and joy that celebrated their Latina heritage.

Their breathless athleticism matched that of the football players waiting in the locker room.

Shakira opened with, yes, a hip-shaking performance of "She Wolf" and a fast-moving medley that included bits of "She Wolf," "Whenever, Wherever" and a snippet of Led Zeppelin's "Kashmir." She managed a belly dance, some rope dancing and even backed into a crowd surf. Shakira ended her with her signature song, "Hips Don't Lie."

Lopez, in a black leather outfit that her dancers matched, started with a nostalgic snippet of "Jenny From the Block." She exhibited some startling pole-dancing moves, a reference to her much-celebrated turn in the movie "Hustlers." At one point she bent into a deep squat while standing on the shoulders of a dancer that likely had muscles aching across the country in sympathy.

She tore through "Love Don't Cost a Thing," "Get Right," "On the Floor" and "Que Calor," finding time to slip away from the black leather in to sparkling silver outfit that left little to the imagination.

Having, essentially, an opening act for a concert that stretches not much longer than a dozen minutes was a risky move. At times the performance seemed rushed, as if they were trying to say too much in too short of time. The guest acts, J. Balvin and Bad Bunny, were superfluous and only served to better emphasize the talents of the headliners.

The first halftime show to celebrate Latino artists could rightly be declared a success, and it also bodes well for the management of Jay-Z, who packaged the program for the first time on a new deal with the NFL.



Shakira, left, hugs Jennifer Lopez after performing during halftime of the NFL Super Bowl 54 football game between the Kansas City Chiefs and the San Francisco 49ers Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020, in Miami Gardens, Fla. (AP Photo)

Memorably, Lopez's daughter, Emme, joined her mother for a verse of "Let's Get Loud," where the 11-year girl sang the chorus of Bruce Springsteen's "Born in the U.S.A." Her mother then held out her arms and showed off a red, white and blue cape to the crowd that was a representation of the Puerto Rican flag in its inner lining, with the stars and stripes on the outside. It was a reminder to a television audience that approached 100 million that a different part of America was making a powerful statement in favor of inclusion.

The two women came together at the end to sing "Waka Waka (This Time for Africa)," the song Shakira composed that was the theme of the 2010 World Cup.

"Muchas gracias," Shakira said as the camera pulled away.

"Thank you so much," Lopez said.

Meanwhile, video of Beyoncé and Jay-Z sitting while Demi Lovato sang the national anthem at the Super Bowl has surfaced online.

TMZ posted the video Sunday of the celebrity couple sitting along with daughter Blue Ivy at Hard Rock Stadium, where the San Francisco 49ers were playing the Kansas City Chiefs.

Jay-Z, a co-producer of the halftime show featuring Shakira and Jennifer Lopez, announced his Roc Nation company had entered a partnership with the NFL for events and social activism last year. The rapper received immediate backlash since he had become one of the biggest supporters of Colin Kaepernick, who sparked a fissure in the NFL when he decided to kneel when the national anthem was played before games to protest the killings of blacks by police officers. Jay-Z's response was that he still supports protesting, kneeling and Kaepernick, but he's also interested in working with the league to make substantial changes.

Representatives for Jay-Z and Beyoncé didn't immediately reply to emails seeking comment.

AP

FIFA declares Samoura's cleanup of African soccer complete

BY ROB HARRIS

FIFA's six months in control of African soccer appeared to end when Fatma Samoura's temporary leadership of the continent's governing body was not extended on Sunday.

Samoura, the FIFA secretary general, was dispatched to the Confederation of African Football (CAF) in August with the task of cleaning up the organization.

FIFA declared Samoura's mission as "General Delegate for Africa" complete after a meeting of the CAF executive committee without mentioning the confederation's president, Ahmad, who has been subject to an ethics investigation. Ahmad has faced accusations of sexual harassment and bribery, as well as claims of personal and financial impropriety. FIFA's statement did not mention Ahmad.

Changes implemented during Samoura's mission include enhanced financial controls, better salaries for staff and new ethics structures, FIFA said. Details of an audit of CAF were not publicly provided after the meeting in Rabat, Morocco.

"The six month mission agreed between FIFA and CAF to help accelerate the implementation of the reform process in the African governing body is completed with the delivery of a set of findings, recommendation and proposals," FIFA said.

"FIFA is happy that the joint ef-

fort made with CAF was done and delivered within the initial proposed time frame and reiterates its commitment to be at the disposal of African football to assist in the process of raising its level to the top of the world."

After working with CAF general secretary Mouad Hajji and other experts, FIFA said Samoura "completed several reforms focusing on three pillars: good governance, financial management and internal procedures; efficient and professional organisation of competition; growth and development of African football."

FIFA said it would work to create and finance a group of professional referees for Africa, ensure there is at least \$1 billion available for the 54 nations to invest in infrastructure, implement unspecified governance changes and pursue changes to competitions "in line with the strategy" that was presented by President Gianni Infantino on Saturday.

Infantino told CAF leaders that the Africa Cup of Nations tournament should halve in frequency and only be played every four years. Infantino suggested annual under-16 and under-18 tournaments for boys and girls instead of the current under-17 events every two years. The boys' tournaments could grow from 24 teams to 48 if FIFA's ruling council agrees. Girls' tournaments could grow to 24 teams from 16.

ESPN

Rampant Enyimba, resilient Zanaco reach CAF Cup quarter-finals

JOHANNESBURG

ENYIMBA of Nigeria went on a scoring spree and Zanaco of Zambia defended doggedly Sunday to book the two CAF Confederation Cup quarter-finals places up for grabs.

Victor Mbaoma scored twice as former African champions Enyimba trounced San Pedro of the Ivory Coast 5-2 in Abidjan to fill the second qualifying place in Group D.

Zanaco came from behind to force a 1-1 at Renaissance Berkane of Morocco, who had scored 13 unanswered goals in four previous CAF home matches, and finish Group B runners-up.

Pyramids and Al Masry of Egypt, Berkane and Hassania Agadir of Morocco, Horoya of Guinea and Al Nasr of Libya had secured knockout places before the final matchday.

The draws for the quarter-finals and semi-finals in the African equivalent of the UEFA Europa League will be made in Cairo this Wednesday with group winners and runners-up kept apart.

Abdulrahman Bashir and Mbaoma netted for Enyimba within three minutes of the kick-off and the 2003 and 2004 CAF Champions League winners led 3-2 at half-time.

In the closing stages, Mbaoma and Stanley Dimgba each scored their fourth goal of the Confederation Cup season to seal an impressive victory.

Enyimba, the most successful Nigerian club in CAF competitions with four titles, had scored only six goals in five previous group matches.

Agadir won the group, finishing one point above Enyimba despite a shock 3-0 home loss to third-place Paradou of Algeria.

Meanwhile, Zanaco needed a

draw in northeastern Moroccan city Berkane to be sure of retaining second place and qualifying for the knockout stage.

Began disastrously - The bank club from Lusaka began disastrously, conceding a goal within two minutes as Burkinabe Alain Traore scored for Berkane, runners-up to Zamalek of Egypt last season.

However, the Zambians gradually regained their composure and levelled before half-time when Rodgers Kola scored his sixth goal of the Confederation Cup campaign.

Zanaco then survived a second-half pummeling from Renaissance to finish ahead of Daring Club Motema Pembe of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

After taking a third-minute lead through Vinny Kombe, Motema Pembe failed to score again against bottom-of-the-table ESAE of Benin and had to settle for a 1-0 win in Kinshasa.

But it proved a hollow victory as the Congolese outfit were eliminated on head-to-head records having drawn at home and lost away to Zanaco.

Hopes that already eliminated Enugu Rangers of Nigeria could finish on a high note proved unfounded as they were held 1-1 at home by Group A runners-up Masry.

Palestinian international Mahmoud Wadi gave the Port Said club an early lead but Ifeanyi George cancelled midway through the first half.

A disastrous campaign for South African club Bidvest Wits ended with a 2-0 defeat by Djoliba of Mali in Soweto, which condemned them to last place in Group C.

AFP

Jose mad, Pep mum on Sterling not getting red

LONDON

TOTTENHAM Hotspur manager Jose Mourinho praised his side's 2-0 win over Manchester City but lamented that Raheem Sterling didn't get a red card for his challenge on Dele Alli.

Sunday's match was a sweet moment for Mourinho who claimed his biggest win since replacing Mauricio Pochettino in November, although he had raged before half-time, believing City's Sterling should have been shown a red card for a foul on Alli.

"It was a red card to Sterling," he said, adding he could understand

given the pace of the game why on-pitch referee Mike Dean might give a yellow card.

"For me, Mike Dean [gave a] good performance. The problem is the VAR ... I thought I was going to love VAR the same way I love goal-line technology," Mourinho said.

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola, whose clashes with Mourinho have been well documented, didn't directly respond on what he thought of his counterpart's claims. "I don't comment on other manager's opinions. I don't want to comment on that [the Sterling incident]," the Spaniard said.

(Agencies)

Defeat at Spurs shows Man City are not what they used to be

LONDON

LESS than 12 months ago, Manchester City were billed by many as the best team of the Premier League era. They were a side that became the first to break the 100-point barrier in one season before going on to claim a domestic Treble the next. Yet with high praise comes greater scrutiny, so what does the defence of their title this season say about Pep Guardiola's superteam?

Sunday's 2-0 defeat at Tottenham -- both Spurs goals came after the 61st-minute sending off of City defender Oleksandr Zinchenko -- was the sixth time that Guardiola's team had lost in the league this season. Although it left City in second position, they sit a staggering 22 points behind runaway leaders Liverpool, who could arrive at the Etihad Stadium on April 4 as champions if they win all six of their games between now and then.

If Guardiola and his players start that game by giving Liverpool a guard of honour, the pain of surrendering their title so meekly will truly sink in. It's not a case of if Liverpool dethrone City but when, a fact Guardiola acknowledged after Sunday's defeat.

"They [Liverpool] are unstoppable, with a lot of points," Guardiola said. "Of course, our target for the competitions now is to qualify for the Champions League next season. But two seasons ago, we finished with 100 points, 19 in front of Man United and 20-something in front of Liverpool. They were strong then too, so today is not a day to say what we are going to do."

"My team is good. I like the way we play but we are far away, the distance is not good, so next season we have to do better. It will be fantastic to say we will be better next season, but I don't know what will happen in our next game against West Ham."

It's difficult to assess the state of City under Guardiola right now. Their supporters will argue that they're still the second-best team in England, preparing for a third successive Carabao Cup final and with hopes still alive in the FA Cup and Champions League. They've also been hit hard by injuries to key players, with Aymeric Laporte and Leroy Sane both missing for the majority, if not all, of the season so far. Raheem Sterling was added to the casualty list on Sunday, limping off while clutching his hamstring at Spurs, so their tale of injury woe may



Tottenham's Son Heung-min celebrates after scoring his side's second goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester City at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London, England, Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020. (AP Photo)

continue.

It's also fair to point out that Liverpool have been so remarkably consistent, winning 24 of 25 league games, that no team could possibly match up. But this is Manchester City and Guardiola, supposedly the best team and manager English football has ever seen, so why have they failed to give Liverpool a better run for their money? The mitigating factors mentioned above for City's inability to defend their title are well-known, but the defeat against Jose Mourinho's Spurs also highlighted the malaise that has set in at the Etihad.

Missed chances -- City had 18 chances compared to Tottenham's three -- were the main reason for the defeat, with one of those misses coming from the penalty spot when Ilkay Gundogan's effort was saved by Hugo Lloris.

"We created more chances and lost the game," Guardiola said. "It happens some-

times this season and we have to accept it."

The failure to convert chances is a key difference from last season, however, when City were ruthlessly efficient in front of goal. Yes, they missed goal-scoring opportunities last year, but they converted chances when it mattered and didn't let opponents off the hook as often as they have this time around.

After 25 games last season, they had only scored one more league goal than this time around (66 to 65) but those figures are perhaps skewed by the 19 scored in three games against Watford, West Ham and Aston Villa. A truer gauge is that City are eight points worse off than they were a year ago and that is down to being unable to beat teams when they have the opportunity to do so.

Man City are also worse defensively. This time last season, City had conceded

20 goals, but they've shipped 29 after 25 games in the 2019-20 campaign. Laporte's absence and the failure to replace Vincent Kompany are central to the defensive frailties, but John Stones' loss of form and confidence has also been a big problem and that has not been addressed sufficiently by Guardiola.

A year ago, City and Guardiola were on top of such details. Nothing was left to chance and they were ruthlessly efficient in every department. That diligence has since slipped, perhaps because Liverpool have crushed their spirit or maybe because it is virtually impossible, mentally and physically, to keep the foot on the pedal for three consecutive seasons.

Whatever the reasons, City are not the team they were last season or even 12 months ago.

(Agencies)

Arsenal's lucky escape from Burnley shows scale of their rebuild

BURNLEY, England

TO build a great football team, or even just a decent one, you need some luck. And if the amount of luck eventually correlates to the quality of your team, then you could say that Arsenal, going by their 0-0 draw against Burnley on Sunday, will be the best team in the world before too long.

Quite how they escaped from this one with a point is a mystery that could potentially make for an in-depth, 12-part Netflix documentary, the sort that people say you should watch (and you probably should), but really, who has the time?

By the end of the game, it was tricky to work out which was greater: the number of chances Burnley missed, or the number of different things their fans booed during the 90 minutes. A non-comprehensive rundown of the latter included: David Luiz for saying this week they play "anti-football;" Matteo Guendouzi, possibly because he looks a bit like Luiz from a distance; the referee, for miscellaneous reasons; assorted Arsenal players for going down injured; their own players for kicking the ball back after one of those injuries; finally, everyone as they walked off at half-time, possibly just to ensure all bases were covered.

But the one thing they probably should've been booing was their own team's finishing. After an opening 20 minutes in which Arsenal were on top and probably should have taken the lead, Sean Dyche's side were the more threatening by a distance over the rest of the match, peppering the Arsenal box with crosses (often from the terrific Dwight McNeil on the left) but failing to convert any of them.

They missed several chances, the most egregious being when Jay Rodriguez met a cross at the far post, 6 yards out with nothing but the cool Lancashire air between him and Bernd Leno, only to hammer a shot against the bar and down onto the line. Dyche seemed satisfied in his postmatch analysis -- "We did enough to score a goal, but we'll take the clean sheet and a point" -- but considering their chances, this has to go down as a missed opportunity for Burnley.

Mikel Arteta wasn't quite so content, admitting Arsenal's fortune after the game though not without archly noting that the Turf Moor grass was long and unwatered, therefore not "helpful" to playing the football he wants his side to play. "We started really well, we could've scored at least two, we dominated how we wanted. But after 20-25 minutes, we conceded a lot of free-kicks, throw-ins and corners, and if you do that, you can't find any continuity in our play."

"I'm very disappointed with how we started the second half. In the first 15 minutes we didn't control any aspect of the game and we were lucky not to concede a goal. The positive thing was the reaction in the last 20 minutes."

Therein lies the problem for Arsenal. A good 20 minutes and a decent 20 minutes sandwiched 50 minutes in which they were outplayed: not perhaps in the traditional sense of their opponents dominating possession or picking them apart, but this was a perfect example of one side doing what they do much better than the other side doing



Arsenal's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, right, and Burnley's Ben Mee battle for the ball during the English Premier League soccer match between Burnley and Arsenal at Turf Moor, Burnley, England, Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020. (AP)

what they do. Or, at least, what they are trying to do.

This game, perhaps more than any other under Mikel Arteta, displayed just how far Arsenal have to come under his leadership, which has so far featured five draws and only one win in the league. There have been signs of progress, lit-

tle moments where you could see what he wants them to do. But there weren't many of those in this game: Even in that opening 20 minutes, they didn't move the ball as quickly as they have, and they didn't create space as effectively as they can.

It almost feels too easy and too much

of a cliché to point to Mesut Ozil in games like this, the German's languid style making him a prime target for people that think he's not really doing much. But when he plays like this, it's easy to see where those easy and clichéd conclusions have come from. Ozil slowed the ball down far too much, stopping Arsenal from doing what Arteta wants them to, and stymied or wasted the attacking runs of Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Alexandre Lacazette ahead of him.

Of the varied attacking talents available to Arsenal, Ozil appears to offer the least at the moment. Perhaps it's time to try a more dynamic option at No. 10, like moving Nicolas Pepe inside and giving Gabriel Martinelli a longer run in the side.

Whatever option Arteta chooses, it will inevitably take some time. "I hope it doesn't [take a long time]," he said. "There have been different circumstances: Two of the last four games we've played with 10 men, which is not easy. We need more consistency, with the ball as well. We were fantastic in some moments, but we were so sloppy, and put ourselves in big trouble with a lot of unnecessary situations. We have to improve that a lot."

Arsenal do have time. They're 10th, a whopping 10 points away from the top four, making qualification for the Champions League (through the league at least) a long shot, but perhaps that will be freeing for them. Maybe Arteta can spend the next few months finessing his side and working out what he needs in the longer term, rather than trying only to chase results in the short term. They will have to get used to games like this, though.

You wonder whether Arteta knew how long the job of fixing Arsenal would take before he arrived. He should know now.

(Agencies)

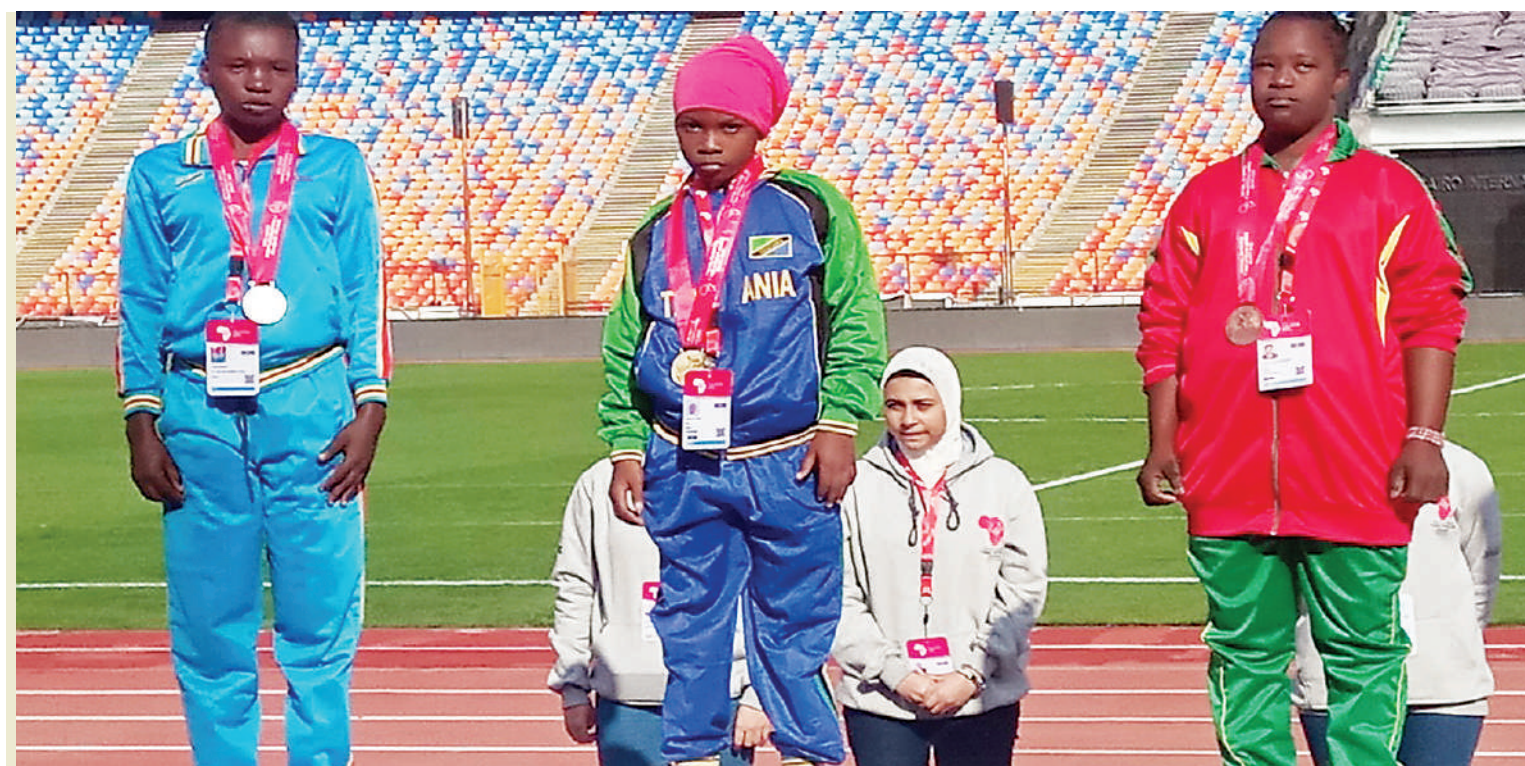
Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Defeat at Spurs shows Man City are not what they used to be

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Tanzania's Special Olympics athlete, Hidayu Vuai (C), poses with a gold medal at the podium after she had won one of her races in the maiden Pan African Games, which were held in Egypt recently. Others are athletes from the games' other participating countries. PHOTO: SPECIAL OLYMPICS TANZANIA

Sauti Busara 2020 set to address sexual harassment

By Correspondent Devota Mwachang'a

SEXUAL harassment has been described as an obstacle to the development of female artistes in the music industry within and outside Tanzania, but most of those, who were sexually harassed, did not report the incidents in an effort to protect their livelihood.

In an interview, Tanzanian singer, Stara Thomas, declared that sexual harassment at work is a serious problem and can happen to both women and men, the harassment has turned out to be rife in the industry because it involves music managers, promoters, producers and even media people.

"The female artistes have been abused in the music industry, but I've never heard any of the victims make reporting on the incidents, some musicians have been forced to engage in sexual harassment acts while others voluntarily offered their bodies to get rewards," she said.

Another female singer, who preferred anonymity, said: "Most musicians have been experiencing violence and harassment from those we believe the most, the ones with power in the industry, but they couldn't come forward with those stories not because they were happy with the abuses but merely to look for their income."

According to her, there are talented singers, who survived in music industry, simply because they agreed to be used by the perpetrators, though others quit the industry due to sexual harassment despite their extraordinary capacity in singing and playing music instruments.

A section of singers said the issue of sexual harassment among female artistes is seemingly handled appropriately by the mandated authorities, they have called upon music stakeholders, the government and music bodies to rescue up-and-coming female singers from sexual harassment by coming up with useful measures.

The situation has driven the East African's premier festival, popularly known as 'Sauti za Busara', meaning 'Sounds of Wisdom', to break the silence and chip in with a campaign dubbed Raise Your Voice 'Paza Sauti', Say No to Sexual Harassment.

This year's Sauti za Busara festival, the 17th edition of the festivals, will take place in the historic Ngome Kongwe (Old Fort), Stone Town in Zanzibar from February 13-16 as the past editions were also held at the venue. The artistes will unite for a special song composed to give the public awareness on sexual harassment at workplaces and to inspire the latter to protest against sexual abuse.

Addressing the journalists and festival stakeholders in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, Festival Director Yusuph Mahmoud said sexual harassment is a thorny issue which will be tackled under the campaign during the festival with the aim of encouraging action against sexual harassment.

Dar Paralympics athletes miss out on Tokyo Paralympics' qualifiers

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA will not field Paralympics athletes in the coming Tokyo Paralympics' qualifying games which are slated for this month in Nigeria.

Tanzania Paralympics Committee (TPC) secretary general, Tuma Dandi, yesterday said they have failed to raise money to send the Para Powerlifting athletes.

"Our Para Powerlifting athletes were ready for the Nigeria games, which will be used as qualification for Tokyo Paralympics, but due to financial problems we are currently facing we will not send the team," Dandi said.

"We were depending on financial support from Agitos Foundation but they have informed us that they don't have money," he noted.

He said due to this problem TPC officials hope that they will raise money to send the team to Dubai for the Japan Paralympics qualifiers.

Dandi asked domestic sports stakeholders to help the committee get 10m/- so that the body can send the team to the Dubai games which will be held next month.

He said currently, Tanzania has Ignas Madumla Mtweve and Sauda Njopeka, who are about to meet qualifying time for the Tokyo Paralympics.

Ignas represented the country at the 2016 Rio Games, but Dandi said the athlete did not perform well due to poor preparations.

The TPC official said he is, this time, confident that the athlete will perform well in the qualifying games.

"Ignas Mteve represented the country at the Rio Olympics in Brazil, but he did not perform well due to poor preparations," he disclosed.

"This time I'm sure he will do well, as for Sauda Njopeka, she is new in the games but she is very promising and we are banking on her for medals," he said.



Tanzania Paralympics Committee (TPC) secretary general, Tuma Dandi.

Dar Special Olympics squad excels in Pan African Games

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Special Olympics team, which competed at the just ended Pan African Games hosted by Egypt, has won 11 medals in the games.

Speaking upon arrival from Egypt, the squad's head coach, Charles Rays, said he is impressed with the team's performance in the games.

Rays said the Tanzania team collected six gold medals, three silver medals and two bronze medals in 200m race, 400m race, and 4 x100m relay race.

He said the tournament was not easy considering that nearly all African countries sent their representatives at the games.

Rays also thanked the Tanzania's Embassy in Egypt for supporting the team.

"Special Olympics Tanzania was invited to attend the first ever Special Olympics Pan African Games, held in Cairo from January 23-31, 2020, under the auspices of the Egypt's President, Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, the then Chairman of the African Union (AU)," the official disclosed.

"We thank Tanzania's Ambassador to Egypt, Anselm Bahati Shigongo, and the embassy's workers for supporting and cheering the team," he said.

He said the games were attended by 800 athletes from 42 countries, more than 100 coaches and 400 volunteers.

"The games involved such sports like athletics, football, basketball, bowling and bocce."

"Special Olympics Tanzania had earlier planned to send a delegation of 24 athletes for football and athletics but we pulled the football team out at the eleventh hour after failing to raise funds for air tickets."

"Only five athletes from Tanzania attended the games after securing support from Arusha-based Sibusiso Centre, Unga South's Regional Commissioner's office and Special Olympics Tanzania Board Members," he said.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



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'Special Olympics Tanzania had earlier planned to send a delegation of 24 athletes for football and athletics but we pulled the football team out at the eleventh hour after failing to raise funds for air tickets

EATV TUESDAY
11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Msoi Kitaani (r)
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi
14:30 Bball Kings Highlights (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 5SPORTS (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)

TONIGHT @ 9:00

NIRVANA

Nirvana explores the hottest trends in fashion, beauty, art and lifestyle as well as interviews with notable people from the entertainment, art and fashion industries.

eastafrica RADIO
06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM