



EDUCATION



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Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan exchanges greetings with Zambian President Edgar Lungu at yesterday's inauguration of Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi (58) as Botswana's President following victory by the ruling Botswana Democratic Party in last month's General Election. The ceremony was held in the Botswana capital, Gaborone. Photo courtesy of VPO

DC sanctions whipping, to 'stop truancy' in all schools

He said whipping was a disciplinary measure that is helpful to make the learners understand the importance of education because there are plenty of challenges in the district, including teenage pregnancies

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

TUNDURU District Commissioner Julius Mtatiro yesterday ordered a teacher to whip students accused of truancy, defending it as a measure to improve academic performance.

He gave the green light to officials in charge of education in the district to flog students who stay out of school, while also ordering parents of truant students to avail themselves to the schools where their children are registered.

Mtatiro arrived at Ligoma Secondary School located in Tunduru District, Ruvuma

Region yesterday and ordered one of the teachers to administer three lashes to three students he accused of chronic truancy.

The drama was caught on camera and the video clip went viral on social media for the better part of yesterday, sparking debate yet again over corporal punishment.

This comes one month after Mbeya Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila early last month personally whipped 14 students accused of masterminding a

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AfDB shareholders approve new, record capital base increase

By Guardian Reporter

SHAREHOLDERS of the African Development Bank (AfDB) from 80 countries have approved a landmark \$115 billion increase in capital for the continent's foremost financial institution.

A statement released yesterday by AfDB said the decision was made on Thursday by the bank's governors on behalf of shareholders at an extraordinary shareholders' meeting in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

The capital increase, the largest in the history of the African Development Bank since its establishment in 1964, is a remarkable show of confidence by shareholders.

"With the approved increase, the capital of the bank is set to more than double from \$93 billion to \$208 billion. This solidifies the bank's leadership on development financing

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Opportunities abound as Dar hosts Africa-Nordic meeting

By Henry Mwangonde

TANZANIA will for the first time host this year's Africa Nordic meeting of foreign ministers which is set for next week in Dar es Salaam.

The meeting is expected to be opened by President John Magufuli and will include 43 foreign ministers and other high level government and donor agency officials whose number is expected to reach 250.

Addressing journalists yesterday, the Permanent Secretary in Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Co-operation, Dr Faraji Mnyepe said Tanzania will host the meeting for the first time since the meeting was established in 2000.

Ministers who are expected to attend are from

Nordic countries of Norway, Denmark, Finland and Iceland, as well as from African countries including Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Malawi, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe and host Tanzania.

"Cooperation between Tanzania and Nordic countries is historic because it started before independence. There are missionaries who resided in Tanzania and Nordic countries constructed the Uyole Agriculture centre and the Kibaha Education Centre under the Nordic-Tanganyika Project," he

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Civic polls: Councillors protest the closure of local govt offices

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

COUNCILLORS from 14 wards in Mbeya city are up in arms against closure of a number of Neighbourhood Executive Officers (MEO)'s offices, preventing some aspirants from taking and returning forms to vie for various positions in the civic polls slated for November 24.

Speaking at a council meeting here on Thursday, the councillors raised an emergency motion to deliberate on the matter, saying they had visited MEO offices in the city for two consecutive days only to find the premises closed and their office holders nowhere to be seen.

The civic leaders raised concern that the absence of MEOs from office may not be a coincidence but a deliberate attempt to stop some of them from taking and returning the forms in time.

Councillor for Ilemi Ward, Furaha

Mwandalema said after visiting MEO's office several times and finding it closed, she went to another MEO's office located in Ilomba Ward and was shocked to find it also closed.

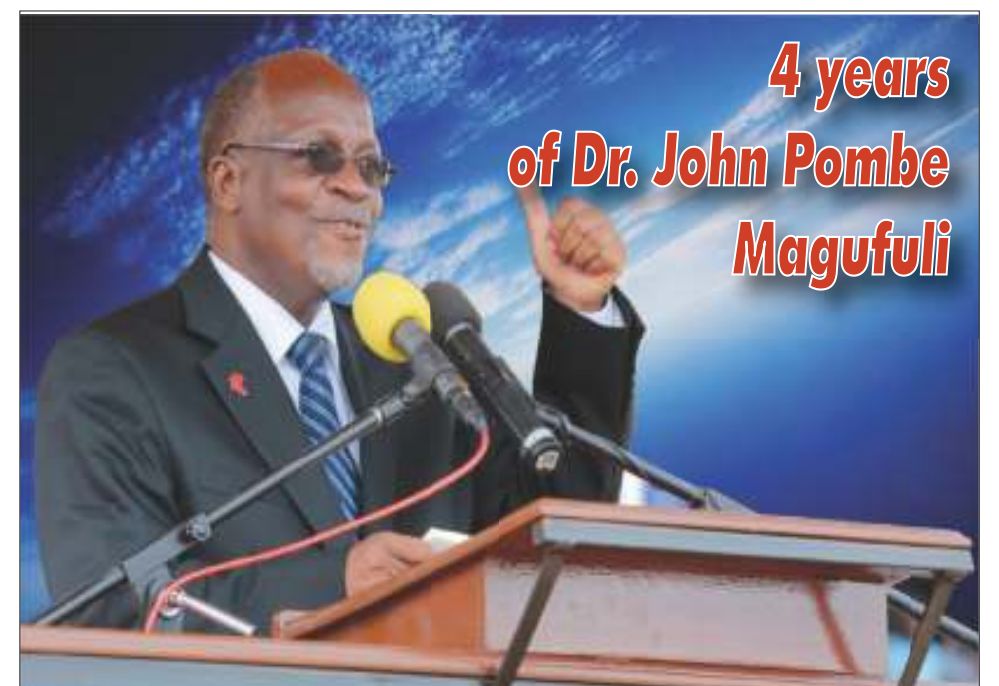
"The next day I tried several times and was disappointed that both the offices were padlocked and the office holders could not be traced," Mwandalema said.

Added the civic leader: "I ask the City Director to explain why these offices have been closed at a time when they are supposed to be open for aspirants to take and return forms, and the whereabouts of these civil servants."

Isyesye Councillor Ibrahim Mwampwani who tabled the emergency motion said the matter was sensitive since it touches on constitutional rights of citizens to vie for leadership positions and to vote.

He proposed investigation to ascertain if it was

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SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

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President John Magufuli has an audience at State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday with cabinet ministers and their deputies, other senior officials from government ministries and other public institutions as well as regions and districts closely associated with cashewnut and sesame farming. Photo: State House

Opportunities abound as Dar hosts Africa-Nordic meeting

FROM PAGE 1

stated. The theme for this year's meeting is 'Partnering for Sustainable Development,' he said.

He said that in Africa, Tanzania receives grants and loans from the

Nordic countries more than any country in Africa, as for the past five years - 2013 to 2018 - Tanzania received 900bn/- from Nordic countries.

"Nordic countries have been working on improving health, education, infrastructure, energy and various

other sectors for many years," he declared.

The meeting which will take place on Friday and Saturday is an opportunity for an open and informal dialogue between African and Nordic countries on a variety of foreign policy and global

issues, he said.

Since its inception in 2000, the African-Nordic Foreign Ministers' Meetings have proven to be a valuable forum for enhancing the dialogue between African and Nordic countries, he added.

Kenya returns to UK stolen posh vehicles

NAIROBI

KENYA has re-shipped to the United Kingdom four high-end vehicles believed to have been stolen and brought into the country in April.

The black Range Rover Vogue Autobiography, white Mercedes Benz GLE and two black Range Rover Sports Autobiography were on Friday loaded onto a truck and transported to a vessel ready for shipment to the UK.

The vehicles estimated to be worth more than Sh40 million were stolen from Berkshire, London and Oxfordshire between November 11, 2018 and February 7.

A security team drawn from the DCI, the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) and the UK's National Crime Agency led the crackdown that led to seizure of the cars.

The team worked with the British High Commission in Kenya.

British High Commissioner to Kenya, Nic Hailey, said the UK was actively involved in monitoring, coordinating and liaising with the KRA to support re-shipment of the vehicles.

Mr Waqar Qureshi, who represented Mr Hailey, said the owners of the stolen vehicles filed reports in the UK.

"I am extremely grateful to our Kenyan partners whose continued efforts are acting as a deterrent to organised crime networks both in East Africa and the UK," he said.

"We will continue to work closely with our Kenyan partners to combat serious organised crime which impacts on both the Kenyan and the British public."

The Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) and the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) attributed the interception to information and intelligence shared by Kenyan agencies and their international law enforcement partners.

The government agencies said that between March and September, up to 21 high-end vehicles, valued at more than Sh130 million, that were stolen from the UK were intercepted at the port of Mombasa.

"The vehicles had been shipped at ports in the UK and Belgium," the agencies said in a statement read by Dr Terra Saidimu, KRA's acting Commissioner of Intelligence and Strategic Operations.

"According to the manifest, all the 21 vehicles were intended for transit through Kenya and arrival at other destinations in East Africa."

In June, two high-end vehicles that had been stolen and shipped into the

country were returned to the UK.

The agencies termed the seizures and the reshipment of the vehicles a success against illicit trade.

They said the government has sent a strong message to criminal networks in East Africa and beyond that the port of Mombasa will not be used as a conduit for illicit trade.

The seizures, the agencies also noted, are the fruits of the campaign launched in 2018 to fight illicit trade and disrupt an international criminal syndicate that smuggles through the Mombasa port and sells the cars across East Africa.

"[The operation] included heightening surveillance and enforcement measures at all ports of entry and exit. Since then, various government agencies have participated in joint operations to seize illicit goods including counterfeits, sub-standard and smuggled goods," read the statement.

"We are going beyond the quest for revenue and heeding President Uhuru Kenyatta's call to root out illicit trade and safeguard a level playing field for legitimate businesses. We cannot afford to provide safe passage for stolen vehicles into the East African market."

The agencies added that Kenyan and British authorities will work together to ensure stolen vehicles illegally smuggled into the country are returned to their countries of origin.

KPA's Managing Director Daniel Manduku reiterated that the port will not be used as a channel for smuggling.

Dr Saidimu added that rooting out the illicit business will pave the way for the motor vehicle industry to thrive since the government is revamping the sector to promote Kenya as a vehicle-manufacturing hub in the region.

KRA, DCI and KPA will continue to work together and collaborate with international partners in detecting, disrupting and deterring all forms of illicit trade at the port," he said.

KRA Deputy Commissioner for the Southern Region, Nicholas Kinoti, said no suspect had been arrested in connection to the seizure but that the investigation was ongoing.

"We will continue to work closely with our Kenyan partners to combat serious organised crime which impacts on both the Kenyan and the British public"

DC sanctions whipping, to 'rein in truancy' in schools

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move to set on fire two dormitories at Kiwanja Secondary School in Chunya District after teachers confiscated 16 mobile phones from high school students.

As the RC underwent a storm of criticism from rights activists, President John Magufuli commended Chalamila for disciplining the students.

Explaining his action yesterday, Mtiro said it was meant to end truancy in schools and eventually improve academic performance in the district.

The DC said whipping was a disciplinary measure that is helpful to make the learners understand the importance of education because there are plenty of challenges in the district, including teenage pregnancies.

"I order all parents of truant students in primary and secondary schools to present themselves to the respective schools, or else they (parents) will face consequences," he said.

Mtiro emphasized his point by giving the green light to ward education officers and coordinators as well as teachers to administer corporal punishment on all truant students.

The DC blamed truancy in the district on parents and guardians who were engaging the learners in cashew farming instead of sending them to school.

"The government spends 23.6bn/- every month on free basic education for the students to learn but some parents keep students out of school.

This is unacceptable," he said.

Following the news of RC Chalamila caning the students, Human Rights Watch reacted with a call for abolition of corporal punishment in Tanzania.

In a statement posted on its website, the New York-based advocacy NGO termed the whipping of students retrogressive and child abuse.

"Tanzania should make necessary reforms to ensure children's safety in schools. It's time President (John) Magufuli joined the dozens of African leaders who have outlawed corporal punishment in schools," the statement had underlined.



Tanzania should make necessary reforms to ensure children's safety in schools. It's time President (John) Magufuli joined the dozens of African leaders who have outlawed corporal punishment in schools



Slowly but surely, it's becoming business, more business and yet more business just about anywhere and everywhere... Our roving camera captured this scene just centimetres from the Msimbazi Street/Uhuru Street intersection traffic lights in Dar es Salaam's bustling Kariakoo market zone yesterday afternoon. Talk about the importance of road safety! Photo: John Badi

Civic polls: Councillors protest the closure of local government offices

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a coincidence or indeed a conspiracy to deny some aspirants their constitutional right to take part in the civic polls.

"If it is established that these civil servants have consciously conspired to do this, they should face full force of the law for abusing their positions," he said.

Acting Mbeya City Director Oscar Kapinga acknowledged that indeed some MEO offices were closed and directed the human resource department to follow up and report on why the offices were padlocked and the whereabouts of the office holders.

Kapinga said the only logical explanation that can save the MEOs from disciplinary and legal action is if by chance, they were all assigned other duties by their superiors.

"I received information that the offices were shut two days ago; I am working on it. The laws are clear on what to do with a civil servant who deserts work station during work hours," he said.

Regulations of this year's local government elections set to take place in the Mainland as released by the Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) Selemani Jafu in August this indicate that election campaigns will be held for seven days before voting day.

The minister said that political parties have to nominate their candidates 17 days before the polls and all unsatisfied candidates will have to file petitions with a referral committee formed in every district.

Local government elections are where leaders from the lowest level of governance—hamlet, village, neighbourhood (mtaa) and ward leaders are elected, and were last held in 2014.

AfDB shareholders approve new, record capital increase

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for the continent," the statement noted.

The boost in capital ensures that the bank will continue to maintain a sterling AAA rating, all stable, from the top rating agencies, it elaborated.

AfDB launched discussions on the request for a general capital increase two years ago, to help fast track the delivery of its High 5 development strategies, the sustainable development goals and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, the President of Ivory Coast, Alassane Ouattara said the integration of the continent's priorities into the High 5s indicates that the African Development Bank group is a strategic partner for

African governments.

In the past four years, the bank's High 5 priorities have delivered impressive results on the ground, including helping to connect 16 million people to electricity, 70 million people provided with agricultural technologies to boost food security and nine million people given access to finance through private sector investee companies.

At the same time 55 million people were provided improved access to transport services and 31 million people with access to water and sanitation, the statement noted.

AfDB president Akinwumi Adesina declared that the bank had achieved a lot, "yet there is still a long way to go. Our responsibility is to very quickly help improve the quality of life for the

people of Africa," he stated.

"This general capital increase represents a very strong commitment of all our shareholders to see better quality projects that will significantly have an impact on the lives of the people in Africa - in cities, in rural communities, and for millions of youth and women."

With the new general capital increase, the bank plans to do more, with expected results including 105 million people likely to have access to new or improved electricity connections and 244 million people to benefit from improvements in agriculture.

Similarly, 15 million people are likely to benefit from investee projects, 252 million people will benefit from improved access to transport,

and 128 million people will benefit from improved access to water and sanitation.

"The bank will continue its leadership role on infrastructure development, strengthening regional integration, helping to realize the ambitions of the African Continental Free Trade Area," the bank president underlined.

AfDB will continue supporting fragile states to build resilience, ensuring sustainable debt management, addressing climate change and boosting private sector investments, he said. "We will do a lot more. This is a historic moment."

"I applaud the shareholders for their strong confidence in the bank and for boosting support for Africa's development," he added.



Used spare parts and various other items for sale block a section of the road near the Nyamwezi Street/Kipata Street intersection in Dar es Salaam's sprawling Kariakoo market zone yesterday, seriously inconveniencing motorists and other road users. Photo: John Badi

Govt to execute second phase of its education project in Tanga region

By Lusekelo Philemon

THE government is set to come up with second-phase of an education project—Global Learning Xprize Project after the successful implementation of the first-phase of the pilot project, which has benefited 2,500 children in Tanga Region.

In the 15-month project, which was handed over to the government by UNESCO on Thursday at a ceremony held in Korogwe District, children were provided with tablets equipped with education software that helped them to learn by themselves and acquire basic skills in reading, writing and arithmetic.

Implemented in six districts of Tanga Region—Mkinga, Muheza, Handeni, Korogwe, Lushoto, and Pangani, the project was executed in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, United Nations' Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), World Food Programme and the Global Learning Xprize.

Speaking at the handing over function, Tanga Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS), Zena Said described the pilot project as a milestone in transforming education sector in the region and the country at large.

She said the project has helped to motivate underprivileged children to acquire basic skills—reading, writing and arithmetic, while the society benefited in different ways including using solar power to charge their mobile phones as well as lighting.

"There are more children who weren't part of the project, who have benefited from the tablets," the official said, adding: "That's why it is important for the project to be reviewed so that many children benefit from the project. Successes that will be registered in the second-phase will make us to convince the government to spread the project across the country."

"It is also a good platform for Tanzania to improve literacy and address truancy and school dropout in the country," Zena said, calling more education players to team up with the government to prepare ways on how the second-phase will be executed.

She however suggested the need for the local government authorities in Tanga Region to reinforce satellite schools so that they can be used in implementing the proposed second phase, whereby children will be learning using tablets in those centers.

The RAS assured education stakeholders that the second-phase will be achievable as it will be using the

available infrastructure on the ground.

Zena also tasked responsible authorities to ensure that all those children who were in the first-phase to be accommodated in the formal education system—primary to secondary schools and universities.

She said: "This project has been beneficial not only to the children but also to the villages where it was implemented."

According to Zena, during the second phase children will learn better ways of using the tablets which will be available at the satellite schools contrary to the first phase where the hardware were distributed to the families and they will be assisted by teachers to make the project more effective.

For his part UNESCO Head of Office and Representative, Tirso Dos Santos said that the project has proved that given the appropriate ICT tools and software children can teach by themselves to write, read and acquire basic numerous skills.

He said that despite various efforts being undertaken by the government to improve education sector in the country many children were still out of the school system.

The key question which was to be answered in this project was whether by using the software children could teach themselves. We are happy to have come to the conclusion that given the appropriate ICT tools and software children can indeed teach by themselves by using those tools which are designed in a way that captivate them to play throughout the process and therefore find the learning enjoyable," he said.

Santos said that Unesco was handing over the project to the government for the purpose of sharing the achievements of project with a wide range of education stakeholders so that they can be influenced to support children with limited access to education in other remote and underprivileged communities.

During the project tablets with specific software were distributed to 2,700 children from 170 villages in Tanga region. The Tanga field test was designed to determine which software enables the greatest proficiency gains.

"That's why it is important for the project to be reviewed so that many children benefit from the project. Successes that will be registered in the second-phase will make us to convince the government to spread the project across the country."

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

Arusha city councillors appeal for hepatitis B awareness campaigns

Distributed via ipmedia

COUNCILLORS in Arusha city have directed the regional medical officer (RMO) Dr Saimon Chacha to strengthen the fight against the viral hepatitis B by promoting awareness, testing and treatment programmes.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), about 3.2 million Tanzanians have hepatitis B and about 0.5 million have hepatitis C, meaning for every 14 people one is suffering from hepatitis B or C.

The councillors were concerned that the disease is becoming among major threats taking a number of lives annually.

Speaking during the meeting here, Olorieni ward councillor, Zakaria Mollel wanted the government to take serious steps to scale up hepatitis B services in the region.

"There is no campaign from our

regional or district office to fight the disease, I haven't seen that. We must be aware that this is a dangerous disease hence the need to put in place measures to control it," said Prosper Msofe, Daraja Mbili ward councillor.

Ngarenaro ward councillor, Isaya Doita said the health sector department in the region requires a huge overhaul by ensuring that it is replaced by strong and committed workers who are eager to promote health care services from regional to village level.

"We want the department to wake up, go in churches, mosques, markets and other areas to educate the public about this disease while helping them

on how to prevent the fatal disease for the country's development," Doita said.

Responding, RMO Dr Chacha acknowledged that there is still low investment in the area pledging to expand education through use of various media platforms including regional radios so as to reach more population with the disease education.

Currently, hepatitis B vaccine is provided at the cost of 10,000/-, said the RMO.

Hepatitis refers to an inflammatory condition of the liver. It's commonly caused by a viral infection, but there are other possible causes of hepatitis.

In highly endemic areas, hepatitis B

is most commonly spread from mother to child at birth (perinatal transmission) or through horizontal transmission (exposure to infected blood), especially from an infected child to an uninfected child during the first five years of life.

Hepatitis B is also spread by percutaneous or mucosal exposure to infected blood and various body fluids, as well as through saliva, menstrual, vaginal and seminal fluids.

Sexual transmission of hepatitis B may occur, particularly in unvaccinated men, who have sex with men and heterosexual persons with multiple sex partners or contact with sex workers.

Minister warns regional education officers over incorrect information

By Guardian Reporter, Morogoro

EDUCATION Minister Prof Joyce Ndalichako has warned regional education officers from providing wrong information on shortage of classrooms at newly constructed schools while allocating more pupils to old schools.

She said the situation has contributed into pupil's congestion at the old school leading into poor academic performance in Standard Seven national examinations.

"When classes are congested, pupils cannot comfortably learn, but also becomes difficult for teachers to supervise them hence the poor performance," said Prof Ndalichako during her visit at the Kilosa agricultural secondary school in Morogoro which is being renovated by the government at cost of over 752m/-.

The Minister urged them to avoid giving wrong information to top government officials while knowing there are schools in their regions that face shortage of classrooms. She said stern measures will be taken against education officers who will be proved to provide false information.

Prof Ndalichako said once the real shortage of classes is known countrywide, the government will take actions to address the situation since is determined to ensure quality education to every Tanzanian child through introduction of free education policy.

The government issued Circular 5 in 2015 which implements the Education

and Training Policy 2014 and directs public bodies to ensure that secondary education is free for all children. This includes the removal of all forms of fees and contributions.

She commended the school management for properly supervising renovation of the school whereas it has only spent 602,094,254/- of the provided 752,094,254/-. She said there are few schools including the Kilosa secondary school which have properly administered the school renovation funds disbursed by the government under a program to renovate 89 old public schools in the country.

Kilosa District Commissioner, Adam Mgoj said his was closely following-up the renovation process to ensure value for money.

He said the aim is improve the district's academic performance in national examinations whereas Kilosa secondary school ranked second regionally in the past Form Six national examination results. He said the school performance better compared to private schools which were previously taking top positions.

The school Headmaster, Mbaraka Kupela thanked the government for the funds insisting to complete the remaining 25 percent in a short period.

"We have implemented the project by 75 percent spending less than what the government estimated would be the cost for renovation. We are requesting the ministry to allow us to use the remaining 150m/- for renovation of teacher's houses", said the Head teacher.



Tanzania Election Alliance (TenEA) chairman Michael Kyanda (R), The Right Way secretary Gideon Mazara (2nd-R), Action for Change (ACHA) managing director Martina Kabisama (2nd-L) and ACHA chairperson Justina Shauri display a new book on civic education shortly after it was launched in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Prof raises concern over irrational use of antibiotics among livestock keepers

By Henry Mwangonde

A lecturer at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) Prof Japhet Killewo has raised concerns over rising cases of irrational use of antibiotics among livestock keepers in the country.

The university don is concerned that advocacy messages aimed at campaigning against antimicrobial resistance in Tanzania have only focused on encouraging patients to ensure they hold a prescription form to be able to access antibiotics from pharmacies.

Speaking at a meeting to launch his book titled: 'Wicked Health Problems and the One Health Approach in Tanzania' on Thursday Prof Killewo said the book is part of his efforts to combat the rising cases of epidemic diseases, coupled with the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

However, he said, the messages have not targeted livestock keepers.

"I am aware of livestock keepers who purchase the same antibiotics from agricultural shops to treat their sick animals. Unfortunately, when the sick animals are given these antibiotics, humans suffer indirectly," he said.

Prof Killewo who is the focal person for the One Health Central and Eastern Africa (OHCEA) added that "At this point, AMR begins changing from being as bad as it is now to being a "wicked" health problem."

He said the efforts invested in addressing AMR in Tanzania are also facing a drawback due to players in the industry who are profiting from the public health challenge, adding that AMR is increasingly becoming difficult to tackle—or rather wicked—thus posing a serious challenge to human health.

Tanzania is seeking to address irrational use of antibiotics across

all sectors of animal and human health through the National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance 2017-2022.

The One Health Day matters as a catalyst for a global campaign to address shared health threats at the human-animal-environment interface.

According to Prof Killewo, the emphasis should now be placed on prevention, detection and response to outbreaks and embracing coordinated action and information sharing to prevent, minimize and respond to outbreaks to save lives.

When it comes to livestock keepers, he said, "It is obvious that livestock keepers do not follow the rules or regulations which require them to do curling of animals or discarding animal products during withdrawal periods because they fear this may affect their economic livelihoods."

He further asserted that Tanzanians are increasingly consuming animal and plant products which have been contaminated with antimicrobials either intentionally through treatment or accidentally through feeds and other contaminants.

He believes if not for the challenges that lie ahead, AMR could have been tackled if pharmaceutical companies make new antibiotics.

A veterinary expert from Sokone University of Agriculture (SUA), Prof Robinson Mdegela who attended the professorial lecture at Muhas said that the One Health approach aims to put scientists and policymakers at a roundtable so that they can surmount that barriers hindering the fight against AMR.

Prof Mdegela, from SUA's Department of Veterinary Medicine and Public Health, explained that the One Health approach can succeed to addressing AMR if scientists step out of their comfort zones and team up with a common goal.



Mwita Waitara (R. foreground), Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) shares a light moment with Kibosho West councillor Deogratius Mushi during a tour of Umbwe Secondary School in Moshi municipality on Thursday. Photo: Godfrey Mushi

Wanted: Public awareness on climate change impact

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

A call has been made for climate related CSOs to mainstream climate changes related issues in their activities in a bid to increase awareness at the grassroots level and rural areas.

Stakeholders made the call as part of the resolutions to the recent symposium on Gender Financing for Climatic Changes (GFC) in Morogoro.

Other resolutions include developing a national agenda for advocacy as well as to engage the government in the implementation of climate related

projects.

During the symposium, various recommendations were made where Leocadia Vedastus from Sauti ya Wanawake Ukerewe called upon stakeholders to educate the society to plant trees and to minimize the use of charcoal because they accelerate the climatic change.

She emphasized upon the need to preserve water sources to avoid shortage of the precious liquid saying women stood the chance to be affected by the climatic change impacts.

For his part, Athanas Evarist from

FADHILI TEENS emphasized on the need to educate men on climate change to protect women as the movement for climatic change does affect them equally despite being the minority.

Sauda Amani with TAMISEMI(POLARG said when one talks about the climatic change they actually talk of gender related issues that being the economic activities, utilization of land, livestock keeping, utilization of natural resources that women form the majority of Tanzanian population who actually work and live in rural areas.

She urged stakeholders to

also consider gender from the grassroots level and on its effect on climatic changes specifically on the industrialization policy.

The one-day symposium was organized by WATED and brought together various stakeholders to discuss on how they can advocate for climatic change related issues to other stakeholders.

WATED is an organization whose objectives among others will be to empower women, enhance gender mainstreaming in all matters including climatic change and women rights.



Jenista Mhagama (R. gesturing), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament, Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disabilities), makes a remark at a meeting she had in Dodoma city yesterday with members of the national task force coordinating the government's 'move to Dodoma' programme. Photo: PMO

HARARE

Japan pledges \$ 2.7 million for food assistance and strong community resilience in Zimbabwe

THE Government of Japan has announced an additional US \$ 2.7 million to the World Food Programme (WFP) in funding for asset creation and food assistance initiatives in Zimbabwe.

With these funds, WFP will be able to support approximately 28,500 people across 24 districts over the next 12 months.

The announcement was made during a handover ceremony in Mount Darwin, further building on previous contributions earlier this year, including US \$ 500,000 to support food assistance and community resilience-building activities, as well as US \$ 350,000 towards emergency relief efforts following Cyclone Idai.

In total, Japan has generously

supported WFP in Zimbabwe with US \$ 3.5 million in 2019.

"The timely funding from Japan this year, received in times of great need, have been crucial to WFP's operational capacity amidst two climate-related disasters," said Eddie Rowe, WFP Country Representative and Director.

He added: "This new contribution will ensure that the progress we have made is not lost, but rather that these communities continue to build their resilience for the future."

Projects will be implemented in partnership with WFP, World Vision Zimbabwe and PLAN International, including Food Assistance for Assets,

support to the government's Home Grown School Feeding programme, and nutrition in maternity waiting homes.

"Japan will continue to provide support so that the basic needs of the rural communities are met, especially those of women and children," said Toshiyuki Iwado, Ambassador of Japan to Zimbabwe.

He encouraged the Government of Zimbabwe to further tackle the issue of food insecurity, as Japan and other donor countries could only support the efforts of Zimbabweans.

He also mentioned that the project would contribute to Japan's goal

of promoting gender equality, by providing nutritional support to women and children.

Japan's support has enabled the construction of weir dams and nutrition gardens, mainly in Manicaland, Matabeleland North and South, and Mashonaland Central provinces, as well as provided much-needed nutritional support to expectant mothers at maternity waiting homes across the country.

WFP works in more than 80 countries around the world, feeding people caught in conflict and disasters, and laying the foundations for a better future.

Floods threaten to derail South Sudan's recovery

NAIROBI

Severe flooding in South Sudan has affected close to a million people, threatening to reverse some of the humanitarian gains made during a year-long ceasefire in the country's civil war, aid workers and UN officials say.

An estimated 420,000 people have been directly displaced by abnormally heavy seasonal flooding. Entire communities have been submerged, crops and livestock lost, with health centres and schools inundated - or in many cases turned into emergency shelters for people now made homeless.

"We have to respond to the people in need, to supply them with tarpaulins, water purification tablets, and food," Alain Noudéhou, the UN's emergency aid coordinator in South Sudan, told The New Humanitarian.

"If we don't act quickly and in a targeted manner, the gains made in the past 12 months of stability will be set back."

A government of national unity is due to be formed on 12 November, marking a formal end to a five-year conflict between President Salva Kiir and opposition leader Riek Machar - but the timetable has slipped and there have been calls for further delay.

The year-long ceasefire, however, has allowed aid agencies to reach parts of the country previously inaccessible due to fighting, which has killed almost 400,000 people.

The UN's emergency aid coordination body, OCHA, said floods have hit a total of 32 counties in Jonglei, Upper Nile, Warrap, Eastern Equatoria, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Unity, and Lakes - areas where more than three million people were already in need of assistance even before the rains.

The rains, which began in July, are expected to last another four to six weeks - causing yet more hardship for the estimated 908,000 people so far

affected by the rising waters.

In Pibor, one of the hardest-hit towns on the eastern border with Ethiopia, Médecins Sans Frontières said 90 percent of homes are underwater, including its health centre and compound - now knee-deep in mud and with no electricity.

People are concentrated on whatever high ground they can find, cut off from assistance.

"We are seeing more malaria cases, watery diarrhoea cases, and respiratory tract infections as a result of the flooding," said Edi Atte, MSF's emergency coordinator. "The health condition of the people is deteriorating because they are drinking from open water sources."

Atte told TNH that cholera was a real concern. "It's something we fear. We have seen no cases yet, but it will come, I think."

MSF noted in a statement on Monday that there were enough drugs in Pibor to last one week, but resupply could prove difficult as the helicopter landing strip is a thin strip of land surrounded by water.

Aid agencies have appealed for \$35 million to cover the immediate flood needs. But Noudéhou, returning from an assessment mission on Tuesday to the Jonglei region, said disaster risk reduction - to be better prepared for future floods - should also be a priority.

"It may cost a bit more, but in the longer term it will help prevent future vulnerability [and reduce disaster response needs]," he told TNH.

Recovery another challenge The crisis will not be over once the water levels subside, which in the past has taken up to three months.

"The floods have worsened what was already a bad situation - people have lost everything, their belongings, their cattle," said Atte. "Their conditions will be worse [when they return to their homes]."

AGENCIES

African parliamentarians challenged to make sure govts keep their word on maternal deaths and GBV

By Correspondent Kenneth Simbaya,

Kampala

AFRICAN parliamentarians have been challenged to ensure implementation of commitment by governments on ending preventable maternal deaths, and gender based violence (GBV) as well as supporting family planning initiatives.

Alain Sibenaler, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Uganda Country Representative threw the challenge on Wednesday this week when giving UNFPA remarks at the Network of African Parliamentary Commitment Committees of Health (NEAPACOH) 2019 held between October 30 and 31 this year in Kampala.

He said this year's NEAPACOH theme: "Building the Capacity of African Policy Makers for Enhanced Implementation of ICPD Program of Action (PoA) and Improved Reproductive Health Outcomes: Challenges and Opportunities", is pertinent as countries accelerate the promise made 25 years ago in Cairo.

ICPD refers to the groundbreaking International Conference on Population and Development, which brought together over 10,000 delegates in Cairo in 1994 to deliberate on connections between population and development. "We expect the commitment, to end preventable maternal deaths, eliminate unmet needs for modern contraceptives, end gender based violence, child marriage and female genital mutilation among others," said the Uganda UNFPA Country Representative.

He said accelerated progress is critical because too many people are being left behind, much as there have been progress in regard to ICPD reproductive health commitments, hence people and economies suffering.

"Africa is afflicted with the most vulnerable population on planet earth. More than 90 percent of all increase in world population happens in Africa. The quality of life as reflected by per capita income is the lowest in Africa. Every year, more than half a

million women die during childbirth, with more than 95 per cent of them in Africa and Asia", said Adnene Haij Aissa, Executive Director Partners in Population and Development (PPD).

Aissa said that every minute, 10 people are newly infected with HIV/Aids and 3 million people die of the disease each year whereas 90 per cent of them are in Africa.

PPD is an inter-governmental organization created specifically for the purpose of expanding and improving South to South collaboration in the field of reproductive health, population and development.

According to Aissa, there is a structural imbalance between the haves and the have-nots that needs to be corrected urgently and the solution lies in empowering countries of the South.

These imbalances, Adnene said, exist because of countries failure in addressing the basic and intrinsic variables that are responsible to improve living conditions at home.

"While we do recognize some progress in some parts of Africa, the situation remains still precarious and the ICPD and SDGs are likely to remain unfinished agendas in most parts of Africa," Aissa pointed.

Conference participants noted that while progress has been made by countries towards the achievement of the goals and objectives of the ICPD, challenges remain to implement fully the PoA and achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs) by 2030.

Prof Joachim Osur, Director for Regional Projects Amref Health Africa and Dean School of Medical Sciences at Amref International University, challenged MPs to promote, review, and adopt sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) legislation, including budget appropriations.

Speaking to The Guardian at the meeting Fred Mwakibete, a Member of Parliament from Busokelo constituency in Mbeya region who represented Tanzania said that NEAPACOH reminds MPs of their critical role of creating enabling policies towards improve maternal health services.



CRDB Bank Plc director of procurement Pendason Philemon (L) presents a dummy cheque for 10m/- to Tanzania Police Academy acting commandant Gemini Mushy (R) in Moshi municipality earlier this week. It was contribution by the bank in support of the construction of latrines for women at the academy. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

Clerics root for promotion and protection of children's rights

By Getrude Mbago

RELIGIOUS leaders under the Tanzania Interfaith Partnership (TIP) have expressed their commitment to continue promoting the rights of children which include advocating for better care and protecting them from abuse and exploitation.

The association made the declaration in Dar es Salaam on Thursday during the advocacy meeting to highlight and discuss various issues facing children and how to promote and supervise their rights ahead of the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child slated later this month.

Reading the joint statement, Khalid

Ali Mfaume, secretary of the Mufti of Zanzibar said the community is going to jointly work together to support social welfare of children.

According to him, leaders from the Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT), the Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC) and the National Muslim Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA) plus the Office of the Mufti of Zanzibar have agreed to advance children rights across congregations and communities.

"We are all together going to guide our followers and communities on the importance of promoting and respecting children rights in their daily lives through inclusion of children rights issues in our sermons," he said.

He added that by using religious

communities, the leaders are going to build networks that can provide a front line of response to children at risk of abuse and violence.

Fr. Alphonse Raraiya from Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC)

urged parents and the general public to take good care of their children teaching about hard work, life skills for their bright future. "We as religious leaders, we remain committed towards the betterment of our children and the society at large," he added.

In his opening remarks, Francis Odhiambo, Deputy Country Representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) commended religious leaders for their efforts in promoting children rights in the

country.

Odhiambo noted that faith-based organizations and religious groups have become important partners in UNICEF's work with children due to their power to changing the society.

He said that the forthcoming 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights, creates a momentum for the international community to step up its efforts to make children thrive, and to renew their commitment to protect and promote all their human rights.

He assured that UNICEF will continue to supporting the governments which include undertaking a number of programmes to fight maternal and child deaths and Gender Based Violence (GBV) among others.



Work has begun in earnest on what is meant to develop into Kwala Dry Port in Kibaha District, as captured yesterday. The facility will have capacity to receive and store 3,000 containers at a go, thus substantially easing congestion at Dar es Salaam Port and road traffic jams in the city. Photo: Correspondent Mary Geoffrey

Cosmetics traders urged to register importation of cosmetics products

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

TRADERS importing cosmetics have been called upon to register with relevant authority in order to avoid fines or going to jail.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday during several operations to remove banned cosmetics from markets in Mwenje and adjacent areas, senior inspector with Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), Eng Donald Manyama said they have already started to register traders online.

"We have launched an online registration where all cosmetics dealers are required to register their

products without doing so they would be taken to the court of law", he said.

Eng Manyama said the government wants to have a list of all cosmetics traders and ensure that they sell products which do not pose huge health risks.

Explaining about yesterday's exercise, he said TBS officials in collaboration with police have visited more than five cosmetics dealers in Dar es Salaam.

"We have seized various types of banned cosmetics from the market which will later be destroyed at their own costs".

Some of the confiscated cosmetics

found in shops at Mwenje area included various skin creams whose total value was not immediately established.

He said government organs have managed to control importation of banned cosmetics, but there are some untrustworthy traders who continue importing them through illegal routes.

He urged traders to communicate with relevant authorities before they import or sale any cosmetics to avoid seizure or legal action.

He said all banned cosmetics have poisonous ingredients which pose huge health risks.

A trader, Jeremia Kambangwa said

they are not aware of the banned products.

"We have been importing these products without knowing that are prohibited in our country, TBS should continue educating us on the proper cosmetics," he said.

In July, this year TBS assumed new roles of food safety control and cosmetics which earlier was conducted by Tanzania Drug and Medicinal Authority (TMDA).

Tanzania's parliament approved Finance Bill of 2019 which saw harmonization of regulatory bodies' roles which were overlapping or more less the same.

EA launches management, conservation programme on trans-boundary resources

By Guardian Reporter

EAST African countries have launched a programme to enhance collaborative management and conservation for trans-boundary natural resources in the region.

Speaking at the launch, East African Community (EAC) deputy secretary general in charge of productive and social sectors, Christophe Bazivamo said that the programme is crucial as it would, among other things increase perceived value of wildlife and reduce wildlife poaching and trafficking.

"This sustained support will go a long way to strengthen national and regional efforts in conservation and management of East Africa's rich biodiversity and natural resources," said Bazivamo.

He said the new conservation and management of natural capital programme will help strengthen the EAC's capacity to protect this vital resource.

The programme, launched by the EAC in collaboration with the US Agency for International Development Kenya/East Africa (USAID/KEA) in Nairobi, Kenya will also ensure conservation and sustainable use of East Africa's natural capital.

The conservation and management of the region's natural capital programme is an initiative that seeks to improve the collaborative management and conservation of trans-boundary natural resources, reduce wildlife poaching and trafficking, and increase the perceived value of living wildlife.

The three-year project, which runs from June 2019 to June 2022, has a budget component of approximately US \$ 2.3 million from USAID/KEA.

The EAC secretariat will lead

the programme implementation process with technical and analytical support from the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Environment Incentives.

This will be done through a new working approach requiring the active involvement of host communities of natural protected biodiversity species areas.

In East Africa, biodiversity-rich areas are critical to the region's nature-based tourism industry, which contributes 7.5-10 percent of East Africa's gross domestic product.

At the local level, rural communities across the region depend on wildlife and wildlife habitats for their livelihoods. Iconic wildlife, and the landscapes on which it roams, has significant value.

Also in response to rapid economic development and population growth, East Africa's infrastructure is expanding. The expansion is putting pressure on East Africa's "natural capital" resources that are essential for socio-economic growth and development of East African countries and people.

Under the EAC Treaty, in particular Chapters 19 and 20, EAC partner states agree amongst other things, to take concerted measures to foster co-operation in the joint and efficient management and sustainable utilization of natural resources within the community for their mutual benefit.

Partner states also recognize that conserving natural capital across boundaries requires strong collaboration and harmonization of national and regional plans and policies to support trans-boundary management.

Climate change mitigation projects should involve more women - MP

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

WOMEN comprise of a very big component of not only the global population but also the Tanzanian one.

Even more importantly, most of these women are in rural areas where majority are at the centerfold of the production chain as breadwinners in terms of farming as well as harvest and preparation of food for human consumption.

Needless to speak, society tend to forget them when it comes to climate related issues as seldom women in rural areas get chances to attend meetings on environmental conservation let alone the chance to share the challenges they encounter from drought, failure to preserve water sources or else the lack of firewood to cook food with.

It is based on the above observation that recently, a non-governmental organisation namely Women Action towards Entrepreneurship Development (WATED) organised a Symposium on Gender Financing for Climate Change.

During the discussion, a very interesting topic came around as the Chief Guest who happens to be MP Fatma Tawfiq made an emphasis for each project on climate change to involve women owing to being the main users of land and natural resources and thus stand the chance to be affected.

Fatma Tawfiq, a special seat MP made the call to that end in Morogoro while officiating a Symposium on Gender Financing for Climate Change organised by Women Action towards Entrepreneurship Development (WATED).

She emphasized on the need to unite in dealing with the climatic changes as its impacts affect the society in general and not an individual adding that engaging in gender financing for climate could see women access funds and hence raise their income.

Mathias Lyamunda, the Director of Foundation for Environmental Management and Campaign against Poverty (Femapo) echoed the chief guest saying climate change has been seriously affecting water availability, agriculture and energy all of which negatively affect women globally.

Lyamunda called upon the government to utilize opportunities brought about by various programmes formed to mitigate the phenomenon, including the United Nations Project under Green Climate Fund (GCF).

According to Lyamunda, the Green Climate Fund covers many matters including the gender equality, gender equity, inclusiveness in all activities, accountability for gender and climatic change and impacts as well as equitable resource allocation.

During the symposium, several organisations managed to share their success stories from the interventions about environmental conservation in their areas where Ritha Ntagazwa from 'Sauti ya Haki' Tanzania, in Tukuyu said their organisation had managed to empower women and community members to conserve the environment, as well as to initiate a campaign on tree planting in Tukuyu, Rungwe district.

Leocadia Vedastus, with the 'Sauti ya wanawake' in Ukerewe shared how they have been holding meetings to educate the public about the GCF programme and on how the society can engage in order to avoid the climatic change which may involve and affect women

"Sauti ya wanawake wa Ukerewe' has managed to establish various programmes such as the green voice where we have been utilizing the natural resources such as milk and wheat to generate income. Our stakeholders have been helping us to foster the campaign to regulate fishing activities," said Leocadia.

The symposium have gone alright, but perhaps it is about time stakeholders borrowed a leaf to take aboard all the good resolutions that emanated from the session inclusive of mainstreaming climate change as part of their day to day activities as well as involving the government as they implement them.

Another resolution that came strongly was on creating awareness on the climatic changes relating issues especially at the grassroots level and rural areas, a point to be well taken into consideration is that's where majority of the people live.

Developing the National Agenda on advocacy, learning and adopting foreign practices, awareness to the decision makers, was also mentioned as key to curb climate change and its effects.

The Green Climate Fund may be little known to many, but certainly, it has come on the right time as the country battles to deal with environmental degradation and drought amid deforestation. With the number of cattle shooting up, the fund is vital to equip CSOs especially in rural areas where majority need to be told on effects of overgrazing, deforestation and failure to protect the remaining few water sources in the area.

A lot more needs to be done to equip stakeholders to enable them come up with powerful proposals that would see them gain access to the said funds to protect Mother Nature.

Symposiums such as these should be sustainable in terms of stakeholders working on resolutions for the best interest of the nation. It is only then that they would serve the purpose to protect Mother Nature.



Simanjoro District senior mining officer Daudi Ntalima addresses small-scale miners in Manyara Region earlier this week. He warned against the illegal sale of tanzanite and other gemstones. Photo: Cynthia Mwilolezi

By Guardian Reporter

THE government said acts of sexual abuse to children have increased from 13,457 incidents in 2017 to 14,417 last year (2018).

2018 data shows that incidents of rape to children were 5,557 while pregnancy cases were 2,692. There were also 1,157 cases of sodomy, 965 assaults and 705 injuries.

The Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Ummu Mwalimu, revealed this yesterday at a media conference on national agenda on parents and guardians responsibility on family care.

Reading her report yesterday at the conference, the Director of Children Development, Mwajuma Magwiza, said regions that lead in acts of child abuse are Tanga, Mbeya, Mwanza, Arusha and Tabora.

She said there have been a plummeting of moral decay in the society and families.

"We have been witnessing various acts of abuse to children while those committing same are close relatives and friends. Police

'Child sexual abuse cases registered slight increase'

data for 2018 show acts of violence to children are on increase from 13,457 in 2017 to 14,419 in 2018, an increase of 6.6 percent," she said.

She mentioned these acts of violence as rape and sodomy, pregnancies, child marriages, beatings and female genital mutilation (FGM).

Magwiza said research conducted by the ministry in partnership with various stakeholders for the period of December 2017 to January 2018 in 12 councils of Ilala, Kinondoni, Temeke, Kigamboni, Ubungo, Arusha, Iringa, Mbeya City, Dodoma, Nyamagana and Ilemela found out that 6,393 children live and work in the streets.

She said out of these 1,528 were girls and 4,865 boys and it was revealed 1,385 were found to work at night time in the streets - 410 girls and 975 boys.

"The existence of these children in the streets is largely attributed by unaccountability on the part of families towards their upkeep," she said.

She further said that data from the Health ministry for this year shows marriages disputes have increased from 13,382 disputes in 2018 to 16,832 up to June this year, a whopping increase of 26 percent.

She pleaded for of the media assistance to educate the society via radio and TV programmes.

Speaking on behalf of the Ministry's Permanent Secretary the Assistant Director for family upkeep and education Tausi Mwilima said the ministry is set to ensure education reaches all stakeholders including media people.



Traders at Dar es Salaam's Tandale foodstuff and general supplies market clear beans of dust and other impurities while waiting for customers, as found yesterday. Photo: John Badi

Malawi on vasectomy drive to stem population growth

By Zawadi Chilunga

MALAWI government has said it wants to encourage men to have vasectomies in a bid to stem the landlocked country's growing population and persuades the development partners to channel their financial resources towards promotion of vasectomy.

A vasectomy is often irreversible as it is a surgical procedure for male sterilisation or permanent contraception. During the procedure, the male vas deferens (tube which conveys sperm from the testicle) is cut and tied or sealed to prevent sperm from entering into the urethra. This

thereby prevents fertilisation of a female through sexual intercourse.

Speaking on Wednesday during the opening of National Symposium on Population and Development in Malawi at Bingu International Convention Centre (BICC) in Lilongwe, Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Ben Phiri said despite a number of interventions in family planning and the increase of uptake of contraceptives up to 58 per cent, the southern African nation still has increased its population over the years.

He said that given the option and right advice, men might be more willing to consider having a vasectomy.

Minister Phiri said apart from condom use, birth control is usually left to women. "We have been promoting the use of contraceptives among women while men have just been passive participants in family planning initiatives and they always find a way to bear child from other women out of wedlock. This is what is contributing to population boom in the country," the minister added.

While women have many methods for preventing pregnancy, the options for men boil down to condoms, withdrawal (pulling out) or getting a vasectomy. The latter is rarely used by many men in Malawi.

Many men prefer the skin-to-

skin feeling that condoms normally prevent, while the withdrawal method is the least effective. But they are loath to settle for a vasectomy as a means of family planning.

Senior Chief Mlonyeni of Mchinji agreed with the suggestion that men should be on vasectomy in order to reduce population growth.

"The population increase in the country has contributed to shortage of land, deforestation, food shortage, overfishing and poor access to social services in various areas," Mlonyeni said. He added that if the programme is to be a success traditional and religious leaders should be in lead in order to spearhead the initiative.

WHO, DRC eye tighter rules for Ebola care over concerns about immunity

KINSHASA

THE World Health Organization (WHO) and Congolese authorities are proposing changes to how some Ebola patients are cared for, new guidelines show, after a patient's death challenged the accepted medical theory that survivors are immune to reinfection.

There are many unanswered questions surrounding the circumstances of the woman's death in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which has not previously been reported.

But it has raised concerns because the woman, whose name has not been released for confidentiality reasons, was thought to have had immunity after surviving infection, but fell ill again with Ebola and died.

"That was a big red flag event for all of us", said Janet Diaz, who leads WHO's clinical management team for the epidemic in the DRC.

DRC's Ebola outbreak has infected over 3,000 people and killed more than 2,000 since August last year.

It is the second-worst outbreak after one in West Africa between 2013 and 2016 that killed more than 11,000 people.

The woman was working as a caregiver in the high-risk "red zone" of a treatment centre in Beni, eastern DRC, according to health officials familiar with her case.

She was one of dozens of people assigned to care for Ebola patients because it was assumed they would not get sick as Ebola survivors, although some researchers have considered re-infection to be at least a theoretical possibility.

Their presumed immunity allowed for closer contact with sufferers, many of them children.

Alima, the medical charity that co-ran the Beni centre where she worked, said she tested positive for Ebola and died in July before she could be readmitted for treatment.

But it is not yet known whether the woman received a false positive result the first time she was tested,

experienced a relapse or was re-infected, health officials say.

Medical experts say it could be years before Ebola survivors' immunity is fully understood. Yet the recent case is sufficiently worrying for health authorities to rethink how care should be provided to Ebola patients across eastern DRC.

The WHO and Congolese officials have drafted new guidelines, that warn that some Ebola survivors may have "incomplete immunity" and advise that additional measures should be taken to protect them from possible reinfection.

The new protocols would set limits on which Ebola survivors can work in treatment centres and standardise precautions that must be taken.

Survivors who had mild cases of Ebola and those who were found to have low viral loads - or lower levels of the virus circulating in their blood - while infected "need to be carefully assessed, as they may be at risk for having incomplete immunity after infection," read part of the draft.

Efforts to contain the DRC outbreak have been hampered by insecurity and public mistrust, but aided by medical advances including new vaccines and therapies.

But the draft protocols being discussed by health authorities would bar some survivors from working in the contaminated red zone.

These include people whose immune systems may be weaker because they are pregnant or because they have other infections such as HIV or tuberculosis, and those who had low viral loads during their Ebola infection.

The woman who died was pregnant at the time, which she had not disclosed to the treatment centre, according to Nicolas Mouly, Alima's emergencies coordinator. But it is not known if that played a role in her falling sick again.

Mouly said the DRC's biomedical research institute was running tests to learn more about the case. Officials with the DRC's Ebola response and the institute did not respond to phone calls and text messages seeking comment.

EAC council official: Private players' role in health sector vital

By Guardian Reporter

THE Chairperson of the EAC Sectoral Council on Health, Dr Patrick Ndimubanzi, has said investment in health is critical for ensuring human and socio-economic development in East Africa.

Dr Ndimubanzi who is Rwanda's Minister of State in charge of Public Health and Primary Health said: "As we invest in health, it's my conviction that our investments are made in strategic areas that offer maximum value for money and benefit to the people of East Africa".

The minister called for stronger partnerships that leverage the unique skills and resources of governments, civil society, and the private sector to improve the delivery of health services in the region.

The minister was addressing delegates during the official opening session of the 2nd EAC ministerial, development partners and investors roundtable in health sector in Nairobi, Kenya yesterday.

Dr Ndimubanzi underscored the private sector's involvement in health systems as significant in scale and scope, adding that it includes the provision of health-related services, medicines and medical products, financial products, training for the health workforce, information technology, infrastructure as well as support services.

He informed the delegates that as donor funding declines and health care costs rise, domestic resource mobilisation is a must.

"The private sector is encouraged to invest more in health service delivery and fill a significant part of the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) financing gap through sustainable business models," said the minister.

Dr Ndimubanzi called for the delegates attending the Roundtable discussion to see how the region can mobilise adequate resources to support implementation of the EAC health sector investment priorities.

EAC Deputy Secretary General responsible for Productive and Social Sectors, Christopher Bazivamo informed delegates that the roundtable discussion provides an opportunity

for all parties, governments and development partners to re-affirm their commitments to the EAC health sector integration agenda, universal health coverage (UHC) and UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Number 3 on good health and wellbeing with its 13 targets.

Bazivamo said investing in healthcare systems not only saves lives but is also a crucial investment in the wider economy. He said ill health impairs productivity, hinders job prospects and adversely affects human capital development.

He said Good Health was not only an outcome of, but also a foundation for, development.

"I am pleased to inform you that since the Summit of Heads of State adopted the health sector investments priorities framework, we so far have been able to mobilise investments and secure commitments of 83 million Euros. It is my sincere prayer and hope that these two days will provide more impetus in securing more commitments and investments into the EAC region," said Bazivamo.

Dr Anastasia Nyalita, Chief Executive Officer of the Africa Healthcare Federation who represented the private sector, disclosed that more than 40 percent of health services delivery in the EAC region is provided by Non State Actors (NSAs) as documented in periodic Country Health Sector reviews since 2012.

She said the disparity between EAC Partner States on policies and laws regulating manufacturing and importation of medicines and medical devices prevent the region from benefiting from the economies of scale.

She called for a harmonised framework for medicines and medical devices regulation that will accelerate the move towards realising the Common Markets vision while assuring the citizens of access to affordable, safe and quality products.

The two-day roundtable discussion is expected to come up with a roadmap on the implementation arrangements of the nine health sector investment priorities and resource mobilisation for the same.



Construction of a road to link Dar es Salaam's Kitunda and Kivule suburbs in progress yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

WHO report to address NCDs and road carnage

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) has launched report that suggests tools for city leaders to tackle deaths from non-communicable diseases and road traffic injuries.

The report, titled 'The Power of Cities: Tackling Non-Communicable Diseases and Road Traffic Injuries' was launched as part of marking the United Nations General Assembly World Cities Day celebrated every October 31st targeting mayors, local government officials and city policy planners.

The day was designated to greatly promote the international community's interest in global urbanisation, push forward cooperation among countries in meeting opportunities and addressing challenges of urbanization, and contributing to sustainable urban development around the world.

The WHO report offers guidance and tools for urban leaders to tackle some

of the leading causes of death in cities.

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) - like heart disease, stroke, cancer and diabetes - kill 41 million people worldwide every year while road traffic crashes kill 1.35 million annually.

"Over half the world's people live in cities, and the numbers are rising," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General. "City leaders make decisions that impact health of billions, and for cities to thrive, everyone needs access to services that will improve their health - public transport, safe, clean and attractive outdoor spaces, healthy food, and, of course, affordable health services".

Funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies, the report highlights key areas where city leaders can tackle the drivers of NCDs, including tobacco use, air pollution, poor diets and lack of exercise, and improve road safety.

WHO Global Ambassador for NCDs, Michael R. Bloomberg said: By

replicating the most effective measures on a global scale, we can save millions of lives". "We are working to raise awareness among city leaders and policy makers about the real gains that can be achieved when effective programmes are in place".

From anti-tobacco actions in Beijing and Bogor, to road safety initiatives in Accra and Bangkok, a bike sharing scheme in Fortaleza, and actions to create walkable streets for seniors that have reduced elderly pedestrian deaths by 16 percent in New York City, the report aims to share knowledge between urban policy planners.

Of the 19 case studies cited, 15 are from developing countries, where 85 percent of premature adult deaths through NCDs take place, and over 90 percent of road traffic fatalities are recorded.

Over 90 percent of future urban population growth will be in low or middle-income countries, and seven

of the world's 10 largest cities are in developing countries.

According to WHO 193 countries have committed to reducing premature deaths from NCDs by a third come 2030, and halving road traffic deaths and injuries by 2020, through the Sustainable Development Goals.

The United Nations selected the theme for this year's World Cities Day as "Changing the world: Innovations and Better Life For Future Generations" to discuss how urbanisation can be used to achieve sustainable development.

It aims to promote the international community's interest in implementing the new urban agenda globally and enhance cooperation among countries in meeting opportunities and addressing challenges of urbanization in cities. Over half the world's population now lives in cities, with the number expected to double by 2050, urbanization is one of the world's most transformative trends.



A small trader sorts used shoes yesterday as he waits for customers at a roadside 'market' at downtown Dar es Salaam's New Post Office bus stop premises. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Ifakara school performs poorly despite govt's measures to improve education

By Guardian Correspondent, Kilombero

DESPITE having fine buildings, enough teachers and 1.5b/- subsidy from the government, students at Ifakara secondary school are known for acts of absenteeism during nights with some teachers alleged to engage in love affairs with the students thereby adversely impacting their academic performance.

The subsidy from central government is meant for renovations of the school old infrastructures such as classrooms, dormitories, and staff houses.

However, students are said to receive half of food rations contrary to what the Ministry of Education recommends as a result, contributing to the school's plummeting education standards.

It is also reported that students harbor clandestine strategies in acts of vandalism as a way to air their complaints about the rations.

In an incident on the night of October 29 this year, two students were caught in the dead of the night as they were

going back to the school.

However it is claimed that hardcore students who escape from the school, which is in central Ifakara town, are relatives of the teachers and other residents in the school's proximity.

Morogoro Regional Commissioner, Loata Ole Sanare accompanied by his Defense and Security Committee this week made an impromptu visit at the school during which he talked with the teachers and other staff as well as students who said despite the government dishing out a lot of money for the school's upkeep, still the discipline is awful and the blame must be directed to the teachers.

RC Ole Sanare said: "Teachers who assist students to go out during the night must quit before we arrest them. Many things do not go well in this school and that is why it has come last at regional level in Form VI Exams this year. It is a big shame for the school to be run wholly by the government and yet students perform poorly in national exams."

On his part, Regional Education Officer he said: "This is a great shame, students have been escaping from school from time to time and the evidence is the incident of October 29 when two students were caught in the dead of the night returning to school and the main culprits are teachers".

The Regional Commissioner said the government will not close its eyes to teachers who are expected to be guardians and parents of the students and not becoming their lovers.

"The school board should take actions against challenges facing the school including firing of teachers and students who are engaged in these acts. The OCD and RPC should arrest and arraign teachers who are found to assist students to escape from the school", said the RC.

He said students are getting less food whereas 555 students who are supposed to consume 250 grams of rice each equivalent to 138kg are getting far less.

"Several other foodstuffs like meat,

sugar, salt and tea are given less to the students than the recommended quantities", claimed the RC questioning where the rest of the food go?"

The RC formed a committee that involved the District PCCB Officer, two members from the Ifakara Municipal Council and two other from RAS office to conduct three-day investigations on the matter and submit a report to his office.

The committee will also probe the issue of 1.5b/- given by the government for renovations to the school.

Headmistress of the school, Sentana Ngailo admitted to the existence of the mentioned challenges but added that she was new at the school, only a month since arrival.

She also said students' absenteeism is facilitated by outsiders and not teachers at the school, and this evidence is from mobile phones.

She said they have already confiscated four mobile phones and found ongoing communications between students and outsiders.

Three SADC countries to protest unfair CITES trade restrictions

By Emmanuel Koro

BOTSWANA, Namibia and Zimbabwe are going to submit protest documents that will allow them to legally trade in their elephants, rhino and giraffes.

The three countries are declaring themselves independent of the controls exercised by the Geneva-based UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

They are joined in their protest by another five unnamed SADC countries whose proposals to trade in live wildlife and wildlife products were also rejected at the tri-annual CITES meeting in August.

These positions, known as "reservations", will be made known to CITES by November 26.

They signify acceptance of the Final Draft Report that was released at the SADC meeting of Ministers of the Environment in Tanzania on Friday last week.

The report recommends that all SADC countries protest the decisions to restrict trade in species in defiance of compelling scientific evidence that suggests such restrictions are unnecessary and because of a rigged voting system at CITES COP18 in Geneva.

The SADC countries' move is also in protest to the first-ever listing 'as threatened' of the thriving giraffe populations of Southern Africa.

According to various articles of the Convention, a reservation over a particular species means that Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe, as well as the other five unnamed protesting SADC countries, would no longer have to adhere to CITES rules with respect to that particular species.

They would no longer be restricted from trading in the species and their products with other countries that also claim the same reservation, or non-

members of the Convention.

"We agreed as a region that we will all deposit reservations on our three major species which are the giraffe, the elephant and the white rhino" said Zimbabwe's Environment, Tourism and Hospitality Industry Acting Minister Ngobizita Mangaliso Ndlovu.

"We want to believe that this is the starting point for us as a block to register serious displeasure in the way we are being treated," he said adding: "I think we will be heard. It is a very bold political statement that we have taken".

For a long time, SADC rural communities have been urging their governments to protest CITES decisions by either pulling out or issuing an appropriate reservation.

"Botswana communities would like to welcome the protest documents to UN CITES by SADC countries", said Siyoka Simasiku, Executive Director for Ngamiland Council of NGOs (NCONGO).

"The SADC decision will ensure that Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) programme in Botswana yield meaningful tourism benefits to communities not only through hunting, but through other development projects".

Charles Jonga, Director of the Zimbabwe CAMPFIRE Programme that promotes conservation and development in rural areas through wise use of wildlife and natural resources said SADC countries have taken a bold step in listening to the voices of their local communities.

Botswana Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism, Thato Raphaka, said his country will take reservations in protest of CITES COP18 decisions on the giraffe and elephant.

Asked if his country would make a reservation submission to CITES by November 26, Namibia's Minister of Environment and Tourism, Pohamba Shifeta said, "Yes, we will do the same".

Africa should combine efforts to tackle land degradation

LAND degradation and desertification are rampant in several countries, especially in the developing world but combating them can be achieved only through combined efforts that include governments, scientists, the private sector and the youth.

Land degradation is a process in which the value of the biophysical environment is affected by a combination of human-induced processes acting upon the land. It is viewed as any change or disturbance to the land perceived to be deleterious or undesirable. Natural hazards are excluded as a cause; however human activities can indirectly affect phenomena such as floods and bush fires.

This is considered to be an important topic of the 21st century due to the implications land degradation has upon agricultural productivity, the environment, and its effects on food security. It is estimated that up to 40 per cent of the world's agricultural land is seriously degraded.

Overcutting of vegetation occurs when people cut forests, woodlands and shrub lands to obtain timber, fuel wood and other products—at a pace exceeding the rate of natural regrowth. This is frequent in semi-arid environments, where fuel wood shortages are often severe.

Overgrazing is the grazing of natural pastures at stocking intensities above the livestock carrying capacity; the resulting decrease in the vegetation cover is a leading cause of wind and water erosion.

Population pressure also operates through other mechanisms. Improper agricultural practices, for instance, occur only under constraints such as the saturation of good lands under population pressure which leads settlers to cultivate too shallow or too steep soils, plough fallow land before it has recovered its fertility, or attempt to obtain multiple crops by irrigating unsuitable soils.

High population density is not always related to land degradation. Rather, it is the practices of the human population that can cause a landscape to become degraded. Populations can be a benefit to the land and make it more productive than it is in its natural state. Land

degradation is an important factor of internal displacement in many African and Asian countries.

Severe land degradation affects a significant portion of the Earth's arable lands, decreasing the wealth and economic development of nations. As the land resource base becomes less productive, food security is compromised and competition for dwindling resources increases, the seeds of famine and potential conflict are sown.

Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has expressed his interest in providing technical assistants to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) member countries in achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Target Setting Programme.

The development comes at a time the world is making efforts towards attaining Sustainable Development Goal 15.3 which calls on achieving the target of land degradation-neutral world by 2030.

Among countries to benefit from the proposal includes Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states namely Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, eSwatini, Comoros, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Speaking during the official inauguration of the High-Level Segment Meeting of the UNCCD COP14, recently, Modi announced India's proposal to setup a global technical support institute that will provide capacity building and support in land restoration strategies.

The official inauguration of the High-Level Segment Meeting of the UNCCD COP14 was attended by a high level delegates across the globe including Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines, Ralph Gonsalves, Deputy Secretary-General United Nations -Amina Jane Mohammed, Executive Secretary UNCCD- Ibrahim Thiaw, Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC)-Shri Prakash Javadekar, delegates from SADC member states, African Union among others.

Communitarian approach best weapon against malaria and other epidemics

MALARIA is a mosquito-borne infectious disease that affects humans and other animals. Malaria causes symptoms that typically include fever, tiredness, vomiting, and headaches. In severe cases it can cause yellow skin, seizures, coma, or death. Symptoms usually begin ten to fifteen days after being bitten by an infected mosquito. If not properly treated, people may have recurrences of the disease months later. In those who have recently survived an infection, reinfection usually causes milder symptoms. This partial resistance disappears over months to years if the person has no continuing exposure to malaria.

It is caused by single-celled microorganisms of the Plasmodium group. The disease is most commonly spread by an infected female Anopheles mosquito. The mosquito bite introduces the parasites from the mosquito's saliva into a person's blood. The parasites travel to the liver where they mature and reproduce. Malaria is typically diagnosed by the microscopic examination of blood using blood films, or with antigen-based rapid diagnostic tests.

The risk of disease can be reduced by preventing mosquito bites through the use of mosquito nets and insect repellents, or with mosquito control measures such as spraying insecticides and draining standing water. Several medications are available to prevent malaria in travellers to areas where the disease is common. Despite a need, no effective vaccine exists, although efforts to develop one are ongoing. It is recommended that in areas where the disease is common, malaria is confirmed if possible before treatment is started due to concerns of increasing drug resistance. Resistance among the parasites has developed to several antimalarial medications; for example, chloroquine-

resistant has spread to most malarial areas, and resistance to has become a problem.

The disease is widespread in the tropical and subtropical regions that exist in a broad band around the equator. This includes much of sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and Latin America. In 2016, there were 216 million cases of malaria worldwide resulting in an estimated 445,000 to 731,000 deaths. Approximately 90 pc of both cases and deaths occurred in Africa. Rates of disease have decreased from 2000 to 2015 by 37 pc, but increased from 2014, during which there were 198 million cases. Malaria is commonly associated with poverty and has a major negative effect on economic development. In Africa, it is estimated to result in losses of US\$12 billion a year due to increased healthcare costs, lost ability to work, and negative effects on tourism.

The international donors has reached their target of €12 billion to fight malaria and other pandemics. The Global Fund reached its target after French President Emmanuel Macron's last-ditch fundraising proved fruitful for the organisation.

We also believe eradication depends on a change of attitude towards the disease, thus calling the fight against malaria multidimensional and multifactorial.

In Africa, the first factor for the propagation of malaria is the unsanitary conditions. Wastewater, domestic animal breeding, and illiteracy also contribute to the disease spreading. We need more mobilisation, big communication campaigns, and awareness if we want to eliminate malaria by 2030. Capacity building with more agents on the field fighting the disease in the communities is also a requisite for its elimination. If all those factors are together, then we can decrease even if we don't eliminate completely. We will have results close to 100 per cent.

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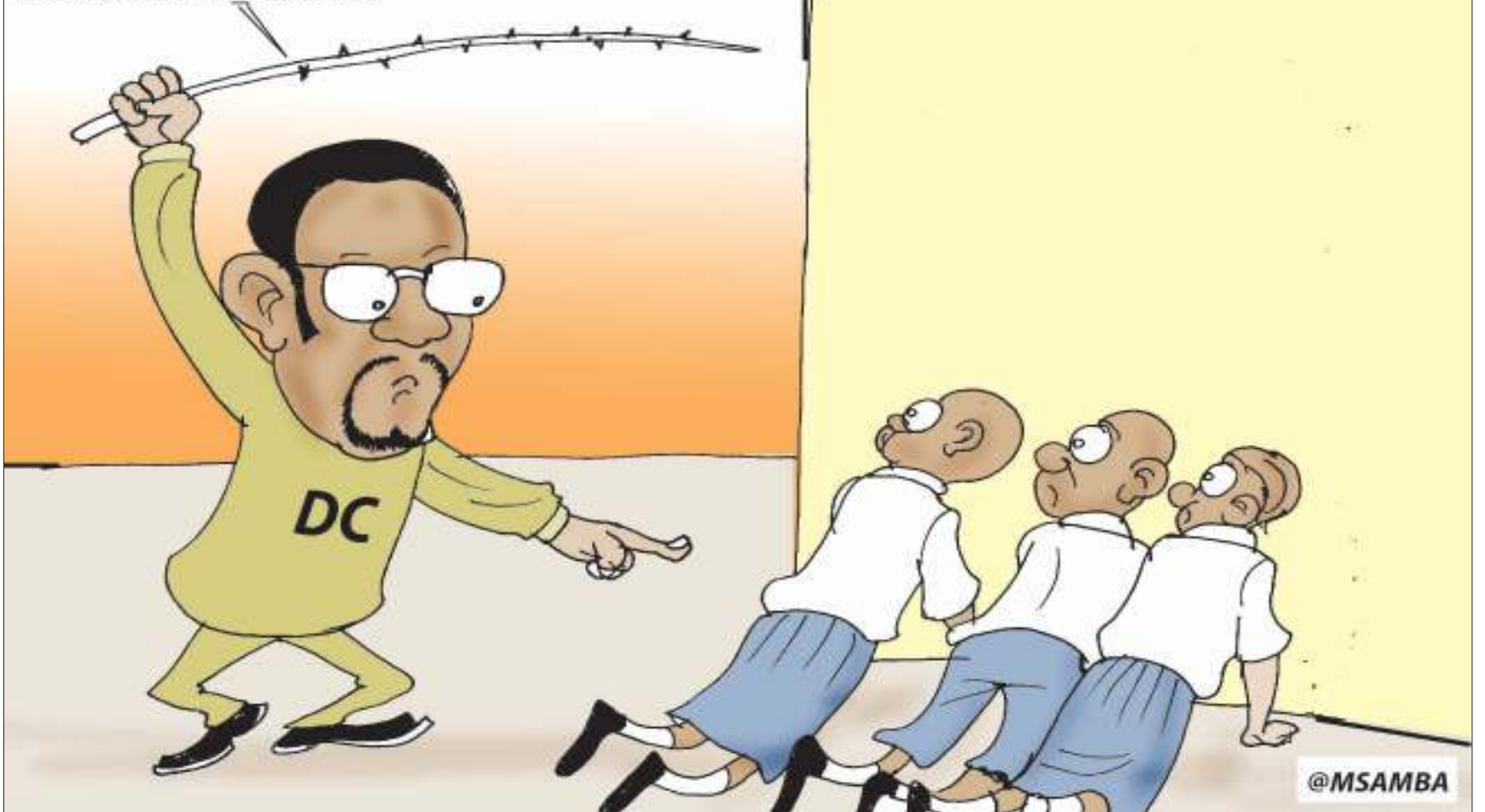
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EDUCATION PERFORMANCE



Love unlocks the promise of young minds

BY DAVID HARRISON

WE, as parents and caregivers, are our children's first educators. The love and support of parents is our most critical contribution to schooling - far more important than trying to tutor subject-specific homework.

Like you, I began life as a freshly fertilised egg: just one cell, called a zygote, containing the genetic archives of my ancestors and the forecasts of my future. Then I divided into two, then four, then eight - until I was a tiny round ball of over 100 identical cells. At that point, I started to grow into different types of cells, which eventually became my skin, my heart, my brain and all the other organs of my body.

These cells are still connected to each other through nerves and blood vessels and myriad chemical processes that make me think and act as one. Now I have about 30 trillion human cells - one hundred times the number of stars in the Milky Way. Oh, and I share my body with just as many bacteria.

So do you. Before you make a frantic call to your doctor for a massive dose of antibiotics, know this: about 30 neurotransmitters - the chemical messengers released by nerve cells - are produced in the gut through the interaction between billions of bacteria and human cells. For example, half of the "happy hormone" dopamine is produced in your gut, as is 90% of serotonin, which influences mood, social behaviour, sleep, sexual desire and memory.

Microbes - transmitted from mother to child during childbirth - regulate our immune system, emotions, personality, and ability to think. As we grow up, the perpetual hustle and bustle of these "friendly germs" in and out of our bodies constantly connects us to the soil of the Earth.

During pregnancy, another vital connection - the umbilical cord - provides a continuous stream of energy and nutrients to make us grow. In the first three months, most of the effort is directed towards the primal parts of the developing brain to regulate bodily functions like heartbeat and breathing that keep us alive.

That process establishes seamless connections between body and brain, which serve to protect and to nurture, to survive and to thrive. Consider the survival instinct triggered by that awful feeling of fear in the pit of your stomach. When you get a fright, bodily signals evoke strong emotions in the lower part of your brain, prompting the motor cortex to tell your legs to get out of there, fast! It all happens automatically before you can really think about it. If our brain development stopped there, we'd be just like any other member



of the animal kingdom, with basic instincts suited to our environment but without the capacity for complex thought and imagination. But our foetal brain then starts to develop a mind of its own, a higher consciousness of our environment and the relationships that hold our lives together. The functions of the mind - including the ability to think, to feel emotions and to socialise - are generated by an interplay between body and brain through chemicals carried by nerves, lymph and blood vessels.

Think of "thinking" as a flow of consciousness that results when bodily sensations merge with streams of emotion and reasoning emanating from different parts of the brain. From this confluence in the thalamus of the brain emerges the grand river of the mind, enabling us to immerse ourselves more fully in the experience of being human than any of the streams of sense, emotion or logic on their own. This is the mechanism of learning - a fusion of data from lived experience and stored memories, laced with the pain and delights of physical sensation and the bitter-sweetness of human emotion.

Critical elements of reasoning and decision-making - such as memory, mental concentration and the "connecting of dots" - are filtered through "social emotions" such as guilt, shame, empathy or pride. The educationist Helen Immordino-Yang and neurologist Antonio Damasio refer to this blending process as "emotional learning". Its power can be either enhanced by neurotransmitters triggered by positive stimuli or inhibited by negative ones. Shame a child and she will shrink emotionally and intellectually. Praise her and make her feel like somebody - and she will thrive.

Although psychologists have long stressed the relationship between emotional well-being and learning, its physical basis has become clearer only in the past 25 years. When physical

injury or anomaly damages the links between the emotional and cognitive centres of the brain, our ability to reason and make real-life decisions (called executive functioning) is compromised. When these links are chemically damaged by emotional injury or toxic stress, these higher functions are similarly affected. On the other hand, relationships of love, care and support enhance learning and the ability to make real-life decisions. The first and most fundamental social relationship is between a baby and her mother, shaped in the uterus by an exchange of hormones between mother and child.

Physiologically, the interaction may seem quite brutal, as the mother's body tries to protect itself from over-enthusiastic invasion by the growing foetus, which really acts as a parasite. In normal pregnancies though, it's an evenly matched tussle in which neither party actually gets hurt. After nine months of pregnancy - a draining and scary process that pushes a woman to her emotional and physical limits - she can finally hold her baby and realise that she'd been a mother throughout that time.

The ultimate magic of pregnancy is the strong bond between mother and child, glued together by a neurotransmitter called oxytocin that builds empathy and trust in both of them. It comes as no surprise that oxytocin is known as the "hormone of love". Love is a primal instinct that sets us free by connecting us. But this isn't just a story about motherhood.

When I, as a father, held my baby and gazed lovingly into her face, my whole body reacted, too. Hormones and neurotransmitters were released, one of them being dopamine, which filled me with a sense of happiness and security and fulfilment. Dopamine was released in my daughter's brain, too, sensitising her to my voice, language and movements. Dopamine stimulates learning.

As all three of my children grew, embraced by love, they became increasingly open to new thoughts and ideas, and their brains started to draw pictures of their own. They were freed to think, learn and imagine - because they are connected because they are one with those they love. Love unlocks the promise of the mind. It sets us free to think for ourselves. We nourish education through love, care and stimulation, which continue to pulse through the figurative umbilical cord between children and their caregivers. These nutrients evoke positive emotions that enable abstract thoughts to be effectively applied in real life. They are vital to a child's education throughout their early years and formal schooling.

But the very act of providing these nutrients is itself driven by parents strong emotions of hope and fear for our children. Hope that our children will have better lives than our own and will be able to reach their full potential. Fear that something dreadful will happen to them, or that they will not turn out as we hoped, or that we as individuals won't be able to provide enough for them.

Many African cultures have sought to protect and enhance their children's prospects by sharing parental responsibility so that they can draw on a wider pool of love, safety and stimulation. In Xhosa culture, the rites of inkaba - burying the physical umbilical cord, placenta and some of the child's hair in the soil - acknowledge the end of the bodily connection between a mother and child, and affirm the role of ancestors and living members of the clan who have promised to protect and nurture.

Similar practices are found in the Shona and Ndebele cultures of Zimbabwe and among the Fang people of West Africa - and indeed, in many communities across the world. These biological and social evolutionary instincts are our greatest gift to our children's education. Arguably, they are as essential as the content knowledge of the national curriculum.

These instincts should be harnessed and given the space to work in ways that enable children to flourish, even as we have to learn to make space for teachers and other co-creators of our children's education. In practice, this means recognising that we, as parents and caregivers, are our children's first educators.

It means acknowledging parents' love and support as our most critical contribution to schooling - far more important than trying to tutor subject-specific homework. It means giving parents more power to be champions for our children in school matters as well because we, more than anyone else, instinctively know what is best for them.

The rapid decline in civic freedoms: 5 countries to keep an eye on

JOHANNESBURG

2019 has been a year of protest. From Algeria, to Chile, to Hong Kong, ordinary people have taken to the streets to voice their dissatisfaction with governance systems. Their causes are as diverse as the people pouring into the streets.

Public grievances range from corruption, anti-austerity measures, and electoral irregularities. The reasons for the mass mobilisations may differ, but the response by those in power are becoming alarmingly similar.

In far too many countries, the response has been to shut down the space for people to organise and to persecute those calling for change.

The HYPERLINK "https://monitor.civicus.org/watch-list/" "blank" new civic space watchlist by the CIVICUS Monitor shines a spotlight on Hong Kong, Colombia, Egypt, Guinea and Kazakhstan where there are escalating rights violations against activists, journalists and civil society groups.

In particular, this shortlist profiles a sample of countries where there are serious and

ongoing attacks against the freedoms of peaceful assembly, expression and association.

In Hong Kong, there has been a continued deterioration of civic space since millions of people took to the HYPERLINK "https://monitor.civicus.org/newsfeed/2019/08/30/excessive-force-against-protesters-hong-kong-followed-arrests-prominent-activists/" "blank" streets on 9th June 2019 to protest against a proposed extradition bill, which would allow individuals, including foreigners, to be sent to mainland China to face trial in courts controlled by the Chinese Communist Party.

In response to weekly protests, human rights groups have documented excessive and unlawful force by security forces against protesters with impunity, including the use of truncheons, pepper spray, tear gas and rubber bullets. Journalists have also been targeted. More than 1,300 people have been HYPERLINK "https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/09/hong-kong-arbitrary-arrests-brutal-beatings-and-torture-in-police-detention-revealed/" "blank" arrested in the



Protests in Egypt. File photo

context of the mass protest and some activists have also been attacked by pro Beijing mobs.

In Egypt, recent anti-government protests resulted in mass arrests and the use of excessive force by the authorities. Thousands of people

have been arrested since the protests started in September, including journalists, human rights lawyers and activists. Many of those arrested have been charged on dubious grounds of using social media to spread false news, aiding terrorist groups and for

participating in unauthorised protests.

The crackdown has also expanded to target the political opposition and anyone deemed to be connected to protests dating all the way back to 2011.

In Guinea, tensions have

been on the rise since Guinea's ruling party made a public call to change the constitution, which could abolish presidential term limits. The West African country is set for 2020 presidential elections and the current president, Alpha Condé, is not eligible under

the current 2010 constitution.

During three days of protests in October against the proposed constitutional changes, at least nine people were killed and several protesters and protest leaders arrested. HYPERLINK "http://www.rfi.fr/afrique/20190521-nouvelle-constitution-guinee-inquietude-organisations-droits-homme/" "blank" According to human rights organisations in Guinea, the plans for a new Constitution may destabilise the country and lead to renewed violence.

Since presidential elections this past June in Kazakhstan, human rights abuses have hit a new high in the former Soviet state. Post-election protests have seen police and special forces detain several thousand peaceful protesters, often with excessive force. In addition, the authorities have obstructed the work of journalists and electoral observers, as well as periodically blocking access to social media and messenger applications. The repression has cast a shadow on the elections and the beginning of Tokayev's period in office.

Colombia is the fifth country on the Monitor Watchlist, which remains one of the most

dangerous places in the world to be a human rights defender. Dozens of community leaders have been killed this year as well as 7 political candidates running for local office in an election campaign marked by violence. Impunity for such crimes has been the rule.

The country is further backsliding into violence as post-conflict communities are left vulnerable to dissident armed groups and commanders of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) announce their intentions to HYPERLINK "https://www.wola.org/2019/08/ivan-marquez-farc-rearming-colombian-peace/" "blank" take up arms again, nearly three years after the historic peace accord with the Colombian government was signed.

While protests flare in all regions of the world, it is of utmost importance that people are able to freely express dissent without authorities using excessive force against them. Instead of using violence against protesters and restricting fundamental freedoms, governments should seek solutions by listening to the grievances of ordinary citizens and dissenting voices.

IPS



How can we all hear that the world is truly on fire?

UNITED NATIONS

The annual rhythm of the United Nations year peaks with the General Assembly in September. One month on, it's a good time to reflect on this year's gathering which was remarkable for its focus on fighting climate change, the transforming effect of one 16 year old girl telling it like it is, and the way people heard her words in a way they haven't heard before.

"People are dying, entire ecosystems are collapsing, we are in the beginning of a mass extinction, and all you can talk about is money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth"

The world has heard many comprehensive scientific explanations of what we need to do to combat global heating. All of those were many times longer than the 495 words that Greta Thunberg used in her speech to delegates, and yet her words had a galvanizing effect on everyone who heard them, and she is spurring more people to act with a sense of urgency that was never triggered by thousands of pages of carefully argued science. Why are so many people hearing these messages as if for the first time?

The reasons behind this are important to explore

and should cause us to think about how we try to bring about change in the world. They are embedded in human psychology, and can help us learn how our messages are received by those we would wish to influence.

Understand these human foundations, and we will understand why sometimes our climate change arguments hit home, and sometimes they seem to hit a wall. It's all to do with calm, clear messaging, which can arise from within, as it seems to for Greta, or for the rest of us through the use of mindfulness techniques to calm ourselves before we speak. We need to light a fire under the seats of decision makers. Greta has sparked the flame but we must learn how to keep it burning brightly. Extinction Rebellion is certainly fanning the flames but what can we as development practitioners do to keep up the momentum?

A calm and direct voice helps us to hear these messages better than the raised voices in a high-volume argument. Research has found that the human ear closes down to reduce the volume of strident speech, so a measured approach cuts through more effectively than raised voices.

Note how Extinction Rebellion, though determined

to get their point across, are unfailingly polite and forever apologizing for the disruption they cause. Getting the tone of voice right - and using techniques such as meditation to build audible compassion and empathy with our audience - helps people to feel safe and truly hear the message.

How can we do this? In UNDP's Green Commodities Programme we have developed a series of carefully designed processes that bring all the relevant stakeholders together into carefully curated safe spaces where people can explore differences, find common ground and build sustainable commodity solutions together.

We call it Multistakeholder Collaboration For Systemic Change. It instills trust amongst stakeholders, builds resilience to external shocks, and produces a community of stakeholders that can calmly hear each other's ideas and problems.

If we are to take the actions we must take to combat climate change, we need not only to change what we do, but also consider how we think and speak. And we must create collaborative spaces where we can be calm and feel safe if we are to truly hear each other's solutions.

IPS

Divided US House approves rules for Trump impeachment inquiry, uncertainties ahead

WASHINGTON

A divided U.S. House of Representatives voted on Thursday approving a resolution designed to formalize proceedings of an impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump, setting the stage for what they have called "the next phase" of the investigation, as well as for more political uncertainties and partisan clashes.

The resolution, unveiled earlier this week by the House Rules Committee, was passed 232-196 by the Democratic-controlled House. No Republicans voted in favor of it and only two Democrats voted against it.

According to a text of the resolution, it establishes procedures for public impeachment hearings and the release of deposition transcripts, and outlines the House Judiciary Committee's role in considering potential articles of impeachment.

This was the first time that the House had taken a full chamber vote related to the impeachment inquiry since House Speaker Nancy Pelosi initiated it in late September.

Trump, in tweets Thursday morning, called the impeachment inquiry the "Greatest Witch Hunt In American History," claiming that it was hurting the nation's stock market.

White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham issued a statement in response to the resolution, accusing it of still failing to "provide any due process whatsoever" to the Trump administration.

The impeachment inquiry was triggered by an anonymous whistleblower who had raised concerns about the White House's interactions with Ukraine, including a July 25 phone call between Trump and his Ukrainian counterpart, Volodymyr Zelensky.

Trump was alleged to have abused power by using a military aid to pressure Zelensky into investigating former U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, a leading 2020 Democratic presidential contender, so as to help his re-election campaign.

Trump has denied any wrongdoing. The White House has dismissed those allegations and made clear that it will not cooperate with House investigators by providing documents or witnesses because it considered the ongoing impeachment inquiry unfair and illegitimate.

So far, the impeachment inquiry hearings have been held behind closed doors before three House panels.

House Republican Conference Chair Liz Cheney on Thursday called it "a process that has been fundamentally tainted."

"The President has had no rights inside these hearings, his counsel has not been able to be present, so from them now to claim they're going to open this up, which, by the way, the resolution does not do," she added.

House Democrats have argued that there is no need to hold a full chamber vote to authorize the impeachment inquiry, citing Constitution stating that the House "shall have the sole Power of Impeachment."

Speaking to a press conference Thursday morning, Pelosi pushed back on Republicans'



U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (rear, C) presides over a vote by the House of Representatives on a resolution formalizing an impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump, on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C., the United States, on Oct. 31, 2019. The U.S. House of Representatives voted on Thursday to approve a resolution designed to formalize proceedings of an impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump. (Melina Mara/Pool via Xinhua)

criticism. "The facts are what they are. They can try to misrepresent them, but the fact is, this is a process that is expanded opportunity for them to show anything that is exculpatory to prove the innocence of the president," she said.

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff said Thursday's resolution will "set the stage" for the next phase of the investigation, where it will be conducted in public.

"We take no joy in having to move down this road and proceed with the impeachment inquiry, but neither do we shrink from it," he said.

However, it's not sure when public hearings could start. House Judiciary Committee Jerry Nadler only said the time for wrapping up the inquiry "depends, obviously, on how many witnesses, etcetera."

If any of the hearings is held publicly, Schiff will preside, according to the resolution. Schiff and Republican ranking member Devin Nunes are able to engage witnesses for up to 90 minutes and give that time to committee aides to conduct questioning.

Republicans can also request witness testimony and issue subpoenas but those efforts need to

be approved by the majority.

Besides, the resolution directs the Schiff's panel to issue a report on its findings and recommendations and send it the House Judiciary Committee, which will consider and draft any potential articles of impeachment. Once the Judiciary Committee completes its hearings and votes on any articles of impeachment, its report would go to the full chamber for a vote.

The president will be impeached if the House approves any of the articles of impeachment by a simple majority vote. But conviction of the president can only happen in the Senate and requires at least two-thirds of its members, or 67 senators, to vote in favor. Currently, the Senate has 53 Republicans, 45 Democrats and two independents.

"As long expected, the House's impeachment inquiry vote is almost entirely along party lines," Larry Sabato, director of the University of Virginia Center for Politics, tweeted. "Those expecting a bipartisan conviction vote in the Senate once Trump is impeached are living in another time or another universe."

Agencies

Who will arrest impunity for crimes targeting journalists?

BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS

NOVEMBER 2 is International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists - IDEI, for short. It's without doubt a red-letter day globally.

Now, hear this from UNESCO: in the 12 years between 2006 and 2017 close to 1,010 journalists were killed for reporting the news and bringing information to the public, according to UNESCO.

On average, this constitutes one death every four days. In nine out of ten cases the killers went unpunished, with impunity leading to more killings and often this being a symptom of worsening conflict and the breakdown of law and judicial systems.

There is widespread concern that impunity damages whole societies by covering up serious human rights abuses, corruption and crime. Governments, civil society, the media and everyone concerned to uphold the rule of law have all been asked to join in the global efforts to end impunity.

It is in recognition of the far-reaching consequences of impunity, especially of crimes against journalists,

that the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution A/RES/68/163 at its 68th session in 2013 which proclaimed November 2 as the 'International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists' (IDEI).

The resolution urged UN member states to implement definite measures counteracting the present culture of impunity. The date was chosen in commemoration of the assassination of two French journalists in Mali on November 2, 2013.

In a message on the occasion of this year's IDEI, UNESCO Director General Audrey Azoulay says: "The statistics are sobering: in the last ten years, at least 881 journalists have been killed around the world for simply telling the truth. Forty-four have died so far in 2019 alone..."

In her report for last year, Azoulay said the percentage of journalists murdered in countries free of armed conflict (55 per cent) exceeded that of journalists felled in conflict zones for the first time.

She noted that impunity for the crimes remained "shockingly high, as only one out of ten such killings was



brought to trial", and that "this glaring injustice" was a serious threat to democracy.

The UN has been marking IDEI since 2013 as a way of taking stock of efforts undertaken to improve the safety of journalists in the exercise of their profession and to end the impunity of crimes against them.

Despite increased public awareness of these problems,

statistics show that much remains to be done to shed light on the overwhelming majority of crimes against media workers.

In 2016 and 2017, a total of 182 journalists lost their lives in the line of duty and from January 2018 to date, 86 journalists have been killed, according to UNESCO's count.

"The fight against impunity is central to freedom of

expression, press freedom and access to information," declared Azoulay, adding: "Improving the safety of journalists who face danger to keep us informed is not only an absolute duty but also a challenge that democracies must overcome."

She said another notable fact concerned the increase in the number of women journalists killed in the exer-

cise of their profession over the last decade.

By UNESCO's account, year 2017 saw 11 female journalists killed, more than in any year since 2006. The UN agency noted that women journalists were particularly vulnerable to gender-based violence such as sexual and verbal harassment, as well as online abuse.

The agency also reported

that local reporters investigating corruption, crime and politics constituted the overwhelming majority of victims in the profession - 90 per cent in 2017, with the murders generally receiving "far less media attention than is given to the death of foreign journalists and correspondents".

"UNESCO seeks to prevent these tragedies by promoting a safe environment for journalists and media workers, notably through the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity.

"However, when the worst happens, UNESCO calls for those responsible for journalist deaths to be held accountable. It fights impunity in the field, by training judges and members of the judiciary, cooperating with human rights courts and working with governments to create national prosecution mechanisms.

"These actions are also supported by a new Global Media Defence Fund, which was created at the initiative of the United Kingdom and Canada and is administered by UNESCO.

"This Fund complements work already undertaken by

UNESCO to fight impunity around the world, including through the Multi-Donor Programme on Freedom of Expression and Safety of Journalists and the International Programme for the Development of Communication.

"It will do this in particular by fostering legal cooperation and supporting the continuation of work by journalists who have been killed.

"This year's International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists is focused on local journalists. Through the campaign #KeepTruthAlive, it challenges the perception that murders only happen far from the public eye, primarily targeting foreign war correspondents.

"It shines the spotlight on local journalists working on corruption and politics in non-conflict situations, who represented 93 per cent of journalist deaths in the past decade.

"UNESCO holds to account all those who put journalists at risk, all those who kill journalists, and all those who do nothing to stop this violence. The end of a journalist's life should never be the end of the quest for truth."

Togo ups its ante against terror threats

BY PYALO DA-DO NORA AMEDZENU-NOVIEKOU, PAUL-SIMON HANDY, ELLA JEANNINE ABATAN AND MICHAËL MATONGBADA

Until early 2018, violent extremism in West Africa had been largely confined to the Sahel region. Since then fears of a spillover into neighbouring coastal states, including Togo, have been rising. The risk to Togo became apparent on 15 February 2019 when a mobile customs unit was attacked in the Burkinabe town of Nohao, which borders Togo's Savanes region (see map). Three customs officers and a Spanish priest were killed.

The Savanes region borders Burkina Faso's Eastern and East Central regions, which have experienced increased attacks believed to have been carried out by violent extremist groups active in the Sahel. Although no group has claimed responsibility, the attackers could be linked to Islamic State in the Greater Sahara, Ansarul Islam and the Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims.

Togo has taken several preventive measures in response to these threats. Key among them is the establishment of the Inter-ministerial Committee for the Prevention and Fight against Violent Extremism on 15 May 2019. This is a non-military mechanism conceived by the government to complement measures taken since 2017 to prevent violent extremism in Togo. Among its mandates, the committee is charged with 'eradicating] or significantly [reducing] the spread of violent extremism throughout the Togolese territory' and '[strengthening] cooperation and collaboration between the administration, defense and security forces, and civil society'.

The committee has 18 members who come from government ministries, the army's general staff, religious groups and civil society organisations.

At a local level, the Inter-ministerial Committee works with prefectural and county level committees. The Inter-ministerial Committee reports to a monitoring committee comprising the security, territorial administration, defense, finance, social action and local development ministers.

In September 2017, before the Inter-ministerial Committee was established, Togo became a member of the Accra Initiative and participates in its joint military Operation Koudalougou. In September 2018, the Togolese government launched Operation Koundjoare in the Savanes region. The operation aims to prevent the infiltration of terrorists in Togo. It also seeks to strengthen the link between defence and security forces and the local population through civil-military action that benefits communities.

Togo has also amended two key pieces of legislation - the law on decentralisation and public freedoms, and the law on internal security - to help address emerging threats including violent extremism.

They seem innovative, but the steps taken to prevent violent extremism must be put to the test. Terrorism is an emerging threat to the West African coast and preventive measures are relatively new. So far there is abundant evidence of mistakes and bad practices, with only a few successful cases in the region on which lessons can be drawn.

The Inter-ministerial Committee and its local representatives need a shared understanding of violent extremism. What is required is a framework for information and experience sharing at both national and regional levels. The committee should also be guided by experiences and lessons from the establishment of local committees in each of Togo's five regions. This will give context to preventive measures and ensure maximum effectiveness. Several vulnerabilities in



They seem innovative, but the steps taken to prevent violent extremism must be put to the test. File photo

Togo could serve as entry points for infiltration by extremist groups. Among them are the absence of public services in some areas, and the distrust between defence and security forces, and the population. Extremists can also exploit old and poorly managed local disputes linked to access to land, traditional chieftaincies, community tensions and transhumance, and recurrent political tensions since the 2006 elections.

As the Inter-ministerial Committee isn't mandated to run development projects, its local level members should inform relevant government ministers about local realities and needs, so that action can be taken for the benefit of the population.

For the first time in 32 years, the Togolese elected new mayors on 30 June this year. This could enhance the social contract between the state and the population. The mayors, who are local members of the Inter-ministerial Committee, can contribute to a better un-

derstanding and management of communities' needs.

Preventive measures should be mapped and coordinated among the various stakeholders to eliminate the duplication of efforts. Considering that members of the Inter-ministerial Committee and local committees are volunteers with other job commitments, the Inter-ministerial Committee needs a permanent operations team to ensure it runs efficiently.

The Inter-ministerial Committee and its local committees have been mandated to provide early warning mechanisms, raise awareness and contribute to an improved relationship between security forces and the population. The committee must define the data that needs to be collected and analysed, how it should be communicated, and how responses can be best managed.

The first local committees were established and trained in the Savanes region between 15 and 18 October 2019. The Inter-ministerial Committee

now needs to establish local committees in the other four regions of the country. With presidential elections due in April 2020, the committee must do this in a way that insulates it from being viewed as a political campaign tool.

The threat of violent extremism in Togo is an opportunity for the Inter-ministerial Committee to reinforce the social contract between the state and the people. The committee needs an inclusive approach that fosters collaboration with relevant government bodies, religious and traditional leaders, civil society and political actors from all sides. Its actions should address governance deficits, including at a local level, which violent extremists can exploit to recruit among the local population. Pyalo Dado Nora Amedzenu-Noviekou, National Coordinator, WANEP Togo, Paul-Simon Handy, Senior Regional Adviser, Ella Jeannine Abatan, Researcher and Michaël Matongbada, Research Officer, ISS Dakar

Locked out - Nigeria's trafficked children have never been to school

LAGOS, NIGERIA

"Human trafficking is when someone is taken from Nigeria to another country to be a prostitute. Or, to do other illegal jobs that are not good for humanity," said Kingsley Chidiebere, a commercial motorcycle rider in Nigeria's commercial capital, Lagos.

He is one of the over 27 Nigerians interviewed so far by IPS who thinks human trafficking is when a "lady goes to Europe to prostitute herself".

Though a father himself, Chidiebere, like others interviewed, does not know that children are trafficked to other countries and within Nigeria as well.

Nigeria's National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), founded in 2003 in response to the country's high rate of human trafficking, said while most of the victims of trafficking here are women, children and men now make up a significant portion of trafficked victims compared to a decade ago.

In a 2014 report, NAPTIP said children comprised 28 percent of detected victims, and men, 21 percent.

NAPTIP said that the two most-reported human trafficking cases here include cases where women are prostituted internationally and the employment of children as domestic workers. In many cases these child labourers also suffer physical abuse.

Human trafficking and modern day slavery involve the illegal trade of people for exploitation or commercial gain and is a \$150 billion global industry.

Two thirds of this figure - \$99 billion

- is generated from commercial sexual exploitation, while another \$51 billion results from forced economic exploitation, including domestic work, agriculture and other economic activities.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in its 2016 Global Report On Trafficking In Persons says globally more than 500 different trafficking flows were detected between 2012 and 2014.

In Nigeria, 42 percent of detected victims between 2012 and 2014 were adults, with the remaining numbers accounting for children.

The UNODC reports 69 countries reported to have detected 21,251 victims from Sub-Saharan Africa between 2012 and 2014. Nigeria had 1,030 detected trafficking victims. Of these, 322 were adults (61 males, 261 females) and 708 were children (458 boys, 250 girls).

"More recently, reports have surfaced that children in northern Nigeria are being forced by the terrorist group Boko Haram to carry out suicide attacks, the ultimate form of exploitation.

"Earlier this year, UNICEF reported that suicide attacks by Boko Haram rose 11-fold from 2014 to 2015, and that 20 percent of the attacks were committed by children as young as eight," the report stated.

Barrister Julie Okah-Donli, the Director General of NAPTIP said parents who give their children away to work as domestics are endangering them. She warned that these kids end up in the hands of human traffickers.

IPS



Nigeria remains a source, transit and destination country when it comes to human trafficking. Photo: Tobore Ovuorie and Yemisi Onadipe/IPS

FEATURES



Climate migrants are coming to cities, so we need planning

BY GEORGIOS KAMINIS

As we saw at the recent UN General Assembly, international climate change efforts remain focused on the big targets - such as efforts to reduce global emissions. But according to UNHCR, in 2018, 16 million people were displaced by climate change. This number alone shows

the urgent need to place people at the heart of climate action. As the climate worsens, there is a need to ensure that those most impacted by climate change are a part of the solution and given opportunities not just to survive, but to thrive. Cities are a leading force in tackling the global cli-

mate crisis and are uniquely placed to address the nexus between climate and migration. Already impacted by both, they do not hesitate to take action, not only to ensure greening of their infrastructure and economy but also to support those who are displaced by climate-induced migration.

Hundreds of families from Central America are leaving because of changing climate conditions that leave them without crops, food or safety. These stories are increasingly replicated across the world. Approximately 234,000 people have been displaced in South Sudan as a result

of floods taking place across the conflict-torn country. Entire nations in the Pacific Ocean are facing complete destruction.

According to UNHCR, an annual average of 21.5 million people have been forcibly displaced by weather-related sudden onset hazards - such as floods, storms, wildfires, extreme temperature - each year since 2008.

The World Bank estimates that Latin America, sub-Saharan Africa, and South-east Asia alone will generate 143 million more climate migrants by 2050.

Climate migration has a direct impact for cities. Cities are increasingly the prime destination for displaced persons and refugees, while rising sea levels affect especially coastal cities around the world. For mayors around the world, climate change will pose one of the most pressing issues in the coming months and years.

For instance, in Freetown, Sierra Leone, there have been several major floods in the last two months, which has driven an influx of people into the city. Freetown aims to welcome and harness migrants. However, many of those who entered the city needed affordable home or temporary shelters, but ended living near to rivers, making them in turn vulnerable to flooding and secondary displacement.

The Mayors Migration Council (MMC) and C40 Cities have joined their forces to better understand how climate and migration is interlinked and to develop in-

clusive climate actions and policies. People must be at the heart of climate action. It's about saving lives, and about social cohesion and peaceful living together in our communities and countries. Poor and marginalized countries and communities, who are the least responsible for and most impacted by climate change, will be hurt the most.

A group of our leadership board members from the MMC, that I am proud to lead as a special climate envoy, came together in Copenhagen last week to set out a pathway forward. We intend to use our collective power to find solutions and our influence to help shape and coordinate international policies, and unlock financial support for cities to better respond for the implications of climate migration, particularly in the areas most vulnerable to climate change migration. We will lead on areas such as urban planning, social cohesion in order to stand up for all residents in cities and ensure nobody is left behind.

As the examples of the Guatemalan and South Sudanese families shows, it is becoming clear that climate action must go beyond energy, the environment and the economy. It is increasingly about protecting people and we intend to ensure that nobody affected by climate change is left behind.

Georgios Kaminis is the former mayor of Athens, and climate migration envoy for the Mayors Migration Council.

US \$5 million mobilised for gorilla conservation

KIGALI

A fundraiser organised by popular American TV personality and comedian Ellen DeGeneres has raised some \$5 million (about Rwf4.6 billion) as her efforts to raise funds for conservation of mountain gorillas in Rwanda kicks off in earnest.

Ellen DeGeneres was, over the weekend, joined by her wife Portia de Rossi and a host of other big names in the entertainment world for the 'Gorillapalooza' event in Los Angeles, California.

The proceeds were more than double the initial target, she said on her popular show, The Ellen Show, earlier this week.

"We were hoping to raise \$2 million. That didn't happen. We raised \$5 million. This is so important because there are only 1,000 mountain gorillas left," she said.

DeGeneres has initiated one of the world's largest gorilla conservation projects in Rwanda having visited the country in May last year. The comedian is building a campus in Rwanda, dubbed, The Ellen DeGeneres' Campus of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund, at the foot of Volcanoes National Park, a natural habitat of the endangered species, in Musanze District.

The Ellen DeGeneres Campus of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund will sit on 11 acres with 50,000 square feet, complete with laboratories, a library, meeting space, exhibits and classrooms.

The facility will include housing, and education and research centre, and a conservation gallery.

The ultimate goal is to provide tools to the Dian Fossey Fund to save the gorillas, she said.

At the event, A-listers in the entertainment industry graced the fundraiser, many making significant contributions toward DeGeneres' conservation work.

Some of the big names in attendance included Chris Martin, who staged a performance for the audience; James Corden who co-hosted a live auction, along with DeGeneres; as well as Julia Roberts and Sofia Vergara who tried to outbid each other for tickets at the "12 Days of Giveaways."

12 Days of Giveaways is an event where DeGeneres lavishes her audiences, for the period of 12 days, with increasingly exciting prize packages including electronics, gift cards, and Netflix subscriptions.

From the videos shared online, the live auction kicked off with James Corden asking participants on each table to point to the richest person sitting on every table.

The first bidder set \$25,000 before Diane Keaton increased the value to \$30,000 and Julia Roberts hiked the price to \$50,000. But Sofia Vergara did not want Roberts to run away with the tickets so she hiked the amount to \$55,000.

The bidding went on between Vergara and Roberts

until Sofia Vergara had the final say with \$85,000.

According to DeGeneres, stars like Leonardo DiCaprio, Kendall Jenner, Sean Hayes, and Diane Keaton, among others, all donated towards the comedian's cause to save the endangered mountain gorillas.

The Rwanda DeGeneres campus

Last year, DeGeneres was gifted with a campus by her long-time partner de Rossi. That gift would later see DeGeneres embark on a first trip to Rwanda to witness the legacy of the late Dian Fossey, the American primatologist who dedicated her life to conservation of mountain gorillas in Rwanda before her murder in 1985.

DeGeneres, who's passionate about animal conservation, has since been raising awareness and mobilising resources to boost her conservation project in Rwanda.

The proposed campus, set to be the largest such facility of its kind, will mainly focus on research about conservation of the endangered mountain gorillas.

The campus will be home to the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund which has been operating in Rwanda for more than 50 years through its Karisoke Research Centre in Musanze.

The Fossey Fund is the world's longest-running and largest organisation dedicated to the conservation of gorillas.

It particularly works in areas of conservation of mountain gorillas and their habitat, scientific research on the gorillas and greater biodiversity of the region, educating the next generation of African scientists through working with Rwandan institutions of higher learning, and engaging local communities to increase their support for conservation.

When she visited Rwanda last year, she met several government leaders, including President Paul Kagame.

Kagame's government has over the years promoted gorilla conservation as part of broader efforts to harness the country's tourism potential and to position Rwanda as a top destination.

In a notable conservation effort, Rwanda has been naming baby gorillas - through the popular annual Kwita Zina (naming) ceremony - for the last 15 years attracting keen interest from conservationists globally. The Government has also rolled out hundreds of community initiatives as part of the 10 per cent of tourism proceeds it gives to communities surrounding national parks. This has helped eliminate poaching and win the support of residents around national parks in conservation efforts.

In terms of 'gorilla revenue', Rwanda generated \$19.2 million from gorilla permits in 2018, up from \$15 million in 2016, according to Rwanda Development Board (RDB).

AGENCIES

Why water is essential for healthier diets and zero hunger

BY STEFAN UHLENBROOK

It is often said that the human body needs water before it needs food. And the reality is that we need a lot of water in order to produce food.

As the world's focus now turns to healthier diets, we must radically transform the way water is accessed, used and conserved to address the needs of the more than 800 million people suffering with insufficient food.

Take the hundreds of millions of people living in rural areas, reliant on increasingly erratic rainfall on which rain-fed agriculture is dependent. When extreme weather changes due to climate change impact water availability, the effects on their food security can be devastating.

And this is only at risk of getting much worse, as population and water demands grow whilst climate change increases the severity and number of floods and droughts in many parts of the world, but especially in vulnerable developing countries.

So, this World Food Day, as millions of people across the world show their commitment to zero hunger and healthy diets, one crucial piece of the puzzle must not be forgotten: water.

This means addressing three central priorities.

Firstly, a focus must be given to irrigation with a consideration of the needs of water. Less than 20 per cent of the world's farmland uses water from rivers, lakes and groundwater for watering their crops, meaning millions still must count on increasingly unreliable



rainfall for their harvests.

Without irrigation, farmers cannot grow a variety of crops needed for a healthy diet, including off-season vegetables to supplement diets largely reliant on staple crops.

Many smallholder farmers lack access to water pumps and necessary electricity or fuel that can provide irrigation water. However, a solar-powered irrigation system offers a clean solution, allowing farmers to access a critical water supply that can make the difference between a failed harvest and

a bountiful one.

Secondly, building climate resilience to floods and droughts is vital. Improving the monitoring of weather conditions as well as better forecasting systems that reach out to all, especially smallholder farmers, is critical. Better information allows better preparedness, helping farmers and those managing water supplies to take adaptive measures to cope with extreme weather.

That is why the International Water Management Institute

(IWMI) have been working with local communities across Africa and Asia, to ensure their water sources are adequately managed in case of disasters. One way is by building water storage facilities like ponds and tanks that can be tapped into in dry seasons.

Another is through helping communities and governments appropriately use rivers like the Nile, Zambezi and Volta. These rivers are severely vulnerable to droughts, but provide a crucial water source for the irrigation needs

of millions. Their use will only be exacerbated by the increasing water demands of growing populations, developing economies and climate change.

Lastly, it is critical that all rural people are given access to water. Otherwise, it prevents the most vulnerable members of society, including women, youth, and the elderly, as well as minorities, from growing enough food. And whilst the reasons behind migration are complex, when people go hungry it can drive them to cities, contributing to additional problems like the growth of slums, unemployment and social unrest.

For women, in particular, increasing their access to vital inputs like water, often ultimately leads to better nutritional outcomes for their entire household.

Collecting more and better data to understand why certain groups continue to have unequal access requires data that is divided by sex, age, income, migration status, and ethnicity, amongst others. This can then help policy-makers to adequately address it.

With 80 per cent of the poor living in rural areas, their capacity to cope with and to adapt to increasingly tougher climatic, environmental and societal changes is low.

The critical role of water for healthy people and a healthy environment cannot be overemphasised.

However, transforming the way water is managed can be part of the solution towards healthy diets and zero hunger. If we do not address this, ending hunger can only ever be a pipe dream.

Senior judge expelled from Mozambican judiciary

MAPUTO

Alexandre Njovo, the former presiding judge of the Maxixe City Court, in the southern Mozambican province of Inhambane, has allegedly been expelled from the judiciary for theft, reports online edition of the independ-

ent daily "O Pais". Njovo was presiding judge in Maxixe for almost two years, from early 2017 to late 2018. An audit of the court's accounts for that period showed that Njovo and a court registrar, Francisco Cumbane, stole

more than 2.7 million meticaís (about 43,500 US dollars).

According to a dispatch from the Higher Council of the Judicial Magistrature (CSMJ), the regulatory body for judges, cited by "O Pais", thefts from the court's accounts began

almost as soon as Njovo took office, but became much more serious as from February 2018.

Njovo, accused the CSMJ, signed cheques drawn on the court's accounts in favour of Cumbane, and the two then shared the money between

them.

On 15 February, Njovo and Cumbane helped themselves to 303,000 meticaís. On 3 April, Njovo signed a cheque for 354,000 meticaís. A further 100,000 meticaís was taken on 16 May.

A further four thefts occurred in June, totalling 593,000 meticaís.

To try and hide the thefts, Njovo and Cumbane tore up the stubs of the court's cheque books. Njovo also asked his brother, the manager of a

building company, to provide fake receipts that would justify the disappearance of the money.

Disciplinary proceedings against Njovo began on 10 April this year, and on 9 October the CSMJ decided to expel

him from the ranks of the judiciary. It also sent the relevant documents to the Public Prosecutor's Office to initiate criminal proceedings against Njovo and Cumbane.

AGENCIES

Media playing key role in supporting female entrepreneurship in Africa

BY NICOLAS POMPIGNE-MOGNARD

I have long believed that Africa is a hive of entrepreneurial activity. That's why events like the Africa Women Innovation and Entrepreneurship Forum (AWIEF) are so important to help inspire and encourage our continent's next generation of innovators and business leaders.

What's exciting about the situation in Africa is the impact women are making in a traditionally male-dominated environment. A 2018 report by the World Bank found that Africa stands alone in having more new female entrepreneurs than male.

The MasterCard Index of Women Entrepreneurs for 2017 has also listed two African countries, Uganda (34.8 per cent) and Botswana (34.6 per cent), as having the highest percentage of women entrepreneurs globally.

But it is also true to say that women face more challenges than their male counterparts. Boardrooms in Africa - and indeed all over the world - tend to be slower to reward female-led initiatives.

Getting your foot in the door is harder, and investment is more difficult to secure. That same World Bank study found that capital in male-owned start-ups was six times greater than in those run by women.

Entrepreneurship is hard enough without these unnecessary barriers - and my

own experiences have given me a vested interest in trying to break them down.

Twelve years ago, I was working as a European correspondent for an African news website known as Gabonews. I was a journalist. I had studied law. It never really crossed my mind to try and build a multinational company from the ground up.

But then I realised that there was a massive untapped market for a press release distribution service in Africa. A way for journalists to access Africa-related corporate news content easily and securely.

And that, in essence, is what entrepreneurship really is: It's about identifying a unique opportunity, and then turning it into reality.

APO Group started out in my living room - literally - and during the first years I had to be the IT manager, the sales consultant, the PA, HR, Finance, Marketing - everything. I had to learn it all from scratch.

But I've never stopped learning. The past 12 years have been a constant education. When I started, I could barely speak a word of English, but I realised quickly that it was critical to the success of the business, so I made it a priority.

In my experience, creating and developing a company is one of the most difficult things a human being can do. It requires a huge amount of time and energy, a lot of sacrifice, a healthy lifestyle and many other ingredients too.



It goes without saying, and you will also need a huge slice of luck! If you can survive those first few years, Africa is a continent that can reward you greatly. It is a place where entrepreneurial spirit has always abounded, even if startups have, in the past, lacked the support, financing or international exposure they need to move to the next level of global recognition.

Life might be tough for many in Africa, but its people are resilient. They understand the value of hard work. I've always thought that if you can make it in Africa, you can make it anywhere.

Events like AWIEF are showing that our collective passion for diversity and equality is

driving success and helping entrepreneurs turn their dreams into reality.

Remember: Africa is a perfect showcase for rich cultural diversity as well as a hotbed of ideas and innovation. We are a continent of 54 countries. The birthplace of humanity. It is in our blood to try new things and to push the boundaries.

I am proud to say that our own attitude to diversity and equality has always been a vital part of APO Group's success. Five of the nine members of our senior leadership team are women - and all are from different countries.

We have built our company culture on fairness and flexibility. We do not want to be a company where employees

are forced to choose between their careers and their families.

We are also in the privileged position of being able to harness the power of the media to support entrepreneurship in all its forms - and women in business in particular.

In its capacity as an official sponsor of AWIEF, APO Group is delighted to be coordinating the APO Group African Women in Media Award which is designed to recognise, celebrate and empower female African journalists who support female entrepreneurship in Africa.

The media industry has had its own challenges to overcome in the drive towards equality. Newsrooms have

been traditionally male-dominated, but female journalism students now outnumber male ones all over the world, and the next step is for these changes to materialise at a senior level, with increased numbers of women in leadership positions.

It's our hope that the APO Group African Women in Media Award will inspire more women to follow their passion for journalism and encourage them to persevere in their careers despite the obstacles.

All nascent business ideas need journalists to support them. A positive mention in the media can mean the difference between success and failure for entrepreneurs and small businesses.

AWIEF is a perfect platform for women in the media to get behind women in business by championing the best ideas, technologies and innovations. And the fact that women typically invest 90 per cent of their earnings back into their families and communities mirrors APO Group's own dedication to making sure that African people thrive both at the local and the national level.

Our CEO, Lionel Reina, allows APO Group to further bridge the divide between business and media. He has been an important figure in helping future business leaders as they go through the early part of their careers.

As a company board member for DAZZL, for example, Lionel's aim is to inspire the next generation of talented tech entrepreneurs offering new technologies to the broadcast industry in Africa.

Even the biggest media companies and PR agencies tend to promote their executive talent from within, meaning that they remain unfamiliar with the cut-and-thrust of the commercial sector.

Lionel is a business veteran, uniquely qualified to advise APO Group's clients on their communication strategies in Africa and the Middle East.

For more than a decade, he was CEO for Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Africa at Orange Business Services, the B2B division of French telecoms giant Orange - a remit that covered more than 80 countries. He was also Middle

East Director in the Gulf region for Accenture. So, when he talks to entrepreneurs and startups, he truly has the inside track to success.

Since I brought Lionel in and stepped aside from CEO duties at APO Group in December 2018, it has given me a chance to follow my own passions for helping entrepreneurship in Africa. I've spent a lot of time visiting different countries, meeting new people and giving talks on how the media and business worlds can work better together.

I have particularly enjoyed the conferences I have hosted for young journalism students in Senegal, Uganda, Zambia and Ethiopia. It is the start of a continent-wide initiative to help promote entrepreneurship to the next generation of young Africans.

I have tried to challenge their preconceptions and encouraged them to think big. In many of them, I see myself at their age: inquisitive, passionate - perhaps a little naive - but extremely well-placed to achieve entrepreneurial success.

This is because now is the perfect time to strike. With a decent idea, a strong journalistic ethos and a little bit of luck, there is no limit to what you can achieve. And Africa might just be the perfect place to do it!

Nicolas Pompiagne-Mognard is APO Group founder and chairman. He filed this piece from Lausanne, Switzerland.

Independence will sharpen teeth of SA's Special Investigating Unit

BY DAVID BRUCE

Considering its important position in South Africa's anti-corruption machinery, the Special Investigation Unit (SIU) has been largely neglected in discussions about how to tackle graft in South Africa.

Other than during its earliest days, when then Judge Willem Heath headed the unit, the SIU has been largely overshadowed by other anti-corruption investigation units. Until it was disbanded in 2009, the Scorpions received most of the limelight. Since then, the Hawks, the Public Protector and the National Prosecuting Authority's (NPA) Investigating Directorate have been extensively reported on by the media.

Perhaps the SIU is better off if it remains uncontroversial. But, at least before the establishment of the NPA Investigating Directorate in March this year, the SIU was South Africa's only dedicated anti-corruption agency. The Hawks' mandate, for example, includes serious organised and commercial crime, and until quite recently it had not invested in its anti-corruption role.

So where does the SIU fit into South Africa's efforts to address corruption? And what should be done to strengthen the unit so that it can play a more effective role? These issues are debated in a new Institute for Security Studies report on the SIU, which is part of a series on tackling corruption released last week.

One concern relates to the SIU's independence. When it was established by law in 1996 it was not seen as problematic to set up anti-corruption agencies that operated at the behest of the president.

On its website, the SIU describes itself as an independent unit - meaning for the most part that it's not located within any other agency. This is not to suggest that the SIU has operated to carry out presidential vendettas, or in a manner that is non-partisan.

But it does fall short relative to the standards that the Constitutional Court says are preconditions for the independence of other criminal jus-



Advocate Andy Mothibi, South Africa's head of Special Investigating Unit (SIU). File photo

tice agencies involved in addressing corruption. For example, the SIU can only initiate an investigation if it has presidential approval to do so.

The success and sustainability of anti-corruption agencies depends not only on whether they have the right mix of technical skills but whether they are respected for their fairness and independence. To build public trust and confidence in the SIU, its independence must be strengthened.

Those who are investigated for alleged corruption frequently seek to discredit the agencies looking into their activities. By showing that they are objective and politically non-partisan - in so far as they are able - anti-corruption bodies can neutralise attempts to undermine them.

Another challenge relates to referrals made by the SIU to other agencies. Following investigations, the SIU institutes civil action for the recovery of state money from those alleged to have acquired it illegitimately. Civil recovery processes in court can be very slow and this has hampered the SIU's work. However the re-establishment of the Special Tribunal, a

dedicated court for SIU cases, should improve the unit's effectiveness and impact.

But even if the SIU is successful with its civil recovery processes, those involved in irregular use of state funds may remain in government employment unless disciplinary steps are taken against them. The SIU can refer evidence that it uncovers to relevant government departments, and recommend disciplinary steps.

But it cannot ensure that disciplinary processes are implemented. It also cannot compel government departments to report back to it on disciplinary measures that are taken. The SIU can also refer evidence to the NPA but cannot ensure that, in appropriate cases, steps are taken to use this evidence for prosecutions.

Government's investment in the SIU is part of a broader commitment to addressing corruption. But the SIU is only able to report on its own civil recovery processes. It hasn't been able to provide answers to questions about the outcome of cases it refers to others.

Fortunately there are signs that

government has taken steps to change this. In 2018, a system was introduced that ensures SIU reports reach affected state institutions, and that these institutions provide feedback on steps taken to implement SIU recommendations. A memorandum of understanding has also been signed with the NPA to track the SIU's criminal referrals. In future, the SIU should be able to provide better information about the outcome of both types of referral.

The SIU's civil asset recovery role supports the rule of law in South Africa by preventing people from benefiting from resources they acquire illegitimately. But more perpetrators need to be held fully accountable, both through workplace disciplinary processes and prosecutions.

To help achieve this, the SIU needs more independence. And rather than operating as a standalone agency, it needs to work in a manner that is complementary to, and is complemented by, other state agencies.

David Bruce, David Bruce, Independent Researcher on policing, crime and criminal justice, and ISS Consultant

Universal access to justice is not yet a reality - but there're ways forward

BY PATRICIA SCOTLAND

ACCESS to justice for everyone in all communities is an important right and requirement for building fair and peaceful societies. Yet, this objective has been achieved in few if any nations, and the consequences are damaging for social, economic and political progress and stability.

Studies indicate that of fewer than half of the 1.4 billion people who for whatever reason in the past two years felt the need for recourse to law have had their justice needs met. Barriers such as cost, complexity and corruption cause people either not to seek redress or to be defeated by the process.

All the 53 countries of the Commonwealth are committed to taking action to right this wrong. Each member country is committed through our Commonwealth Charter to "an independent, effective and competent legal system" which "is integral to upholding the rule of law, engendering public confidence and dispensing justice".

That is the basis on which discussions on innovative and united action towards access to justice and related priorities will take place over coming days at the Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting to be held in Sri Lanka from November 5 to 7.

While many are fortunate to have a system that can be relied upon to give a fair hearing and resolution, this is sadly not the case for millions of people around the world.

Problems with access to justice can seriously affect people's lives through physical and stress-related ill health, loss of income and damage to relationships. Vulnerable groups in many jurisdictions tend to be those that justice systems ought to do most to protect.

Our priority has to be to answer the needs of all people, and particularly those such as the poor and unemployed, victims of domestic violence, refugees and

disabled or first nation people whose experience far too often is to feel marginalised or ill-served by judicial processes.

Poverty affects access to justice in many ways, and discriminatory laws perpetuate and exacerbate disadvantage. Income, gender, sexuality and location can all be factors in people being denied equitable access to justice. Sometimes several of these factors combine severely to the detriment of victims or offenders from already vulnerable groups.

Indigenous women, for example, particularly those who have faced addiction, poverty or domestic violence, are often already marginalised.

They then suffer the further blow of being unsupported in their search for justice, diminishing yet further the prospects for themselves, their families and the communities in which they live.

Even where equal and progressive laws exist, severe cuts to legal aid, or lack of legal aid altogether, can impair access to justice, particularly for the most vulnerable. Lack of access to justice then leads to further injustice - with people denied their rights or a voice, unable to fight discrimination and prevented from holding public bodies to account.

The result is that progress towards sustainable development at national, community or personal levels is limited, and opportunities for inclusive growth and prosperity are lost.

At worst, injustice can be the root of conflict and violence - even though people are generally not seeking revenge and retribution, but merely recompense and restoration. Systems need to ensure that these avenues to resolution are available because, without them, anger and resentment can fester. Innovation and technology open up new horizons and possibilities. Digital resources such as e-courts, video advocacy and interactive information services are helping to improve inclusivity.

Yet, even with such innovative ap-

proaches and mechanisms, those same vulnerable groups may continue to experience obstacles to affordable and equitable access.

So we need to be aware that the promising solutions technology offers can also prolong existing problems or present new ones. This means that, just as lawbreakers find ever more sophisticated ways of using technology for crime, lawmakers must leverage what technology can do to keep ahead or abreast of such threats.

Our related systems of governance and administration, and the widespread use in our jurisdictions of the Common Law, make the Commonwealth ideally placed as a community to think, plan and act together towards fairer and more inclusive access to justice with improved outcomes.

Working together in mutual support, and by learning and gaining encouragement from one another, our member countries are able to accelerate progress towards creating and delivering fair and effective national laws. They are helped in this by Commonwealth toolkits that guide on matters such as policy-making and legislative drafting.

The beneficial impact of this cooperation is enhanced through the expert technical assistance provided to member countries by the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Examples of this include the legal issues associated with tackling violence against women and girls, gender-based discrimination, corruption and climate change.

By combining to work towards ensuring that all our people having proper access to genuine justice, and by sharing good practice to strengthen the foundations on which the rule of law are built, the Commonwealth shines as a beacon for multilateral cooperation and opens up pathways towards more peaceful and prosperous societies, and a fairer and more secure future for all.

Patricia Scotland, Commonwealth Secretary General.

US House approves rules for Trump's impeachment inquiry

WASHINGTON

A DIVIDED US House of Representatives voted on Thursday approving a resolution designed to formalize proceedings of an impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump, setting the stage for what they have called "the next phase" of the investigation, as well as for more political uncertainties and partisan clashes.

The resolution, unveiled earlier this week by the House Rules Committee, was passed 232-196 by the Democratic-controlled House. No Republicans voted in favor of it and only two Democrats voted against it.

According to a text of the resolution, it establishes procedures for public impeachment hearings and the release of deposition transcripts, and outlines the House Judiciary Committee's role in considering potential articles of impeachment.

This was the first time that the House had taken a full chamber vote related to the impeachment inquiry since House Speaker Nancy Pelosi initiated it in late September.

Trump, in tweets Thursday morning, called the impeachment inquiry the "Greatest Witch Hunt In American History," claiming that it was hurting the nation's stock market.

White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham issued a statement in response to the resolution, accusing it of still failing to "provide any due process whatsoever" to the Trump administration.

The impeachment inquiry was triggered by an anonymous whistleblower who had raised concerns about the White House's interactions with Ukraine, including a July 25 phone call between Trump and his Ukrainian counterpart, Volodymyr Zelensky.

Trump was alleged to have abused power by using a military aid to pressure Zelensky into investigating former US Vice President Joe Biden, a leading 2020 Democratic presidential contender, so as to help his re-election campaign.

Trump has denied any wrongdoing. The White House has dismissed those allegations and made clear that it will not cooperate with House investigators by providing documents or witnesses



President Donald Trump

because it considered the ongoing impeachment inquiry unfair and illegitimate.

So far, the impeachment inquiry hearings have been held behind closed doors before three House panels. House Republican Conference Chair Liz Cheney on Thursday called it "a process that has been fundamentally tainted."

"The President has had no rights inside these hearings, his counsel has not been able to be present, so from them now to claim they're going to open this up, which, by the way, the resolution does not do," she added.

House Democrats have argued that there is no need to hold a full chamber vote to authorize the impeachment inquiry, citing Constitution stating that the House "shall have the sole Power of Impeachment."

Speaking to a press conference Thursday morning, Pelosi pushed back on Republicans' criticism. "The facts are what they are. They can try to misrepresent them, but the fact is, this is a process that

is expanded opportunity for them to show anything that is exculpatory to prove the innocence of the president," she said.

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff said Thursday's resolution will "set the stage" for the next phase of the investigation, where it will be conducted in public.

"We take no joy in having to move down this road and proceed with the impeachment inquiry, but neither do we shrink from it," he said.

However, it's not sure when public hearings could start. House Judiciary Committee Jerry Nadler only said the time for wrapping up the inquiry "depends, obviously, on how many witnesses, et cetera."

If any of the hearings is held publicly, Schiff will preside, according to the resolution. Schiff and Republican ranking member Devin Nunes are able to engage witnesses for up to 90 minutes and give that time to committee aides to conduct questioning.

Xinhua

India asks WhatsApp to explain privacy breach

NEW DELHI

INDIA, WhatsApp's biggest market with 400 million users, has asked the Facebook-owned company to explain the nature of a privacy breach on its messaging platform that has affected some users, Technology Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said.

"We have asked WhatsApp to explain the kind of breach and what it is doing to safeguard the privacy of

millions of Indian citizens," Prasad said in a tweet on Thursday.

The surveillance revelations come after the messaging platform sued Israeli surveillance firm NSO Group on Tuesday, accusing it of helping government spies break into the phones of roughly 1,400 users across four continents including diplomats, political dissidents, journalists and government officials. NSO denied the allegations.

In its lawsuit filed in a federal

court in San Francisco, WhatsApp accused NSO of facilitating government hacking sprees in 20 countries, calling it "an unmistakable pattern of abuse."

The attack, according to WhatsApp, exploited its video calling system in order to send malware to the mobile devices of a number of users.

The malware would allow NSO's clients - said to be governments and intelligence organisations - to

secretly spy on a phone's owner, opening their digital lives up to scrutiny.

People familiar with WhatsApp's investigation told Reuters that a significant number of Indian civil society figures were put under surveillance using the Israeli spyware.

The company has not identified anyone by name, users including Indian lawyers, academics, Dalit rights activists and journalists have come forward to say they received

warnings from WhatsApp that they were the targets of espionage.

WhatsApp said Indian users were among those contacted by it this week. WhatsApp declined to comment on Prasad's tweet, but referred to a previous statement from the company which said it believes people have the fundamental right to privacy and no one else should have access to their private conversations.

Agencies

China-ASEAN relations advancing into new stage of all-round development

BANGKOK

THIS year marks the 28th anniversary of the dialogue relationship between China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the 16th anniversary of their strategic partnership. Officials from both sides have repeatedly noted that China-ASEAN relations have entered a new stage of all-round development.

DEEPER MUTUAL TRUST

Leaders of both sides have shown deeper strategic mutual trust and their commitment to a long-term close relationship. Last year, the China-ASEAN Strategic Partnership Vision 2030 was adopted at the China-ASEAN Summit in Singapore, drawing a blueprint for the medium and long-term development of bilateral ties.

Frequent exchanges between leaders of both sides have been maintained. Leaders of the 10 ASEAN countries and the ASEAN Secretariat attended the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing this

April. At the forum, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed building a closer China-ASEAN community with a shared future.

Jointly committed to safeguarding peace and stability in the South China Sea, the two sides in July finished the first reading of the Single Draft Negotiating Text of the Code of Conduct (COC) in the South China Sea ahead of schedule, marking a major progress in the COC consultations.

The early completion of the reading is "an important step toward the goal of concluding the consultations within three years," said Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi while announcing the progress, attributing the achievement to the "sincerity and resolve of all parties."

Both are also exploring joint maritime exercises and a mechanism for a defense chiefs' meeting, as well as expanding exchanges and cooperation in military security and law enforcement to tackle regional security challenges. Chinese ambassador to ASEAN Huang Xilian told Xinhua ahead of the 22nd



Chinese President Xi Jinping

China-ASEAN summit scheduled for Nov. 3 in Bangkok, Thailand.

CLOSER ECONOMIC, TRADE COOPERATION

Against the backdrop of sluggish global growth and rising trade protectionism, ASEAN-China trade volume reached a record high of 587.8 billion U.S. dollars in 2018, with a growth rate of 14.1 percent year-on-year. In the first half of 2019, landmark progress was achieved, with ASEAN overtaking the United States to

become China's second-largest trading partner.

Trade volume reached 291.85 billion U.S. dollars in the first six months of 2019 and is expected to exceed 600 billion by the end of the year, statistics from the Chinese Ministry of Commerce show.

Cooperation in emerging industries is accelerating as well, including in digital economy, e-commerce, smart city and 5G. The two sides have agreed to designate next year as the Year of the China-ASEAN Digital Economy, offering an opportunity to expand cooperation in these areas.

Growing economic interdependence between China and ASEAN has become the cornerstone of long-term peace and shared prosperity in the region. Cheang Vannarith, president of the Asian Vision Institute in Cambodia, opined,

"Against the backdrop of rising

protectionism and unilateralism, China and ASEAN are compelled to deepen their economic integration and advance inclusive, open, effective and rules-based multilateral system," he told Xinhua in a recent interview.

COMPREHENSIVE CONNECTIVITY FROM INFRASTRUCTURE TO PEOPLE

The two sides have been working together to pursue comprehensive connectivity in various spheres, from infrastructure to policy, trade, information and people.

A joint statement on dovetailing China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) with the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 is expected to be adopted during the upcoming ASEAN-China summit in Bangkok, as a major step forward in boosting the connectivity and communication between China and ASEAN.

Xinhua

Russian envoy says details of Kosovo police's attack on UN staff member 'shocking'

THE UNITED NATIONS

THE details of the Kosovo police's attack on UN staff member Mikhail Krasnoschekov in May are shocking, Russia's Permanent Representative to the UN Vasily Nebenzya said at the UN Security Council session on Thursday.

The United Nations Organization earlier announced results of the investigation into the Kosovo police's operation on May 28. During the operation, two UN staff members, including Russian national Mikhail Krasnoschekov, were injured and detained. The investigation concluded that the actions of the Kosovo police were unlawful and in violation of the UN Security Council resolution.

"The details of the incident are shocking. Kosovo's forces dragged him from the car using physical forces, hit his head on the driver's door, hit him repeatedly with their hands, and then used special tools and handcuffs," Nebenzya said.

"They pushed him into the backseat of his own car, where they continued to beat him," the diplomat added. "Krasnoschekov's identity card and driver's license of a UN employee were taken, his cell phone was smashed," he noted.

Moscow agrees with the UN investigation into an attack of Kosovo's police on the international organization's staff members, Nebenzya stated. "These results are in line with the investigation launched by the Russian Investigative Committee," he said. "Our investigators determined that [Kosovo's] special forces aimed to hamper Krasnoschekov's lawful activities which were carried out in full accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1244," he added.

"We demand an investigation and to punish those responsible for this crime," Nebenzya said. "We think that the UN Security Council should decisively condemn this crime against UN staff members," he added.

"However, the main thing here is the following. We see the aim of Kosovar-Albanian authorities to push the UN mission out. There are no more UN staff members in Kosovo's north, and the mission in general has to work in the uneasy conditions of the de facto boycott from the authorities in Pristina," he noted.

Nebenzya said that "the picture painted here shows the immaturity of Kosovar-Albanian forces." "In this context, we consider the issue of Kosovo's accession to international organization, including Interpol, mistaken and groundless," he concluded.

Agencies

Africa should embrace new techs to tackle food insecurity - AU official

ADDIS ABABA

THE African Union (AU) on Thursday urged African countries to embrace new technologies to reverse the current food insecurity and malnutrition prevalence in Africa.

The appeal was made by the AU Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, Josefa Sacko, as part of the commemoration of the 10th Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security (ADFNS), which was held under the theme "Fostering New Agricultural Technologies for Improved African Diets."

The AU official mainly emphasized that "advancements in agricultural, food and nutrition technologies should provide an opportunity for reversing the current trends in food insecurity and malnutrition prevalence."

"Agricultural technologies are the means to sustaining food and nutrition security," Sacko said. Sacko further encouraged the 55 AU member countries "to start promoting the utilization of emerging knowledge to benefit the development of our food systems and food value chains."

She also called upon "all stakeholders to work together to come up with an All Africa Food and Nutrition Expo in one of the AU member states and to mobilize its public and private sectors to support the preparations, organization and participation in the event."

The AU, noting that hunger and malnutrition has risen in Africa instead of reducing, also emphasized the need to find ways and modalities to advance new agricultural technologies to tackle hunger and malnutrition from the African continent.

The ADFNS, which was endorsed by African leaders back in July 2010, serves as a continental platform to share experiences, knowledge and mutual learning, as well as measure progress in assuring food and nutrition security for all by governments and multi-stakeholder partners in Africa.

The continental ADFNS commemoration, among other things, envisaged to cultivate a collective responsibility towards increasing sustainable access to safe, nutritious and healthy foods amongst Africa's countries.

Xinhua

Sixty Nigerian engineers departed the West African nation to learn about transformer manufacturing in China

SHENYANG

WHAT does electricity mean for 41-year-old Ajayi? It means everything from watching a soccer game without interruption and running a successful bakery to bringing real prosperity to his hometown in Nigeria.

This is why Ajayi and 59 other Nigerian engineers departed the West African nation and traveled over 10,000 km to learn the transformer manufacturing in China. Two months have passed since Ajayi arrived in a factory of Huaye Group in the city of Anshan, northeast China's Liaoning Province, one of the heartlands of China's heavy industry. The Nigerian engineer is well adapted to this new life.

"If a power station is compared to a heart, then the transformers are the vessels that carry the blood. Now, we don't have the ability to produce and repair these vessels on our own," Ajayi said. "As an engineer, I have a

dream to change this situation and provide sufficient electricity for my country."

DREAM OF STABLE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

With a rapidly growing population and increasing demand for electricity, the outdated Nigerian grid system is overwhelmed. "As a soccer fan, I was extremely frustrated when I watched a match on TV, but the electricity supply was suddenly cut off," Ajayi said.

Living in Abuja, capital of Nigeria, Ajayi sometimes had to use an electric generator to keep the TV running. A generator is a necessity for many Nigerians. His wife, Benedicta, runs a bakery. "Most times, I run the power generator to make cakes ordered by my customers," she said, adding that with a steady grid, her bakery could cut its electricity costs by at least 80 percent.

In the Chinese "school," Wang Yi is the idol of Ajayi. Speaking fluent English, the 39-year-old staff of Huaye Group is the teacher of the Nigerian trainees. "Although they lack professional knowledge about transformers, they are all very serious and hard-working," Wang said.

When Imadu, another Nigerian engineer, could not distinguish phase resistance and line resistance, Wang first changed the obscure professional vocabulary into clear English words. Then he explained the theory through a circuit diagram while taking Imadu through a workshop. Imadu was suddenly enlightened. "Teacher Wang is great! He can do anything!"

"Knowledge is stored in my head, and no one can take it away," Imadu said. "With powerful and stable electricity, Nigeria's economy can grow faster and better."

"TEACHING HOW TO FISH" IN-

STEAD OF "GIVING A FISH"

The story of 60 engineers has attracted attention in Nigeria. Recently, Kierian Umeayo, a reporter from the Nigerian Television Authority, traveled to Anshan to make a documentary about these trainees. "We are going to tell the audience that these 60 engineers are not here as tourists. They are studying hard," he said, hoping them to teach more Nigerians to make, install and maintain transformers.

After returning to Nigeria, the engineers will work in an industrial park, which includes three transformer production plants and associated equipment factories. With a total investment of 300 million U.S. dollars, the park was jointly constructed by Huaye Group and China Great Wall Industry Corporation.

"The completion of the industrial park will change Nigeria's inability to produce power transmission and

transformation equipment on its own, and the products will also be exported to other African countries," said Ma Liming, chairman of Huaye Group. As the ancient proverb says: "Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime." Ma said this training is only the initial stage of the program, and more Nigerian talents will study in China in the future.

It has been a year since China proposed eight major initiatives at the 2018 Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation to elevate cooperation between the world's largest developing country and the largest developing continent.

The eight initiatives cover various fields such as industrial promotion, infrastructure connectivity, trade facilitation, green development, capacity building, healthcare, people-to-people exchanges, and peace and security.

China decided to work with Africa to set up 10 Luban workshops, a program designed to provide state-of-the-art technical and vocational training, on the continent, the first of which has already been established and opened in Djibouti.

Nigerian presidential spokesperson Garba Shehu said Nigeria has suffered a long-term deficit in power supply, which is a major obstacle in the country's way of economic diversification. "We expect the engineers to bring home what they have learned in China, and I'm sure they will do something in manufacturing indigenous electric devices and alleviating power shortage of the country," Shehu said.

As a father of two, Ajayi calls his family every day. He told his kids that he had a mission -- to create a life without electric generators for the family, and he believes that day will come soon.

Xinhua



Supporters of a Pakistani radical Islamist party 'Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam', attend an anti-government march, in Islamabad, Pakistan, yesterday AP

Pakistani protesters rally to demand PM Khan's resignation

ISLAMABAD

TENS of thousands of Pakistani opposition supporters rallied yesterday to demand the ouster of what they say is the illegitimate government of Prime Minister Imran Khan, warning of chaos if their demands were not met.

The protest, in the capital Islamabad, is the first concerted opposition challenge that cricket star-turned-politician Khan has faced since he won a general election last year promising to end corruption and create jobs for the poor.

The leader of one of Pakistan's largest religious parties, Fazl-ur-Rehman, is spearheading the protest with the support of both main opposition parties. It comes as Khan's government is struggling with the economy.

The opposition says the government is illegitimate and is being propped up by the military, which has ruled Pakistan for about half of its history and sets security and foreign policy. The military denies meddling in politics.

Khan has dismissed the opposition calls to step down and the government has warned it will not tolerate chaos on the streets.

"There is an undeclared martial law here," said protester Habib ur Rehman, 35, a supporter of Fazl-ur-Rehman's conservative Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl party.

The veteran politician can mobilize support in numerous religious schools and has warned of chaos across the country if the government does not

step down. He was due to address the rally after Friday prayers.

Security is tight in Islamabad with the government and diplomatic sector - just a few kilometers from the rally site - sealed off, roads blocked by barriers of shipping containers.

Schools are closed, public transport suspended and internet services interrupted in some areas, a service provider said.

The army chief, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, urged Khan to handle the protest peacefully and avoid violence by both sides, a military spokesman said.

Khan won the election on promises of breaking Pakistan away from its legacy of corruption and on plans to pull 100 million people out of poverty.

But an economy in crisis forced his government, like many of its predecessors, to turn to the International Monetary Fund. Pakistan got a US\$6 billion bailout in July.

The government is trying to correct an unsustainable current account deficit and cut debt while trying to expand the tax base in the country of 208 million people, in which only 1% of people file returns.

Inflation is squeezing household budgets and traders this week protested against new tax measures.

Protester Rehman said people were struggling to make ends meet, and he blamed Khan.

"My family voted for him thinking he's a new person and looked sincere," he said.

"But he's failed us." **Agencies**

Civil society groups demand cancellation of license in Zambia's national park

LUSAKA

A CONSORTIUM of civil society organizations on Thursday appealed to the Zambia government to consider revoking a license granted to some Australian investors to start mining operations in a national park.

A debate is raging in Zambia following revelations that an Australian investor, Mwembeshi Resources Limited, has been granted permission to go ahead and start mining activities in the Lower Zambezi National Park following a court decision. While the government has stated that it will hold internal consultations before coming up with a position, stakeholders feel that the project should be halted because it will not only affect wildlife but biodiversity as well.

On Wednesday, the country's founding President Kenneth Kaunda said mining operations in the park poses a huge threat on wildlife and the ecosystem, adding that the park has supported generations of Zambians hence the need to protect it. In a statement, the 14 civil society organizations said the decision to grant permission for mining operations in a national park should be condemned. "As civil society organizations and citizens of this great nation, we feel duty bound to appeal to government to enforce their powers and revoke the licenses that permit mining in national parks for the sake of safeguarding the environment." **Xinhua**

Assad warns of war if political means fail to secure Turkey's pullout from N. Syria

DAMASCUS

SYRIAN President Bashar al-Assad on Thursday warned that war would be the only option if political means fail to secure Turkey's troop pullout from northern Syria.

Speaking in an interview with the Syrian national TV, Assad said the recent Turkey-Russia deal on creating a safe zone in northern Syria had been conducive in pulling back Kurdish militia from the border region in coordination with the Syrian army. "This doesn't eliminate the negativity of the Turkish occupation," Assad said, adding that if all political means are exhausted to push the Turkish forces to leave, there would be no other choice but war.

Turkey launched a military incursion into northern Syria in early October, in a bid to drive Kurdish fighters out of the border region, fol-



lowing the pullout of U.S. troops. Turkey and Russia, a major supporter of Syria, reached a deal last Tuesday to allow the Kurdish fighters to withdraw 30 km away from the border and conduct joint Turkey-Russia patrols in the region. Assad insisted that the deal is only "temporary," without elaborating.

The Syrian leader said the entry of the Syrian army into the Kurdish-held

areas is not only for countering the Turkish attacks, but also will restore the government rule there. He added that the return of the Syrian government to all Kurdish-held areas will be gradual and might take some time.

"Our policy should be rational and gradual taking into account the facts, but the final goal is for sure the return of the Syrian state's control" over all Kurdish-held areas, Assad said.

Regarding the presence of the U.S. forces in Syria, Assad said that when the Syrians are united against the occupation, the U.S. forces will withdraw by themselves "because they will have no chance to remain in Syria."

On the Syrian constitutional committee, which is holding its first session in Geneva, Assad said the Syrian government would approve any outcome of the committee's work as long as it's compatible with the national interest of Syria "even if it is a new constitution." **Xinhua**



Lavrov says Kurdish issue must not inflame tensions in the region

MOSCOW

THE Kurdish issue in Syria must not exacerbate tensions in the region, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in an interview with Rossiya-24 TV channel yesterday.

"The Kurds are living in Iraq and in Iran, and certainly, a huge number of the Kurds are living in Turkey. Nobody wants this region to 'explode' over tensions around the Kurdish issue, and no one wants the Kurds to feel like they are secondary citizens," Lavrov said.

Russia's top diplomat stressed that the Kurdish issue in Syria is a problem that cannot be neglected. "This is a much broader issue than just in the dimension of the Syrian crisis," Lavrov noted.

According to Lavrov, Russia has created conditions, which will make it possible to "agree on the Kurds' fate in Syria calmly rather than in pauses between combat actions."

On October 9, Ankara launched a military incursion into northern Syria, codenaming it Operation Peace Spring with the goal of creating a buffer zone there. According to Turkish plans, it should ensure security along the Turkish border, where Syrian refugees could resettle from Turkey.

On October 22, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan signed a memorandum at a summit in Sochi on joint efforts in northeastern Syria.

The document stipulated that Russian military police and Syrian troops should be deployed to the areas near the Turkish operation's zone on October 23.

Kurdish units were given 150 hours to withdraw from the 30-kilometer zone along the Turkish border, after which the Russian and Turkish military servicemen were due to start conducting joint patrols. These missions are expected to be launched yesterday. **Agencies**

British election campaign kicks off on no-Brexit day

LONDON

ON the day Britain was supposed to have left the European Union, voters instead faced the start of an election campaign, with opposition Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn pledging to overthrow a "rigged system" he said was run by billionaires and tax dodgers.

After failing to deliver Brexit by the Oct 31 deadline, Prime Minister Boris Johnson called the Dec 12 election to break what he cast as a political paralysis that had thwarted Britain's departure and undermined confidence in the economy.

Opinion polls suggest the election is Johnson's to lose. His Conservative Party is leading Labour by 15 to 17 percentage points, according to IpsosMORI and YouGov. Yet the overshadowing issue of Brexit, which has divided both major parties and their voters, could confound conventional calculations.

While Brexit frames the election, with Labour pledging to hold a second referendum on it, it is being fought by two of the most unconventional British politicians of recent years who offer starkly different visions for the world's fifth-largest economy.

In his first major speech of the campaign, Corbyn said the election was a once-in-a-generation chance to overthrow what he cast as a corrupt elite which profited by exploiting workers, lying to the public and polluting the environment.

"Together, we can pull down a corrupt system and build a fairer country that cares for all," said Corbyn, a 70-year-old veteran socialist campaigner.

"Even if the rivers freeze over, we're going out to bring about real change for the many, not the few," Corbyn said.

Corbyn named prominent billionaires such as landowner Hugh Grosvenor, Sports Direct owner Mike Ashley, Ineos CEO Jim Ratcliffe, hedge



fund manager Crispin Odey and US media tycoon Rupert Murdoch as representatives of Britain's "rigged system".

He proposed nationalisation of rail, mail and water services and higher taxes on the bankers who have made London the pre-eminent international financial capital.

Ashley, one of the businessmen targeted by Corbyn, hit back, saying the Labour leader was "not only a liar but clueless."

Health not Brexit?

The first December election in Britain since 1923 will be one of the hardest to forecast in years. Brexit has variously fatigued, enthused and enraged voters while eroding loyalties to the two major parties.

IpsosMORI said the Conservatives were on 41% with Labour on 24%. But that still leaves a third of the electorate up for grabs - and voter poaching could decide the final result.

The Liberal Democrats want to win over the opponents of Brexit while the Brexit Party is courting supporters of the divorce. The Brexit Party is expected to set out some of its strategy on Friday.

A five-year flurry of two historic referendums - on Scottish independence in 2014 and Brexit in 2016 - and two

national elections in 2015 and 2017 have delivered often unexpected results that ushered in political crises.

Johnson will be aware that the Conservatives under his predecessor, Theresa May, were polling at about 50%, double that of Labour, ahead of the last election in 2017 but then went on to lose their majority in parliament, eventually winning under 2% more of the vote share than Labour.

Johnson, who has failed to deliver on his "do or die" promise that Britain would leave the EU on Oct 31, is pitching the election as a chance to get Brexit done, and he will accuse Corbyn of threatening the United Kingdom's future.

He says Labour's plan to hold another referendum on Britain's membership of the bloc, and the possibility of Labour agreeing to another referendum on Scottish independence, risk ripping the United Kingdom apart.

"Today should have been the day that Brexit was delivered and we finally left the EU," Johnson said in pre-prepared remarks provided by his office.

Corbyn repeated his claim that Johnson intended to sell off Britain's National Health Service (NHS) to American companies as part of a post-Brexit trade deal with US President Donald Trump. **Agencies**

CIIE invites countries to get on board the express train of China's development

The second China International Import Expo (CIIE), which is scheduled to take place from Nov.5 to 10 in Shanghai, is bound to profoundly promote fast and effective spreading of quality goods, services, and technologies around the world and boost global economic growth, foreign dignitaries, entrepreneurs, experts and scholars told People's Daily.

Jurin Laksanawisit, Deputy Prime Minister and Commerce Minister of Thailand, said he is looking forward to the upcoming second CIIE.

China is the most important trading partner of Thailand, the Thai minister told People's Daily, disclosing that Thailand's exports to China account for 16 percent of its total value of exports, and that the country will showcase such Thai products as dried mango and durian as well as some light industry consumer goods at the second CIIE.

As one of the guest countries

of honor, the Czech Republic will have two separate exhibition halls at the second CIIE. At the country pavilion, the Czech Republic will display its leading enterprises' innovative products and unique technologies, while at the Quality Life section of the exhibition center, the country will showcase world-famous Czech products like crystal wares and beer.

The CIIE will serve as a rare opportunity for the Czech Republic to show its development achievements in such areas as trade, investment, and tourism, said Miroslav Scheiner, an official of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce of the Czech Republic who is going to attend the CIIE for the second time.

The event is also a great opportunity to promote the Czech Republic's export to China, said Scheiner, adding that the Czech Republic has made careful preparations for the event and that he hopes the country's products

will leave a good impression on people at the second CIIE.

Thirty-two food companies from the Philippines will jointly participate in the second CIIE this year, with their exhibition area covering 450 square meters.

The Philippines hopes to expand the variety and scale of its vegetable and fruit exports to China through the CIIE, said Agnes Perpetua Legaspi, Assistant Director of the Export Marketing Bureau of the Philippine Department of Trade and Industry.

Philippine enterprises also hope to meet more Chinese partners through the event so as to reach more agreements and bring their products into the huge Chinese market, noted Legaspi.

Zambia will be the only African country of honor of the second CIIE this year. This is an honor and a precious opportunity for Zambia, said Christopher Yaluma, Zambia's Minister

of Commerce, Trade and Industry who will lead the Zambian delegation at the expo for the second time.

Zambia thanks China for offering it such a good platform, noted Yaluma, stressing that Zambia will make the most of the CIIE to showcase its products and achievements and constantly promote economic and trade exchanges between China and Zambia.

Japan's Panasonic Corporation regards the CIIE as an important platform for introducing its newest products to Chinese consumers.

The exhibition area of Panasonic Corporation at the second CIIE will reach 1,000 square meters, 30 percent more than that of the last CIIE, according to Tetsuro Homma, CEO of China & Northeast Asia Company of Panasonic Corporation, saying that the company hopes to draw people's attention to the latest products of its around 70

branches in China during this year's CIIE.

China has become a key consumer market of Panasonic Corporation, and will become an important base for research and development efforts of the company, said Homma, explaining that China has a great number of highly educated talents, especially science and engineering talents, which will be one of the enormous advantages of China in future development.

Panasonic Corporation is optimistic about China's development prospects, and is willing to walk hand in hand with its Chinese partners, noted Homma.

Lucas Lacasa, CEO of Spanish chocolate company Chocolates Lacasa attended the first CIIE last year and was deeply impressed by the large scale of the expo and the enthusiasm of exhibitors and visitors at the event.

Seeing the huge potential of Chinese market, Lacasa signed

up for this year's CIIE very early. He disclosed that products of Chocolates Lacasa haven't been in Chinese market for a long time and so far own only a small market share, noting that the CIIE has provided the company with a platform for showcasing products and enhancing popularity.

The CIIE has brought Chocolates Lacasa and other small and medium-sized Spanish companies new opportunities to explore Chinese market, said Lacasa, adding that in recent years, with its steady economic growth, China has injected impetus into global economic development.

Chinese market is increasingly open and inclusive, and constantly boosts the efforts of enterprises from various countries to get on board the express train of China's development and share development opportunities, noted Lacasa.

The CIIE is one of China's concrete measures to promote win-win cooperation between China and various countries around the world, according to Sergei Luzyanin, Director of the Institute of Far Eastern Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

Trying to boost the joint construction of the Belt and Road Initiative and calling on the world to build a community with a shared future for mankind, China values common development while pursuing its own development, said Luzyanin.

When the world is faced with threats caused by protectionism and unilateralism, China is making efforts to unswervingly safeguard free trade and an open world economy, injecting confidence into the global market, noted Natalia Gazolla, Assistant to the President at Brazil China Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

People's Daily

Bahari Charity golf tournament tees off

BY CORRESPONDENT MOHAMED UGASA

THE Rotary Club of Bahari charity golf gets underway at the 5,704 meters par 72 Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) course today, attracting over hundred participants across all age categories.

Proceeds from the tourney now in its ninth edition, have been projected to hit a 40m/- mark.

Mtakuja Secondary School of Kunduchi in Dar es Salaam is lined up as sole beneficiary of the expected charity fund package.

The sum to be collected courtesy of several corporate Samaritans will be channeled to cater for water and sanitation project of the school.

Rotary Club of Bahari president, Rotarian Hitesh Tanna, and DGC golf captain, Mohamed Dewg, have confirmed that all is set for the pulsating day-long tension-packed tournament.

Major highlight of today's stable ford showdown for participants is mathematical complex permutation-mounted hole-in-one tussle at the 175 meters par three 10th.

Protected by U-shaped greenside bunker on its edges, the 10th green has always been intimidating poor short-game players.

An approach bunker located on the left of the fairway stands as another intimidating hazard for tee-shot careless hookers.

Otherwise, for straight hitters they only have to address their balls on an elevated state-of-the-art tee box to notch the precious hole-in-one feat in today's much anticipated drama.

Minet Insurance firm has donated a brand new Toyota RAV4 Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV) available to the first participant capable of hitting breathtaking rare eagle-one feat at the back nine's windy-prevailing par three hole.

Dewg said the course is in immaculate condition after heavy semi-torrential downpour that soaked the course's fairways during the past one month.

Rotary Club of Bahari president, Tanna, has in advance expressed his sincere appreciation to all corporate Samaritans who facilitated staging of the precious tournament.

He mentioned some of the firms that wholeheartedly extended hand-in-glove cooperation for this year's charity golf tournament as Airtel, DTB Bank, Minet Insurance, NBC Bank, Toyota Tanzania, and Tata.

Other sponsors are CBA Bank, Neelkanth Salt, George and Dragon, Heritage Insurance, Clear Services, SBC (T) LTD, Rickshaw Travels, Bank of India, Steelmasters, Scania (T) LTD, NAS Tyre Services Ltd, R.K Chudasama Ltd, iPrint, Jamana Printers and Hitech Sai Medical services.

Warriors lose Stephen Curry to broken hand, look for answers

SAN FRANCISCO

IN a matter of months, the once-unbeatable Warriors have gone from a starting lineup featuring five All-Stars to a cast of youngsters almost nobody knows.

At least to start the season they had staples Stephen Curry, Draymond Green and Kevon Looney to lean on for leadership.

Now, Curry and Looney are hurt and Green is dealing with a balky back. And the Warriors have looked anything but dominant during a 1-3 start.

"It's been a tough start for us on many levels, so we're just trying to find our footing," coach Steve Kerr said. "This puts us in a tough spot, so we'll assess it and go from there."

Curry joined Splash Brother Klay Thompson as the latest sidelined star. The two-time MVP broke his left hand in a 121-110 loss to Phoenix on Wednesday night and it remained unclear a day later how long he might be sidelined, while Splash Brother Thompson could miss the entire season recovering from July 2 surgery for a torn ACL in his left knee that he hurt in a Game 6 loss in the NBA Finals that gave Toronto its first title. Curry underwent a CT scan Thursday but the team said it would have specialists evaluate the results before providing an update on his status.

However long he is out, it hurts for far more than what he brings on the court. Curry's presence in the locker room provides an example for the young Warriors, and he is their longest-tenured player and their oldest at age 31. It will be up to players like Russell and Green to help keep things afloat for the time being.

Many already consider it a lost season, with playoff hopes in the powerful Western Conference grim at best. Golden State might instead be lining itself up for a lottery pick in next year's NBA draft.

Still, Curry posted a smiling photo of himself, with the hand heavily wrapped, Thursday on his Instagram account with the message: "Appreciate all the love/texts/support all that ... Be back soon!"

The two-time MVP drove to his left defended by Kelly Oubre Jr. and, with Aron Baynes standing solidly in the paint, trying to draw a charge. Curry leapt with the ball then came down head first landing awkwardly on his hands to brace himself from the court, with Baynes crashing onto Curry's left hand. Curry grimaced in pain grabbing his hand then walked to the locker room with 8:31 left in the third quarter.

D'Angelo Russell has done this before, forced to take on a far bigger role just last season because of injuries in Brooklyn. And now the new Golden State guard must do it again with a suddenly short-handed backcourt. Russell understands he faces a tall task.

"Definitely trying to take on that leadership role and continue to get better every year with being able to lead guys on what I see and what I've been through," he said. "It's definitely a

similar situation, but it's going to be tougher. We've got a lot of young guys that are going to be forced to mature and step up, so I'm looking forward to it as well. ... It's an opportunity. Go back to the drawing board with the team and the coaching staff, and see what we can do to prepare for each game day in and day out. The big thing I see is just opportunity for a lot of people."

In fact, Kerr planned to gather his staff Thursday – the player development coaches have already been working on overload – for a serious meeting of the minds to figure out how to push ahead and what combinations might work going forward with so many men down. Golden State already was missing key big man Looney, who is dealing with a hamstring injury and scheduled to see specialists next week because of an "on-going presence of a neuropathic condition in his body."

The challenge of putting a winning team on the court now seems daunting. The rookies have been thrown into action right away out of necessity – not the norm with these Warriors in recent years.

"We just got to make up for it by playing hard and playing together, and making sure we're together the time he's out," said rookie Eric Paschall, who made his first career start and scored a team-high 20 points against the Suns.

The losses have been ugly – Phoenix led 43-14 after the first quarter – at home in new Chase Center, where the Warriors are winless and hardly have that imposing home-court advantage that Oracle Arena provided night after night across the bay in Oakland.

Two players returned from injuries Wednesday to make their debuts with Golden State: center Willie Cauley-Stein and guard Alec Burks.

General manager Bob Myers mentioned months ago this would be a rebuilding season for the Warriors in many ways.

The Warriors' recent fortunes also shed light on just how much must go right to win a championship, let alone reach five straight NBA Finals and capture three titles in four years.

There are nine players age 23 or younger.

"I don't know how long it'll take. It'll take as long as it takes, I guess," Myers said at media day. "... I do know this: We believe that things take time to evolve, and we're prepared especially with a younger roster to allow that to happen, and that's the mindset that we have from a coaching staff, from a front office staff, is 'let's see how things are going before we make any blanket decisions or judgment on any of it.' But we're excited. I mean, look, we're excited about the youth. We're excited about the unknown. In years past we've had a lot of known, which has been fantastic, but this is different."

Notes: The Warriors on Thursday announced they have exercised the third-year contract options for the 2020-21 season on guard Jacob Evans III and forward Omari Spellman.

AP



Olympics: Tokyo governor gives reluctant consent to marathon venue move

TOKYO

SAPPORO was formally approved on Friday as host of the marathon events at next year's Summer Olympics with the reluctant consent of Tokyo's governor, ending a showdown between the Japanese capital and the IOC over where to stage the flagship event.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) stunned many Games organisers last month by announcing that the marathon, one of the most prestigious events at any Olympics and one especially beloved in Japan, would be moved to the northern Japanese city of Sapporo to avoid the worst of Tokyo's summer heat.

The announcement enraged Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike, who said at the beginning of discussions with the IOC on Wednesday that she still wanted the marathon and race walk events to remain in the capital.

At the request of IOC delegation leader John Coates, representatives from the IOC, the 2020 organising committee, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and national government held talks on Friday aimed at reaching an amicable solution to what has become a very public spat.

Koike reiterated at the start of Friday's meeting there was no change in her feelings that the races should stay in Tokyo and that the IOC explanation still "wasn't sufficient."

"But on these points to make the Olympics a success we need to build a positive framework going forward," Koike said.

"I don't approve but the decision can't be avoided," she said. "It's a decision without

agreement."

She added that they had agreed Tokyo would not bear extra costs of the venue move but other points still remained to be worked out, such as how much of the money Tokyo has spent up to this point in preparation might be repaid.

Coates said they had agreed at a meeting on Thursday that the decision on where to hold the marathon and race walk events rested with the IOC, adding that there would be no other venue changes in the future.

"We will continue as a one-team effort," he said, referring to planning with host city Tokyo.

"DIFFICULT DECISION"

In Wednesday's opening remarks to a three-day IOC coordination visit, Coates had said organisers "owed it to the people of Tokyo" to clarify any plans over the marathon and race walk and vowed not to leave Tokyo without a consensus decision over the events.

Tokyo temperatures in July and August, when the city will host the Games, regularly exceed 30 degrees Celsius with high humidity adding to the discomfort.

"We thought it would be possible to do something, but our opponent was nature," said Tokyo 2020 organising committee President Yoshiro Mori, adding that he respected Koike's "difficult decision."

The IOC is determined not to repeat the experience of the athletics world championships in Doha, where the heat and humidity forced many athletes to drop out of the race

despite the marathon being held at midnight.

The IOC has said temperatures in Sapporo, which will also host soccer games, are as much as five to six degrees cooler during the day.

Asked at a news conference later on Friday about what he might say to Tokyo children missing out on the "memory of a lifetime," Coates once again cited Doha.

"I'm very aware of the special place marathons have in the minds of Japanese. We also didn't want bad memories, we didn't want people to have bad memories of Tokyo," he said.

"We didn't want it to be remembered by some of the scenes we saw in Doha." Many marathoners at the 2019 World Athletics Championships in Doha were forced to withdraw from races due high temperatures and unbearable humidity. Some were carried off in wheelchairs.

Organisers earlier this year had already moved up the starting times to 6 a.m. for the marathon and 5:30 a.m. for the race walk to avoid the midday sun, and Coates said they were considering moving up the time for some other events, such as equestrian events.

When Tokyo hosted the Summer Olympics in 1964, they were held in October – an option no longer possible due to international sports schedules.

Next year's Games are set to run from July 24 to Aug. 9, with the men's marathon to be held on the final day.

REUTERS

Actor Cuba Gooding Jr pleads not guilty to new charges in groping case

NEW YORK

ACTOR Cuba Gooding Jr pleaded not guilty on Thursday to new charges of sexual misconduct involving a third woman, less than a month after pleading not guilty to accusations of groping one woman's breasts and pinching another's buttocks.

Gooding pleaded not guilty to the new misdemeanor charges of forcible touching and sexual abuse in Manhattan Supreme Court. He is due back in court on Jan. 22.

According to an indictment released by Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance, the latest charges stem from an incident that took place the night of Sept. 9, 2018 at Manhattan's Lavo nightclub. The indictment did not contain any further details.

"We believe without question that the case is purely a case of malicious prosecution," Mark Heller, a lawyer for Gooding, told reporters outside the courthouse, criticizing prosecutors for not providing details about the accusations.

"How is he going to defend himself if he has no itemization or detail about what he is said to have done?" Heller said.

Gooding, 51, won a best supporting actor Oscar in 1997 for the film "Jerry Maguire" and is known for roles in movies including "A Few Good Men" and "The Butler" and in the television miniseries "The People v. O.J. Simpson."

He was previously charged with touching a woman's breasts at the Manhattan bar Magic Hour, and separately with pinching a woman's buttocks at the TAO nightclub, also in Manhattan, in October 2018. He pleaded not guilty to those charges on Oct. 15.

Prosecutors said at the time they hoped to es-



Actor Cuba Gooding Jr. appears for his arraignment in New York State Supreme Court in the Manhattan borough of New York, U.S., on Thursday. REUTERS

establish a pattern of behavior at Gooding's trial using testimony from 12 additional women who have said they were subjected to unwanted touching and advances by the actor in bars and clubs.

The woman behind the new charges is not one of those 12, Assistant District Attorney Jenna Long said in court Thursday. Long also said prosecutors would seek to use testimony from additional women, though she did not say how many.

Gooding, who is divorced, is one of dozens of men in politics, entertainment, sports and the business world who have been accused of sexual misconduct since allegations against movie producer Harvey Weinstein triggered the global #MeToo movement.

Weinstein is scheduled to stand trial in New York in January on charges of rape and assault involving two women. He has denied any non-consensual sex.

REUTERS

Khaka reached 'boiling point' over Arsenal abuse

LONDON

ARSENAL's Granit Khaka released a statement on his Instagram page explaining his behaviour after being substituted in the Gunners' draw with Crystal Palace on Sunday.

Khaka taunted Arsenal fans and removed his shirt when storming off the pitch after he was substituted and appeared to swear at his team's own supporters, as well as waving his arms taunting supporters to jeer louder and cupping his ear.

The Switzerland international said his actions were caused in part by what he perceived to be harsh treatment from the club's fans on social media and during matches and that it boiled over on Sunday at the Emirates.

Khaka wrote: "The scenes that took place around my substitution have moved me deeply. I love this club and will always give 100% on and off the pitch.

"My feeling of not being understood by fans, and repeated abusive comments at matches and in social media over the last weeks and months have hurt me deeply.

"People have said things like 'We will break your legs,' 'Kill your wife' and 'Wish that your daughter gets cancer.' That has stirred me up and I reached boiling point when I felt the rejection in the stadium on Sunday."

Khaka was absent as planned from Arsenal's shootout loss to Liverpool in the Carabao Cup on Wednesday, with Hector Bellerin wearing the captain's armband as the Gunners exited the competition in the round of 16.

Following the incident on Sunday, Emery said Khaka was devastated about the row and hailed his commitment to the club in training and in games.

"It's not easy for him and for the team," Emery said in a news conference on Tuesday. "He is now devastated, sad.

"He trained normally with the group but he is devastated. He is sad about that situation.

"His commitment is great every time. He wants to help. His behaviour was perfect in training, with the group and club.

"Really he knows he was wrong."
(Agencies)

'Arsenal should keep an eye on Vieira to replace Emery'

LONDON

ARSENAL legend Nigel Winterburn has backed Patrick Vieira as a potential replacement for current boss Unai Emery.

With the Gunners fifth in the Premier League standings, there appears to be an atmosphere of discontent around the Emirates club.

Mesut Ozil remains in the spotlight due to his continued absence from the first team in Premier League fixtures, while club captain Grant Khaka's angry reaction to being substituted in a 2-2 draw with Crystal Palace on Sunday has stepped up speculation that all is not well in north London.

Emery finds himself in the line of fire, with the former Paris Saint-Germain and Sevilla boss having his position in the dugout put under question.

While there does not appear to be a serious threat to his job at present, thoughts are beginning to turn to potential successors for the Spaniard.

Winterburn, who played over 570 times for the club and was a member of the team that won the Premier League in 1998 and Cup Winners' Cup in 1994, does not think that the board will take any great risks with the next

appointment but has tipped a former Gunner as the leading candidate.

"I would say keep an eye on what's happening with Patrick Vieira," the former left-back told Gambling.com.

"If someone like that could prove they are able to run a club in the right way, then Arsenal may look towards that eventually.

"I don't know if they would be as brave to go with someone like [Freddie] Ljungberg or [Mikel] Arteta.

"They may be terrific coaches but when you take that manager's role it steps up another couple of levels again."

Vieira is currently in charge of Ligue 1 side Nice, though he is in a period of difficulty with the Cote d'Azur side, who lie 15th in France's top flight after a run of five competitive matches in which they have taken just a single point.

Much is expected of the former midfielder at the Allianz Riviera this season, with Nice having been subject to a takeover that has brought with it a significant injection of transfer funds, allowing them to notably sign Kasper Dolberg from Ajax.

(Agencies)

Lippi accused of 'slap in the face' as China critics circle

SHANGHAI

MARCELLO Lippi was accused Friday of neglect and delivering "a slap in the face" amid grumblings that China's coach is not doing enough to justify one of the highest salaries in football management.

Former Everton midfielder Li Tie will temporarily take charge of China's national team at an East Asian championships next month in South Korea instead of the 71-year-old Italian World Cup winner.

Thursday's announcement by the Chinese Football Association was greeted with anger by sections of local media, which said that it had nevertheless been long known that Lippi had opted to remain home in Italy for the tournament.

"But this doesn't mean that this is not a problem," said a scathing commentary in the influential Oriental Sports Daily.

"However, shouldn't training the team be his job? Since he holds the salary of the position of the national football coach, he should do the work that the national football coach should do."

The former Juventus and Italy boss Lippi, who quit as China's coach in January only to return in May, reportedly earns 180 million yuan (\$25 million) a year.

But suggesting that Lippi has little interest in the long-term development of Chinese football, Oriental Sports

Daily added: "Lippi neglected his duties halfway.

"No matter whose face this slap lands on, one should follow up with a question - who gave Lippi the qualification and power to do this?"

Lippi is attempting to take China, ranked 69th in the FIFA world rankings, to only their second World Cup.

He has won 16 of his 36 matches in charge over two spells but his reign will be judged on whether he can get the world's most populous country to the Qatar 2022 World Cup.

One report said that Lippi felt the South Korea trip was bad timing, coming at the end of the Chinese season, but Tencent Sports was unimpressed.

After a World Cup qualifier against Syria in mid-November, Lippi will return to Italy and spend Christmas there, Tencent said.

"The holiday may last for four months," said Tencent.

"Therefore it is no exaggeration for fans to say that Lippi's annual salary of 180 million yuan is too easy.

"Coaching the national football team carries huge pressure for any head coach, but it is almost impossible to see this in Lippi."

China are second behind Syria in their qualifying group following a 0-0 draw at the Philippines in their previous game.
(AFP)

Evergreen Aguero holds key to Man City's title defence

LONDON

SERGIO Aguero holds the key to Manchester City's bid to overhaul Premier League leaders Liverpool as the Argentine striker reaps the rewards of the "best decision of his life".

When Aguero walks onto the Etihad Stadium pitch ahead of Saturday's clash with Southampton, he will feel more at one with his surroundings than he would ever have imagined when he arrived eight years ago.

Back then, Aguero was a talented but not yet fully rounded player hoping to thrive in England after a promising start to his European career with Atletico Madrid.

The intervening years have been a dream come true for Aguero, who is now City's record goal-scorer and has amassed four Premier League titles, one FA Cup and four League Cups while helping the club's become top dogs in Manchester after decades of dominance from United.

Aguero marked his 350th appearance with two goals against Southampton in the League Cup fourth round win on Tuesday, giving him 12 for the season and 243 in his City career.

For all the brilliance of his City teammates Raheem Sterling and Kevin De Bruyne, it is the 31-year-old Aguero and the guarantee of goals which remains the key element in their bid for a third successive English title.

"It was hard to imagine spending so long with one club when I first started off but as time went by, it became clearer to me that it was exactly what I wanted. And here I am, enjoying my eighth season with Manchester City," Aguero said.

"How couldn't I feel like a Mancunian? I feel at home in this club and in this city. As soon as I arrived, I've felt like I belonged, that made the adaptation process much more natural.

"I believe coming to Manchester City is one of the best decisions I've taken in my life."

- Intense competition -
Chasing their first top-flight title since



Distributed via iobmedia

1990, Liverpool are six points clear of City and remain a daunting obstacle for Aguero and company.

Jürgen Klopp's side head to Aston Villa with nine wins from their 10 league

games this season, a blistering streak that is fuelled by the intense competition for places and the high standards set by the European champions.

Evidence of that desire was provided

by Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, who scored a superb goal in the midweek League Cup win over Arsenal but then admitted he hadn't done enough to deserve to retain his place against Villa.

"I wasn't great on the ball and not near my own personal level of where I want to be. I watch the boys of a weekend and I know what it is about here," he said.

"You have got to be at a really high physical level to go and put in a performance like that. Fab (Fabinho) did really well at the weekend so I need to keep pushing myself and maybe I will get a chance."

Elsewhere, Manchester United, enjoying a mini-revival after their poor start, can make it four successive away wins when they visit Bournemouth.

Ole Gunnar Solskjær's side beat Chelsea in the League Cup on Wednesday thanks to Marcus Rashford's superb free-kick and the United striker feels confidence is growing in the squad.

"If you get a couple of wins back-to-back early on in the season it can change the direction the season is going," Rashford said.

"When you're winning back-to-back games, the team's confidence levels go up."

Arsenal boss Unai Emery is under pressure to deliver a win against Wolves after his side blew leads against Liverpool and Crystal Palace.

The Palace match was marred by Granit Khaka's astonishing feud with Gunners fans and the fall-out continues, with Emery still deciding whether to strip him of the captaincy.

Fixtures (1500 GMT unless stated)

Today

Arsenal v Wolves, Aston Villa v Liverpool, Bournemouth v Manchester Utd (1230 GMT), Brighton v Norwich, Manchester City v Southampton, Sheffield Utd v Burnley, Watford v Chelsea (1730 GMT), West Ham v Newcastle

Tomorrow

Crystal Palace v Leicester (1400 GMT), Everton v Tottenham (1630 GMT)

(AFP)

La Liga MD Pelegrin talks Africa's football stars and leaving a legacy

BY BRIAN LEE, ESPN

LA Liga's new Managing Director for Africa, Marcos Pelegrin, has only been in the job for a few weeks, but is as up to speed as anyone would like, and clearly a fan of the continent's players in the Spanish top flight.

The likes of Samuel Eto'o and Seydou Keita have represented the continent in Spain in recent years, while a new crop of superstars is beginning to emerge, led by the likes of Guinea-Bissau-born Ansu Fati [Barcelona] and Nigeria's Samuel Chukwueze [Villarreal].

As La Liga's top representative in Africa, Pelegrin keeps tabs on the continent's stars, telling ESPN: "We've got, I think, over 40 African players in La Liga. Right now the one that is on everyone's mouth is Ansu Fati, who has made a huge impact within the past month.

"But also we have a lot of [other names]. I love [Karl] Toko Ekambi [Cameroonian on the books of Villarreal], he's performing really well, I think he's scored for the past few matches in a row.

"Idrissu Baba with Mallorca, they are doing really well, Ramon Azeez in Granada which is top of the table. And the good thing is many of the [African players] are performing really well and also they belong to top clubs, so I'm very happy about that." La Liga has become a hotbed for African talent, even if some, like Barcelona's teen sensation Fati, seem destined to play for the European nation rather than the country of their birth or parentage.

Pelegrin has succeeded Antonio Barradas, who held the position from 2015 when La Liga opened their offices in Johannesburg, South Africa. He also oversees the Namibia, Botswana, Zambia, Lesotho, Seychelles, Mauritius, Zimbabwe and Eswatini markets.

The Spanish league has been incredibly forward-thinking and generous in its outreach programmes, notably

partnering with the South African Football Association [SAFA] in initiatives such as #PassTheBall, which is a charity drive aimed at uplifting disadvantaged youth through football development, equipment donation, and coaching clinics by La Liga trainers.

"Our partnership with SAFA has been very fruitful for both sides in the past three years," Pelegrin said. "Of course when you go to a country, the local federation is the best partner you can get. We were lucky to have SAFA on our side and they wanted to partner with us too.

"We want to try and put as much content into our agreement as possible and to try to create new projects and try to develop new ideas."

La Liga has also developed relationships with the Botswana Premier League [BPL], enjoyed a presence at a recent symposium with the Zimbabwean Premier Soccer League [ZPSL], and is working closely with COSAFA [Council of Southern African Football Associations] to help develop new projects in smaller countries like Mauritius and Malawi.

"We want to grow our fan base in the region and COSAFA wants to gain more

organisation and to try to throw more relevant tournaments around the region," noted Pelegrin.

"Working along with them, we get the presence that we look for, and also COSAFA can work with us in order to [establish] tournaments, which are more like leaving a legacy in those regions instead of an economic objective."

La Liga has also been a major driving force behind the development of women's football on the continent, notably helping SAFA in the creation of a professional women's league in South Africa, which was launched earlier in the year.

"La Liga supports very strongly women's football," explained Pelegrin. "Three years ago we committed with the Spanish women's football league, but our commitment is also international and global. "In this case we are working along with SAFA in order to try to foster the South African national women's league. But also we partner with Thembi Kgatana [a forward for the SA national women's team, and current African player of the year] to help her to set up a tournament, which will take place next December."

The Spanish clubs have also become

very active on the African continent in regards to passing on their football know-how. In Nigeria, for example, both Real Madrid and Barcelona have opened academies, while La Liga has one in Egypt and is looking at creating another in East Africa. According to Pelegrin, the objective behind these projects "is not only about coaching the kids, it's also about values and education and what La Liga represents, which is much more than the game itself".

As for the chance of La Liga teams playing in Africa more often, Pelegrin says he would love to have more Spanish clubs visit the continent but acknowledges that it's not an easy goal to attain, given the demand for the teams across the world.

He added: "We are all about bringing La Liga closer to South Africa, so in this regard it is the first demand that we will be getting from the country.

"This office is working really hard in order to bring more Spanish teams to South Africa, but as you can understand it is not easy. We've got only 42 clubs who belong to La Liga [including the second-tier La Liga2] and there are 194 countries in the UN."

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Yanga in high spirit ahead of Pyramids FC clash

SPORT

Evergreen Aguero holds key to Man City's title defence

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Buoyant Mbeya City FC seeks win over Simba

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

MBEYA City FC head coach Juma Mwambusi has disclosed he is determined his charges will beat hosts, Simba SC, when the two squads meet in this season's Mainland Premier League at the Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam tomorrow.

The two sides last met in 2018/2019 Mainland Premier League season and Simba emerged winners in both home and away clashes.

Mwambusi, whose side drew 0-0 with Alliance FC in Mwanza on Thursday, said he is looking forward to tomorrow's game against the league's defending champions.

He, however, admitted that it will not be easy but said his side is ready for the encounter and their aim is to collect maximum points in the hands of Simba.

"We will face Simba SC with the aim of collecting maximum points, I know it will be difficult but we are well prepared for the game," he said.

The coach also admitted that his charges have started this season's Mainland Premier League on a bad note as results have not been good to them, but he is confident that they will, on Sunday, win.

On Sunday, Mbeya City FC that has eight points from eight games and currently placed 16th in the league table will depend on the services of such players like Peter Mapunda, Hassan Mwasapili and Mohamed Mussa who have been influential this season.

However, the Sunday game will not be easy for the visitors considering that the defending champions are coming from a 1-0 defeat in the hands of Mwadui FC.

Simba's head coach, Patrick Aussems, said after the defeat his charges are looking forward to the game against Mbeya City.

"We have lost to Mwadui FC but now our focus is on the next game against Mbeya City," he noted.

"In our game against Mwadui we played well but we did not score goals, now it's time for us to rectify the mistakes we committed in our first game and ready for our next match."

Simba are currently enjoying the driver's seat in the league with 18 points from seven games.

They are tomorrow set to depend on the services of such players like Meddie Kagere, Deo Kanda, Francis Kahata, Miraji Athuman and Clatous Chama.

Vince sets sights on T20 World Cup spot

CHRISTCHURCH

JAMES Vince already has a 50-over World Cup winners' medal in his possession and he is hoping a productive series in New Zealand can firm up his chances of having a crack at another in T20 cricket after being named Man of the Match in the series opener in Christchurch.

Vince stroked 59 off 38 balls to set up England's chase in the first T20I, seizing his opportunity to bat at No. 3 in the absence of several first-choice players. It was his maiden T20I fifty, coming almost four years since his debut, and a reminder of his talents after a summer in which he was part of the World Cup squad but managed a top-score of 43 from seven white-ball innings for England.

With England resting Jason Roy, Joe Root, Jos Buttler, Ben Stokes and Moeen Ali, Vince has a window in which to build on a decent, if sporadic, T20I record. He has reached double-figures in all nine of his outings, but has only played five times since the last T20 World Cup, in 2016.

"The side's been so successful and dominant over the last three or four years, it's a tough first XI to break into," Vince said. "But any opportunities like this to push my case and hopefully try to be part of the squad, as I was this summer for the World Cup, is my aim."

"With some of the main guys missing, it would be nice to get a bit of a run in the side, post some scores and make some match-winning contributions."

Capped in all three formats, Vince has yet to fully establish himself in an England side and he only won a recall to the ODI set-up ahead of the World Cup after Alex Hales was dropped for disciplinary issues. He featured three times during the tournament, scoring 26, 14 and 0 while covering for the injured Roy; he also claimed two catches as a substitute during England's memorable win in the final against New Zealand.

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S football big guns, Young Africans Sports Club (Yanga), have arrived safely in Egypt ready for tomorrow's showdown against Pyramids FC in the return leg of this season's CAF Confederation Cup play offs.

Yanga's information officer, Hassan Bumbuli, said the team has arrived well and the players have promised good results for the sake of the country.

He said the morale in the camp is extremely high and players are looking forward to upset the hosts tomorrow.

"The team is in Egypt now and the morale is very high, the players have promised to work hard during the game so that they can bring home good results," he said.

Notable player missing in the team is experienced defender, Kelvin Yondani, who is serving one-match suspension after he had been sent off for a second bookable offense in the first leg

clash.

Bumbuli said in the absence of the veteran utility player, the side's head coach, Mwinyi Zahera, has identified his replacement.

Bumbuli also disclosed that Zahera has said his players are ready to sweat blood for the team tomorrow.

"Head coach Mwinyi Zahera is very confident that his charges will emerge victors on Sunday, he said he saw the mistakes which his charges committed during the first leg encounter at CCM Kirumba and he has rectified them," he said.

Players who are with the team and ready for the must win encounter are goalkeepers Farouk Shikalo, Metacha Mnata and Ramadhan Kabwili, defenders Juma Abdul, Ally Ahmed, Ally Mtoni, Lamine Moro and Muharram Said Issa.

Midfielders are Papy Tshishimbi, Feisal Salum, Mapinduzi Balama, Abdul Aziz Makame, Deus Kaseke and Jaffar Mohamed.

Attacking midfielders, veteran Mrisho Ngassa, Patrick Sibomana and Issa Bigirimana, and strikers Sadney Urikhob and Juma Balinya, also make the list.

Yanga went down 2-1 to the Egypt club in the first leg which took place at CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza.

Should Yanga need to proceed to the group stage, they must beat the hosts by either two goals to nil or beyond that.

Pyramids FC head coach Sebastien Desabre is reported to have said that his charges are targeting a victory against Yanga in the CAF Confederation Cup playoff on Sunday.

He said although his charges won the first game, he is expecting a very difficult match on Sunday.

"Our opponents are also a good side, yes we won away game, but the second encounter will be a different game, we will not defend, we will attack the whole 90 minutes," he is reported to have said.



Yanga defender, Kelvin Yondani (R), shoots past Pyramids FC's midfielder, Erick Traore, in the first leg of this season's CAF Confederation Cup play offs, which took place in Mwanza last month. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TFF

Caravans eye impressive start in DRCC Caravans Cup

Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM cricket big guns, Caravans Club, will be seeking to get off to an impressive start in this season's DRCC Caravans tournament when the side confronts Aga Khan SC at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) oval today.

Caravans Club has organized the competition under the supervision of Dar es Salaam Regional Cricket Committee (DRCC), aiming at developing the sport at the domestic level.

The two squads were set to clash on October 27, the duel though was postponed because of heavy rains.

Caravans, the competition's defending champions, will be banking on such players like Hamisi Abdallah, Kassim Nassor, Jitin Singh, and skipper Sreejith Kumar to help the side grab a win.

The mentioned players were instrumental in Caravans' impressive showing in this year's GP Gymkhana Shield competition, which ended with the squad grabbing the



Caravans Cricket Club

runners-up position after losing to Ismaili Community side in the final.

Singh was voted the competition's man of the series due to his scintillating all-round performance for Caravans.

His performances throughout the tournament was, as disclosed by Kumar, extremely crucial for Caravans' acquisition of the run-

ners-up spot.

Singh, as disclosed by Kumar, always performs in crucial matches, be it with the bat, ball or with his excellent fielding and catching skills.

He scored a total of 203 runs at a healthy average of 41.2 in the GP Gymkhana Shield tournament.

He was also the competition's top wicket taker with 16 wickets

from seven matches and had an impressive economy rate of 4.4 runs per over.

One of Singh's most notable performances was the half-century (57 runs) that he scored from 40 balls in the semi-finals against Punjabi Kings.

Caravans should though not expect to easily stroll to victory today, given they will come up against

equally competent opponents.

Aga Khan, also boasting of several gifted players that include Premji brothers Aaryan and Arslaan, Jatin Darji, Khalil Rehemtulla, and veteran skipper Ayzaz Jessani, will also come out firing on all cylinders, seeking to snatch victory.

The Group A's clash will be the day's only game, with several other duels set for Sunday.

In the first of tomorrow's duels, Caravans will be back in action, given they will come up against Union at the DGC venue in the morning.

Saint Gobain will shortly thereafter take on Aces in Group B duel, GP side will wrap up the day by playing Estim in the other Group B clash in the evening.

This year's tournament has brought together 10 teams that have been placed in two groups.

Group A has been made up of Union, Caravans, Gymkhana, Aga Khan SC and Team 10. Group B outfits include Aces, Shree Kutchi Leva, GP, Estim and Saint Gobain.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



BUSINESS

USURPATION

How Coke, Pepsi and Nestle plan to benefit from your tap water

NEW YORK

As consumers grow increasingly aware of their carbon footprint, companies are having to rethink their business models.

Over the past four decades, consumers around the world have chugged trillions of bottles of water from brands such as Perrier, Evian, Dasani, and Aquafina. Few realise that most of what they pay for is plastic and time on a truck. Companies typically get the water for free or just a nominal fee, and bottling the stuff and getting it to consumers – as well as advertising it – accounts for the bulk of their costs.

Today, increasing concern about the carbon and plastic waste generated by that process is fuelling a backlash that threatens the business. Across the industry, sales are softening and some towns are even banning plastic water bottles – spurring producers to respond with alternatives ranging from canned water to flavour pods for tap water to dispensers that sell sparkling and flavoured mixes.

“The waters business has to cope with a number of sustainability issues that are becoming increasingly important,” Nestle chief executive officer Mark Schneider told analysts in October.

Until the 1970s, bottled water was mostly sold in limited areas by European companies that tapped springs in the Alps. Then in 1973, DuPont patented PET plastic bottles, which were cheaper, lighter, and stronger than the glass that had been the industry standard.

Combined with the rapidly globalising economy, PET allowed water sellers to ship their wares much farther, opening up new markets. Bottlers sprung up in just about every country and the likes of Nestle, Coca-Cola, and PepsiCo added water to their portfolios, helping boost global revenue in the business to \$130 billion last year, according to researcher Euromonitor.

These days, things aren't quite so bubbly as consumers grow increasingly aware of their carbon footprint. Danone, the maker of Evian, on October 18 reported its biggest decline in quarterly water revenue in a decade. That same day, Coca-Cola said water sales were lower than it expected.

With shipments headed for a second annual decline, Nestle is reorganising its bottled water business. Buffeted by lower-price rivals and high transport costs, Nestle raised prices – which sapped sales of its mass-market offerings such as Poland Spring and Pure Life as consumers shifted to cheaper generic brands. CEO Schneider has said the company wants to focus instead on higher-end products such as flavoured and sparkling waters like Perrier and San Pellegrino brands.

More than 80 US colleges and a handful of municipalities have restricted sales of bottled water. In Concord, Mass., it's illegal to sell still water in small plastic bottles, and San Francisco

bars such sales on city property. In the UK, a non-profit called City to Sea has introduced an app that points thirsty users to places where they can get free water – with a pledge from chains such as Starbucks and Costa to refill bottles at no cost.

“Producers face a real risk from the environmental movement, which has strong support among young people,” says Alain Oberhuber, an analyst at Mainfirst Bank, who predicts a sharp decline in sales of bottled water over the next two decades. “They know they have to do something.”

With bottled water now outselling carbonated soft drinks in the US, one part of that “something” is aluminum cans filled with water. Coke introduced cans of Dasani in the northeast US this year and plans to try selling it in aluminum bottles in 2020. Pepsi has been selling canned Aquafina at restaurants and stadiums and is testing it in stores. And Danone is trying the idea with local brands in Britain, Denmark, and Poland.

The soda giants are also seeking to monetise consumption of tap water. Pepsi last year paid more than \$3 billion for SodaStream, which produces systems for making fizzy water at home. And Pepsi has introduced a brand called Drinkfinity, which sells pods that attach to reusable bottles to infuse tap water with caffeine, vitamins, or electrolytes in a variety of flavors.

Coke is rolling out a water dispenser it calls Dasani PureFill, which allows consumers to refill their bottles with free filtered water and gives the option of adding flavours or carbonation for about \$1 for a 20-ounce bottle. The company is planning to test the idea – and various prices – at roughly 100 locations such as offices, hospitals, and colleges.

Nestle next year plans to introduce a dispenser it calls Refill Plus, which filters tap water and can add flavours and varying levels of carbonation, and it's working on a paper-based bottle that it says is fully biodegradable. Danone is exploring refill stations but for now is focusing on the home market with a new device that dispenses Evian delivered in balloon-like spheres that use less plastic than bottles.

Producers are counting on such initiatives to appeal to consumers who consider branded water healthier than tap. Howard Telford, head of soft drinks at Euromonitor, says such efforts will have only a marginal effect on the industry's carbon footprint. But he says adding extras such as flavourings and fizz may help shore up profits for the likes of Coke, Nestle, and Pepsi.

“It points to a future,” Telford says, “where flavour, carbonation, and functional additives – rather than disposable packaging and simple convenience – could be the main value drivers in packaged water.”



NBC managing Director Theobald Sabi.

IMPRESSIVE

NBC posts record net profit at 367 percent

By Guardian Reporter

IN a rare feat, National Bank of Commerce posted a record 367 percent net profit during the year ending September 2019 thanks to efficiency through digitization.

According to the bank's third quarter financial statement released this week, the bank had over 1.71trn/- in deposits which was an increase of 19.3 percent year-on-year of which 987bn/- was loaned out.

“Our impressive performance for the last nine months is mainly attributed to our ongoing cost sav-

ings, increased fee income from transactional activities and improved quality of the loan portfolio,” said NBC's Managing Director, Theobald Sabi.

Sabi said during the period, the market's third largest commercial bank also had total net loans and advances increasing by 3.7 percent thanks to additional loan bookings from corporate, retail and business banking clients.

“Our continued focus of on-boarding quality loans has started to pay off resulting in lower impairment charges for the third quar-

ter of the year. In addition, the non-performing loans ratio has continued to decline to 6.9 percent down from 10.1 percent as at September 2018,” he added.

The NBC chief executive further noted that the bank's mobile banking transactions have grown by 50 percent compared to last year which means that customers are effectively utilizing electronic offerings and thus reducing the time required to conduct transactions at branches.

“Our purpose is to provide convenient services to our customers and clients.

We want our customers to be able to bank or transact wherever they are without visiting branches. We also want our customers to enjoy the different services and products that we have built in our digital platforms,” he noted.

Online and mobile banking proposition have become popular electronic channels widely used by individuals and corporate clients because of their safety and convenience.

“Our digital banking facilities provide individuals, SMEs, government agencies and corporates with con-

venient and efficient cash collections and payment solutions,” the NBC chief noted.

Another fast growing electronic channel which contributed to the growth was the NBC agency banking (NBC Wakala) that now has a membership of over 2,000 agents spread across the country. Customers are now able to access their accounts and make payments with greater convenience through the growing NBC footprint of agents, the bank said in its latest results.

INVESTMENT

EPZA banks on TanChoice's 23 billion/- meat processor to commercialise livestock industry

By Property Watch Reporter

COMMERCIALIZATION of the country's livestock industry will make significant strides when a \$10 million (over 23bn/-) meat processing factory located at Soga in Kibaha district becomes operational early next year.

Export Processing Zones Authority's Director of Investment Promotion, James Maziku said in Dar es Salaam this week that the plant will have capacity to slaughter and process 1,000 herds of cattle and 4,500 goats and sheep per day.

“The project which is expected to create over 500 direct jobs will strategically help the livestock sector graduate and unlock the challenges of commercialising it,” said Maziku, adding that construction work of the factory has reached 99 percent with trials of machines scheduled to start before end of this year.

He said the EPZA licensed factory will be the second largest in East Africa trailing an Ethiopian meat processor which has capacity of 3,000 herds and 6,000 sheep and goats daily at full capacity. “This plant produces 300 tonnes of meat every day,” Maziku



EPZA's Director of Investment Promotion, James Maziku.

reduce and ultimately end smuggling of livestock to the neighbouring countries for pressing and exporting to foreign markets,” the EPZA Director added.

Tanzania has one of the largest livestock populations in Africa with 13.5 million herds of cattle, 5.5 million

goats, 3.6 million sheep, 0.4 million pigs and 23.2 million chickens, according to statistics by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.

As the meat factory targets 100 percent export markets of European Union and United Arab Emirates, the country will also compete with Botswana which is Africa's most advanced commercialized livestock market.

Maziku said the establishment of the TanChoice meat processing plant will create a new middle class Cluster of business dealing with fattening of cattle, goats and sheep for supplying to the factory.

“The investor of the meat processing plant cannot do everything and thus the local entrepreneurs should grab this opportunity to establish fattening businesses of cattle, goats and sheep needed by the factory,” he added.

The by-products of the animals which include livers, heads, sweetbreads (thymus and pancreas), fries (testicles), kidneys, oxtails, tripe (stomach of cattle) and tongue will be sold in the local market while the rest will be exported to China.



INNOVATION

Agency launches campaign aimed to simplify talent recruitment process

By Guardian Reporter

A talent recruitment agency, BrighterMonday Tanzania, has introduced a new product called 'Best Match,' which has been designed to make the process of sifting through applications and finding the best candidates convenient for human resource professionals, business heads and entrepreneurs looking to hire people.

BrighterMonday's CEO, Mili Rughani said recruiting talent is an arduous and expensive task for employers as it involves a lot of administrative filtering, combined with the uncertainty around getting the wrong candidate for the role.

She said as a result, many growing organizations struggle with identifying people who would take their business to the next level. "With more job seekers coming into the market, demand for jobs is higher than ever, therefore, employers receive hundreds of applications for a vacancy and have to sort through heaps of CVs and profiles to find candidates that best match what they require for the role," Rughani said.

She explained that the Best Match product uses a mix of human resources experts and automated matching algorithm to sort and rank candidates that best match the criteria an employer is look-

ing for.

"The mix is extremely critical as it ensures that science and experience are combined effectively to ensure that an employer gets the very best out of the candidates that have applied for the role," she added.

Employers who use the Best Match product will get up to 10 best matches within the first seven days of their job posting going live which saves them much time and for those that are not too tech-savvy, ensure that they can get access to the best matching candidates without too much effort.

"In addition to this, employers get access to over one million candidates

in the BrighterMonday Tanzania candidate database, 80 percent who are fully profiled and have undergone behavioural tests," Rughani added.

The Future of Jobs 2018 Report courtesy of the World Economic Forum cited that many employers' retraining and upskilling efforts remained focused on a narrow set of current highly-skilled, highly-valued employees.

However, in order to truly rise to the challenge of formulating a winning workforce strategy, businesses were challenged to recognize the human capital investment as an asset rather than a liability, which means hiring the best fit.



BrighterMonday CEO, Mili Rughani.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

How refugees in Kenya built a thriving business

NAIROBI

An innovative idea to contract a limited number of refugee and host community-run shops as distributors, and give a proportion of assistance to refugees in the form of mobile money to buy food of their choice has birthed and inspired a serial entrepreneurial spirit in Kakuma and Kalobeyei refugee camps in northern Kenya, that the World Food Programme (WFP) now estimates to be worth up to \$56.6 million (Sh5.6 billion).

The goal has been to increase choice for refugees and nurture the food retail market, as opposed to distributing regular physical food rations, according to a WFP report co-authored by the World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the University of Oxford's Refugee Studies Centre.

The result has been bustling retail markets and restaurants in Kakuma One, the proposed Huduma-Biashara Business Centre, and the new market-based Kalobeyei settlement, that according to WFP, have become examples of the shift towards private sector-led development in refugee contexts.

It all started in 2015, when WFP introduced Bamba Chakula (BC) ('get food' in Swahili) programme, a cash-based intervention designed as an alternative to in-kind food assistance. It represents a transitional arrangement between in-kind and full-cash assistance.

By providing refugees with mobile currency supplied through Safaricom's M-Pesa and Equity Money, it allows recipients to choose the food items that suit their preferences, with some restrictions relating to commodities like alcohol and tobacco, while supporting the growth of local markets. The currency is only redeemable from contracted traders, who have been able to apply for BC contract during a series of competitive application processes.

In Kalobeyei, refugees receive nearly all food assistance through BC, while in Kakuma, about 70 percent of food assistance is in-kind and the rest through BC. The programme also gives selected traders exclusive access to the purchasing power provided to refugees through all cash-based assistance.

As at May 31, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that 476,695 refugees and asy-

lum seekers live in Kenya. Of these, 190,181 are hosted in the Kakuma camp and Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement. Somalis makes the majority at 54.5 percent, South Sudanese (24.4 percent), Congolese (8.8 percent), and Ethiopians (5.9 percent).

The report shows that Kakuma and Kalobeyei receive \$500,000 (Sh50 million) each per month in BC transfers. However, ICF estimates that the BC shops in Kakuma received \$720,028 (Sh72 million) in BC transfers and those in Kalobeyei \$249,743 (Sh26 million) during the month of the survey.

"This deviation from the \$500,000 (Sh50 million) figure is likely because of reporting errors or delays in monthly BC spending by customers," notes the report. It estimates that around \$300,000 (Sh30 million) is spent per month in cash in the BC shops in Kakuma and up to \$120,000 (Sh12 million) in those in Kalobeyei based on shop owners reporting a 63:37 ratio of BC sales to cash sales in Kakuma and a 81:19 ratio in Kalobeyei.

For non-BC shop sales, it's arrived at by multiplying the estimated number of shops with their reported mean sales. For Kakuma this gives \$2,016,700 (Sh200 million). "However, we think this is probably an overestimate given that our household survey data from Kakuma suggests an aggregate monthly earned income of around \$1.3 (Sh130 million) and the IFC estimates around 61.5 percent of household income goes on food," it says.

This implies that, even with additional income from food ration sales and remittances, cash sales in non-BC shops may be no more than \$1 million (Sh100 million) per month. Aggregating these estimates of total retail sales and expenditure gives an approximate market size of around \$3 million (Sh300 million) for the Kakuma camps and Kalobeyei settlement.

Based on food ration composition (sorghum, rice, pulses, and oil), and size and market value at the time of the survey, it estimates that the market value of WFP food rations across Kakuma camps is around \$1.7 million (Sh17 million) per month.

This suggests that the overall food market may be worth between \$36 million (Sh3.6 billion) and \$56.6 million (Sh5.6 billion) per year, depending on



Dadaab Refugee Camp.

how it is measured, WFP says. It shows that refugee men are more likely to own shops than women: 69 percent of refugee shop owners are male, and this pattern is similar for those with BC status and across locations within Kakuma. The exception is for BC traders in Kalobeyei, for which the ratio is almost 50:50.

However, the opposite pattern can be found among Kenyan traders. Among Kenyans, 63 percent of shop owners are female in Kakuma Town. In Kalobeyei Town 75 percent of the shop owners are women.

In terms of nationality, Somali and Ethiopian refugees are disproportionately likely to be involved in business compared to their population size. Burundians, Congolese, and Sudanese refugees are also over-represented. By contrast, South Sudanese refugees are under-represented.

"These differences cannot solely be attributed to the BC contract itself, as the groups are inherently different in some aspects such as nationality, gender, family background, education, training and prior (shop) experience. BC traders also invested more start-up capital in their businesses to begin with," it says.

The report shows that Kalobeyei-based BC traders do better than their counterparts in Kakuma, in terms of profits and sales. This is unsurprising given that there are fewer BC retailers operating in Kalobeyei

even though the volume of aid distributed in the form of BC is the same (about \$500,000 per month per site).

Within Kakuma, 19 percent of household survey respondents admit to selling part of their in-kind food aid in order to acquire cash, and this is likely to be underreported. In terms of market structure, BC food retailers are reliant on an oligopoly of just a few local suppliers. These consist of four Kenyan-Somali host wholesalers- Al-Amin, Al-Mubarak, Kakuma Wholesalers (Ogle), and Kaeris, and one Ethiopian refugee wholesaler, Mesfin. All except Al-Amin have entered into an agreement with WFP as 'preferred wholesalers.'

For regulations purposes, the WFP provides price guidelines to wholesalers and retailers, and retailers regularly meet to agree on common prices, explaining why prices do not vary much across traders.

Also, nationality plays a role in exchange. A preference for doing business with one's own nationality seems apparent in hiring employees and when customers choose which shop to buy from, but nationality has little importance when retailers decide from which wholesaler to source goods.

Refugee-host interaction is limited between retailers and customers. Refugees source from Kenyans, but Kenyans rarely source from refugees.

Besides the BC programme, WFP has introduced the Kenya

Retail Engagement Initiative (KREI), to support and develop the broader transition from in-kind aid to cash-based assistance, supply chain development, and business training for food retailers.

Credit plays an important role in the transactions between retailers and wholesalers. More than 60 percent of food retailers state that their wholesaler(s) offer(s) either bulk discounts, goods on credit, or both. There are substantial differences between BC and non-BC shops with respect to obtaining credit.

About 74 percent of BC applicants who can access credit report they normally buy on credit, compared to 54 percent of unsuccessful applicants and 48 percent of non-applicants. As a result, BC traders are much more likely to regularly purchase goods on credit than non-BC traders.

Also, many BC shopkeepers retain the refugees' BC-listed SIM cards as collateral, and in return distribute products on credit if BC transfers are delayed or if customers run short of food and money at end of the month. Trust and loyalty play a key role in shaping market-based interactions.

An estimated 76 per cent of BC traders report that their suppliers offer them the opportunity to purchase goods on credit, as opposed to 58 percent of unsuccessful applicants and 47 percent of non-applicants.

INFLUENCE

Shoprite investor seeks to moderate chairman's power with new director

CAPE TOWN

A Shoprite shareholder nominated a veteran retail executive to the board of Africa's biggest grocer in an attempt to reduce the influence of Chairman Christo Wiese – part of a wider investor pushback against the former billionaire.

Wiese, 78, has been chairman of the Cape Town-based company for almost three decades and has more voting rights than any other shareholder. He is standing for re-election as non-executive director at the supermarket giant's annual general meeting next week.

All Weather Capital nominated former Pepkor head Jan le Roux, 69, as a director, a move that will be voted on at Shoprite's annual general meeting on Monday. Wiese is the former owner of Pepkor and developed the company into a pan-African clothing retailer before agreeing to sell to Steinhoff in 2014.

"We need some forces on the board that will balance Wiese's influence," Shane Watkins, chief investment officer at All Weather, said by phone. Le Roux's nomination has not followed "usual procedure" and will be raised at the November 4 meeting, Wiese said by phone. "It's the first time in Shoprite history a nomination has been sprung this way."

Reducing influence

Business Day earlier reported that the proposal may not comply with rules set by Johannesburg's stock exchange. Steinhoff's near-collapse eroded Wiese's standing as one of South Africa's richest people, and his net worth now stands at \$744 million, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

Shoprite moved to reduce Wiese's influence earlier this year with the chairman's support, but was forced to scrap the plan after investors objected to the likely R3.3 billion cost to the company in compensation. The grocer has also faced shareholder opposition to its levels of executive pay, holding extra meetings to discuss the policy.

Le Roux has also given All Weather a "firm undertaking to champion" black economic empowerment at Shoprite, Watkins said, referring to South Africa's policy to address inequities stemming from apartheid.

The Public Investment Corp. – a shareholder that has objected to Shoprite's pay policy – didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. All Weather holds 3.2 million shares, equivalent to about 0.5% of the stock.



Shoprite Chairman, Christo Wiese.

