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Speaker lauds Bukoba Rural MP



South Sudan due to ratify UN 'contract' on biological weapons ban

JUBA

SOUTH Sudan said yesterday it is readying to ratify the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxic Weapons and on their Destruction (BTWC).

Michael Lueth, the minister of information and broadcasting, told journalists that the cabinet has unanimously endorsed the ratification of the treaty on the prevention of biological weapons.

The convention was a multilateral disarmament treaty banning the production of an entire category of weapons.

It was opened for signature on 10 April 1972 and entered into force on 26 March 1975.



The UN Security Council late last month extended the arms embargo on South Sudan including an assets freeze and sanctions on senior government officials until May 31, 2020

South Sudan is currently implementing the revitalized peace deal signed in September 2018 in Ethiopia to end about five years of conflict that killed tens of thousands and displaced over two million people.

The UN Security Council late last month extended the arms embargo on South Sudan including an assets freeze and sanctions on senior government officials until May 31, 2020.

The arms embargo was first imposed in July 2018 after violence escalated in the world's youngest republic following the collapse of the August 2015 peace deal.

BWC currently has 182 states-parties, including Palestine, and five signatories (Egypt, Haiti, Somalia, Syria and Tanzania). Ten states have neither signed nor ratified the BWC (Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Israel, Kiribati, Micronesia, Namibia, South Sudan and Tuvalu). The BWC opened for signature on April 10, 1972 and entered into force on March 26, 1975. A country that did not ratify the BWC before it entered into

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JPM swears in three top officials but pities them



Youths deployed by Dar es Salaam's Ilala municipality spray pesticides in a trench at Ilala Bungoni yesterday under a just-revived mosquito control drive, this time in the wake of reports of a rise in the number of cases of dengue fever in the city and a few other parts of Tanzania. This is a painful, debilitating mosquito-borne disease caused by any one of four closely related dengue viruses, all related to the viruses that cause West Nile infection and yellow fever. Records show that an estimated 390 million dengue infections occur worldwide each year, mostly in tropical areas, with about 96 million resulting in illness. Photo: John Badi

Processing firms to buy youth groups' produce

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government is in talks with big processing industries in the country to purchase raw materials from youth groups engaged in agricultural activities, the National Assembly was told yesterday.

Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and the Disabled), Anthony Mavunde told the lawmakers that some companies have promised to purchase from youth groups.



He cited Sayona Drinks that is building a factory in Kibaha as having promised to purchase fruits from young people engaged in agriculture

He cited Sayona Drinks that is building a factory in Kibaha as having promised to purchase fruits from young people engaged in agriculture.

Mavunde noted that the government is working to meet the 2021 target to have at least four million youths benefit from the five year plan to empower youths, stating that a lot of activities are underway.

"There are special programmes to enable youths get involved in agriculture for self employment," he said, noting further that the

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Ndugai faults wharfage fees on Isles travellers

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

NATIONAL Assembly Speaker Job Ndugai yesterday called on the government to consider reviewing wharfage fees charged by the port of Dar es Salaam on goods from and to Zanzibar, on account of a public outcry. He said it was ridiculous that boats to

Zanzibar charge higher amounts than what airline companies charge, apart from the fact that they allow even bigger weights.

"It is not fair that goods that weigh ten kilograms are charged a lot of money, causing disturbance to passengers," he said, noting

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President Magufuli said Tanzanians wanted actions and that the former trade minister Joseph Kakunda and former TRA Commissioner General Kicheere did not impress him in the way they carried out duties in their dockets

By Henry Mwangonde

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday expressed his dissatisfaction with the way things are moving at the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and the Trade and Industry Ministry, saying it was the reason for latest appointments.

President Magufuli made the remarks yesterday when swearing in three to officials at a televised ceremony at the State House in Dar es Salaam.

"I congratulate you for being sworn in but I pity you. Tanzanians need outcomes. We will be telling each other sweet words but they will take us to nowhere. We need to tell each other the truth," he told the new top executives.

He directed the senior government officials now taking up office to deliver by addressing issues and shortfalls that have been raised in their dockets, warning that he will not stop firing and hiring if need be.

He also tasked the newly appointed minister



President Magufuli urged the new TRA chief executive Dr Mhede to carry out reforms and work to rebuild the taxman's lost glory

for Trade and Industry Innocent Bashungwa, TRA Commissioner General Dr Edwin Mhede and Njombe Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) Charles Kicheere not to celebrate their appointments because the task was huge ahead of them.

He said one among tasks for the trade ministry was to find a market for cashew-nuts from farmers, saying it was sad to see that nothing has been done and the ministry is called trade and industry.

President Magufuli said Tanzanians wanted actions and that the former trade minister Joseph Kakunda and former TRA Commissioner General Kicheere did not impress him in the way they carried out duties in their dockets.

"Business people told me they never knew the Minister for Trade. I had no problem if as a minister you went around listening to traders' grievances but it has been business as usual," he said.

On the TRA, the president said it reached a time when he used to send a text message to Kicheere telling him of some tax incidences for him to take actions "which he responded to have received and promised to work on them, but nothing was done."

President Magufuli urged the new TRA chief executive Dr Mhede to carry out reforms and work to rebuild the taxman's lost glory.

Last Friday, President Magufuli met

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JPM swears in three top officials but pities them

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representatives of business people from all districts who complained to the president on how TRA officials were harassing them.

The traders accused TRA officials of over-estimation of tax, being involved in corruption and unfriendly administration of tax.

A day later, the president suspended Kakunda as trade minister replaced him with Bashungwa, formerly deputy minister for

Agriculture, shifted Kicheere from TRA where was Commissioner General to Njombe as RAS, and appointed Dr Mhede to head the TRA.

In another development India-based Bharti Airtel International has handed over 5.27bn/- to the Treasury as part of implementation of an agreement over the ownership of Airtel (T) Ltd.

The amount includes 2.27bn/- as support to the government for economic development and 3bn/- billion as part of implementing the agreement.

Bharti Airtel International promised to pay 1bn/- billion each month to the government to settle the Airtel (T) ownership misunderstanding.

The January 2019 pact also saw the government's share in Airtel Tanzania rise to 49 per cent from 40 per cent and the strategic investor's share drop to 51 per cent.

Bharti Airtel also agreed to pay

dividends to the government to the tune of 10bn/- (about \$4.4 million), money which Tanzania had not received during the past ten years.

Bharti Airtel also announced debt write-off of about 1bn/- that Tanzania owed the telecoms firm.

The firm will also contributed 2.3bn/- to Tanzania in the form of corporate social responsibility.

The founder and chair of Bharti Enterprises, Sunil Mittal said the agreement has opened a new chapter in cooperation between Bharti Airtel and Tanzania saying it has written a new chapter in its history.

"We are open to doing open and transparent business. The stage we have reached today is a milestone achievement. We are now good business partners and the future is bright," he said.

For his part, President John Magufuli said this is the kind of investment that we prefer. "Airtel has been in Tanzania for the past eight, nine years, during which the country was not benefiting," the president intoned.

"We are open to doing open and transparent business. The stage we have reached today is a milestone achievement. We are now good business partners and the future is bright"



President John Magufuli and first lady Janeth Magufuli (R) pray yesterday for Father of the Nation Mwalimu Julius K Nyerere's widow, Mama Maria Nyerere (L), who is admitted to a Dar es Salaam hospital. Photo: State House

South Sudan set to ratify UN pact on biological weapons

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force may accede to it at any time.

BTWC was the first multilateral disarmament treaty banning the production of an entire category of weapons.

The convention was the result of

prolonged efforts by the international community to establish a new instrument that would supplement the 1925 Geneva Protocol. The Geneva Protocol prohibits the use but not possession or development of chemical and biological weapons.

Processing firms to buy youth groups' produce

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plans are meant to ensure that young people do not run away from villages to urban areas.

The deputy minister was responding to a supplementary question by Special Seats MP Fatma Toufiq (CCM) who wanted to know what the government was doing to have many youths benefit from agriculture.

Earlier in the main question, the lawmaker had asked what the government was doing to reduce the number of youths moving to urban areas, citing hardship in the rural areas.

In response, Mavunde said that on the basis of the 2012 census, 70.4 percent of Tanzanians live in the rural areas. The government has been instructed by the ruling party to

improve productivity in the rural areas to increase opportunities for youths, he asserted.

To improve the situation, the government is working on how to develop infrastructure like roads to allow easier transportation of goods especially farm produce.

It is also providing financial support to SACCOS and other youth groups,

and in the 2017/2018 financial year, the government released Sh 783,280,000 to youth groups.

A total of 32,563 young people have been empowered through training in different fields. The government also prepared a national strategy to empower youths in agriculture especially those in the rural areas, the deputy minister added.



National Assembly Speaker Job Ndugai (L) welcomes his Rwandan counterpart, Mukabalisa Donatille, shortly after she jetted into Dodoma Airport yesterday for an official visit to Tanzania. Photo courtesy of National Assembly

China 'all ready to talk' about trade deal with East Africa bloc

NAIROBI

CHINA is ready to negotiate a trade deal with the six-nation East Africa Community (EAC) to address Kenya's complaints about a huge trade imbalance in favour of the Asian economic giant, China's ambassador to Nairobi said.

Kenyan officials said the government was not ready to discuss a free-trade agreement as it feared a surge of imports from China, but that a partial deal might be possible.

Chinese ambassador Wu Peng said Beijing was ready to open trade talks with Kenya via the EAC, which also includes Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan, guided by World Trade Organisation rules. "If we want a new, favourable trade agreement for Kenya, we must consider the whole area. But we are open to this task, this possibility, and we are ready to talk with the EAC together," Wu said in an interview.

China has become one of the biggest trading partners for many East African countries but their exports to the world's second-biggest economy are dwarfed by imports of manufactured goods like electronics and plant equipment.

Kenya imported goods worth 370.8 billion shillings (US\$3.61 billion) from China last year while exporting just 11.32 billion shillings of goods there.

Nairobi wants to export more farm products, like avocados, to China. The

two nations have completed a protocol opening up frozen avocado exports to China but exports of fresh avocados are still blocked due to biosafety concerns.

"I'm pushing it very hard and maybe it just needs scientific assistance to Kenyan farmers," Wu said. The Kenyan government has borrowed from China in recent years to build roads and railways and is part of China's Belt and Road Initiative aimed at upgrading land and maritime trade routes between China and Europe, Asia and Africa.

But it has indicated it is not ready for a free-trade deal yet, officials said.

"You have got to know when to negotiate and when not to negotiate ... When the time is right we have no problem doing that, not only as Kenya but as a region," said Adan Mohamed, Kenya's minister for the EAC.

He added: "China with all its competitiveness today stands to be the biggest beneficiary of negotiating trade deals with any country."

Chris Kiptoo, the principal secretary in charge of trade at Kenya's trade and industrialisation ministry, said Nairobi feared a free-trade agreement (FTA) with China would lead to a surge of imports. He added that the government was seeking a preferential, non-reciprocal trade deal, giving Kenyan exports duty-free access to China. Such a scheme could be modelled on the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act, which allows African exports like apparel and textiles duty-free access to the US market.

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that the government should consider revisiting the matter as it is of serious public concern.

Ndugai stated that the matter has always featured in the legislature, thus it is important that the government finds a solution to it.

His intervention came following a question by Special Seats MP

Ndugai blasts wharfage fees on Isles travellers

Maryam Msabaha (CHADEMA) who had declared that boat passengers to Zanzibar are forced to pay Sh 9,750 in tax for ten kilogram goods or 20 kilograms of rice.

She also wanted the government to state exactly which goods should be charged the port wharfage.

"There is continuous disturbance to passengers as the port authorities demand payment of that fee. What is the government doing to save the situation?" she demanded.

In response, the deputy minister for Works, Transport and Communication, Elias Kwandikwa said that following

the guidelines in the Tariff Book clause 29, the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) charges wharfage on business goods weighing over 21 kilograms.

He explained that the port authorities do not charge any fee on personal effects below 21 kilograms on those travelling to Zanzibar, at the baggage

room.

"Only those travelling to Zanzibar with business luggage are charged the wharfage at the baggage room," he said.

TPA has appealed to customers or passengers travelling to or from Zanzibar with goods to use the space at Azam Sea Link specifically set aside

for business to avoid disturbance at the baggage room, he said.

Those travelling to the Isles need to ensure their luggage are weighed before being loaded to establish whether it has the right weight and avoid paying wharfage and other disturbances, he added.



Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister Umyy Mwalimu (4th-R, foreground) and India's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Sandeep Arya (2nd-R), in a photo at the opening of an 'India for Humanity' artificial limb fitting camp at the Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute (MOI) in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The six-week camp will see a seven-member technical team from BMVSS, Jaipur, provide consultation and artificial limbs to between 500 and 600 people with disabilities under sponsorship from the Government of India. The initiative is implemented to mark Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary, in particular his message of compassion, caring and service to humanity. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

National non-communicable disease control programme for launch - govt

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

NATIONAL non-communicable disease control programme, the government's plan to help control non-communicable diseases is set to be launched in November this year, the House heard yesterday.

The deputy minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Children and the Elderly, Faustine Ndugulile told the law makers that among other diseases, the programme will help control sickle cell.

He said Tanzania like other countries globally is highly affected by sickle cell, one

of the most expensive diseases that many people in the country cannot afford monies for treatment. "Once the plan is launched in the country, sickle cell will be coordinated nationally in the country to help control it" said the deputy minister.

He noted that there is also lack of sickle cell equipment for early detection of sickle cell disease (SCD) in children, terming it one of the contributing factors that leads to high number of deaths of sickle cell in children.

Sickle cell disease is a group of disorders that affects haemoglobin, the molecule in red blood cells that delivers oxygen to cells

throughout the body

The deputy minister added that in partnership, the government has launched the facility to diagnose sickle cell disease.

Ndugulile was responding to a question by Special Seats MP, Taska Mbogo (CCM) who had wanted to know the government plans to help those suffering from the disease get free healthcare.

He said the ministry is preparing a guideline to help people suffering from chronic diseases like sickle cell to access medical services. Through social workers, families with without financial challenges will get the drugs free.

Mobile operator collects over 1bn/- in services revenue

By Beatrice Philemon

VODACOM Tanzania has collected over 1bn/- in services revenue equivalent to 5.4 per cent growth driven by strong growth in mobile money transactions, data and messaging.

Presenting Vodacom preliminary results for the financial year ended March 31st 2019, Vodacom's managing director, Hisham Hendi said the growth in services has maintained the company's pole position as the number one mobile and financial services operator in Tanzania with 14.1 million customers.

He said that M-Pesa continues to foster financial inclusion through innovations such as "Lipa kwa M-pesa" that simplifies customers payments and empower millions of Tanzanians to earn a living.

During the year, the platform opened up opportunities for 620,000 new customers recording a healthy 9.7 growth in customers using the service.

"M-Pesa revenue grew 14.5 per cent to 333.5bn/- while our leadership in mobile money grew to 38.6 per cent reaching 7 million M-Pesa users transacting over 4.1 trillion monthly", he said.

The M-pesa platform has recorded tremendous growth with 11000 active merchants that affected 1.1 trillion in transactions during the year, a growth of 186 per cent.

"The company's data revenue increased to 167bn/-, a 17.9 per cent growth, while proactive measures to stabilise voice revenue decline are proving to be successful," he noted

Highlighting on data revenue, he said the growth in data revenue is promising however in order to advance the contribution of the

sector to the country's GDP and the overall health of the industry, it is important that the industry addresses data pricing seeing that current data rates are below cost.

He added: "Tanzania's data prices are among the lowest in Africa; this hinders the company's ability to reinvest in infrastructure and technology to advance connectivity to Tanzanians.

According to the National Bureau of Statistics, by 2030, at least 50 percent of population will be under 18 years of age and the youth dividend presents an opportunity for Vodacom to continue to invest in its network.

During the year ending March 31st 2019, Vodacom made a significant investment of 171.4bn/- to advance connectivity in the country and enhance its customer experience by increasing 4G and 4G+ coverage in major cities.

He said their efforts to advance a connected society for inclusive development saw a continued focus on enhancing customer experience through consistent investment in the network complemented by digital social media partnerships and Smartphone campaigns that

resulted in an impressive 7.4 per cent increase in data customers, reaching 7.9million of which, 45.2 percent are using smart phones, a growth of 12.6 per cent.

Hendi said that the company has seen a 51.9 percent decline in earnings per share to 40.28 as a result of the accounting gain on the sale of equity stake in Hellos Towers last year.

He said the share-based payments that were recognized in the prior year and a one-off penalty, earning per share

grew 21.4 per cent.

Vodacom's B2B solutions such as SMS for life are helping transforming the way health is being delivered in Tanzania, he said.

The platform uses mobile phone based technology to monitor medicine stock levels through an electronic platform that operates in the cloud.

It is being deployed to around 190 government owned health facilities across Zanzibar (Unguja and Pemba) to report weekly medicine stock levels.

Aga Khan Hospital plans to offer 100 free reconstructive surgeries

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Aga Khan Hospital in Dar es Salaam plans to offer free reconstructive surgeries to 100 victims of violence, burns and accidents to restore their physical functions and appearance in August, this year.

Speaking at the launch of fifth phase of the reconstructive surgeries programme in Dar es Salaam yesterday the head of surgeon at the Aga Khan Hospital in Dar es salaam, Dr Athar Als said the reconstructive women and children programme is a collaborative efforts between the Aga Khan Hospital in Dar es Salaam, Muhimbili National Hospital(MNH) and Reconstructive Women International.

The collaboration is aimed at sharing and enhancing surgical expertise from addressing the medical needs of plastic and reconstructive surgery across Tanzania and East Africa region.

The surgeon said unlike in previous phases, there will be two camps -one in August and the other one in December.

He said the programme had shown significantly improved the quality of life for those struggling with stigma and disabilities, the AKHD and MNH are happy to once again partner in the impactful project. "Given the overwhelming success and impact to the patient's quality of life during the four phases of the programme, the Aga Khan Health services, Tanzania is pleased to announce the launch of the fifth phases of the project," he said.

The surgeon added that the plastic surgeons team will be travelling to Dar es Salaam in the first week of August this year to once again perform plastic and reconstructive surgeries to fifty women and children.

According to him, the surgeries are preceded by screening camps to identify the needy patients adding that for the fifth phase, it will be held at August 15, this year at Aga Khan Hospital in Dar

es Salaam.

He noted that the screen exercise will move simultaneously coordinated through Aga Khan health facilities in Dodoma, Morogoro, Mbeya, Iringa, Mwanza, Tabora, Bukoba, Tanga and Bunda in Mara region.

The surgeon said women and children who have those various deformities are invited to attend for the initial assessment camp adding that they will be seen by well-trained experts in plastic and reconstructive surgery.

For his part, the consultant general and laparoscopic surgeon, at Aga Khan Hospital, Dar es Salaam, Dr Aidan Njau said the programme was initiated in January 2016 with surgeons from Canada, United States and Europe working closely with local medical professionals.

He since then, through four phases, 143 surgeries had been performed at no cost to patients who are victimised through domestic violence, burns and accidents resulting in restoration of physical functions and appearance of women and children who had been marginalised.

Dr Njau added that this had improved their self-confidence enabling them to become productive members of their families and societies.

"Being implemented for the four phases, the programme has benefitted women and children on free basis for both surgeries, admissions, medication and pain management," he said.

Giving the summarised performance of phase to date, the surgeon said in January 2016(phase I), 35 women and children were attended while 37 women and children were attended in November 2016(phase 2).

In November 2017(phase 3) a total of 30 women and children, including breast reconstruction of a cancer survivor who had mastectomy ten years ago.

In November 2018(phase IV) a total of 41 women and children including one breast reconstruction of a cancer survivor who had mastectomy.

'Inflation rate rose to 3.5 per cent in May'

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE annual headline inflation rate for the month of May, 2019 had rose to 3.5 per cent from 3.2 per cent recorded in April 2019, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said yesterday.

Releasing the statistics yesterday, Director for Statistical Operations, Ireneus Ruyobwa, said the increase of the headline inflation explains that the speed of price change of commodities for the year ended May, 2019 has increased compared to speed of price change recorded in the previous year ended April, 2019.

He said the overall index went up to 117.23 in May, 2019 from 113.24 recorded in May, 2018, adding that food and non alcoholic beverages inflation rate increased from 2.2 percent from 0.9 percent in April, 2019.

Annual inflation rate for food consumed at home and away from home for the month of May, 2019 increased to 3.9 percent from 2.7 percent recorded in April, 2019. "On the other hand, the 12 months index change for non-food products in May, 2019 has decreased to 4.7 percent from 5.3

percent recorded in April, 2019" he said.

The annual inflation rate which excludes food and energy for the month of May, 2019 has slightly decreased to 3.5 from 3.6 percent recorded in April, 2019.

On the same note, he said the consumer price index from April, 2019 to May 2019 has increased by 0.4 percent compared to an increase of 0.5 percent from March 2019 to April, 2019. The overall index has increased to 117.23 in May, 2019 from 116.82 recorded in April, 2019. "The increase in overall index is attributed to price increase for both food and non-food items" he added.

Some food items that contributed to such increase include maize flour by 1.9 percent, vegetables by 1.5 percent, beans by 2.3 percent, potatoes by 8.4 percent and fresh cassava by 8.2 percent.

On the other hand, non-food items that contributed to such an increase include refrigerators by 3.5 percent, kitchen and domestic utensils by 2.5 percent, petrol by 3.9 percent and maintenance and repairs of vehicles by 2.9 percent.

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Farmers in six Moshi villages empowered to fight armyworm

By Guardian Reporter, Moshi

AUTHORITIES in Moshi District Council have embarked on a training programme aimed at empowering farmers in six villages with best skills to fight against Fall Armyworm (FAW)—an invasive pest native to the Americas. District Council agricultural officer, Chikira Mcharo, said a team of experts have been dispatched in the area to train farmers on what to do once the pest invades their farms.

"This area is prone to the pest, particularly during this season, that's why we're preparing our farmers with skills on how to fight it," he said.

Mcharo said that the insect pest that feeds on more than 80 crop species and cause damage to economically important cultivated cereals such as maize, rice, sorghum, and also to legumes as well as vegetables and cotton. High infestations can lead to significant

yield losses.

Kahe ward councilor Kamili Mmbando conformed that experts have been in the area and they had reached 75 per cent visiting farmers in the area.

Mmbando was presenting the report on the development of ward before the full council here over the weekend.

Since the first official report of FAW presence in Nigeria in January 2016, the incidence of the pest has been confirmed in 38 countries in Africa as of December 2017. FAW can feed on more than 80 plant species, including maize, sorghum, rice, wheat, sugarcane, cowpeas, vegetable crops, and cotton. Due to the complex nature of fall armyworm infestation, high spreading performance, high reproductive capacity and wide host range, it is most likely that the pest will soon be able to colonize most African countries and pose a great impact to countries' food security and livelihoods.

Ambassador Prof Pardede underscores need for Tanzania, Indonesia to boost cultural, economic and political cooperation for mutual benefits

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

INDONESIAN ambassador to Tanzania Prof Ratlan Pardede has underscored the need for Tanzania and Indonesia to enhance cultural, economic and political cooperation for mutual benefits.

Prof Pardede said this when addressing delegates during an event to celebrate the Indonesian cultural day in Dar es Salaam recently. The event aimed at strengthening the cultural relation between Jakarta and Tanzania.

"The two countries should not only enhance economic and political cooperation, cultural relation is another aspect that needs to be strengthened", he said.

He said as part of efforts to enhance cultural relations, in 2012 the Tanzania Indonesia Friendship Association

(TAIFA) was established with members including ex-Tanzanian students who got scholarships to undergo graduate and Master's degree in Indonesia.

Prof Pardede said: "The Indonesian Cultural Day is another way to introduce our culture, arts, and food to the Tanzanian society and other invitees from different countries. It boosts closer cultural relation between Indonesia and Tanzania"

According to him, there is a close relationship between culture and tourism. He said Indonesia and Tanzania should consider discussing on how they can work together in the tourism sector to lure more Indonesian tourists to Tanzania and vice versa.

Speaking at the event, Secretary General of Tanzania Arts Council, Godfrey Mngereza, who

was the chief guest, insisted that more efforts should be done to improve cultural relations between Tanzania and Indonesia.

He said that Tanzania is ready to improve its cultural relationship with Indonesia.

During the event, participants were entertained by a group of dancers and the 'batik team' from Indonesia.

To make the cultural event more attractive, a special group from TAIFA performed one of the famous dances in Javanese society called 'Wayang Orang Dance'.

The Serengeti National Park and Mount of Kilimanjaro are among famous tourist destination to be promoted in Indonesia.

Indonesia is an archipelagic country which consisting more than 17,000 islands, has 714 tribes and has 742 local languages, but to unite them they use Bahasa Indonesia as their national language.

It has a population of 265 million and total land area covering 1.9 million square kilometers.



Jaffari Kunambi, a representative of the director of Dar es Salaam's Ubungo municipality, speaks yesterday at a five-day seminar for entrepreneurs organised for parents of children studying at the city's Bethel Primary School. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

EAC member nations tasked to enhance sensitisation, awareness of essay writing

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community (EAC) member countries have been tasked to enhance sensitisation and awareness of the EAC essay writing competition to enable more schools and students in their respective countries to participate.

EAC Deputy Secretary General in-charge of productive and social sectors, Christophe Bazivamo made the call over the weekend when speaking in Arusha at the just-concluded 15th EAC Sectoral Council on Education, Science and Technology, Culture and Sports.

The five-day meeting was convened to consider matters related to education and training; culture and sports; the East African Kiswahili Commission (EAKC);

the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA); and the East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO).

Bazivamo reiterated the important role of the Sectoral Council in the implementation of the EAC Common Market Protocol especially the free movement of people, labour and services.

"The EAC has made progress in harmonisation of partner states' education curricula, structures and frameworks, it is however crucial to conclude the harmonization process so that the intended benefits can be attained," he said.

Bazivamo informed the meeting of the progress that has been made in signing Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) and the

challenges that still face their implementation.

"The commitment of partner states in the harmonisation of fees, establishment and operationalisation of regional centres of excellence and development of mobility programmes for academic staff and students will play an important role towards the realisation of the EAC common higher education area," Bazivamo added.

"Considering education and training matters, the Sectoral Council directed the partner states to enhance sensitisation and awareness of the EAC essay writing competition to enable more schools and students to participate."

Samuel Mulindwa, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education,

Republic of Rwanda also pointed out the important role of education, science and technology and innovation in the development of the East African region.

"This Sectoral Council is of paramount importance in the implementation of the EAC Common Market Protocol, especially the free movement of people, labour and services," he noted.

Mulindwa further added that while considerable progress had been made, challenges still remained hindering the attainment of the intended goals of the integration, and as such, it was important for partner states to enhance their commitment in finding urgent solutions to the challenges.

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The Country Director
Jhpiego Tanzania
Plot No. 72, Block 45B, Victoria Area, New Bagamoyo Road
P.O. Box 9170, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Tel: +255 756 888 388

Peace Corps TANZANIA

REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS (RFQ)

PEACE CORPS TANZANIA Request for Quotations (RFQ) No. Education-19-2 for Supplies / Services in Korogwe area

Peace Corps/Tanzania intends to offer a firm-fixed price contract for Meals and Conference Venue services from June 28, 2019 through September 18, 2019 in the Korogwe area. Use of conference facilities and offices are also required.

Interested vendors should submit a written quote for the supplies / services as described in the RFQ **by 4:00 p.m. on or before June 18, 2019.**

The full Request for Quotations (RFQ No. ED-19-2) that is **required** for submission of quotes can be obtained through email request to: ркинда@peacecorps.gov

PRINCESS CASINO DAR ES SALAAM

JOB VACANCIES

Princess Leisure (Tanzania) Limited is looking for talented, trustworthy, dedicated and motivated individuals to join our team in the following departments:

- Technicians
- Electricians
- Air-condition Technicians

QUALIFICATIONS

- Form IV and above with good communication skills and knowledge of English language.
- Experience in the above field is necessary.

GENERAL REQUIREMENT

Application should be accompanied by the following:

- Detailed CV
- Application letter
- Copies of relevant academic certificates including academic and work certificates.
- 2 recent passport size colored photograph.
- Introduction letter from the local authority.

Applications are available from our Reception Desk between 12:00pm and 17:00pm.

Princess Casino Dar es Salaam, IT PLAZA 2nd Floor Ohio Street-Garden Avenue.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE THAT, on 3rd June 2019, **LARA INDUSTRIES COMPANY LIMITED** with Incorporation No 71240 passed a resolution of voluntarily winding up the company and all its operations.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT, this notice is a call to all the company's creditors to bring forward all their claims for settlement and Payments.

ZHU JING FENG
DIRECTOR OF THE COMPANY



Public Service Social Security Fund chief of public relations Eunice Chiume (gesturing) briefs members of The Guardian Ltd editorial team on the challenges facing the recently constituted social security scheme, particularly as relates to the payment of retirement benefits. She was on a sensitisation tour of the publishing firm's offices in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Ndugai lauds MP on decision to invest heavily in education

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

National Assembly Speaker Job Ndugai has commended Bukoba Rural legislator Jasson Rweikiza for his endeavour of investing in education, which he said is a key sector for the country's socio-economic development.

Ndugai made the remarks yesterday in Dodoma when introducing to Members of Parliament 59 students from St Anne Marie Academy for their excellent performance in 2018 Standard Seven examinations results.

He described Rweikiza as among Tanzanians who had dared to invest heavily in education sector by building schools and among them including St Anne Marie Academy, Sunshine of Kibaha, Brilliant secondary school and Rweikiza nursery and primary school.

"This is a kind of investments we need. I commend Rweikiza for his decision to invest in education and I wish others to

emulate your commitment," he said. Speaker said in Standard Seven national examination results, St Anne Marie Academy emerged number one in Dar es Salaam region, number one in Ubungo district and number six in national level.

Ndugai also introduced to Members of Parliament 39 students from Sunshine school who got division one and two in 2018 national Form Four examination results.

"In Dar es Salaam Region, St Anne Marie emerged number one, number one also in Ubungo District and number six at national level this is big achievement I congratulate you Rweikiza for this achievement," said Ndugai.

St Anne Marie head teacher, Gladius said: "This is a kind of investments we need. I commend Rweikiza for his decision to invest in education and I wish others to emulate your commitment"

Ndyetabura said 59 of the school who sat for Standard Seven examinations 2018 got average which enabled the school to be number one in Dar es Salaam, number one Ubungo district and number six at national level.

Ndyetabura said it is habit for the school management to offer different gift for student who perform well in national examinations something he said has helped the schools to be in the top when it comes to national examinations results every year.

He said they plan to take their students who do wonders in examinations in country like Dubai, United Kingdom, United States and other country as motivation to other students to perform better.

"We have been sending our students who do better to visit national parks like Serengeti, Mikumi, and Ngorongoro for many years so our future plans are to take them abroad and it is possible we can do it," he said

Govt forms task force to review charcoal policy

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

MINISTRY of Natural Resources and Tourism has formed a task force that will review the country's proposed charcoal policy to ensure sustainable development and environment conservation.

Project manager, Transforming Tanzania Charcoal Sector (TTCS), Leonard Charles made the remarks in Morogoro yesterday when addressing officials from the President's Office responsible for Regional Administration and Local Government.

According to Charles, Tanzania does not have a charcoal policy insisting its establishment will help villagers to continue with charcoal making in a sustainable way which will also benefit local governments.

Tanzania has been using the Forest Act, 2002 to conservation and manage forest resources and regulates the trade of forest produce including charcoal, he said.

"We commend the government for forming a task force to work on charcoal policy. Having the policy will ensure sustainable charcoal business as well as harvesting of forest resources", he noted.

He said the TTCS project should be supported by the government since it targets at improving the value chain in forest resources and boost the income of villagers and the nation. "We are working to conserve the environment with the aim of controlling climate", said Charles noting they are implementing the project in collaboration with the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA).

He said the project has so far sponsored four Master's degree students to undergo researches. He said the researches help the students as well as the organisation to get proper statistics and provide broad understanding of the project to stakeholders.

Forest officer from Songea district, Hadija Shemhina said the project should be extended to other regions to help control tree felling and forest destruction which is fuelled by charcoal making.

Reproductive health training benefits 400 youths from villages across Iringa Region

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

OVER 400 youths in Iringa region have benefited from sexual, reproductive health and education, thanks to the initiative made by SOS Children Villages Tanzania in Mufindi district through its women empowerment and child rights project.

The educational training was given to the youth during the regional inter-secondary schools games (UMISETA) held at the Mafinga Don Bosco Seminary in Mufindi township last week.

SOS Mufindi project coordinator, Victor Mwaipungu said the organisation worked in collaboration with reproductive health experts from the government whereas youth were educated on how to refrain from sexual harassment and abuse.

He added that children were also urged on the importance of reporting any kind of abuse to relevant authorities.

Mwaipungu said the education awareness follows an increased incidences of teen pregnancy and child abuse practices in both, schools and communities hence the need fight the vice.

"Teen pregnancy can rob girls of their potential rights including access to education as well as giving them adult responsibilities," he said adding the aim is to ensure that young women realise their rights to sexual and reproductive health and have control over their lives and bodies.

In March this year, when speaking at a conference to reflecting violence against women and children in the country, Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa said the government is now implementing the national work plan on ending violence against women and children so as to safeguard their rights and ensure their full access to education, health and employment opportunities in their communities.



Mtwara regional commissioner Gelasius Byakanwa addresses Masasi residents yesterday at a festival held to introduce Tanzania's Southern Circuit tourism sites, including Mkomandoo Hill. Photo: Correspondent Hamisi Nasri

Ten days after plastic bags ban, life returns to normal

By Guardian Reporter

LIFE has normalized in the city of Dar es Salaam and its suburbs ten days after the ban on use, manufacture and distribute of plastic bags was implemented in a move aimed at protecting environment.

Some city residents have expressed their appreciation to the government firm decision, saying that though it was received with a lot of cynicism and criticism it has now turned out to be one of the best decisions ever.

One of the businessmen who owns a kiosk selling the alternative bags and who was previously selling plastic bags, Yunus Mwakikuti said at the beginning customers were too reluctant but now they have adopted.

"I would like to congratulate the government on the move which is key in protecting environment and in ensuring good health to its people.

All the agencies and stakeholders who took part in making this possible deserve a pat on the back," said Mwakikuti.

Zakia Abdallah, a petty trader at Mbagala Rangi Tatu said the move is commendable as plastic bags were bringing a lot of harm to the environment.

"The first day was hectic but now people are used to the newly introduced bags which are durable and of better quality than the former," she said.

Abdallah urged responsible authorities to continue with the advocacy work in a bid to ensure increase in the willingness of compliance among citizens and sustainability.

Speaking in an interview with journalists recently, the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) Director General, Dr Samuel Gwamaka, hailed the move, adding that the Council will continue with advocacy on the use of alternative bags as well as the importance of environmental conservation.

"We did not have to use force in this, only advocacy was done to sensitize people on the effects of plastic bags on the environment, we will continue to make sure that laws and regulations on environmental protection are implemented thoroughly," he said.

Dr Gwamaka added: "Already our officers are in the various parts of the country monitoring the implementation of the ban and there has been a tremendous response on the part of stakeholders who includes the general public, officers are also educating people on the benefits of these changes," he said.

Dr Gwamaka pointed out that advocacy on the use of alternative bags would be sustained in ensuring that all people are adequately informed.

President John Magufuli was recently quoted commending the move saying that its implementation went smoothly and was crucial in protecting environment.

Youths in Arusha linked to job offers in efforts to address unemployment

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

OVER 100 youth have been linked to different employment opportunities in a new drive to address unemployment in the country. Most of the youth are employed in the country's private sector.

Director for the Arusha-based Jitegemee Vijana Tanzania (JIVITA) Foundation Raymond Mashambo revealed this

over the weekend when speaking at a two-day training aimed at empowering youth on how they can get employment in different sectors.

"The idea is to address unemployment among the youth in the country," Mashambo said, noting: "There are many job opportunities in the country, but the challenge is how to explore them."

Since started operations in Tanzania,

the foundation has empowered 500 youth with entrepreneurship training.

"Out of the 500 youth, 80 have employed themselves hence getting themselves the basic necessities that earn them a living."

"Most of the youths have been complaining of employment when they graduate, we have been connecting them to various employment opportunities and by so doing we have reached

out to many," he said.

He added that the youths have been empowered through various projects which were being implemented by the organization which were aimed at looking at some of the opportunities that were in one's locality.

One of the participants Jonas Mollel from Sakina said the main challenges have been lack of business education which makes them venture into issues

that do not mature.

Tanzania's youth unemployment rate remains a big challenge to growth and the government must address it.

Among ways recommended include connecting them to the banking sector for them to access credit and engage in agricultural production.

The Situation is characterized by features like imbalance between supply and demand in the labour market

and increasing of urban employment pressures with outflow of rural surplus labour to non-agricultural sectors.

Most youth have no skills employable. Skills required in the labour market are not compatible with skills supplied as a result, we have a mismatch of skills.

In Tanzania, the unemployment rate measures the number of people actively looking for a job as a percentage of the labour force.

First Housing Finance (Tanzania) Limited (Audited Financial Statements)



Issued pursuant to Regulation 58 of The Banking and Financial Institutions (Mortgage Finance) Regulations, 2015.

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2017

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 ST DECEMBER 2017	
(Amounts in Thousand shillings)	
A. ASSETS	Current Year 31st December 2017
1. Cash	532
2. Balances with Bank of Tanzania	-
3. Investments in Government Securities	-
4. Balances with Other Banks and Financial Institutions	18,372,887
5. Cheques and Bills for Clearing	-
6. Interbranch Fiat Items	-
7. Bills Negotiated	-
8. Customers' Liabilities for Acceptances	-
9. Interbank Loans Receivables	-
10. Investments in Other Securities	-
11. Loans, Advances and Overdrafts (Net of Allowances for Probable Losses)	102,363
12. Other Assets	746,276
13. Equity Investments	1,006,000
14. Underwriting Accounts	-
15. Property, Plant and Equipment	1,109,364
16. TOTAL ASSETS	20,981,232
B. LIABILITIES	
17. Deposits from Other Banks and Financial Institutions	-
18. Customer Deposits	-
19. Cash Letters of Credit	-
20. Special Deposits	-
21. Payments Orders/ Treasurers Receipts	-
22. Business Cheques and Drafts Issued	-
23. Accrued Taxes and Expenses Payable	-
24. Acceptances Outstanding	535,178
25. Interbranch Fiat Items	-
26. Unearned Income and Other Deferred Charges	-
27. Other Liabilities	-
28. Borrowings	-
29. TOTAL LIABILITIES	535,178
30. NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES) (16/12/2017)	20,396,054
C. SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	
31. Paid up Share Capital	21,600,000
32. Capital Reserve	-
33. Retained Earnings	(1,006,536)
34. Profit/(Loss) Account	(298,438)
35. Other Capital Accounts	1,024
36. Minority Interest	-
37. TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	20,396,054
38. Contingent Liabilities	-
39. Non Performing Loans & Advances	-
40. Allowance for Probable Losses	-
41. Other Non Performing Assets	-
D. SELECTED FINANCIAL CONDITION INDICATORS	
(i). Shareholders Funds to Total Assets	97.44%
(ii). Non Performing Loans to Total Gross Loans	-
(iii). Gross Loans & Advances to Total Deposits	-
(iv). Loans & Advances to Total Assets	8.49%
(v). Earning Assets to Total Assets	99.86%
(vi). Deposits Growth	-
(vii). Assets Growth	44.95%

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2017

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 ST DECEMBER 2017	
(Amounts in Thousand shillings)	
	Current Year 31st December 2017
1. Interest Income	1,312,878
2. Interest Expense	-
3. Net Interest Income	1,312,878
4. Bad Debts Written Off	-
5. Impairment Losses on Loans and Advances	-
6. Non Interest Income	38,903
6.1. Foreign Currency Dealings and Translation Gains/ (Loss)	38,903
6.2. Fees and Commissions	-
6.3. Dividend Income	-
6.4. Other Operating Income	-
7. Non Interest Expenses	(1,750,219)
7.1. Salaries and Benefit	(615,445)
7.2. Fees and Commissions	-
7.3. Other Operating Expenses	(1,134,774)
8. Operating Income/ (Loss)	(398,438)
9. Income Tax Provision	-
10. Net Income/ (Loss) after Income Tax	(398,438)
11. Other Comprehensive Income	(398,438)
12. Total Comprehensive Income/ (Loss)	(398,438)
13. Number of Employees	10
14. Basic Earnings Per Share	(2.67)
15. Number of Branches	1
SELECTED PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	
(i). Return on Average Total Assets	(2.25)%
(ii). Return on Average Shareholder's Fund	(2.38)%
(iii). Non Interest Expense to Gross Income	128.48%
(iv). Net Interest Income to Average Earning Assets	17.73%

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2017

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 ST DECEMBER 2017	
(Amounts in Thousand shillings)	
	Current Year 31st December 2017
I. Cash Flow from Operating Activities:	
Net Income/ (Loss)	(398,438)
Adjustments for:	
- Impairment/ Amortization	63,218
- Net Change in Loans and Advances	(102,363)
- Gain/Loss from Sale of Assets	-
- Net Change in Deposits	-
- Net Change in Short Term Negotiable Securities	-
- Net Change in Other Liabilities	750,181
- Net Change in Other Assets	(23,672)
- Tax Paid	(64,463)
- Others (Securities)	-
Net Cash Provided/ (used) by Operating Activities	(175,537)
II. Cash Flow from Investing Activities	
- Dividend Received	-
- Purchase of Fixed Assets	(1,162,386)
- Proceeds from Sale of Fixed Assets	-
- Purchase of Non-Dealing Securities	-
- Proceed from Sale of Non-Dealing Securities	-
- Purchase of Intangibles	(266,325)
Net Cash Used by Investing Activities	(1,430,723)
III. Cash Flow from Financing Activities	
- Repayment of Long-Term Debt	-
- Proceeds from Issuance of Long Term Debt	-
- Proceeds from Issuance of Share Capital	6,540,000
- Payment of Cash Dividends	-
- Net Change in Other Borrowings	-
- Others (specify)	-
Net Cash Provided by Financing Activities	6,540,000
IV. Cash and Cash Equivalents	
Net Increase / (Decrease) in Cash and Cash equivalents	4,933,748
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the period	13,439,465
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the End of the period	18,373,229

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2017

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY AS AT 31 ST DECEMBER 2017					
(Amounts in Thousand shillings)					
	Share Capital	Share Premiums	Retained Earnings	General Provisions	Total
Current Year					
Balance as at the beginning of the year	15,260,000	-	(1,006,536)	-	14,254,464
Profit / (Loss) for the year	-	-	(398,438)	-	(398,438)
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-	-
Transactions with owners	6,540,000	-	-	-	6,540,000
Dividends Paid	-	-	-	-	-
Regulatory Reserve	-	-	-	-	-
General Provision	-	-	(1,224)	1,024	-
Others	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at the end of the current period	21,800,000	-	(1,404,970)	1,024	20,396,054

Note: The comparatives have not been presented as the company commenced operations on 20th October, 2017.

Name and Title	Signature	Date
Dr. S. Mwangi (Chief Executive Officer)	Signed _____	10 th June 2019
Vincent Pato (Ag. Head of Finance)	Signed _____	10 th June 2019
Derrick Rutshya (Ag. Internal Auditor)	Signed _____	10 th June 2019

The above extracts are from the Financial Statements of the Financial Institution for the year ended 31st December 2017 which have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The Financial statements were audited by Ernst & Young - Certified Public Accountants and received an unqualified audit report.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors and signed on their behalf by:

Name	Signature	Date
Sanjay Suchak Board Chairman	Signed _____	10 th June 2019
Vinod Rustagi Director	Signed _____	10 th June 2019





Kivule Bridge, a crucial link for Dar es Salaam's Kitunda and Kivule wards, is in need of urgent repair following damage caused by the recent heavy rains. This scene was captured yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Maulid Kambaya

400 Dar residents enjoy benefits of entrepreneurship training programme

By Henry Mwangonde

OVER 400 residents of Dar es Salaam have received entrepreneurship training aimed at empowering them economically and preparing them to engage fully in making Tanzania an industrialised economy by 2025.

The training organised by Bethel Mission School which is owned by the Seventh Day Adventist located in the area, is aimed at empowering residents and the community surrounding the school with entrepreneurship skills.

"We believe that apart from contributing to the country's economy through upbringing of kids, we are also in a position to ensure that the community surrounding us is well off, by doing so they may provide us with services," said the school's Director Emmanuel Mshana.

The training which started yesterday will end on 14th June this year, bringing together various trainers from CRDB

Bank and other key entrepreneurial experts.

According to Mshana, the training will cover soap making, poultry farming and many others.

Tanzania's youth unemployment rate remains a big challenge to economic growth and the government must address it.

Among ways recommended includes connecting them to the banking sector for them to access credit and engage in agricultural production.

The situation is characterized by features like imbalance between supply and demand in the labour market and increasing of urban employment pressures with outflow of rural surplus labour to non-agricultural sectors.

Most youth have no skills employable. Skills requirement in the labour market are not compatible with skills supplied as a result, we have a mismatch of skills.

KAMPALA

WEEKS of torrential rains have wreaked havoc in parts of Uganda's capital.

Locals and businesses have been hit hard. At a local car washing bay which is the main source of livelihood for several locals, at least three cars were washed away due to floodwaters.

"We have had issues of flooding here

Heavy rains hamper locals, businesses in Kampala

but actually there have been no solutions here. There has been actually nothing. There has been nothing to assist us", said Julius Mukwasi, a local car wash staff.

Mukwasi accused the mayor of renegeing on his promises to resolve

flooding in the area.

"The mayor came here when he was looking for polls. He came here and promised us that he's going to rescue us [from] each and everything. Even to make matters worse, yesterday, the mayor passed there instead, but he

just passed when the patrol vehicle was there. He never even stopped to see what has actually happened to the scene", he said.

At least eight (8) people have died in flash flooding, with roads cut off and widespread damage due to heavy rains.

Some five hundred (500) people have been displaced in suburban and rural areas on the outskirts of Kampala.

In Kame Valley, some 25 km out of Kampala, significant damage was recorded after a heavy downpour on Saturday.

Crops were swept away and many households were affected.

Uganda's Red Cross Society has launched a sensitization campaign to raise awareness about the effects of floods and diseases that may arise as a result of stagnated water.



for a living planet®

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

REGIONAL FOREST COORDINATOR

The mountains, savannahs and forests of Eastern Africa are some of the last remaining wilderness for mega-fauna and unique forest habitats on the African continent. The region is rich in forest ranging from open miombo woodlands, coastal forests and mountain forest, many of which of very high value in terms of biodiversity and endemism, as well as for sustaining the diverse and iconic fauna of the region. However, this globally important and unique natural resource base remains under threat from a variety of sources - agricultural and livestock expansion, uncontrolled fires, charcoal production, unsustainable logging and infrastructure development - driven both by local demand and drivers for resources as well as growing international market forces and investments in the region. At the same time, poor governance and low accountability, as well as lack of incentives for communities and other forest dependents, precludes responsible use of this rich natural heritage.

WWF has built up an important portfolio of work to address the challenges related to forest governance in the region. Building upon important successes, such as the signing of the Zanzibar Declaration on addressing Illegal Trade in Timber and Forest Products, the Regional Forest Programme Coordinator will take a lead on all aspects of this programme.

I. Major Functions:

Work in close consultation with staff in participating Country Offices to implement activities throughout the region which will lead to the achievement of the goals set out in the Regional Sustainable Forests Strategy.

Provide technical support to conservation work in participating WWF Country offices, ensuring alignment between Country Strategic Plans and the Regional Sustainable Forests Strategy.

Coordination of (regional) partnerships including specific task forces, regional bodies and frameworks that will support the delivery of the Regional Sustainable Forests Programme

II. Major Duties and Responsibilities:

- Support the Country offices in the delivery of the Regional Sustainable Forests Programme.
- Identify, cultivate and maintain strategic partnerships in the region to support the Regional Sustainable Forests Strategy; in particular, liaise where appropriate with government institutions, national and international forums, professional forestry-related associations/commissions in the region and other partners / stakeholders, such as TRAFFIC, the Southern African Development Community, East African Community, UNEP and FAO;
- Work closely with WWF policy staff in the region and the network to enhance bi-lateral and policy processes that contribute to the goals and objectives of the Regional Sustainable Forests Strategy;
- Ensure integration between the Regional Sustainable Forests Strategy and the conservation programmes of the participating WWF Country Offices (Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Madagascar and Uganda), as well as with other WWF Initiatives and major programmes (e.g. Miombo);
- Ensure full alignment and coordination between the Regional Sustainable Forests Programme and the Global Practice on Forests;
- Facilitate cross-Network learning between the Regional Sustainable Forests Programme and other related or similar WWF initiatives;
- Provide strategic and technical support and guidance to key staff in country offices to enable them to engage in the Regional Sustainable Forests Strategy implementation;
- Develop new, and support existing relationships with institutional donors for fund-raising and lobbying, and help develop fundraising proposals for donors in coordination with relevant WWF colleagues;

- Develop strategic alliances with forestry related business and industry;
- Prepare required forest policy, technical and briefing papers for the region;
- Work closely with the Communications Staff at participating country office, and other WWF communicators on outreach activities to support the Regional Sustainable Forests Strategy objectives;
- Ensure the preparation and timely submission to the donors of annual work plans and budgets as well as technical and financial reports according to agreed WWF Network standards.

III. Profile:

Required Qualifications and Experience

- MSc degree or higher in the field of forestry or relevant environmental sciences;
- Technical proficiency in the field of forestry, natural resource management, international project management or international development;
- At least 8 years of professional experience of which at least 5 years in Eastern Africa working in a senior management position on major conservation programme, planning, development and implementation.
- Proven experience on engaging with actors at a high level - corporate and government;
- Strong understanding of sustainable forest management and responsible timber trade.

Required Skills and Competencies

- Good technical and organizational skills essential
- Strong project management skills at the international level and leadership skills
- Ability to open doors and build relationships of confidence with contacts in government, business, civil society and the donor community
- Experience in writing proposals and fundraising
- Excellent negotiation, diplomacy and lobbying skills
- Ability to work in multi-cultural settings
- Ability to work effectively in a virtual team located in multiple locations
- Willingness to travel extensively including to extremely remote locations
- Excellent oral and written communication and presentation skills in English; Kiswahili and Portuguese an advantage;

Additional information: Detailed Terms of Reference can be obtained via http://wwf.panda.org/who_we_are/jobs/. Applications must include a complete CV with full contact details of three referees and should be addressed to the People & Culture Manager, via email to: hresources@wwf.org by Friday, 27th June 2019 at 4:30 pm. Only the shortlisted candidates will be contacted and the interviews will take place in Dar es Salaam. WWF is an equal opportunity organization.



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SHORT TERM CONSULTANCY

Data Entry Clerk

CONTRACT LENGTH: 6 MONTHS

The Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) Tanzania Country Office - an international conservation organization in alliance with TRAFFIC - The Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network - is seeking a Data Entry Clerk to enter raw data into TRAFFIC's databases.

TRAFFIC, under the support of 'Wildlife Trafficking, Response, Assessment, Priority Setting' (Wildlife-TRAPS), US Agency for International Development (USAID) funded project, is seeking for a qualified consultant who will be responsible of entering raw data into TRAFFIC's database. The position will be located in Dar es Salaam.

CHARACTERISTIC DUTIES

Working with TRAFFIC East Africa's Legal Officer, the Data Entry Clerk will be responsible for inputting into TRAFFIC's internal database detailed information generated from a regional wildlife trade assessment.

This assignment requires someone who is highly detail-oriented, has the ability to concentrate for long periods at a time, and is interested in learning about biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

REQUIREMENTS:

Bachelor's degree from a recognized university;
Excellent keyboard skills and accuracy in entering data;
Excellent comprehension of English;
Basic knowledge of word processing, spreadsheets or databases;
Good interpersonal skills and ability to work effectively as part of a diverse team as well as independently, and
Familiarity with and an interest in conservation, particularly trade issues.

Applications must include a **cover letter**, along with a complete CV with full contact details of **three referees** and should be addressed to the Human Resources Manager, WWF TCO, via email to: tz.procurement@wwf.panda.org by **midnight Tanzania time, Friday, June 23rd, 2019**. We thank all applicants for their interest in this position, but only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

The interviews will take place over Skype or in person in Dar es Salaam.

The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

TUESDAY 11 JUNE 2019

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

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Wanted: Global awareness and activism to prevent child labour

THE World Day Against Child Labour is an International Labour Organisation (ILO)-sanctioned holiday first launched in 2002 aiming to raise awareness and activism to prevent child labour. It was spurred by ratifications of ILO Convention on the minimum age for employment and ILO Convention on the worst forms of child labour.

The World Day Against Child Labour, which is held every year on June 12, is intended to foster the worldwide movement against child labour in any of its forms.

ILO, the United Nations body that regulates the world of work, launched the World Day Against Child Labour in 2002 in order to bring attention and join efforts to fight against child labour. This day brings together governments, local authorities, civil society and international workers and employers organisations to point out the child labour problem and define the guidelines to help child labourers.

According to ILO's data, hundreds of millions of girls and boys throughout the world are involved in work that deprives them of receiving an adequate education, health, leisure and basic freedoms, violating this way their rights. Of these children, more than half are exposed to the worst forms of child labour. These worst forms of child labour include work in hazardous environments, slavery, or other forms of forced labour, illicit activities such as drug trafficking and prostitution, as well as involvement in armed conflict.

Children in Tanzania engage in the worst forms of child labour, including in mining, quarrying, and domestic work. Other gaps remain in the legal framework, including protections for child engagement in illicit activities and

domestic work.

In 2017, Tanzania made a minimal advancement to eliminate the worst forms of child labour. The government published regulations to define hazardous work for children in several sectors and, for the first time, explicitly prohibited hazardous tasks for children in the fishing industry. Despite these initiatives to address child labour, Tanzania is receiving this assessment because it continued to implement a policy and practice that delayed advancement in eliminating the worst forms of child labour. Since 1984, the government has regulated access to secondary education through the Primary School Leaving Exam. Students who do not pass the exam do not have an opportunity to re-take the exam, and must drop out of public school, preventing them from continuing their education. Students in Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar complete primary education at the average age of 14. Children in Zanzibar who do not pass the exam can find themselves both out of formal education but still below the minimum age for work, which is age 15, leaving such children at increased risk of child labour. Although the government has expressed its intention to phase out the National exam by 2021, it has yet to initiate efforts or make preparations to do so. The government also explicitly supports the routine expulsion of pregnant students from public schools, making them more vulnerable to the worst forms of child labour.

In the same vein, the government has established institutional mechanisms for the enforcement of laws and regulations on child labour. However, gaps exist within the authority of the labour ministries of Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar that may hinder adequate enforcement of their child labour laws.

Albinism Awareness Day should see celebration for all, and not otherwise

ALBINISM is a condition some people and animals are born with. This condition is caused by a lack of pigment (colour) in their hair, eyes, and skin. A person or animal with albinism is called an albino. Many albino people prefer to be called a person with albinism. There are ten different types of albinism.

People with albinism can have white or light blonde hair. They can have very pale skin. Their eyes are blue, or rarely pinkish. People with albinism can have problems such as bad vision and getting sunburnt easily. This is because people with albinism have less pigments in their eyes, skin and hair.

Albinism is rare in the United States. One out of every 20,000 people in the United States has albinism. There are about 15,945 people in the United States who have albinism.

Vision problems in albinism include nystagmus (irregular fast movements of the eyes), strabismus (where the eyes fail to balance) and refractory errors (like being near-sighted or far-sighted).

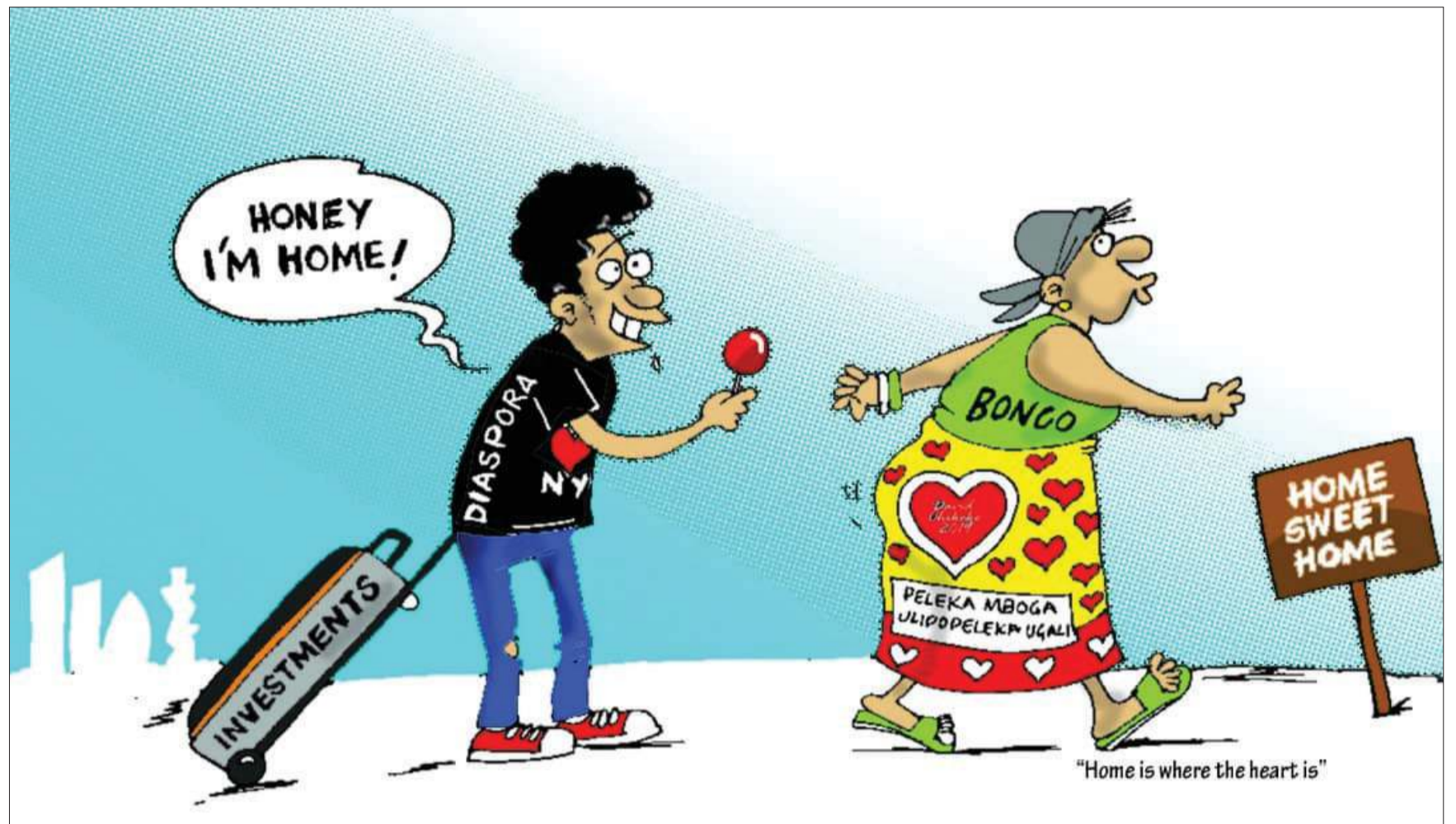
Albinism is the congenital absence of any pigmentation or colouration in a person, animal or plant, resulting in white hair, feathers, scales and skin and pink eyes in mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish and other small invertebrates as well. Varied use and interpretation of the terms mean that written reports of albinistic animals can be difficult to verify. Albinism can reduce the survivability of an animal; for example, it has been suggested that albino alligators have an average survival span of only 24 hours due to the lack of protection from UV and their lack of camouflage to avoid predators.

Albino animals have characteristic pink or red eyes because the lack of pigment in the iris allows the blood vessels of the retina to be visible. Familiar albino animals include in-bred strains of laboratory animals (rats, mice and rabbits), but populations of naturally occurring albino animals exist in the wild, e.g. Mexican cave tetra. Albinism is a well-recognised phenomenon in molluscs, both in the shell and in the

soft parts. It has been claimed by some, that albinism can occur for a number of reasons aside from inheritance, including genetic mutations, diet, living conditions, age, disease, or injury. However, this is contrary to definitions where the condition is inherited.

International Albinism Awareness Day is celebrated annually on June 13 to celebrate the human rights of persons with albinism worldwide. Around the mid-2000s, reports made public a rising number of violent attacks on and murders of persons with albinism in Tanzania. Many reports have accused perpetrators to attribute magical powers to the bodies of persons with albinism and, thus, to be motivated to use them for lucky charms and occult rituals. Until 2015, perpetrators killed more than 70 victims and harmed many more. In response, the Tanzania Albinism Society (TAS) and other NGOs began campaigning for the human rights of persons with albinism. TAS celebrated the first 'Albino Day' on May 4, 2006. It became 'National Albino Day' from 2009 onwards and was eventually called 'National Albinism Day'.

On an international level, the Canadian NGO Under the Same Sun (UTSS) joined late Ambassador of the Mission of Somalia to the United Nations (UN), Yusuf Mohamed Ismail Bari-Bari, in his effort to pass a resolution promoting and protecting the rights of persons with albinism. Such a resolution came about when the Human Rights Council on June 13, 2013 adopted the first resolution ever on albinism. Later on, in its resolution of June 26, 2014 the Human Rights Council recommended June 13 to be proclaimed as International Albinism Awareness Day by the United Nations' General Assembly. The UN's General Assembly, then, adopted on December 18, 2014 resolution to proclaim, with effect from 2015, June 13 as International Albinism Awareness Day. The chosen date is reminiscent of the UN's first ever resolution which was passed on June 13 a year before. Today, IAAD is celebrated around the world from Tanzania, to Argentina, to Senegal, to Fiji, France, the United Kingdom and Namibia.



This is what children need from you, President

By LINC Fellows

THE prevailing rhetoric relating to children among politicians is that 'children are our future'. However, it is essential to note that children exist in the present, and unless we invest adequately and appropriately in children and their well-being the future of this country is bleak.

Dear President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa,

Congratulations on your election and appointment to the highest office of the South African Government. With the entry of the 6th term of the African National Congress as the governing party of our democracy, we, as representatives of the children's sector, beg for your attention to the plight of many children in South Africa. In the excitement that followed the advent of democracy in South Africa, many of us who work with children anticipated attention to the plight of children who had been excluded from quality services and a decent life. And indeed, many positive developments contributing to positive changes in the lives of children and their families have occurred. These include the child support grant, which has benefited millions of children; changes in law and policy that are applauded globally as progressive and holistic and with the potential, if implemented, to contribute to the optimal development of South Africa's children; school feeding schemes which enable children to remain in and benefit from education; free health care for children; and the appointment of South Africa as a "pathfinder country" in the global movement to prevent violence against children. However, research on the well-being of children and the organisations that serve them indicates that there is a need for further urgent action. The prevailing rhetoric relating to children among politicians is that "children are our future". However, it is essential to note that children exist in the present, and unless we invest adequately and appropriately in children and their well-being the future of this country is bleak.

Requiring your urgent attention, inter alia, are:

- 65% of our children live below the poverty line (R1,138 per person per month, Hall & Sambu 2018; StatsSA). This is an emergency issue, "as children living in these poverty conditions" are most likely experiencing stunting and weight deficiencies caused by malnutrition. Malnutrition impacts on children's ability to grow, develop and learn;

- 12% of children report experiencing child hunger (Hall, Nannan & Sambu 2018; Stats SA). When conducting workshops with children on the National Development Plan 2015-2030, a primary concern of some children



was hunger. It was reported that "children are selling themselves for food";

The poor quality of basic education is failing our children (Ngozo & Mantato 2018); 65% of our children report some form of abuse and 33% report sexual abuse (Optimus Foundation Study 2015);

Although fewer than 50% of people in South Africa consume alcohol (WHO 2018), those that do, drink excessively. It is in the households of excessive drinkers that money is diverted from food, education, housing and other basic necessities, with particular consequences for the optimal development and growth of children. Easy access to alcohol within communities, with too many outlets, many of which are unlicensed, exposes children to interpersonal violence between men, domestic violence in the home and violence against themselves;

Only one in nine children has sufficient confidence in the child protection system to report abuse (Optimus Foundation 2015). Cases that were reported to the criminal justice system have a 6%-7% conviction rate (Vetten 2016). When cases are withdrawn due to children not being able to testify or a lack of corroborating evidence, children and families are not informed, thus putting children at risk of retribution from the offender and further abuse;

South Africa has no clear and equivalent ban on corporal punishment in the home – a form of violence against children that the World Health Organisation has declared detrimental to their well-being;

NGOs providing services to children in need of care and protection are reducing services due to a lack of funding;

Disabled children are receiving poor services due to a lack of funding and trained qualified professionals;

Government is duplicating already existing services for families and children: examples include call centres for domestic violence and war rooms;

The failure to co-ordinate care and protection services results in many children falling through the cracks between services and experiencing

secondary trauma (Jamieson et al 2017), including children who are trafficked and with refugee status;

The poorest children have the least access to clean water, sanitation and decent housing (Hall & Sambu 2018);

High HIV-prevalence rates are found among adolescents in South Africa; and

The rate of teenage pregnancy remains unacceptably high. Young people are dropping out of school because of socio-economic barriers and poor school performance is contributing to the risk for early pregnancy, HIV infection, sexually transmitted and other infections.

Nomdo (2018), reporting on the above-mentioned workshops with children, noted "most challenging was listening to the painful realities in which most of the children lived". "They did not articulate easily the abuse they experienced in all settings, including at home, the lack of basic necessities and their hope that adults would improve their lived realities." What do children need from you, Mr President?

- Attention to the failure to implement progressive legislation that has the potential to improve the well-being and potential development of South Africa's children;

Further reform of law and policy that clearly criminalises all forms of violence against children and holds duty-bearers accountable when they fail to provide appropriate services to children;

A children's budget that enables adequate and appropriate services to children;

The co-ordination of services to children across government sectors under the aegis of the Department of the Presidency, which is able to hold all sectors to account. In this instance feedback to our periodic reports from both the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of Children was that South Africa needs to consider strengthening co-ordination measures;

Strengthen the multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral approaches of early education and childhood development, which will have long-term positive outcomes to mitigate poverty,

unemployment and inequality;

Attention to restoring the relationship between government and civil society organisations that serve children and families so that mutually supported, co-ordinated and carefully planned services to children and families are not politicised, but based on need, within available resources. This includes joint meetings in which there is mutual respect, open sharing, shared creativity and innovation and joint budgeting;

The elimination of all duplicated services by government and civil society organisations and joint consultations to ensure that new services meet the expressed needs of children and families and are not just "vote catchers"; and

Strong and visible moral leadership against corruption to ensure that resources in government are appropriately used to benefit all citizens, including children.

"Giving children a healthy start in life, no matter where they are born, or the circumstances of their birth, is the moral obligation of every one of us."

– Nelson Mandela We look forward to engaging with you and the Office of the Presidency in terms of taking children's issues forward in South Africa. DM This letter is endorsed by the following LINC Fellows (in alphabetical order) either in their individual capacity or as an organisation representative: Anthony Ambrose; William Bird (Media Monitoring Africa); Giuliana Bland (Jim Joel Fund); Ashley du Plooy; Menaka Jayakody; Dr Connie Kganaka; Dr Hermenean Laauwen; Aadielah Maker (Southern African Alcohol Policy Alliance); Anisa Moosa; Dr Renald Morris (Synergos); Christina Nomdo (Commissioner National Planning Commission); Prof Shirley Pendlebury; Simone Rawlings; Frank Sibeko (City of Johannesburg, Health); Joyce Siwani; Charmaine Smith; Dr Joan van Niekerk (Child Rights and Child Protection); Dr Marnie Vujovic. Linc (Leadership and Innovation Network for Collaboration in South Africa's Children's Sector) is a cross-sector (including government) initiative to improve the effectiveness of systemic responses to vulnerable children in South Africa.

BY AIMÉE-NOËL MBIYOZO

MIGRANT numbers to Europe have dropped dramatically since 2015 when the highest number of people recorded - over a million - arrived from outside the continent. In 2018, Europe saw an influx of 140 000 and by 4 June 2019, fewer than 30 000 had arrived for this year.

Yet migration remains a key political issue across the continent. Europe has moved away from a 'crisis' response to one focused on sending migrants who do not have legal rights to remain, to their countries of origin or transit. These include those who don't qualify for asylum or who have overstayed visas. Politicians seeking to retain their anti-immigrant support base are framing returns as security and sovereignty issues.

In last month's European Parliament elections, right-wing parties tried to maintain the conversation on immigration despite polls showing it had lost significance for voters. The victorious centre-right European People's Party pledged to prioritise reducing irregular migration by protecting the European Union's (EU) external borders and strengthening the bloc's return policies.

In recent years, European governments and the EU have tried unsuccessfully at both a bilateral and multilateral level to persuade African countries and the African Union (AU) to cooperate on returns. Removing unauthorised people from one country requires another country to accept them. Both states must cooperate and coordinate. Countries are obliged to receive their nationals back, but it is illegal to return someone to a country that refuses to accept them.

Europe's success rate in returning migrants to Africa is small. In 2017, 9 235 of 189 545 (5%) returns were to sub-Saharan African countries. These countries have only a 9% return rate compared to 36% overall and are trending downward. The number of return decisions issued to West African migrants increased by 80% in 2018 to about 40 000, but only 5 200 cases were effective.

These low rates can be attributed to poor cooperation from African countries, practical problems in identifying people's nationalities, and limited administrative capacity in migrants' countries of origin. Many states refuse to accept forced returns of their nationals or delay issuing travel documents to people without sufficient identification. Nationality can be complicated to prove, particularly if migrants dispute theirs. The AU and most African states

Pressure grows on Africa to take back its migrants



say returns must be voluntary and people can't be forced to go to countries against their will.

At the heart of the debate is the development role of migration, particularly in high-emigration countries, where aspirational migration contributes substantial human and financial capital. In 2018, remittances to sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East and North Africa totalled US\$46 billion and US\$62 billion respectively. Accepting returns can be perceived as 'anti-migration' among constituents who view migration positively or rely heavily on remittances.

Irregular migration is also an outlet for a growing youth population that often faces high levels of unemployment and political frustration. Politicians who are seen to facilitate forced returns could pay the price domestically, even if the trade-off is substantial European development funding. In

Europe's focus on returns risks destabilising receiving countries and aggravating the root causes of migration. File photo

December 2016, Mali was offered a US\$160 million deal to cooperate by identifying and expediting Malian returns from Europe. The agreement was withdrawn after an unexpected public uproar. Mali's leadership had misread the public mood.

Returns are also increasingly packaged into Europe's 'development' approach where aid and financial investment are offered on condition that countries cooperate regarding migration control. Many of these packages ignore local and regional dynamics.

European states have engaged with questionable groups based on their ability to control migration to Europe. For example Italy forged agreements with Libyan militia and smugglers to stop boat departures to Italy. The EU has sent 'security' funding to leaders

in Sudan accused of genocide and crimes against humanity. And Niger - the poorest country in the world - is receiving development funds based on its willingness and ability to stem migration flows.

Europe must be aware that this has ramifications. Beyond compromising human rights and undermining democracy, these practices risk increasing political instability. Political frustration is a key motivating factor for migration. Over-emphasising returns at the risk of empowering questionable authorities, angering populations and exacerbating migration's root causes is not sound migration management.

Before 2015, Europe's migration plans for Africa included offering more legal visa pathways for migrants. Increasing lawful channels suppresses unlawful migra-

tion when combined with strong enforcement measures. Europe has all but abandoned these proposals in the interests of focusing on returning migrants. European governments have recognised the bargaining power of visa liberalisation schemes. Instead of using these important mechanisms, they are reserving them to force negotiations on returns.

A country's willingness to accept forced returns doesn't necessarily result in a high number of migrants going home. For example, the return rates of Ethiopians from Norway fell from 11% in 2012 when the two states reached an informal return agreement, to 9% in 2017. It is also hard to ascertain whether return policies effectively deter migration.

Even when all parties agree to returns, successful reintegration

is difficult. Countries receiving returns must have the resources and capacity to reintegrate those who come back. Readmission and reintegration fail regularly, resulting in hardship, violence and even remigration.

Effective and humane return policies are a necessary part of comprehensive migration policy. However, the complexities of the process cannot be overlooked in the drive for 'quick wins'. Returns must be handled carefully and with consideration of their impact. Most African countries are more influenced by national and regional interests than European incentives or pressure. Collaboration will succeed when these interests converge.

AGENCIES

Is a military solution the only option left in Libya?

By Guma El-Gamaty

WAR has been raging on in Libya for more than two months. What was supposed to be a quick operation for renegade general Khalifa Haftar's forces to take over the Libyan capital Tripoli has now turned into a battle of attrition.

Over 600 people have been killed, more than 3,000 injured and some 90,000 displaced from their homes. Thousands of residential buildings have been damaged or destroyed due to the indiscriminate shelling. Nearly three million people remain besieged in the capital, forced to spend the holy month of Ramadan in fear and shortages of basic goods.

So far there has been no clear winner. Factions aligned with the Government of National Accord (GNA) have managed to stop the advance of Haftar's forces and killed his hopes for a quick victory in Tripoli.

The United Nations has issued a number of statements calling on the two sides to halt hostilities, but they have all fallen on deaf ears. Neither the GNA, nor Haftar are willing to back down or agree to a ceasefire. The UN Security Council has also been unable to reach consensus on any resolution that would end the fighting and restart the negotiations process.

This is because the international community remains divided on Libya, with regional and world powers backing each of the two sides and further fuelling the conflict.

Is a political solution still possible?

Over the past four years, the UN has put a lot of effort in trying to bring the ongoing civil war in Libya to a peaceful resolution. Even as Haftar moved his forces towards Tripoli, UN representatives still insisted that a political solution must be pursued.

Haftar's forces launched their offensive just days before the National Conference was scheduled to be held in the Libyan city of Ghadames.

As a result of the attack, the conference, which had been in the making for months, was cancelled and the UN mediation efforts severely undermined. Now two months later, it seems quite clear that the peace process the UN had worked so hard to kick-start is dead.

Meanwhile, positions on both sides of the war have hardened significantly. Fayeza Serraj, head of the GNA, has gone as far as saying that he had been "stabbed in the back" and that it was a mistake to have trusted Haftar's intentions in all the meetings he had with him previously. He now insists that the renegade general can no longer be a partner in any peace talks.

Haftar, on the other hand, is also adamant in his stance and says that he is not ready to commit to any ceasefire or political process, whether backed by the UN or any other political actor. He seems bound on continuing his assault on Tripoli. "Of course, the political solution is still the goal. But to get back to politics, we must first finish with militias," he told a French newspaper late last month.

By now, it appears that a political solution to the conflict is very much unlikely. The only way the fighting can come to an end is if one of the sides achieves a conclusive military victory.



What does a military solution mean?

It is not only the two sides to the conflict which seem to be betting on a military solution. Various regional and international players are intervening in Libya with the hope of securing a victory for the side they favour.

Fresh deliveries of advanced weapons and ammunition have been made to both camps, which in effect is only prolonging the war. Despite the fact that the supply of arms is in clear violation of the UN arms embargo, there has been little public condemnation of these actions.

There are two possible outcomes of the ongoing war: Either Haftar would eventually succeed in taking over Tripoli and removing the GNA from power or the GNA would be able to push his forces out of the capital and launch a counteroffensive.

In the first case, Libya would

be doomed to a one-man military rule. If Haftar takes the capital, he would effectively have control over Libya's three most important strategic assets: the political centre of the country, its key institutions, and most of its oil. These would help him solidify his grip on power and impose a Gaddafi-style regime backed by the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

In the second case, the country would still have a chance to pursue a political solution. If the forces loyal to the GNA manage to overrun Haftar's positions in the west and south, this would significantly weaken him, both politically and militarily. A defeat would most likely mean his exclusion from any future political dialogue. Given that he has been one of the biggest obstacles to achieving permanent peace and stability in Libya, his elimination as a political factor would bode well for the future of the country.

The problem with "waiting" for a military solution to the conflict in Libya is that it will cost the country and its civilian population dearly. As UN special envoy Ghassan Salame pointed out recently, the fighting around Tripoli is "just the start of a long and bloody war".

The death and suffering of Libyan civilians is very much preventable, if only the international community would find the political will to act.

AGENCIES

Press freedom in Ethiopia: From vice to hot property

By Elshadai Negash

A year of sweeping reforms in Ethiopia's political and media landscape culminated early this month with Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed receiving the Felix Houphouët-Boigny Prize for Peace on the sidelines of the World Press Freedom Day 2019 celebrations in Ethiopia and the country widely acknowledged for the wide-sweeping reforms that sees almost no journalist in prison for the first time over twenty years. But as Elshadai Negash argues, the focus should now turn to liberating the commercial shackles that have stunted the growth of the media sector in the country.

The power corridors circling the Nelson Mandela Hall at the African Union Headquarters gave way to stringent security, strict protocol, and restrictive access control in early May as the who's who in the global rights campaigning and advocacy evaded the bastion of Pan-African traditional power.

Selfies, groupies, and mock-ups took the place of highly-choreographed signature photos. Pop-up exhibits replaced structured powerpoint presentations. Where there were suits, ties, and formal African cultural dress, now stood folks with unusual hairdos, wacky T-shirts, and startup types who couldn't be bothered about the appropriateness of the attire they had on.

Inside the meeting halls; activists, bloggers, and civil society types from countries with restricted media freedom lambasted their governments and elite for denying them freedom of speech, a basic human right which their countries signed up to honor in national constitutions and international conventions. They interrupted speeches by politicians to demand pressure on the government of their own countries and openly rebuffed claims by policymakers about perceived improvement in the media

freedom.

For the first time in many years, much of ranting, finger-pointing, and name-calling did not focus on the Ethiopian government, whose turn it was to receive plaudits for a series of sweeping reforms that saw journalists previously jailed freed; those who fled the country fearing prosecution return; unblocking of over 260 websites; relaxing of regulations in media ownership; and a relaxing of conditions on social media use.

While PM Abiy received the UNESCO's top prize for his government's reforms at a side-event, sprinkled in panels throughout the three-day event were the heroes who sacrificed their lives, career paths, families, and general sense of security to uphold their rights to free speech. Showered with praise for their bravery and their continued work, in different capacities ranging from government, civil society, media, and the regulatory space; they mingled uneasily with traditional media owners, media/political representatives of foreign missions in Addis Abeba, consultants, and trainers during the breaks.

This uneasiness, a mixture of hope and fear in a rapidly-evolving media landscape, is generally driven by a massive onslaught of changes in the pipeline on the supply side of the media system. A team of legal bigwigs churning paperwork under the direction of the Attorney General's office and a working group led by former journalist Solomon Goshu are close to completing the first draft of a new media law that has reformers excited.

A coalition of thirty-five print media owners have just finalized the registration of the Ethiopia Media Council, an effort at self-regulation that has been ten years in the making but is now finally gathering some purpose after multiple stop-starts.

The first-ever Editor's Forum, a well-meaning initiative of five news-



©AFP Photo/Marco Longari

paper editors at setting ethical and industry standards for the profession, is also taking baby steps, while efforts at strengthening journalists' unions and other new models of governance like social media councils are finally finding ears and leg-up donor funding with reduced stubborn resistance.

All these efforts at changing challenging laws and supporting media development are largely driven by a perspective that guards freedom of speech as a basic human right that needs to be protected and scaled through accountable public institutions, traditional media councils, and professional unions which, in a perfect world, would form something like a tripartite interest system to check, balance, and

(sometimes) advance each other's interests. It is a model that has served the interests of many advanced economies in the West and often prescribed by Western governments and media freedom advocates as a magic bullet for advancing freedom of expression in Ethiopia.

But once the euphoria of gathering like-minds around the world ends and the visiting troupes file away from their five-star accommodation in central Addis to the reality of their day-to-day jobs, the reality for many in their day-to-day jobs couldn't be more different.

Ethiopia is Africa's fastest growing economy and a potential market of 100million+ (or so we often get told because of the projections based on the 2007

census) consumers who all have to read a printed material, watch TV, listen to the radio, and do it all from the comforts of their mobile device as consumers of content on digital and social media at some or multiple points in their lives. In the powerpoints of consultants working for multinationals, advertising agencies, diplomatic missions, and investment roadshows, Ethiopia is the market to be in right now with a growth potential spanning years if not decades.

But the coffers of media owners and seasoned journalists who ply their trade scrambling between full-time positions in their media organizations and side-gigs to offset rising living costs tells a far different story.

For years, the media industry

in Ethiopia has had a step-child relationship to the much-revered economic growth of the country. It is kept at home and sent to school to fulfill a parental obligation and a general duty to society, but not given the extra tutoring, private school education, fancy toys, and effort rewards of the biological children of the household like agriculture, textiles, construction, and mining who are spoiled with easy access to elites, tax holidays, and better market conditions. If it misbehaves, it is slapped with heavy punishment (fines), the threat of eviction, and potential time spent in jail.

For players who played by the unwritten rules of the game in print, it was all about surviving the ups and downs of an awkward advertising market to ensure sustained revenue and find a way of haggling with an unprofessional hardcopy distribution system to offset some of the rising printing costs slapped by the state-run Berhanena Selam Printing Enterprise and a few other magazine printers, who would never develop a symbiotic relationship with publishers because of their low volumes. The result of this is a series of owners in the print industry who have done an exemplary job at surviving tough market conditions, but not able to fulfill their growth potential compared to players of similar size in other emerging markets.

While somewhat nurturing a culture of respectable journalism, they could do little to stop journalists leaving their organizations when foreign news agencies and international organizations looking for communications talent come to tap their talent. The offer of better starting

St. Joseph University in Tanzania: Harnessing talents of the students by encouraging innovation

By Correspondent James Kandoya

MUKRIM Omary and other four students at the St Joseph University in Tanzania hope to be millionaire from the innovation that can highly reduce shortage of cardiologists.

They have invented an Artificial intelligence (AI) cardiologist robot as a solution to overcome shortage of such experts in the country.

It is the human like intelligence exhibited by machines and software. It describes an automated clinic based on artificial intelligence.

Their innovation comes at the time while the government is working hard to train more experts to treat people suffering from cardiovascular.

For instance, since 2015, the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI), has attended over 200,000 patients while the numbers of cardiologists available do not exceed 50.

Omary said the demand also pushed them to come up with alternative technology instead of depending on training that normally takes almost eight years.

Another factor was the rapid increase of Non Communicable Disease (NCD) contributing to cardiac disease contributed a lot to the innovation.

"Shortage of cardiologists is big challenge in the country and if not solved on time, it will double increase the number of deaths," he said.

"If there are only 20 cardiologists while the number of patients attended annually reaches 60,000, this means more and quick attention is needed to solve it and therefore came up with robot," he said.

The technology works on the measurement of seven prominent physiological parameters of a person who enters a doctor's clinic.

These physiological parameters are Saturation of Oxygen in the blood (SpO2), electrical activities of the heart (ECG), height, heart beats, heart sound (PCG), weight, body temperature and blood pressure.

These parameters together with ECG wave forms will help the AI in diagnosis of common heart diseases like congenital heart diseases, Rheumatic

heart diseases and Vascular (aneurysm).

According to him, the system will record particular information of patients such as names, age and all other relevant information.

Elaborating more, he said the system can serve patients in places that cannot access similar services such as rural places adding that it serve times, transporting cost, reduce congestion.

Another fourth year student, Mwanaidi Lulunga, from the same University, hinted that the use of Information Technology in health sectors is the best solution to the problem.

She said the robot will be placed in all district and regional offices while the system will be installed within all councils in public hospitals.

Explaining how it works, she said once the sensor is placed on the patient's body, it can be capable of giving prescription and diagnosis to the patient's heart without the need of the physician after seven minutes.

All collected information will be submitted to the robot installed in the district and regional hospital.

"The system takes all information and give the results in seven minutes according to the disease diagnosed and its treatment," he said.

Lulunga assured that the measurement of the above-mentioned parameters must not make any discomfort to the patient and hence must be essentially an invasive type.

He clarified that anyone who has experience and related technology can simply own the item since can also be accessed or connected to the system through Smartphone.

She explains that the total cost of designing and installation US dollar 5,000 adding that since it had been install in public facilities it can be free.

The private facilities can access the system by contributing a little sum compared to if the patient went to access services.

What the University does.

A lecturer at St Joseph university, Lawrance Kerefu, says the idea came from the students as way to help them in future instead of waiting for employment.

The don said the varsity introduced



the course to prepare students to employ themselves and therefore improve the nation economy, those graduate can employ themselves.

"Our target is to give them a broader knowledge and build their capacity to overcome unemployment problem once complete their studies," he said.

Dr Kerefu who is also the Director of Innovation and Techno -preneurship acceleration facility said instead of students waiting for employment, they must have a vision of employing and opening their company.

The don added that students are obliged to change the challenges facing the community to be economic opportunities instead of becoming problem.

He said students are give training about innovation and entrepreneurs to give the knowledge to establish their own companies.

Through the technology, they will conduct training to the health providers in all hospitals that aimed at re-

duce the shortage of cardiologists.

The way project is implemented

Dk. Kerefu elaborated more that the university supervises them to ensure that they realise their dream and support them financially in all stages including registration.

The varsity will sign a six to one year contract with them for the time they are outside the campus to ensure their rights are reserved well legally.

Moreover, when the project grows, it will ask them to pay one percent of the total profit to enable other projects to in the campus to take over.

"We always teach them that always when you are employed, you are there to develop the dream of others. They must change and become owners if they want to develop their ideas," he said.

According to him, the project had already involved the Commission of Science and Technology (COSTECH) and it promised to collaborate with them.

Country situation

In Tanzania, indicators show that there was rapid increase in number of people diagnosed with cardiovascular problems.

The number of people attended by the institute ranged between 300 and 400 patients, this is according to the JKCI Executive Director Professor Mohammed Janabi.

He further said that the number of experts was not proportional to the number of patients noting that the institute had only 20 compared while the demand is 50.

Since 2015, the institute diagnosed 23,000, out patients (OPD), in 2016 were 53,000 while in 2017 were 60,000 and in 2018 were 76,000.

"In view of the fact, in those three years, the institute has attended over 200,000 outpatients, admitted 11,000, and conducted open heart surgery 800," he said.

Global situation

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), a total of 18 million people die annually from heart disease, which is equivalent to 31 percent.

From the number, 75 percent of recorded deaths happen in Africa continent and mostly in Latin America and Asia continent.

These challenges are now receiving more attention, with plans to improve the governance and education of human resources for health organizations at national and sub-regional levels.

Dar to host this year's East African Community Arts, Culture Festival

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM is set to host 4th Edition of the EAC Arts and Culture Festival (JAMAFEST) – a platform that provide a room for partitionners to showcase culture as a primary catalyst to regional integration and sustainable development.

The event has been approved by the East African Community's Sectoral Council and will be held between September 21 and 28, this year.

According to a statement issued yesterday, the regional event is themed:

"Cultural Diversity: A Key Driver to Regional Integration, Economic Growth and Promotion of Tourism".

The EAC Sectoral Council also approved the 2nd Edition of EAC Games 2020 to be hosted in the Republic of Rwanda.

The importance of Kiswahili in regional integration and sustainable development is underscored in Articles 137 of the EAC Treaty that recognizes Kiswahili as the lingua franca of the Community. In line with further promoting Kiswahili as the lingua franca; the Sectoral Council approved the

commencement of implementation of the East African Kiswahili Commission (EAKC) Mobility Programme.

The EAKC Mobility Policy and Programme is a framework of strategic partnerships and strong and broad cooperation and a tool to provide opportunities for Kiswahili stakeholders to interact.

The EASC also approved the Draft Principles and Guidelines for Kiswahili Training Programmes and Manuals in the EAC, which provide broad policy recommendations on the approach and process of designing, developing

and delivering Kiswahili Training Programmes in the EAC.

The Principles and Guidelines take into account the changing dynamic of the language at national, regional, continental and global levels. They are intended to provide direction and consistency in a generally common manner in decision making in the development of Kiswahili training Programmes in the EAC, while at the same time, recognizing and taking into account, the various linguistic situations, Kiswahili policies and organizational structures in the Partner

States.

In an effort to contribute to sensitizing a large populace in the Community on the regional integration process and sustainable development agenda of the EAC, the EAKC initiated the process of translating the EAC Treaty from English into Kiswahili.

In this regard, the Sectoral Council has directed the Commission to submit the Draft EAC Treaty in Kiswahili to Partner States for comments and further inputs.

The 15th meeting of the Sectoral Council further directed the Inter-

University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) to finalize the Engineering benchmarks and to sensitize and disseminate the finalized benchmarks in Business related subjects, Education, Computer Science and IT, Medicine and Agriculture to the Partner States and develop a roadmap in other disciplines.

The benchmarks provide a frame of reference for universities when developing and reviewing academic programmes and curricular in order to ensure that the programmes and curricular in the region are harmonized.



Dr Inmi Patterson (R), Chargé d'affaires at the US Embassy in Tanzania, presents a gift to Kagera regional commissioner Brig Gen Marco Gaguti when she paid him a courtesy call. The envoy is on a tour of US-funded projects and programmes in the region. Photo courtesy of US Embassy

Africa battles high rates of suicide, depression

MANY African countries are struggling with high suicide rates, for which there are no simple explanations. However, one thing is evident: There is a lack of professional help and comprehensive research into the causes.

Silhouetted figure of a man looking out to a shoreline (picture-alliance/Godong)

Hiram Chomba is a psychotherapist – a very passionate one. He spares no effort to reach patients in remote rural communities. Sometimes he rides a motorcycle; sometimes he catches a matatu, one of Kenya's shared minibuses.

Chomba lives in Embu, a small town close to the capital, Nairobi. For four years, he has been working for Befrienders Kenya, helping people who suffer from depression and suicidal thoughts.

He also provides support for those frequently in contact with people who have a mental illness: "At the moment I am focusing on training parole officers, who have many encounters with suicidal people."

Kenya: 'A real crisis'

"The figures are worrying. In Kenya, this is already a real crisis," he says. Citing a report from the Kenyan Ministry of Health, Chomba says that four people die from suicide every day in the eastern African country.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), however, Kenya is not the only African country struggling with high rates of suicide. In Nigeria or Ivory Coast, the figures are even higher than in most European countries, the US or China, with more than 15 suicides per 100,000 inhabitants per year.

Chomba fears that the official figures in Kenya are only the tip of the iceberg; he believes there is no reliable data on the country's suicide rate.

"In Kenya, mental health is not considered a priority, and there is little access to trained workers," he says, pointing out that there are only 100 psychiatrists for a population of around 45 million, and even fewer psychologists.

Disenfranchised women are lighting up the remote villages of Zanzibar

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

WOMEN aged between 35 and 55, many of whom have never learned to read or write, are among those being trained as community solar engineers for a project that brings electricity to rural villages on the islands of Zanzibar.

Electricity in the Zanzibar archipelago is reportedly unreliable and covers only about half of the islands' homes. According to the news site The East African, the region's entire energy grid depends on an underground cable that con-

nects it to the mainland. This cable was damaged in 2009, bringing with it three months of darkness.

The Barefoot College, a non-profit social enterprise, has been tackling the challenges facing poor rural communities, with the objective of making them self-sufficient and sustainable. It has now become an integral part of an energy solution for Zanzibar.

The organisation explains that its "Barefoot Solutions" can be broadly categorised into the delivery of solar electrification, clean water, education and livelihood develop-

ment. The "college", which is also active in Senegal, Burkina Faso, Liberia and South Sudan, has been committed to empowering women as change agents, entrepreneurs and environmental stewards for 42 years.

Barefoot College Zanzibar provides education for those who have never had that opportunity before. By teaching practical skills on solar energy, beekeeping and sewing, it is providing knowledge that inspires sustainable and fair solutions across East Africa.

Communities in participating villages are asked to nomi-

nate two women aged between 35 and 55 to leave their families and travel to the college to train as engineers. Trainees in the programme are often illiterate or semi-literate women living on less than US\$1.20 a day who maintain strong roots in their rural villages and play a major role in community development, bringing sustainable electricity to their remote villages.

Fatima Juma Haji, a solar engineer trainer at Barefoot College in Zanzibar, said, "When you educate a woman, you educate a whole community. When you educate a man, he

will not stay in the village; he will go away. But when you educate a woman, she goes back to her village and helps her community improve."

Solar electrification not only reduces CO2 emissions but also slows the negative impacts of deforestation and decreases air pollution caused by burning firewood and kerosene. Haja, a 36-year-old solar engineer trainee, vegetable farmer and mother of three children from a village on Unguja, said, "We struggle a lot to get lighting. When you don't have electricity, you can't do many things, like teach chil-

dren. It forces you to use a lamp. The smoke is harmful; the eyes and the chest are affected... When the electricity is there, it is better."

Another trainee, Aisha Ali Khatib, a mother of nine, added, "We only use a lamp inside. The lamp uses paraffin. Buying one spoon of paraffin is 200 shillings (US\$0.09) but I can go for two days without making 200 shillings."

Women on the project spend five months living and training at the college, after which they return to their villages and set up solar lighting systems for their family and

neighbours. Households then pay a few dollars a month for power, which is a cheaper option than buying paraffin or electricity from the grid. Some of the money is also used to pay the engineers a salary in return for maintaining the village's equipment, or it is invested back into community projects.

Women who attended the Barefoot College and became solar engineers say they have benefitted by gaining a stable income stream and a new sense of independence and respect in their village communities.

Dependence on rain-fed crops exposes SADC

WINDHOEK

DEPENDENCE on rain-fed crops has made southern Africa vulnerable to drought and other unfavourable climatic conditions

Namibian Minister for Agriculture, Alpheus Naruseb said this when he addressed a meeting of SADC ministers responsible for agriculture and food security in Windhoek.

He said about 70 per cent of the region depends on agriculture for livelihood, which in turn directly depends on adequate, timely and well-distributed rainfall.

"Naruseb said such a situation requires policies and strategies that have mitigation measures in place for droughts and floods, which will make the agriculture and fisheries sector more resilient to these adverse climatic conditions.

He urged the region to ensure that decisions taken at the ministers' gathering are practically implementable.

"It is imperative that our officials devise and implement strategies that will enhance our preparedness to respond timeously and effectively to the increasingly volatile climatic conditions," Naruseb said.

He also said the ministers' deliberations and policies should focus on rural investment, infrastructure development and appropriate technologies to reduce the long-term effect of climate variability on food production.

"Naruseb added that incentives that motivate farmers to adopt better agricultural techniques and practices, will also help to develop aquaculture.

He reminded the meeting that the implementation of decisions and policies is only possible if all member states commit to honouring obligations in implementing regional programmes.

He said the timely implementation will enable the region to feed its estimated 30 million people who are currently food insecure.

SADC deputy secretary for regional integration, Themebikosi Mhlongo said available data on the regional food security was not encouraging. He said 23.3 million people from six of the 11 member states are food insecure.

"These are vital warning signs, given that some SADC states have declared drought disaster emergency," Mhlongo said.



Tanzania Building Agency official Haruna Kalunga (R) briefs Rukwa regional commissioner Joachim Wangabo, who was on an inspection visit to the Kalambo district director's office yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Uganda and Rwanda's slippery slope

By Andrew M. Mwenda

THE conflict between Uganda and Rwanda is escalating and, if not arrested, will most likely lead to war. Last week, Uganda claimed that Rwandan troops had crossed into Uganda and shot two people dead. Rwanda said the incident took place on its soil. Given the circumstances, the facts do not really matter. In such tense situations, these incidents only provide propaganda value to partisans on each side to prove their side to be the aggrieved party.

Both sides have deployed their armies across the common border in irritating contact with each other. Mid last year, President Paul Kagame asked me to inform President Yoweri Museveni that Rwanda will never fire the first shot. Museveni has told me he does not want a war with Rwanda because such a war would be stupid. I believe both presidents would like to avoid a war. However, incidents like the one that happened last week can easily and rapidly turn a tense situation into a military conflagration.

Given the circumstances, a war between Uganda and Rwanda is possible and most likely may become inevitable. We always forget that individuals often have defective control over events that lead to war. A war between Uganda and Rwanda would be stupid. But this does not make it impossible. Wars can erupt even when leaders on both sides are committed to avoiding them. One small incident, like what happened last week, can escalate a quarrel to a standoff.

Whenever there is a standoff, a series of statements and incidents can induce leaders to take actions that escalate the situation in order to preserve their reputation of being tough, or to uphold their honour, than stand down and be seen as weak and/or cowardly. And once a country orders its military to be on alert, it becomes ever more difficult to control subsequent events. This is because miscalculations and misunderstandings can

easily and rapidly escalate a situation beyond the leader's original intent.

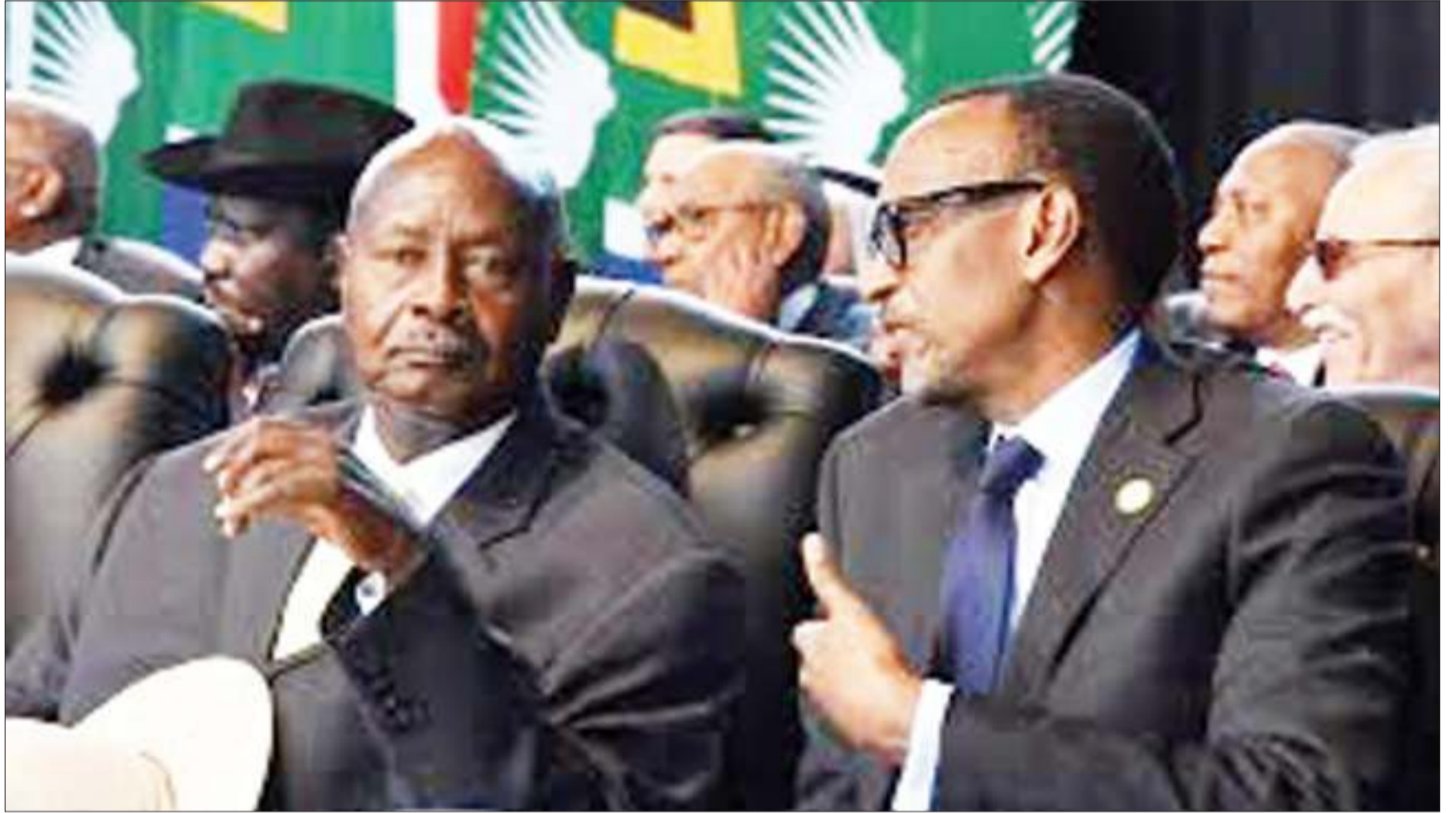
Carl von Clausewitz, the greatest contemporary military strategist and theoretician, argued that war is "the realm of uncertainty." Most of the factors that drive nations to war are based on information that is often not very certain; all too often leaders have to second-guess their opponent's intentions. While each side's plan (which may be purely defensive) can be seen, its intentions cannot be inferred from those plans. So the other side sees defensive plans as offensive and menacing. It is this that escalates the situation from its defensive to an offensive posture.

Secondly, all nations think their actions are benign and wonder why the other does not see the reality as it is. This is the state of mind of Ugandan and Rwandan officials. Yet whatever Uganda plans, believing such action to be innocent, Rwanda would be stupid to take it lightly and vice versa. This is the mechanism that transforms even a moderate situation into a military conflagration.

For instance, Uganda may now also deploy her troops at the border to scare Rwandan security from entering as it claims they did last week. Rwanda may see this as preparation for attack and deploys more. As the two armies stand facing each other across the common border in such an irritatingly close contact, it will be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to avoid incidents like the one last week.

Secondly, when incidents happen in places of tension, leaders in Kampala and Kigali will get different information: Kampala, that Rwandan troops entered Uganda; Kigali that the incident happened on its soil. Leaders in both capitals will make decisions based on information from their officers on the ground that is most likely doctored to create an excuse for their own mistakes. What Kampala will act upon as brazen aggression, Kigali will see it as attempts by Uganda to find an excuse to attack.

All this is taking place in circum-



Rwandan president Paul Kagame (R) and Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni

stances where Kampala and Kigali are caught-up in mutually reinforcing fears and temptations. Each side fears the other is seeking regime change and is tempted to aid the other's enemies.

The presence of troops at the common border increases the suspicions of an impending attack, keeping both militaries under alert. It is hard to imagine how this situation can continue without open confrontation.

Yet the solution to this impasse is extremely difficult to craft. One reason is loss of trust between the two sides. In both capitals, the tendency may be to believe that the problems between the two countries are a result of the machinations of particular indi-

viduals. There is a lot of validity in such claims. Yet such assessments ignore the structural causes of tension and individuals are driven, like in ancient Greek tragedies, to act as if driven by fate.

Historically, almost every post-armed struggle government that sponsored a similar successful rebel movement in a neighboring country has ended up going to war with its erstwhile ally. The Soviet Union sponsored the communist party in China and later the two nations went to war. The Chinese Communist Party sponsored the Communist Party of Vietnam and later the two nations went to war. Vietnam sponsored the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia only later invaded that country

to remove them from power.

Nearer home, the Eritrean People's Liberation front sponsored the Tigrian People's Liberation Front to capture power in Ethiopia. Later the two nations went to war twice. Rwanda sponsored Laurent Kabila to capture power in Congo DR and later invaded to remove him. Uganda sponsored the Rwanda Patriotic Front to capture power and the two armies fought three battles in Congo. Evidently the current escalation is because of this unfinished business.

The Kisangani battles did not resolve the issue of who is militarily supreme: Rwanda believed it won and is therefore the better army; Uganda believes it was just

unprepared.

Yet in spite of this, I think a war between the two countries can be avoided.

This requires both sides to focus on the dangers to them. It is possible such a war can cause political rapture inside Uganda leading to regime collapse. But this is equally likely for Rwanda. What is most likely - which actors on both sides need to take seriously - is that a war between Uganda and Rwanda would most likely not produce winners but losers on both sides i.e. it can cause the collapse of both regimes. Anyone on either side who believes they can accurately predict the outcome of such a war is mistaken big time.

Reframing June 7 protest: Why I believe the protest in Liberia lacks an organic character

By Ibrahim Al-Bakri Nyei

IN a previous edition of the Voice of a Patriot (my syndicated articles), I situated the growing appetite for protest in Liberia in the context of a growing protest movement in Africa against bad governance and in demand for social services.

In that piece, I called for a dialogue between the Government of Liberia given the rising tension between the different political forces. In this piece, I reframe the planned June 7 protest in the context of Liberia's shaky and unreliable alliances amongst the political elites, the competition for power among them. I further make the case that the fact that the protest is not organized by the disaffected citizenry in various civil society, trade union, and community organizations, it leaves much to be desired in terms of character, trust and credibility.

There is no gainsaying that the Liberian economy is under severe strains, thereby making life difficult for the ordinary Liberian; there is neither a denial of the fact that recent reports on financial transactions question the credibility of the fight against corruption as promised by the President. The recent rapid decline in purchasing power caused by rising inflation and depreciation of the local currency and the perennial problem of mass unemployment are all conditions that spark genuine protests - mostly organized by disaffected citizens. Street protests in all history, is among the last instruments of political action by those without power; those who have no other means to communicate with political authority; and those who have no authority to influence the change that they so desire in their society.

In Liberia today, the much-publicized 'Save the State' protest against the government set to commence on June 7 is organized under a completely different situation, and this in all essence gives us reasons to reflect deeply given the history, character and affiliations of those behind the mobilization. Furthermore, despite numerous high-level meetings, besides asking for their right to protest, the protest leaders are yet to present to the President their immediate concerns which perhaps could lead to some reforms in the immediate if they were issues solely within the authority of the President. This even leaves open more questions on the general motives of the protest: Is there an ultimate (or unspoken) objective beyond the stated ones for economic reforms and good governance? The jury is out there to decide. However, a much deeper reflection on Liberia's political elites and their interactions that continue to reproduce poverty for the citizens, yet recycle them (elites) in power leads us to the following argument given the current protest environment and its organizers.

First, the protest by far lacks an organic character. A protest is organic when it originates from the disaffected masses who have no means of engaging with their government and have no power to change their own lots. With the

structure of the leadership behind the June 7 protest, it is easy to suggest that it is a denouement of a fallout from the various alliances that are formed to advance the interest of different groups among the Liberian political elites. Liberian political leaders, at least in recent memory are makers of unthinkable alliances which they form at different points to advance their political and business interests. These shaky alliances were more obvious during the administration of President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. These alliances, rather than firm beliefs in constitutional principles or ideological commitments to questions of service delivery, governance and distribution of the national wealth - have been the defining factors that shape the actions of Liberian politicians. Those that speak out normally are those short-changed in the distribution of the political or material dividends of the alliances.

President Sirleaf (an adroit Machiavellian politician) worked her way out through these alliances very successfully to keep her government stable and afloat: she broke into the main opposition parties and recruited their most outspoken cadres, and as expected, some of them condemned their former parties in favour of their new allies; she successfully weakened potential opposition parties and merged them into her Unity Party ahead of the 2011 election when she ran for a second term. She kept senior leaders of perceived radical opposition parties on regular allowances and included them on major government delegations abroad. And as we were informed lately, she drew in the wartime 'generals' and shared with them largess to buy discrete loyalty.

Evidence abound that those organizing the much publicized June 7 protest today were at some point allies of the current President and the ruling party, or have made efforts to form some forms of alliance with the current ruling party but were perhaps short-changed or completely resented. Also George Weah and his handlers, might have been cherry-picking or perhaps not forming the appropriate alliances; hence the fallout.

Moving forward, Weah will be left with two choices: either to succeed as a regular Liberian politician or to succeed as a great Liberian President. To be a 'successful' Liberian politician he must take some leaves from Sirleaf's Machiavellian playbook by keeping the political elites in his patronage network/alliance. In this sense, 'success' in Liberian politics is defined by one's ability to manipulate the political elites, embezzle public resources, and live extravagantly without facing any form of accountability or mass protest.

To be a great Liberian President, Weah must muster the courage and abandon the misguided populist activities and inflammatory rhetoric within his party, and tackle the core issues of poverty, underdevelopment and corruption by mobilizing a cadre of competent, capable and trustworthy Liberians. Ironically, Weah's party has no shortage of competent, capable and trustworthy cadres. Weah must look



deeply within his party and bring on board those with the competency to help him deliver on his grand promises and keep the masses on his side.

Second, the leadership structure and the alliances surrounding the protest makes it convenient to frame it in the context of the competition for Executive authority (the Presidency and the cabinet) in Liberia. It is difficult to dissociate the 'Council of Patriots' (the

protest organizers) from the collaboration of the four leading opposition parties that are collaborating to support a single presidential candidate in the 2023 presidential election. As a start, the four parties now back a single candidate in every legislative by-election since their political fling started. The faces representing the Council are the key public faces of the collaborating parties. Besides, most of

those leading the protest, were people who raucously campaigned and deployed resources to win the 2017 Presidential election but failed against the current ruling party. Their mobilization of the citizens now around the obvious issues of economic hardship can only be framed as an extension of their expressed opposition, and as a show of strength in preparation for future elections.



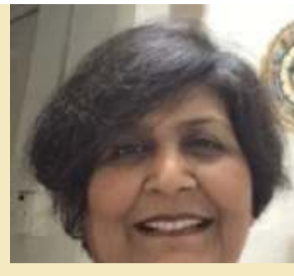
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Savings coops screwing up their members with double digit interest rates as banks?

By Francis Kajubi

ONE are the days when savings and credit cooperative societies (Saccos) were seen as safe havens for members to save and borrow money at modest interest rates.

According to the latest Bank of Tanzania's Consolidated Zonal Economic Performance Report, at least 50 percent of the Saccos in the country charge their members interest rates ranging between 16 and up to 20 percent which almost rivals commercial bank rates.

Currently most commercial banks in the market are charging between 15 and 17 percent with majority charging 16 percent thanks to Bank of Tanzania's intervention to reduce its own lending rates.

In its report, the bank said on aggregate, Saccos disbursed loans worth 834bn/- last year from 815bn/- disbursed in 2017 of which outstanding loans stood at 332.78bn/- which was an increase from 279.19bn/- during the period.

Savings and Credit Co-operative Union League of Tanzania (SCCULT)'s Executive



Dr Bernard Kibesse, Deputy Governor, Financial Stability and Deepening.

Secretary, Hassan Mnyone, defended the Saccos interest rate hiking saying such funding comes as loans from third parties and that such interest rates are sanctioned by members.

"The other 50 percent of Saccos in Tanzania that are well established hence charge interest rate that ranges between 9 and 13 percent," Mnyone said noting that the Microfinance regulations have not set a ceiling of what Saccos should charge as interest rate on loans given to members.

"The Microfinance Act 2018 however proposes that minimum capital to establish a Saccos is 20m/- and should be established by not less than 20 founding members," he added noting that what is contained in the BoT report is the reality on the ground.

According to the Consolidated Zonal Economic Performance report, the Northern Zone which covers Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara led in loan disbursement by Saccos for two consecutive years with 426.81bn/- last year compared to 376.93bn/- issued by December 2017.

During the period, Central zone came next

in performance with 178.69bn/- in disbursements from 130bn/- disbursed in the previous year while Southern Highlands followed suit with disbursed loans totaling 137.98bn/- against 156.69bn/- issued in 2017.

On the other hand, the report shows that generally Saccos performed poorly in savings, share value while the number of members also decreased very much to 620,613 from 759,136 during the period under review. Report pointed out that Saccos savings fell from 199.07bn/- in 2017 to 176.48bn/- during the same period.

In an interview with Smart Money, Paulina Shayo who is Savings Manager from WAT Savings and Credit Co-operative Society Limited in Dar es Salaam, said that more than 3,000 loans were disbursed to its members last year from 4bn/- which was budgeted for in 2018.

"One third of the loans targeted business development and start-ups of our members while three thirds was allocated to enable members acquire their own homes through plot loans, mortgage and repairing of existing houses," said Shayo who did not state what interest rates is charged on such loans.

Tourist board targets Asian Tigers in new tourism drive

By Beatrice Philemon

IN a bid to widen the country's tourist niche markets and boost tourism numbers, Tanzania Tourist Board is targeting to exploit the Asian Tiger nations during the next fiscal year.

Backed by a 10.2bn/- (over US\$4.3m) budget allocated by the government, TTB Chairman, retired High Court Judge Thomas Mihayo said they will pay little attention

to traditional tourist markets of Europe and Northern America.

"Right now the government has allocated us enough cash for tourism development in the next fiscal year which we will use to exploit countries such as Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam, among others," said Mihayo who explained that over 7bn/- has been allocated for tourism development.

He said the tourism pro-

motion campaign will target to sensitize potential tourists of the attractions available in the country so that more tourists from such countries should choose destination Tanzania.

"Although our budget is not sufficient to implement the TTB's planned activities, we will ensure that we use the allocated little funds to get maximum returns," the TTB Board Chair added pointing out that attractions such as

white sandy beaches of Zanzibar, Africa's rooftop, Mount Kilimanjaro and wildebeest of Serengeti as among major attractions.

Currently, the majority of foreign tourist arrivals come from European countries led by Britain, Italy, USA and Germany which known as primary markets while secondary markets include France, Canada, Australia, the Netherlands and Spain.



TTB board chairman, retired High Court judge Thomas Mihayo speaks at a past event. File photo

The Chinese in Nairobi's Gikomba, Nyamakima and Kamukunji markets

NAIROBI

SMALL-SCALE traders in Gikomba, Nyamakima and Kamukunji markets in Nairobi have new competitors -- the Chinese.

Tens of Chinese traders have opened shops in the crowded, informal markets that have for decades served as the entry points for second-hand clothes and cheap Chinese imports. Backed by strong financial muscle, the traders who have taken strategic control of the supply chain from import to wholesale and down to the retail level, are giving local traders a run for their money.

The teeming Gikomba market has for decades been a magnet for traders from neighbouring countries, including Tanzanians, Rwandese and Congolese, but local traders say the Chinese businessmen have posed a new threat to their survival given their deep pockets.

"It is not just here, we used to distribute to other towns like Kisii and Eldoret but the Chinese have also opened shops there, where they now distribute as well. It is getting worse, stocks are moving slower and traders are getting really frustrated," said Lydia Njeri, whose shop is adjacent to a Chinese second-hand clothes dealer in Gikomba's Mumbai Building.

Many other traders that the Business Daily talked to during a recent visit expressed similar sentiments. Kenya's trade with China, which has grown exponentially in recent years, is heavily tilted in favour of the Asian economic giant.

Kenya imported goods worth Sh371 billion from China last year, against a paltry export figure of Sh11 billion. The Chinese ambassador to Kenya, Wu Peng, recently told journalists that China was not to blame for the imbalance but steps were being taken to improve Kenyan exports to China.

As trade with Beijing has grown in multiples over the past two decades, Chinese traders have moved from selling goods in bulk in godowns located in industrial area to engaging more in retail trade on Luthuli Avenue, Hurlingham, Nyamakima, Gikomba and Kamukunji.

Local traders say they can hardly compete while faced with price undercutting and strong business links for the Chinese from their business associates in Beijing. Traders



Chinese petty traders at the Gikomba market.

decried worsening prospects for their businesses that also include secondhand shoes, kitchenware and baby items at both retail and wholesale levels. At Gikomba, Kenya's biggest secondhand clothes and household items market, the Chinese operate retail shops adjacent to the very traders they sell wares to at wholesale prices.

Those that the Business Daily encountered hardly speak English, and employ Chinese staff to carry out tasks like recording sales while hiring Kenyans to ferry the bales using carts. Trade tensions have been brewing with minor brawls in backstreet shops largely going unreported. The last one

happened in Nyamakima on Friday, May 17, when a Chinese trader reportedly slapped a Kenyan, triggering a scuffle that ended up in substantial damage to the Chinese shop.

Traders have recently suffered losses from slowed cargo clearance after the government heightened its crackdown on illicit goods. They now say they are facing unfair competition from the Chinese who import in bulk without relying on the consolidated containers that the taxman has been targeting for thorough inspection.

KEBS

With most of the import goods also coming from China, local traders are slowly being left as spectators in the game they have played for years as the mandatory pre-export verification, which happens in China, is also used to frustrate those who opt for direct imports.

The Kenya Bureau of Standards' nominated cargo inspectors in China mostly employ Chinese staff, who the Kenyan traders claim do everything to delay their cargo and fast-track the ones being shipped by the Chinese.

The frustrated traders say weak enforcement of labour and immigration laws have made it easy for the Chinese to operate freely while they can hardly even think of setting up similar businesses in China.

Efforts to reach the Chinese embassy in Nairobi to respond to the claims of unfair business practices were not successful. The Director of Immigration Services, Alexander Muteshi, blamed Kenya's lax laws that have allowed the influx of Chinese nationals involved in small businesses and asked us to direct our questions to Parliament instead.

"You have raised a very valid concern. The challenge however for us is to review our laws to raise the investor amount threshold and also not to act contrary to World Trade Organisation requirements of locking out investors. It is a matter that needs to be addressed by our Members of Parliament to give us guidance," Mr Muteshi said.

A section of legislators last year demanded that Chinese citizens working as hawkers, drivers or casuals be kicked out of the country for taking jobs that can be done by Kenyans.

Led by Kiharu lawmaker Dindi Nyoro, they asked Interior Secretary Fred Matiang'i to crack down on undocumented immigrants, saying there was an influx of Chinese who were hawking or running retail business in the country. The crackdown seemingly did not yield much.

Kenya puts the minimum threshold for a foreign investor at Sh10 million. China-Dubai Traders Group chairman James Kariuki agreed that the law should make it harder for foreigners eyeing small-scale businesses that local business owners can do to enter Kenya. The lobby group has been focused on reducing air transport costs for small- and middle-scale traders.



Tanzania Portland Cement Public Limited Company's Managing Director Alfonso Velez addresses the firm's annual general meeting held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. First left is board member Oswald Urasa while right is Company's Secretary Brian Kangetta followed by board member Ruth Zaipuna. Photo courtesy of TPCPLC.

Rise in cement sales, production of clinker boost Twiga Cement profits

By Smart Money Reporter

INCREASE in cement sales volumes, higher clinker production and price stability in the local market pushed Tanzania Portland Cement Public Limited Company (TPCPLC) operating profit by 28 percent last year compared to 2017.

TPCPLC which trades locally as Twiga Cement's Managing Director, Alfonso Velez told shareholders in Dar es Salaam last week that the 80.06bn/- operating profit means that shareholders earnings will also be higher.

"TPCPLC increased sales volume above 9 percent compared to year 2017, our strong and loyal customer network made it possible, extending our commercial efforts to all the Tanzanian territory and neighbouring countries, and ensuring the brand recognition as a premium for all our customers," Velez told the 27th annual general meeting on Friday.

He further noted that the growth was also driven by

higher gross revenue which increased by 28 percent although higher selling and administrative expenses which raked in 9 percent had an impact on the profit.

"There is a positive trend in terms of variable cost reduction as a result of a more efficient raw materials and energy cost management that becomes a must to face the current market environment," Velez added.

He noted that, the cash flow position has also improved and company's balance sheet remained robust and healthy mainly due to higher current assets, particularly higher cash and equivalents, making possible to deliver good dividends to shareholders.

"Year 2018 was also critical to con-

solidate the processes and the organization at country level, but also a good opportunity for TPCPLC to lead the new East African Cluster with its best practices. All these efforts together with the operational improvements are making possible to offset the stiff competition and to face the coming challenges with a stronger financial position," he pointed out.

The MD however admitted that, large overcapacities will remain a challenge for the industry, but said he was confident in his teams, products and services to keep supporting customers finding the best solutions in such a competitive market place and to ensure continuous value creation for stakeholders.

Gatuna border re-opens to heavy trucks

KIGALI

GATUNA border post between Rwanda and Uganda will effective Monday, June 10, reopen to heavy trucks for a period of two weeks, Rwanda Revenue Authority has said.

The tax authority said in a statement that this will allow for trial activities following the construction of one-stop border post facilities on the Rwandan side of the border crossing.

"Reference is made to Rwanda Transport Development Agency (RTDA) letter dated 7th June 2019, which expresses the need to carry out trials for the heavy trucks movement at Gatuna OSBP for a period of two (2) weeks from 10th up to 22nd June 2019, and assess the operationalization of the constructed works and equipment before the reception of works," the RRA statement signed by Commissioner General Pascal Ruganintwali Bizimana reads in part.

It adds: "The Management of Rwanda Revenue Authority is pleased to inform the general public that heavy trucks are allowed to

provisionally cross Gatuna OSBP between 10th-22nd June 2019 in order to facilitate these trial activities requested by RTDA."

Kigali closed Gatuna border to heavy trucks in March allowing only light traffic to use the crossing as construction works began in earnest. The Government advised heavy truck drivers to use the other two border posts with Uganda; Kagitumba and Cyanika. The project, which is fully funded by the Government, is being implemented by local firm NPD Cotraco.

When The New Times visited the border late last month, workers were mostly involved with the finishing aspects such as levelling the compound, fixing the drainage system, planting grass, among others. A supervisor at the site said at the time that works would be completed within about three weeks.

A one-stop border post allows passengers and cargo to complete crossing formalities at a shared facility, hence easing cross-border trade and movement.

It allows for all procedures and processing of documentation for goods and passengers

either direction to be carried out in a single clearance hall, significantly cutting on the time it takes when such immigration and customs approvals on either side are conducted separately.

Rwanda has at least a one-stop border post with each of its four neighbours, with the Gatuna facility set to be the second such crossing with Uganda, after Kagitumba.

Construction works on the Gatuna one-stop border post had attracted criticism from the Ugandan government, which dismissed the works as a convenient excuse to close the border.

However, Rwanda rejected the claims saying the OSBP project had been pending for a while. There is little progress on the Ugandan side of the border after the funder, World Bank, withdrew from the OSBP project citing shoddy works.

The East African Community, to which both Rwanda and Uganda are members, has actively been promoting the concept of one-stop border posts citing their advantages to regional trade and integration.



Workers at the proposed Gatuna One-Stop Border Post in Gicumbi District.

Nigeria central bank: Smuggling, dumping sabotaging economy

LAGOS

THE Governor of Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Godwin Emeifele, has said the bank, some stakeholders have identified smuggling and dumping as major challenges sabotaging the Nigerian economic policies.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the governor made the disclosure on the sideline of a consultative round-table entitled, "Going for Growth" with some economic stakeholders in Lagos. The essence of the round-table was to encourage participants to highlight important building blocks that would lead to greater economic growth in the country.

It also involves the CBN Governor listening to their ideas and views on how productivity and investments by companies operating in Nigeria can be improved. According to Emeifele, "We have identified smugglers and people dumping goods as those who sabotage those policies and we decided that we will deal with them."

"The strategy that we came up with is that we will not bother ourselves with them. There is an agency of government that is responsible for border control and if these people pass through the border control we would use the instrumentality of being the regulator of the banking system to make sure that we get the banks to provide all details about them," he added.

"We investigate their accounts and if they are found in economic sabotage, boarding, smuggling and dumping in Nigeria, we would not only block their accounts, we would close their accounts in all the Nigerian banks simultaneously," Emeifele noted.

He also said the CBN asked commercial banks to close those companies' accounts and those of the top members of such entities, and promised to come up with the names of those that had been identified in due course.



Godwin Emeifele, Governor of Central Bank of Nigeria

Safaricom says scanner rollout plan on course

NAIROBI

SAFARICOM says an ongoing drive to arm its agents with currency scanners that identify fake money will not be affected by the unveiling of new notes by Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) more than a week ago.

Safaricom Chief Corporate Security Officer Nicholas Mulila told Business Daily that the telco had already factored in the changes following a heads up from the banking regulator on the new notes last year.

"Before we started CBK had already told us of the plans to change the currency, only that the timelines had not been set, we had factored that in our plans of getting the scanners for all our agents," Mr Mulila said.

Mr Mulila however noted that while the scanner roll-out will not be affected, the telco is monitoring the current batch to see if they may be need for re-configuration. The company started rolling out the scanners last year in efforts to curb circulation of fake currency and stem money laundering through M-Pesa, the biggest mobile money platform in the country.

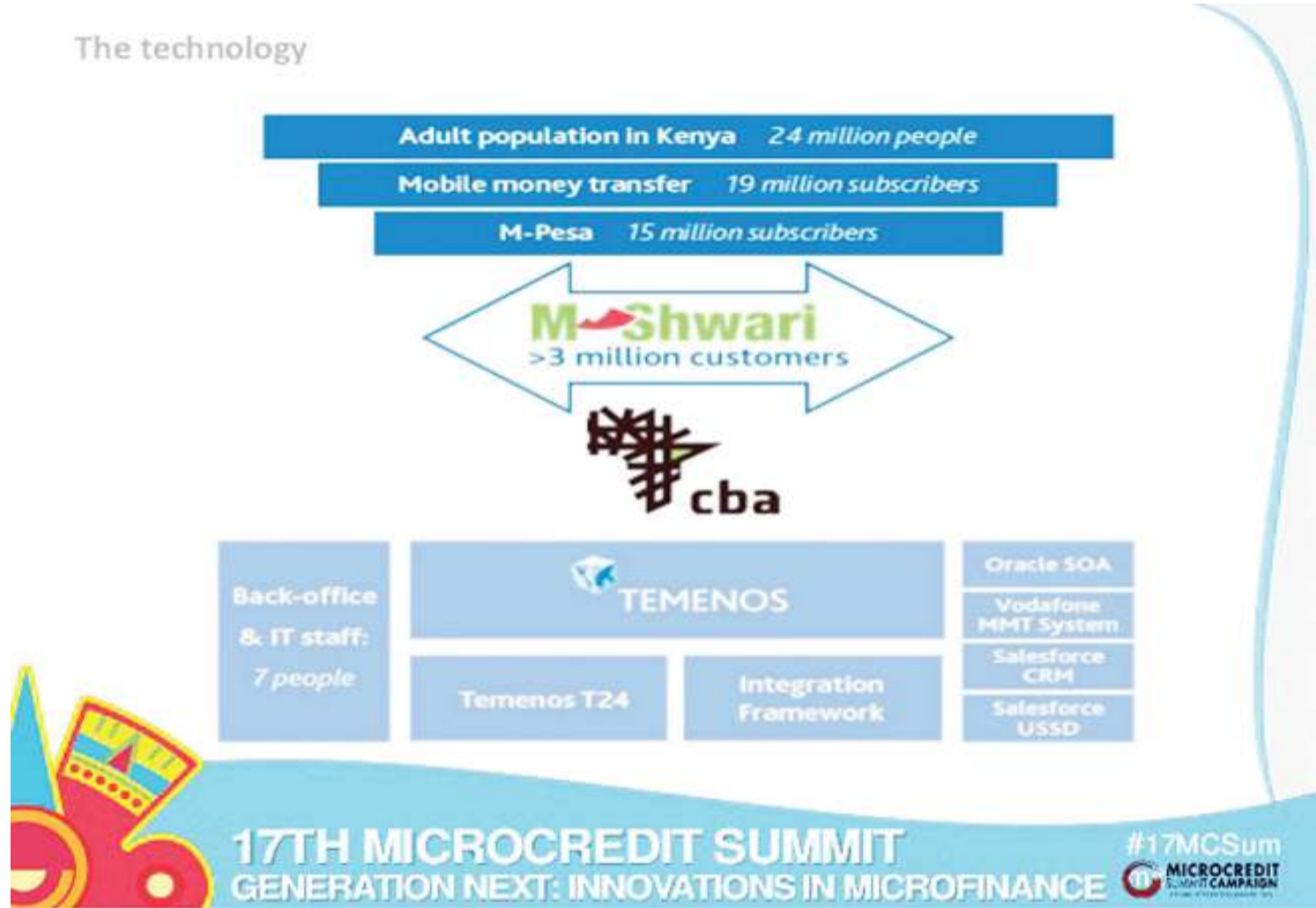
Safaricom says it has already rolled out 45,000 scanners to M-Pesa agents and targets to ensure all the agents acquire the devices by December in the project estimated at Sh40 million.

Mobile money

Safaricom has more than 156,000 mobile money agents according to its latest report. The firm controls 80 percent of the country's mobile money market. CBK gazetted the switch to new notes including Sh50, Sh100, Sh200 and Sh500 denominations on May 31.

The current 1,000 shilling note will be invalidated after 1st October. Banks have already started configuring their automated teller machines (ATMs) and upgrading software to accommodate the new currencies following the CBK directive.

Financial inclusion must support SMMEs to have truly noteworthy impact



An illustration of Temenos-technology-enabled-financial-inclusion-solutions through M-Shwari in Kenya.

JOHANNESBURG

WITH greater access to financial services, the nearly six million smaller businesses in South Africa could springboard job creation.

Financial inclusion - described by the Banking Association of South Africa as a "central aim" of the banking sector - is about improving the range, quality and availability of financial services and products offered to the unserved, the under-served and the financially excluded.

Ultimately, it aims to support people in creating wealth and contributing to the economy - and it must start bringing in small, medium and micro enterprises (SMEs), says Murray Gardiner, business director for inclusive finance at banking software provider Temenos.

He points out that job creation is most likely to happen within the informal sector, where many SMMEs operate, and urges the financial services industry to cater to these enterprises with suitable products supported by appropriate technology.

"Let's say a small business is enabled to receive digital payments from its customers," he says. "The acquiring bank will be able to view that merchant through its digital transactions. The bank can then use technology, artificial intelligence and data analytics to calculate the business's cash flow without needing to physically see its inventory. This means the bank can view past turnover and predict future turnover, allowing it to risk-weight the business based on this intelligence."

"From there," he adds, "it's a short step to designing customer-focused products such as a credit facility, micro-insurance or alternative payment methods."

Gardiner notes that financial inclusion is not just about giving someone a virtual account. "These types of products - virtual accounts or digital wallets - are often introduced with a great deal of hype. Then you see high initial take-up rates, and a year later, the dormancy rates on the same accounts are between 40% to 60% or higher, because they are unaffordable, inappropriate and not useful."

Financial inclusion and nano credit

Gardiner says that until recently financial institutions considered merely providing access to a bank account and short-term micro-credit to be a satisfactory answer to financial inclusion. "Over the last 30 years, the big wave of financial inclusion has been around access to credit and transactional accounts and we are seeing increasing fintech innovations in the last five years," he says.

He drives home the point that financial inclusion is not just about access to a transactional account but should be about giving people a stake in the market economy with access to all aspects of financial products and services they need to manage their financial life, to create wealth and to contribute to employment creation and opportunity in the local economy.

"If you consider the options available to consumers in rural areas, or even in urban areas where they are not comfortable in a financial institution, the choices are poor. Do you save in cash - which is negative

inflation and risky? Do you save in physical materials, which are unusable to anyone else? If you stay in a rural area, do you save in livestock, which is prone to all sorts of risk? Those are the traditional methods of saving, but if those assets are locked out of the economy, it stalls the whole process of economic development," he says.

Gardiner notes that the purpose of the financial market, in terms of economic development, is the intermediation of assets between those who have some wealth and those who need investment in an enterprise or some urgent risk mitigation to smooth out cash flow for their monthly financial cycle.

"Financial institutions - whether they are credit co-operatives, non-bank financial institutions or tier 1 commercial banks - have to earn and then protect their relationship with their customer and ensure that the customer journey is not disrupted by opportunistic fintech that can cherry pick the business. Financial institutions of all kinds need to compete for their customers' business and partner with fintech to deepen financial markets by including more people in the financial market with a full offering of competitive and important financial products and services," he says.

Appropriate interventions

Gardiner warns however that financial institutions and fintech companies need to be cognisant of the need to introduce appropriate products, based on real needs. "Digitising old product from the bank out is not going to do it. It has to start with the customer and be designed from the customer's perspective."

"You can't just launch an app and expect people to be able to use it when the majority don't have smartphones," he says. "Ideally, an app aimed at improving financial inclusion should be USSD-enabled so that it can be accessed on any type of mobile phone."

Gardiner advocates the use of local infrastructure such as an agriculture depot or a spaza shop as agents. "Financial products should be leveraged off the existing rural and peri-urban infrastructure to achieve a low-cost yet profitable product."

He notes that in countries such as South Africa with a well-established formal banking infrastructure, banks have the relationships in place already. "In this case, partnerships between banks and fintech make sense, with banks leveraging off fintech to improve their customer journey and to defend local financial markets," he says.

Gardiner advises that financial institutions look to interoperability with a domestic payment scheme before considering foreign card-based payments. "In South Africa, why would the South African Social Security Agency use MasterCard for social payments? Card penetration in Africa is very low. The use of card infrastructure is one of legacy in a banking context and banks need to realise that they actually have to go back to the drawing board and start from scratch to create solutions that can benefit the greater population and promote financial inclusion," he says.

So what exactly is burnout?

CORPORATE WELLNESS



By Bhakti Shah, MPH

BURNOUT is now a legitimate medical diagnosis according to the International Classification of Diseases - ICD-II, the World Health Organization's handbook that guides medical practitioners with disease diagnosis.

Burnout is included in the ICD-II's section on problems related to employment or non-employment. ICD-II describes the following symptoms associated with burnout:

1. Feelings of energy depletion or exhaustion;
2. Increased mental distance from one's job, or feelings of negativism or cynicism related to one's job;
3. Reduced professional efficacy.

The diagnosis is limited to work environments and not applied to other life situations. According to the Mayo Clinic, job burnout is a special type of stress. It is a state of physical, emotional, or mental exhaustion combined with doubts about the competence and the value of one's work.

While stress and burnout are slightly different, stress is a strong contributor of burnout. Most employees are usually under a lot of stress for a period of time before becoming burnt out. Factors such as workplace stress, long working hours and overwhelming projects over an extended period of time can lead to burnout.

Employer and manager should be aware of the signs of employee burnout so that they can take actionable steps to help their employees before it is too late. Look for some of the common signs to spot employee burnout:

- Working more overtime hours than usual
- Working on weekends
- Mood swings
- Irritability
- Reduced quality of work
- Less socializing and more isolation than usual
- Fatigue
- Increase in sick days
- Disengagement

When it comes to employee burn-

out, prevention is the key. Its much easier to take steps to prevent burnout from occurring than it is to try to "cure" employee burnout. There are a lot of easy steps that employers and managers can take to both help prevent burnout and help employees who are feeling the effects of burnout.

Talk about stress: Add stress awareness and education to your existing wellness program to teach employees effective stress management techniques and coping skills.

Offer flexibility: A flexible workplace limits the chances of employee burnout. Flexible hours, schedules, and the ability to work from home eliminate a lot of challenges that full-time employees (especially working parents) struggle with. Studies have shown that flexibility in the workplace often leads to more productive, loyal and happier employees.

Encourage time off: Employers should encourage employees to take their annual leave and to take a step away from their work when they need break. Periodic time off from work is crucial for employees' mental health and wellbeing.

Check In: Always keep an open communication with employees. Ask them how they are doing on a regular basis and discuss realistic workloads, deadlines and overall expectations. Employers should strive to stay open minded and receptive to employee feedback.

Cross-train employees: Depending on your company, it might be beneficial to cross-train a few employees on the same team. This way, the task can be shared when an employee is overwhelmed or needs to take a day off.

Prioritize wellness: Promoting employee wellness will help reduce burnout levels by keeping employees physically and mentally healthy.

Don't let job pressures affect the health of your employees. Learn to spot signs of employee stress and burnout and take action to help prevent burnout from spreading. Remember that crazy, long working hours, overwhelming deadlines and strict schedules will only harm work performance.

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

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

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VIEW FROM THE TOP



Big tech firms cut employees' access to Huawei

NEW YORK

SOME of the world's biggest tech companies have told their employees to stop talking about technology and technical standards with counterparts at Huawei Technologies Co Ltd, in response to the recent US blacklisting of the Chinese tech firm.

Chipmakers Intel Corp and Qualcomm Inc, mobile research firm InterDigital Wireless Inc and South Korean carrier LG Uplus have restricted employees from informal conversations with Huawei, the world's largest

telecommunications equipment maker, sources say.

Such discussions are a routine part of international meetings where engineers gather to set technical standards for communications technologies, including the next generation of mobile networks known as 5G.

The US Department of Commerce has not banned contact between companies and Huawei. On May 16, the agency put Huawei on a blacklist, barring it from doing business with US companies without government approval, then a few days later it authorised

US companies to interact with Huawei in standards bodies through August "as necessary for the development of 5G standards." The Commerce Department reiterated that position on Friday in response to a question from Reuters.

Nevertheless, a handful of major US and overseas tech companies are telling their employees to limit some forms of direct interaction, the people said, as they seek to avoid any potential issues with the US government. Intel and Qualcomm said they have provided compliance

instructions to employees, but declined to comment on them further.

A spokesman for InterDigital said it has provided guidance to engineers to ensure the company is in compliance with US regulations. An official with LG Uplus said the company is "voluntarily refraining from interacting with Huawei workers, other than meeting for network equipment installation or maintenance issues." Huawei did not provide any comment.

The new restrictions could slow the roll out of 5G, which is expected to power

everything from high-speed video transmissions to self-driving cars, according to several industry experts. At a 5G standards meeting last week in Newport Beach, California, participants privately expressed alarm to Reuters that the long-standing cooperation among engineers that is needed for phones and networks to connect globally could fall victim to what one participant described as a "tech war" between the US and China.

A representative of a European company that

has instituted rules against interaction with Huawei described people involved in 5G development as "shaken." "This could push everyone to their own corners, and we need cooperation to get to 5G. It should be a global market," the person said.

Several workers at smaller telecoms firms said they had not been told to avoid discussions with Huawei at standards meetings, and many vendors continue to support the existing deals with Huawei. It is unclear how much further communications with Huawei

have been curtailed in the tech industry, if at all.

"There's been a lot of misunderstanding from what I'm seeing and hearing from clients and colleagues, as far as what the [Commerce Department] restrictions actually entail," said Doug Jacobson, a Washington-based export controls lawyer.

He said that companies prohibiting their employees contacting Huawei was "excessive, because the restrictions don't preclude communication, only the transfer of technology."

WORLD

Trump defends Mexico migration deal and pledges more detail

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump defended his administration's deal with Mexico against criticism that there were no major new commitments to stem a flow of Central American migrants crossing into the United States, and said on Sunday more details would soon be released.

Key aspects of the agreement are still unclear, including whether Mexico has pledged to buy more U.S. agricultural products and if the deal materially expanded a previous commitment by Mexico to more vigorously police its southern border with Guatemala.

Top Democratic senators said many aspects of the deal were not new, while the Mexican ambassador to the United States declined to confirm whether it contained any commitments on agricultural goods.

The deal, announced on Friday after three days of talks in Washington, averted Trump's threatened imposition of 5% import tariffs on all Mexican goods that had been due to start on Monday unless Mexico committed to do more to help reduce an increase in migrants arriving at the U.S. south-

ern border.

"Mexico was not being cooperative on the Border...and now I have full confidence, especially after speaking to their President yesterday, that they will be very cooperative and want to get the job properly done," Trump said on Twitter.

"Importantly, some things not mentioned in yesterday press release, one in particular, were agreed upon. That will be announced at the appropriate time," he added.

Trump did not elaborate and the White House and State Department did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Friday's joint communique broadly sketched the terms of the agreement, but contained few details.

The Mexican peso jumped against the dollar in Asian markets and U.S. equity futures rose on Sunday following the deal.

The agreement expedites a program known as the Migration Protection Protocols that was announced in December. That program sends migrants seeking asylum in the United States to wait in Mexico while their cases are being processed.

Friday's agreement would see the



U.S. President Donald Trump

United States immediately expand the implementation of the MPP across its entire 2,000-mile (3,220-km) southern border, the State Department said on Friday.

But as of Sunday night, U.S.-bound asylum seekers were not yet being sent back to additional Mexican border towns, three Mexican officials said.

Officials in the Mexican border states of Sonora, south of the U.S. states of Arizona and New Mexico, and Tamaulipas, south of Texas, said they were unaware of plans to expand the number of border crossings where the asylum seekers must be returned to Mexican territory to await processing.

The deal will also see Mexico deploy the National Guard police force to its southern border, where many Central American migrants enter Mexico.

UNCERTAINTY OVER AGRICULTURE

On Saturday, a New York Times report, citing officials from both countries familiar with the negotiations, said most of Friday's deal had already been sketched out in March, when Mexico agreed to deploy its National Guard throughout the country, with priority given to the southern border.

Trump tweeted on Sunday that the Times report was false, adding: "We have been trying to get some of these Border Actions for a long time, as have other administrations, but were not able to get them, or get them in full, until our signed agreement with Mexico."

But it was business as usual over the weekend at the busiest crossing point along Mexico's

porous southern border with Guatemala. Evidence of Mexico's promised crackdown on new arrivals trying to reach the United States was nowhere to be seen, as a small fleet of rafts carried migrants hoping to escape the violence of Central America.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer also said there appeared to be little new in the deal, adding it was a "bogus" solution used by Trump to get out of an ill-conceived tariff threat.

"This is likely to have only a small impact on solving the root causes of Central American migration because many of the components are things Mexico had already said they would do," Schumer said on Twitter.

U.S. Vice President Mike Pence said on Twitter, however, that Trump's "strong stand got Mexico to do things they have never done before."

There is further uncertainty around Trump's comments on Saturday that Mexico had agreed to "immediately begin" buying "large quantities" of agricultural goods from U.S. farmers.

Mexican officials have not confirmed any new agreement on agricultural products. Asked repeatedly about such a deal on CBS on Sunday, the Mexican ambassador to the United States, Martha Bárcena Coqui, said only that trade would increase without the tariffs. She said there were many details discussed during negotiations that were not in the written declaration.

She noted Mexico was already a top U.S. trade partner in agricultural products. Mexico is the top importer of U.S. corn, wheat, pork and dairy by volume.

Agencies

Google, White House budget office seek reprieve on Huawei ban - media

BEIJING

GOOGLE and the budget office of the White House are among many U.S. companies and organizations seeking reprieve on bans on doing business with Chinese tech company Huawei, according to media reports.

Google has asked to be exempted from any ban on Huawei, warning the Trump administration that it risks compromising U.S. national security if it goes ahead with export restrictions on Huawei, the Financial Times reported on June 7. Google executives worry that the bans will force Huawei to develop its own version of Android.

They claim a "hybrid version" of Android could pose security risks,

according to the report.

Last month, the Trump administration announced a fresh set of measures targeting Huawei.

They include giving the commerce department the power to ban Huawei from selling 5G equipment in the United States, as well as a blanket ban on American companies selling their products to the Chinese group.

After the ban was imposed, Google suspended business with Huawei, cutting it off from potential updates to Android. Since then, however, the administration has granted a 90-day reprieve for companies to adjust.

In a separate case, the White House's acting budget chief is pushing for a delay in implementing key provisions of a law that re-



stricts the U.S. government's business with Huawei, according to a Sunday report in the Wall Street Journal.

The ban could lead to a "dramatic reduction" in the number

of companies that would be able to supply the government, and would disproportionately affect U.S. companies in rural areas where Huawei gear is popular, Russell T. Vought, the acting direc-

tor of the Office of Management and Budget wrote in letters to U.S. Vice President Mike Pence and nine U.S. Congressmen.

Vought has asked for the restrictions on contractors and on federal loan and grant recipients to take effect four years from the passage of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), instead of the current two years, to give affected companies time to respond and give feedback.

The NDAA, signed by U.S. President Donald Trump last year, includes a ban on U.S. agencies, and on recipients of federal grants and loans, from doing business with Chinese companies or with contractors that make substantial use of the companies' products.

Xinhua

New Zealand plans to withdraw all Iraq troops by next June

WELLINGTON, New Zealand

NEW ZEALAND announced yesterday that it will withdraw all of its troops from Iraq by next June.

New Zealand has a small contingent of 95 so-called noncombat personnel deployed at the Taji Military Complex northwest of Baghdad, where they are tasked with training Iraqi security forces.

The training mission is a joint operation with Australia, which has about 300 troops stationed at

Taji.

New Zealand's Defense Minister Ron Mark said Australia also planned to downsize its presence in Iraq, although he didn't offer any details. Australia had not made any formal announcements about its plans by yesterday afternoon.

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said it would reduce the number of troops to 75 by July and then to 45 by January before they were all withdrawn.



"When it comes to Iraq, it's time to go," Ardern (pictured) said.

She said the troops had made a big contribution at Taji, where more than 40,000 Iraqi security forces had been trained since New Zealand's deployment began in

2015.

"I think they have done an incredible job, but their job is coming to an end," she said. "And now it's time to bring them home and look at the contribution our defense force can make elsewhere."

Mark said that New Zealand would downsize alongside Australia and that both countries were working on "exiting and having an exit plan." But when pressed, he declined to offer more details.

Ardern said it was not up to New

Zealand to announce Australia's long-term plans in Iraq, but she added that Australia had been kept informed of New Zealand's decision and was supportive.

The 2015 decision on New Zealand's Iraq deployment was made by the conservative government at the time, and was opposed by Ardern's then-opposition Labour Party. The Labour Party formed a coalition government after the 2017 general election.

Agencies

Brexit backer vying to lead UK talks getting tough with EU

LONDON

BRITISH politician Boris Johnson, a Brexit supporter who is the current favorite to be the UK's next prime minister, has stepped up his bid for support by challenging the European Union on the terms of the country's delayed departure.

Johnson (pictured) told the Sunday Times that if he succeeds Prime Minister Theresa May, he would refuse to pay a 39 billion-pound (US\$50 billion) divorce bill unless the EU offered a better withdrawal agreement than the one currently on the table.

Johnson quit as the foreign secretary in May's Cabinet last July over her approach to Brexit. May resigned as prime minister Friday after lawmakers, including fellow Conservatives like Johnson, repeatedly voted down her deal with the EU.

The race to replace May as Conservative Party leader - and in turn the head of Britain's government - officially begins Monday, June 10, 2019. Nominations close in the afternoon, and the party expects to name its new leader in late July.

Johnson, 54, who also served as London's mayor, has emerged as the early front-runner in a crowded field. A hard-line Brexit advocate, he vows to take Britain out of the EU by the deadline that was pushed back to Oct 31 from March 29 even if there is no deal with the EU on withdrawal terms in place.

In an interview with the Sunday Times, Johnson described himself as the only contender who could triumph over the Labour Party led by Jeremy Corbyn and Nigel Farage's Brexit Party.

He and other Conservatives vying to lead the party insist they could get better terms from EU leaders in Brussels than the ones May agreed to and was unable to push through Parliament.

But EU officials have said they are not willing to change the terms of the deal reached with May.

Political resistance and criticism over her handling of Brexit led to May's decision to resign before she achieved her goal of seeing the UK out of the European Union.

She is serving as a caretaker leader until a new prime minister is chosen and moves into 10 Downing Street.

One of Johnson's main rivals for the post, Environment Secretary Michael Gove, continued to be sidetracked Sunday by questions about his acknowledged cocaine use when he was a youthful journalist.

He told the BBC on Sunday that he was "fortunate" not to have gone to prison. He said he was "very, very aware" of the damage drugs can cause.

Agencies

Kremlin closely monitoring case of Russian reporter under house arrest

MOSCOW

KREMLIN is closely monitoring the case of Meduza correspondent Ivan Golunov, Russian Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters yesterday.

Peskov stated that Russian President Vladimir Putin had been informed of the case on June 7. "The president was informed of this high-profile case. Kremlin has no right to comment on cases. We will also not do it this time," he noted.

"Taking into account the high visibility of this case, of course, we closely monitor all the details," the Kremlin spokesman added. "It is our understanding that various issues that have to be clarified remain on the agenda," he stressed.

The Golunov case

On Saturday, a Moscow court ruled to put Golunov under house arrest until August 7.

Golunov, 36, an investigative correspondent from the Riga-based Meduza online newspaper was detained in downtown Moscow on June 6.

According to police, he was carrying several pack-



ages containing 4 grams of mephedrone, a synthetic stimulant drug. During the search of his apartment, police found 5 grams of cocaine.

His lawyers insisted that the police had planted the drugs on Golunov, explaining that this could occur at the moment when the journalist was confronted by the police. The journalist has pleaded not guilty to the drug dealing charges.

Meduza's Director General Galina Timchenko and Chief Editor Ivan Kolpakov believe that Golunov could be prosecuted over his professional activity.

The journalist was hospitalized after the ambulance team diagnosed him with a broken rib, brain concussion and hematomas. However, doctors at a hospital did not confirm this diagnosis.

Agencies

Intellectual property cooperation assists Belt and Road construction

BEIJING

INTELLECTUAL property (IP) has been among China's priorities when it implements the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), given its importance in the cooperation among en-route countries.

According to recent data released by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), China filed 48,882 applications under the WIPO's Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), ranking the second in the

world.

It indicated that the country is beefing up IP cooperation with its global partners when it steps towards an IP powerhouse.

Among the top 15 origins for PCT filings, only China and India are middle-income countries, and China is the only one that recorded double-digit annual growth - filing 13.4 percent more applications from a year before.

China has posted double-digit annual growth rates in PCT applica-

tions since 2003. In 2017, its export of IP royalties exceeded \$4 billion for the first time.

China upgraded the protection of intellectual property right (IPR) to a national strategy after it released the National Intellectual Property Strategy in 2008, effectively pushing the country a step closer to a business environment that is more fair, transparent and predictable.

In order to optimize management efficiency, the country restructured its intellectual property adminis-

tration last August to centralize the management of patents, appearance designs, trademarks, geographical indications, and layout designs of integrated circuit.

Given the fundamental role IP plays in the process of building Belt and Road, China has devoted proactive efforts on such cooperation when implementing the initiative.

A joint initiative to intensify IP cooperation among en-route countries was released by the first High-level Conference on Intellectual Property

for Countries along the Belt and Road held in Beijing in July 2016, during which a mechanism on IP cooperation was established as well.

During the first Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF) held in 2017, an agreement on enhancing Belt and Road intellectual property cooperation between China and the WIPO was inked, endowing more international significance to IP cooperation along the route.

Commissioner Shen Changyu of China National Intellectual Property

Administration (CNIPA) noted at the second High-level Conference on Intellectual Property for Countries along the Belt and Road last August that all the IP cooperation projects within the framework has been put into implementation under joint efforts.

China's rise to the world's second largest source of PCT applications, as well as its high annual growth illustrate that its IP royalties now have more weight in international society.

People's Daily

Washington's protectionist approach no answer to globalisation

BRUSSELS

IN the name of putting "America First," Washington's trade hawks have been continuously making protectionist and isolationist waves around the world.

However, the trend of economic globalization is irreversible no matter whether those trade hardliners like it or not.

Over more than two centuries, the process of economic globalization has facilitated the flow of goods, people, capital and technologies across the world, and brought together nations worldwide, including the United States, to become increasingly connected and interdependent with each other.

As a result, the international division of labor has become more extensive, while industrial production and market have become unprecedentedly globalized. It is a natural process driven by the energy of increasingly globe-trotting capital which seeks profits at lower costs.

Therefore, although a protectionist Washington is trying to deconstruct assembly lines in other countries with higher import tariffs, and to bring back manufacturing jobs to the United States, it will not only fail but backfire. In fact, even if these jobs leave China's shores, they would simply migrate to different locations with lower production costs due to the global market system, and will not "return" to the United States in any significant numbers.

Although Washington might be able to disrupt the global production of some industries for a limited period of time, it will certainly not be able to reshape them only to serve its selfish interests, or turn back the clock on the evolution of established globalized supply chains.

Washington's reckless attacks against a rules-based multilateral trad-



ing system and an open global economy have seen an increasingly growing opposition from both within the United States and around the world.

Just last month, the American Apparel & Footwear Association and four other trade associations representing the entire U.S. footwear supply chain wrote a letter to U.S. President Donald Trump, warning him that tariffs would do "untold damage" to the industry, "ultimately affecting consumers in a negative way and hamstringing what has traditionally been a hugely successful part of the American economy."

For the European Union, "closing up is not the answer." Its trade commis-

sioner, Cecilia Malmstrom, laid out in Washington Europe's push for continuing trade liberalization in January, asserting that "we believe in open, rule-based trade.

"It is not just Europe. Despite Washington's trade bullyism and repeated irresponsible backtracking on negotiation positions, Beijing has remained cool-headed, exercised restraint, and demonstrated the greatest sincerity and a strong sense of responsibility to resolve trade disputes through dialogue.

Despite an increasingly inward-looking U.S. administration, China has reaffirmed that its doors will only open up even wider. Economic global-

ization has never been perfect, and has always managed to go forward in spite of setbacks.

It has produced tremendous amounts of wealth for humanity, and remains a major force for global economic progress. Inspired by a fresh round of technological advancement, including artificial intelligence, the Internet-Of-Things and big data, globalization has now entered a new stage of development.

Moving into this new era, nations around the world need to cooperate, instead of turning on each other, so that they can further unfetter the potential of an increasingly globalized economy and continue to deliver

more benefits to people around the world.

More than two years ago, at the World Economic Forum in the Swiss ski resort of Davos, Chinese President Xi Jinping compared the global economy to an ocean that no country can escape from whether they like it or not.

"Any attempt to cut off the flow of capital, technologies, products, industries and people between economies, and channel the waters in the ocean back into isolated lakes and creeks is simply not possible. Indeed, it runs counter to the historical trend," Xi warned. His warning still holds true today.

Xinhua

Nigerian president bemoans murder of 25 villagers in northern state

ABUJA

NIGERIAN President Muhammadu Buhari on Monday expressed deep shock and sadness over the killing of at least 25 villagers by a local armed group in the northwestern state of Sokoto.

The deceased were buried on Sunday following the attack in three villages of Rabah local government area of the state on Saturday evening.

A large number of gunmen reportedly stormed the Kalhu, Tsage, and Geeri villages in the area, sparing no one at sight during the attack. The attackers also stole hundreds of cows, sheep, and valuables belonging to the people, according to local police.

The President condemned all acts of violence and terrorism against innocent Nigerians, reiterating that perpetrators and sponsors of such dastardly acts would be held accountable under the law.

He said his administration would not relent in the fight to neutralize terrorists, armed groups, and kidnapers around the country.

Rabah is one of the local government areas in Nigeria's northwest region which has witnessed armed group attacks in the country in recent times.

Hundreds of lives have been lost and many others rendered homeless following such attacks in that part of the West African country. At least 108 people have been killed by armed groups in Sokoto since 2018, according to government data.

No relief for Zimbabwean workers as high accommodation costs add to their woes

HARARE

ZIMBABWEAN workers have been hit hard by high accommodation costs as landlords now demand rentals in foreign currency to cushion themselves from the RTGS dollar which is free falling against the U.S. dollar.

This comes at a time many workers - including civil servants - are complaining that their RTGS dollar salaries have been eroded by high inflation as the cost of basic commodities continues to rise every month.

The country's annual rate of inflation for the month of April 2019 rose further to 75.86 percent, up from 66.80 percent in March, while month on month inflation also climbed to 5.52 percent, gaining 1.14 percentage points on the March rate, according to the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency.

Prices of basic commodities such as maize meal, milk, beef and washing powder have risen by about 100 percent between April and June.

A manager with a retail chain in the resort town in Victoria Falls told Xinhua that apart from the high cost of living, their workers were also facing accommodation problems in the town. "Even our workers are feeling the pinch.

We have advised the human resources department about the dire situation," he said.

There were reports at the weekend that police officers in the town were relocating to the local police station because they could no longer afford the rentals being charged.

Police spokesperson Paul



President Emmerson Mnangagwa

Nyathi would not comment to Xinhua on the issue, only saying that a statement issued by the government on Sunday was sufficient.

"I think the government has responded to that appropriately. There's a statement which was posted by the Ministry of Information. That statement is very relevant," he said.

The Ministry of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services on Sunday night dismissed the reports as false. "Government has been made aware of false news circulating regarding the tent pitched in Victoria Falls by the @PoliceZimbabwe.

The tent has been pitched purely for operational reasons which have nothing to do with the reasons given by the online publication. Fake news affects our country," the ministry said in a tweet.

However, a Victoria Falls resident confirmed that police officers were indeed moving into the police camp because

they could no longer afford the high foreign currency denominated rentals.

"What we have discovered is that they have crammed all their belongings into single rooms and subdivided their rooms using curtains to accommodate the officers coming from locations.

The tent has no people though we are reliably informed they have been promised more tents should more officers fail to pay rentals. Every other building has been converted into accommodation rooms including where they used to do finger prints," he said.

Another contributor to Twitter running by the name Nox also said police officers and other government employees in the town were suffering because of the high rentals.

"But the truth of the matter is that government employees are suffering in Vic falls. Landlords require rent in USD. Imagine a police officer who earns less than 500 RTGS dollars," Nox

said.

In Harare, rental for one room is now pegged at about 70 U.S. dollars in the low and medium density suburbs, while a cottage costs around 120 U.S. dollars, inclusive of water and electricity charges.

Since banks do not issue foreign currency to individuals, tenants source the required amounts from the black market where the rates are currently between 7.50 RTGS dollars and 8 RTGS dollars against 1 U.S. dollar. Teachers recently petitioned Parliament to have the government pay them decent salaries that can match the high cost of living.

The Zimbabwe Teachers Association and the Progressive Teachers Union (PTUZ) want the government to pay a cushioning allowance in United States dollars to every teacher over and above the RTGS salaries which the government has promised to review.

PTUZ secretary-general Raymond Majongwe said a teacher's salary of 450 RTGS can only buy 98 liters of water, or alternatively is equivalent to just eight pockets of potatoes. President Emmerson Mnangagwa said on Friday that the government would in the course of time reintroduce a local currency and abolish the use of foreign currency to buy from local shops "to stem uncontrolled price increases".

He added that current austerity measures imposed on the populace were meant to improve the economy in the long run.

Xinhua

Kremlin aide warns US policy poses danger to entire world

MOSCOW

MOSCOW is concerned over mounting confrontation globally, and furthermore Washington's steps endanger international security, Kremlin Aide Yuri Ushakov told the Primakov Readings international forum.

"Unfortunately, tensions both in world politics as a whole and in certain regions continued rising," Ushakov said describing the events over the past year.

He voiced concerns that these confrontational pressures affect political, diplomatic, trade and economic, and military and political areas. "The entire arms control sys-

tem has been under threat," he stated.

The steps taken by the US leadership are based on the illusion of a free hand in the field of military construction, and the costs of this policy for international security can be very dangerous, Ushakov cautioned. "The collapse of the system of agreements, ensuring the rules of conduct in the military and strategic area, may trigger increased military risks and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction," the presidential aide warned.

He recalled that in 2002, the United States withdrew from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, and in 2018, "they decided to

slam the door on the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty."

"The question is whether the New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty), which will be in force until February 2021, will be extended for five years. This question is up in the air," Ushakov said, noting that Russia has repeatedly confirmed its readiness to discuss this treaty's extension.

"What is needed now is not the destruction of the remaining elements of strategic stability and deterrence, but, on the contrary, the preservation and strengthening of disarmament systems," Ushakov said.

Agencies

China to protect foreign firms' rights despite US crackdown on technology industry

BEIJING

BEIJING will continue to protect the legitimate rights and interests of all foreign companies in the country despite the US crackdown on Chinese technology enterprises such as Huawei, a Chinese official said on Thursday.

When asked about whether China will impose certain restrictions on US technology giant Apple Inc. during a regular press conference, Gao Feng, spokesperson for the Ministry of Commerce, said that all foreign companies' legitimate

rights and interests will be protected by the Chinese government.

"We will unswervingly deepen reform, expand openness, and strive to create a stable, transparent, fair, and predictable first-class business environment globally for all types of enterprises," Gao said.

The comments came amid escalating trade tensions between the world's two largest economies, and the US Commerce Department's decision to add Huawei - the largest telecoms equipment provider and

second-largest smartphone vendor in the world - to the Entity List, which identifies organizations and individuals considered to be a significant risk to US security and foreign policy.

A group of US high-technology companies, including Google, Intel and Qualcomm, recently said they would move to cut off their supplies and services to Huawei, casting a shadow over the global supply chain and affecting the future of technology.

Xinhua

German minister upbeat on Iran trade vehicle before Rouhani talks

TEHRAN

ALL the formal requirements for a European payment system for barter-based trade with Iran designed to circumvent US sanctions are now in place and it should be operational soon, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said in Tehran yesterday.

Maas is in Iran to meet President Hassan Rouhani and his Iranian counterpart, Moham-

mad Javad Zarif, as part of a European effort to salvage Iran's nuclear pact with world powers and defuse rising US-Iranian tensions.

"This is an instrument of a new kind, so it's not straightforward to operationalise it," Maas told reporters.

"But all the formal requirements are in place now, and so I'm assuming we'll be ready to use it in the foreseeable future."

In an effort to protect at least some of Iran's economy from sweeping US sanctions and keep alive a nuclear deal after Washington quit, France, Britain and Germany have set up a special-purpose vehicle called Instex.

The three European Union members have been trying to get Iran to keep its commitments under the deal to cut back its nuclear programme - which Washington distrusts -

by helping it to circumvent the trade sanctions Washington has reimposed.

They want Instex to meet norms for legitimate financing set by the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force, even though Iran as a country is not yet fully compliant with them.

On a weekend stopover in Iraq en route to Tehran, Maas warned of the dangers that conflict with Iran posed for the

entire Middle East, saying the Europeans were convinced it was worth trying to keep the nuclear pact with Iran.

A spokesman of the Iranian Foreign Ministry criticised the European signatories of its 2015 nuclear deal for failing to salvage the pact after US President Donald Trump pulled the United States out of it last year and reimposed sanctions, state television reported.

"So far, we have not seen practical and tangible steps from the Europeans to guarantee Iran's interests ... Tehran will not discuss any issue beyond the nuclear deal," Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said.

Trump condemned the accord, signed by his predecessor Barack Obama, as flawed for not being permanent and for not covering Iran's ballistic missile programme or its role in con-

flicts around the Middle East.

The European signatories to the deal - France, Britain and Germany - have been trying to save it but share the same concerns as the United States over Iran's ballistic missile development and regional activities.

"The EU is not in a position to question Iran's issues beyond the nuclear deal," Mousavi said.

Agencies

The
Guardian

SPORT



Australia's David Warner in action against India during the ICC Cricket World Cup at The Oval in London, Britain on Sunday. (Agencies)

Kohli unhappy with 'zing' bails after Warner reprieve

LONDON

INDIA captain Virat Kohli wants cricket's authorities to look into the issue of cricket bails not being knocked off by the ball thanks to new technology.

Australia opener David Warner became the fifth batsman at the World Cup to get an unexpected reprieve after he dragged a ball on to his stump but the impact failed to dislodge the zing bails in Sunday's match against India.

The southpaw was on one when he insidged a Jasprit Bumrah delivery on to his leg stump but much to his delight the bails did not come off.

"I haven't seen that happen so many times in the past," Kohli told reporters at a briefing. "I'm sure no team would like seeing stuff like that when you actually bowl a good ball and then you don't get the guy out, the ball hits the stump and the lights don't come on, or the lights come on and the ball comes back on to the stump."

Zing bails -- which contain lights that flash when the ball strikes the wicket -- have been a sore point in the current World Cup.

South Africa's Quinton de Kock, Sri Lankan Dimuth Karunaratne, West Indian Chris Gayle and Mohammad Saifuddin of Bangladesh have already enjoyed similar luck at this World Cup but several former players felt it was harsh on the bowlers.

"This can't keep happening with the bails!! Hard enough being a bowler nowadays... needs changing," tweeted former England captain Nasser Hussain.

Former Pakistan speedster Shoaib Akhtar also took to Twitter to express his dismay.

"What's going on?? In my entire life, I have not seen five instances like this, let alone in the space of 10 days or a tournament," he wrote. On the eve of the match against India, Australia captain Aaron Finch said the zing bails appeared to need a bigger impact to be dislodged from their grooves.

"The bails seem to be a lot heavier, so it does take a bit of force," he said on Saturday,

pointing to similar cases during the Indian Premier League (IPL) Twenty20 competition.

"I've seen it a handful of times now in IPL and Big Bash where the ball rolls back on to the stumps, where the bails traditionally one of them will pop off.

"I think it's just one of those things that you are aware of that when you're on the right side of it, you are aware of it a bit easier than when you're not."

Meanwhile, Virat Kohli won a match with the bat and hearts with his sportsmanship after silencing Indian fans who booed Australia's Steve Smith in Sunday's World Cup contest at the Oval.

Smith and team mate David Warner have faced hostile crowds since returning from year-long bans for their roles in a ball-tampering scandal in South Africa early last year.

A section of the predominantly Indian crowd at the Oval booed Smith when the Australian was stationed at third man and Kohli noticed.

The India captain, who went on to score a typically fluent 82, raised his hand to draw the crowd's attention, gestured for them to clap the Australian instead, and shook his head before resuming batting.

The International Cricket Council shared the video on its Twitter handle calling it "absolute class".

"I think what's happened has happened long back. The guy is back, he's trying to play well for his side... it's not good to see someone down like that, to be honest," Kohli told reporters.

"We've had issues in the past. We've had a few arguments on the field. But you don't want to see a guy feeling that heat every time he goes out to play.

"What's happened has happened. Everyone has known that. He's come back. He's worked hard. He's playing well for his side now."

Smith's 69 was the highest score in Australia's unsuccessful chase against India who won the high-scoring contest by 36 runs.

REUTERS

Nadal, and everyone else, should stop doubting him



Spain's Rafael Nadal lifts the trophy as he celebrates his record 12th French Open tennis tournament title after winning his men's final match against Austria's Dominic Thiem in four sets, 6-3, 5-7, 6-1, 6-1, at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Sunday, June 9, 2019. (AP Photo)

PARIS

THIS time, about a month out, even Rafael Nadal had his doubts about what his chances were going to be for yet another French Open title.

He wasn't alone. But that part was nothing new: Folks have been questioning him for years, wondering when his body would break down for good, when his impossible-to-believe run of success at Roland Garros would stop, when someone new would come along with the skill, strength and stamina to knock the crown off the King of Clay's head.

This time, it was Nadal who was filled with real worry. He entered May without a title, the first season since 2004 that happened to him. He missed the end of last season with a bad right knee, needed offseason ankle surgery, then pulled out of a match in March because the knee flared up again. The health concerns, which long had cropped up, were now piling up.

"Too many issues the last 18 months. So that's makes these last few weeks very, very special," Nadal was able to say Sunday night.

"Mentally, I was down. Physically and mentally," he said, rapping his right fingers on his temple. "But for me, I always put more attention on the mental side."

All of that angst he spoke about seemed so irrelevant to anyone watching Nadal as he took a tight final against Dominic Thiem and tore it open, quickly as can be, taking 11 straight points to open the third set and 12 of the last 14 games for a 6-3, 5-7, 6-1, 6-1 victory.

That gave Nadal a 12th trophy at Roland Garros and 18 major championships in all, just two behind Roger Federer's record for men.

But here might be the biggest lesson for Nadal himself, and for those who follow, and talk about, tennis: Stop thinking Nadal can't keep coming back and can't keep adding to his resume.

Because he will do whatever it takes to not only stay where he is, but also to get better. Just one example: Nadal has long been thought of as the ultimate baseliner, someone who will get to every ball back there and wallop it back over the net. Yet there he was in Court Philippe Chatrier, showing off a less-appreciated aspect of his game, by volleying impeccably and winning 23 of 27 points when he moved forward.

He's constantly putting the work to adjust a stroke or element of strategy.

"He improves and develops his game," Thiem said. "I mean, if he wouldn't do that, for sure he wouldn't have that success every year in this tournament."

As down as Nadal might have felt, he was not going to give up.

"He had an unbelievable attitude in those bad moments, and that's what took him here today," said Nadal's coach, Carlos Moya, the 1998 French Open champion. "Hats off to what he's done this month and a half, because it's easy to play well when all the things are working well. But what he's been through these last couple of months is showing what a competitor he is and mentally that he's a

genius."

Nadal's next tournament will be Wimbledon, where play begins in three weeks. He won't enter a grass-court tuneup event, figuring that time off to rest is what he needs more than anything else.

Inevitably, a reporter brought up the topic of chasing Federer, now that he's so close behind.

And just as inevitably, Nadal played down such talk.

Did it charmingly, too.

"I never tried to think about, 'Well, I'm going to catch Roger' or not. Being honest, I am not very worried about this stuff, no?" Nadal said. "You can't be frustrated all the time because the neighbor has a bigger house than you or a bigger TV or better garden. That's not the way that I see the life, you know."

A moment later, he went on: "If, at the end of my career, I am able to win a couple of more Grand Slams and be closer to Roger, (it) will be unbelievable. If not, for me, still unbelievable, no?"

Nadal said Federer's record was the last thing on his mind before he was asked about it.

What was he thinking about, then?

"Here I am, at the age of 33, enjoying, playing good tennis," Nadal said, "and let's see for how long I am able to manage and to continue this."

Sweet Canadian Grand Prix turns sour for Hamilton

MONTREAL

WHAT should have been a sweet victory at the Canadian Grand Prix for Lewis Hamilton and Mercedes on Sunday, instead left a bitter taste when the crowd turned on the Briton after a controversial penalty gifted him a milestone win.

Hamilton's seventh win on the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve equalled Michael Schumacher's record but it came only after Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel, who had led from pole to chequered flag, was demoted to second place by a five-second penalty.

The German made an error on the limit and went off the track on lap 48, running across the grass before rejoining and forcing off Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton, the championship leader and eventual winner.

After the race even Hamilton admitted the manner of victory did not bring him the usual joy.

"Well, to me it's a bit of an empty feeling today, which is kind-of crazy because we're in this beautiful country," said Hamilton. "It's been

ultimately a really great race between two different teams and it ends with a bit of a ... negative.

"It does kind of feel like a deflated win."

Fan reaction to the win also appeared to catch Hamilton off guard.

Having recorded his first grand prix victory on the island circuit in 2007, Montreal has long been a special place for Hamilton and one he regularly praises as one of top races on the circuit.

But on Sunday many fans turned on the Briton loudly booing him during the award ceremony.

"All I can say is I didn't make the decision, firstly, so I don't know what they're booing at," said Hamilton, who has now won five of seven races this season.

"Maybe it's the decision.

"This has always been a great hunting ground for me.

"It's been a place that I really have loved, and have always felt like I've been really accepted and supported here.

"I felt a little bit odd, being booed -

but it's not like the first time I've been booed.

"I'm used to it - and I forgive."

Meanwhile, Sebastian Vettel was angry and heartbroken over a penalty that cost him victory at the Canadian Grand Prix on Sunday but mostly he was wishing he could have raced in the days when drivers decided the winner not regulations.

Starting from pole position Vettel appeared ready to claim Ferrari's first victory of the season until, pressured by Lewis Hamilton, he misjudged his entry into a chicane, shot across the grass and re-entered the track while cutting off the Mercedes.

The incident drew the attention of stewards, who deemed Vettel had made an unsafe re-entry and issued the German with a five-second penalty that dropped him to second and gifted victory to championship leader Hamilton.

A furious Vettel vented his anger over the radio and after the race continued to vent at the stewards but later the four-time world champion was more thoughtful than tormented.

"I was just thinking I really love my racing, I'm a purist going back and looking at the old times, the old cars, the old drivers," said Vettel.

"I just wish I was maybe as good as I am doing what I do but doing it in their time rather than today."

While angry over the decision, Vettel said his greater concern was the penalty was only a symptom of a bigger problem facing Formula One - over regulation.

Vettel vigorously defended his move saying, "the priority at that point is just to survive", and common sense dictated the outcome while stewards viewed it as simply a black and white situation with no grey area.

"I rejoined the track and Lewis had to react," said Vettel. "For me that's racing."

"A lot of the people I just mentioned, the old Formula One drivers and people in the grandstands, would agree this is just part of racing but nowadays I don't like it.

"We all sound a bit like lawyers.

"Ultimately it is not the sport I fell in love with."



Race winner Lewis Hamilton of Great Britain and Mercedes GP celebrates on the podium as second placed Sebastian Vettel of Germany and Ferrari applauds during the F1 Grand Prix of Canada at Circuit Gilles Villeneuve on June 09, 2019 in Montreal, Canada. (Photo: Agencies)

Portugal's Nations League win is a statement of intent

PORTO, Portugal

EUROPEAN champions Portugal won the inaugural Nations League with a 1-0 win over the Netherlands on Sunday and on this evidence must surely be early candidates to challenge with France for next year's Euro 2020 title.

The narrow margin of the win did not express the gap in quality between the sides at the Dragao Stadium – the weakness of this Dutch team has always been their lack of real firepower and they paid heavily for that.

But while the Netherlands were never out of the game, Portugal were superior in all departments. The Dutch finished above France and Germany to reach the final four and then beat England in the semi-finals, but while there is no doubt that Ronald Koeman's side are on an upward trajectory, their limitations were exposed by Portugal.

For all the hype around the imagined confrontation between Cristiano Ronaldo and Europe's top defender Virgil van Dijk, it was other players who made the difference for the home side. Bernardo Silva, unsurprisingly, was behind so much of the positive play from Portugal. Buzzing around the right flank, the Manchester City midfielder was alert, inventive and threatening.

Bruno Fernandes provided much of the same from midfield, his clever touches, intelligent use of the ball and movement into space showing why he is the latest Portuguese player to be linked with a move to one of Europe's

big clubs.

DECISIVE GOAL

The decisive goal came on the hour from Goncalo Guedes, the 22-year-old Valencia forward who amply justified his inclusion ahead of Joao Felix, with his link-up play and ability to stretch a Dutch defence already pre-occupied with Ronaldo.

Indeed, Ronaldo was relatively quiet – another indication that this Portugal side is continuing to improve, looking much less reliant on the 34-year-old who can now play as a pure striker given Bernardo Silva's ability to lead the counter-attacks.

The status of the Nations League was compared by Netherlands coach Ronald Koeman to a Super Cup at club level but, whatever the value of the new competition, Portugal in their two wins here and performances in qualifying showed they are arguably a better side than the team which triumphed at Euro 2016.

Three years ago in France, Portugal only progressed from the group stage in third place, behind Iceland and Hungary, having drawn all their games.

They rarely shone in the knockout stage, winning the competition with just one solitary victory inside 90 minutes, but showing resilience and discipline in their 1-0 triumph over France after extra time in the final.

Those qualities remain important to Fernando Santos's side but this is a much more expressive and creative team, with the younger faces he has introduced turning Portugal into a formidable force.

REUTERS

How Portugal's Nations League win affects Euro 2020

PORTO, Portugal

CRISTIANO Ronaldo has grown accustomed to lifting trophies, and the relish with which he hoisted aloft the silverware that comes with winning the UEFA Nations League, following Portugal's 1-0 win vs. Netherlands on Sunday, suggested that it meant every bit as much as all of the prizes he has won in the past for club and country.

It is not the World Cup or European Championship, but it is a hefty, glittering trophy, and the qualification process to reach the four-team finals means that the winners had to overcome strong opposition to come out on top, so Portugal's triumph should not be underestimated.

Their success in the inaugural Nations League, which was sealed by Goncalo Guedes' 60th-minute goal in Porto, means that this small nation of just over 10 million people has won back-to-back UEFA tournaments, following on from their surprise Euro 2016 triumph in France, when they beat the host nation in the final.

It is a remarkable success story and one that has been driven largely by Ronaldo's unique talents for the past 15 years, but should we take Portugal's latest success as a sign of their dominance as a force in Europe or nothing more than helping to measure the current temperature of the continent's leading teams?

Euro 2020 kicks off in Rome one year from Wednesday – June 12, 2020 – and Portugal, assuming they qualify, will be a formidable opponent. Fernando Santos' side perhaps has one big tournament performance left in them, especially as Ronaldo will be 37 by the time the Qatar World Cup rolls around in 2022.

In the meantime, the growing importance of Bernardo Silva, who was exceptional again in this final, as well as emerging players such as defenders Ruben Dias and Nelson Semedo and forwards Guedes and Joao Felix, ensures that the Portuguese can contend as they defend their continental crown next year.

So will the Dutch, though, having developed into a force under Ronald Koeman. They lack a true striker – Memphis Depay and Ryan Babel led the line with mixed success in these finals – so should prioritise the discovery or development of a goal scorer between now and next summer to play in front of the formidable Virgil van Dijk, Frenkie de Jong and Matthijs de Ligt.

"To play a final, even if you don't win it,



Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo and team mates celebrate winning the UEFA Nations League Final with the trophy at Estadio do Dragao in Porto, Portugal on Sunday. (Agencies)

you take experience for the next time," Koeman said. "We have taken big steps in the Nations League, against France, Germany, England and Portugal, but to take the next step, we maybe need more time and offensive strength to take the chances we created tonight. But maybe it's too early for us to win."

England earned a penalty-shootout win against Switzerland in the third-place play-off earlier Sunday and will regard their progress as positive following a run to the semi-finals at the World Cup in Russia last year, but Gareth Southgate's team have some work to do before they can legitimately consider themselves among Europe's elite.

They do not score enough goals from open play and still lack creativity in midfield and reliability at the back. Nonetheless, Southgate is working with a talented generation, and the likes of Raheem Sterling, Jadon Sancho, Marcus Rashford and Harry Kane should give England belief at Euro 2020, a tournament in which the semi-finals and final will be staged at Wembley.

World champions France, eliminated at the Nations League group stage by the Dutch, should be the team to beat next summer. Didier Deschamps' team suffered a surprise qualifying defeat against Turkey on Saturday, but any side that can rely on the talents of Kylian Mbappe, Antoine Griezmann, N'Golo Kante and Paul Pogba has to be regarded as the favourites.

Among Europe's other traditional powers, Spain and Germany are in a state of transition, rebuilding teams that had previously enjoyed great success, but each boasts a depth of talent that ensures they cannot be dismissed as contenders next year. Elsewhere, Croatia will believe they can go one better than at the World Cup in what could be a last hurrah for their own golden generation, led by Luka Modric, while Belgium and Italy have 100 percent winning records in qualification.

Belgium have knocked on the door in several major tournaments recently, and if Roberto Martinez can rely on a fully fit Eden Hazard and Kevin De Bruyne, it might

well be their year. Italy, having failed to qualify for the World Cup, are slowly recovering under Roberto Mancini and could be a force to be reckoned with again.

Much can happen in the upcoming 12 months, but international football in Europe is in a state of flux, with none of established heavyweights at the peak of their powers. As such, the Nations League might be the most accurate form guide, one year out from the European Championship.

The four teams who contested the finals qualified at the expense of more historically successful countries, and Portugal's victory ensured the competition made for a headline-making start; successful host nations always give a tournament added lustre.

While it would be foolish to suggest they are favourites to defend their Euro title next year, with Ronaldo fit and able, Portugal will always be a threat. Who knows, this tournament could prove to be a precursor for a hat trick of success.

(AGENCIES)

Rooney: United must sign potential over big names

LONDON

MANCHESTER United record goal scorer Wayne Rooney has urged Old Trafford boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer to target young players rather than established superstars in this summer's transfer market.

Solskjaer has a busy summer ahead of him and sources have told ESPN FC there could be as many as five players arriving.

Harry Maguire, James Maddison, Aaron Wan-Bissaka, Ryan Fraser, Declan Rice, Ryan Sessegnon, Sean Longstaff and Nathan Collins are some of the players United are interested in, but the club have so far been put off by what they consider to be vastly-inflated.

"For Ole, I think the first thing he's got to do is try and build the squad," Rooney told BBC Radio Five Live. "I don't think bringing one or two players in for over £100 million is going to really help with the squad and the players who are there."

"I think he needs to try and look at maybe five or six players who have got potential to be top players but you're not spending £120m-£130m on these players."

"I think you spend £30m-£40m and then try to improve them, which will also give you longevity out of the players and allow you to build a squad around the five or

six new players that come in, plus a few of the players who are still there."

"You could bring [Cristiano] Ronaldo, Sergio Ramos and [Lionel] Messi in, or Gareth Bale for instance, and it's going to cost you £300m-£350m which you'd get what? Maybe two years out of Ronaldo, a couple of years out of Ramos and then you've written that money off."

United have not won the Premier League since Sir Alex Ferguson retired in 2013 and have only finished in the top four on two occasions in that time.

And DC United forward Rooney said it is important for supporters to set realistic expectations in order to help with the rebuilding process.

"I just think the club needs to rebuild with younger players. But they need to be good enough and allow the manager to improve them," he added. "And I think the Man United fans will understand that they are probably not going to compete for the Premier League next year."

"So let them have that time, let Ole have that time to build a team for the next two or three years who are going to compete, not only at Premier League level, but at Champions League level."

(AGENCIES)

De Ligt laughs off Ronaldo's Juventus 'offer'

PORTO

NETHERLANDS defender Matthijs de Ligt, who is widely expected to leave Ajax Amsterdam in the coming weeks, said he was asked about a move to Italian champions Juventus by Cristiano Ronaldo at the end of Sunday's Nations League final.

Ronaldo's Portugal triumphed 1-0 in the showpiece match leaving the 19-year-old defender De Ligt, linked with several top European clubs, disappointed.

But television images showed Juve forward Ronaldo having a chat with the centre-half at the end of the game and the Dutchman confirmed a possible move to the Italian side had been raised by the five-times Ballon d'Or winner.

"I didn't understand him at first. I was a little shocked, so I laughed. But I didn't say anything," De Ligt told the Netherlands' NOS television.

"So soon after the game you are

not at all concerned with it. You are disappointed that you have lost and that is the only thing you are thinking about," he added.

De Ligt's impressive performances for Ajax in their run to the Champions League semifinals have made him one of the most wanted signatures in the transfer window.

But the defender said he had yet to make up his mind over his future and was in no hurry to do so.

The 19-year-old Ajax defender – whose impressive season as an Eredivisie-winning captain and a Champions League semifinalist has led to interest from Barcelona, Paris Saint-Germain and Manchester United – said he had yet to make up his mind over his future and was in no hurry to do so.

"I don't mind that," he said. "The transfer period starts in a while, so I will first go on a nice vacation and rest. I will let it happen and then I will see," he said.

(AGENCIES)

Time for Brazil's other stars to step up with Neymar out

By Tim Vickery, ESPN South America correspondent

WELL before the kick off the 2019 Copa America has already lost what looked like being one of its major themes.

The scene appeared set for Neymar (pictured) to get his career back on course, shrugging off injury woes, disciplinary problems and controversy about his diving by leading Brazil to victory on home ground. Instead, he misses the tournament – and the ankle injury he picked up almost came as a relief, allowing him to concentrate on defending himself against the serious accusations he faces.

For a while the coverage of Brazil's Copa America build up was almost entirely reduced to news of developments in the life of Neymar. But team and star striker have now gone their separate ways – and with David Neres stepping in for Neymar, helping himself to a wonderful solo goal, Brazil completed their preparation with an emphatic, hugely impressive 7-0 win over Honduras in Porto Alegre.

Neymar was never bigger than the team – and coach Tite is essentially still wrestling with questions, doubts and issues hanging over from last year's World Cup campaign, brought to a close with a dramatic 2-1 quarterfinal defeat to Belgium. The coach clearly came to the conclusion that his side last year lacked the correct balance between attack and defence – and steps have been taken to improve matters.

Against Belgium they were too open. Tite now looks for a more cautious approach from his full backs. Daniel Alves and Filipe Luis will rarely be seen as auxiliary wingers, flying up the flanks. Brazil have plenty of wingers to carry out this attacking function. Instead the fullbacks will construct from deep, and by staying closer to the centre backs, the defence should be more solid. This switch in emphasis is further emphasised by a change in the midfield.

Last year's central trio featured Paulinho, who operated almost as an auxiliary centre-forward, charging time after time into the opposing penalty area. He has given way to Arthur of Barcelona, who knits the side together from deeper with his passing – and if the injury he picked up against Honduras proves to be serious, the function can be carried out with more dynamism and less technique by Allan of Napoli.

The central midfield triangle, then, has been reversed. Instead of Casemiro behind and two ahead, Casemiro and Arthur are now behind with



Philippe Coutinho ahead. This should free Coutinho to do what he does best; instead of having to cover box to box, he can now focus his efforts on creating and shooting in the final third of the field.

In fact, the absence of Neymar opens up space for a mini-theme in the Copa – the opportunity that Coutinho has to redeem himself after a disappointing time at Barcelona.

These are changes made since the World Cup. But another change that Tite has made takes the team back to Russia 2018.

Tite later regretted persevering so long in the competition with Gabriel Jesus at centre forward. He wished he had brought in Roberto Firmino. This was a change made after the World Cup. Firmino became first choice centre forward. But it proved hard to knit the Liverpool man into the team's collective context.

Time on the training ground would have been welcome. But Liverpool's participation in the final of the Champions league delayed Firmino's arrival for national team duty, and in his absence Gabriel Jesus has reclaimed the spot. Where

Firmino seeks to drop and combine, Jesus gives the team the option of lengthening the game with his movement behind the opposing defensive line.

His all round play, plus three goals in the two warm up friendlies, would seem to make it probable that he will get the nod for Friday's Copa opener against Bolivia. A further option is Richarlison moving in from his right wing position to a more central role.

Tite had a look at this towards the end of the Honduras game, with Firmino operating behind him. By then, though, things had become very easy against opponents long since reduced to ten men, and it is debatable how much could be learned. Brazil also go back, of course, to the scene of the 2014 nightmare.

And they will have to cope with the same cruel dynamic of cup competitions. The group phase should be a breeze – not only because the opposition (Bolivia, Venezuela, Peru) are hardly the most challenging, but also because eight of the 12 teams make it through to the quarter-finals. But then, very suddenly, the stakes get much higher. The quarterfinals go straight to penalties if scores are level after 90 minutes.

The pressure will be on – and then we will discover the truth about the Neymar-less Brazil.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

How Portugal's Nations League win affects Euro 2020

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Nigeria's players celebrate with a trophy after winning this year's Castle Africa 5s tournament, which ended at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. PHOTO: GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT

Volleyball coaches praise FIVB course

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

VOLLEYBALL coaches who attended the just ended Level One international course have described the course as an eye opener and hope it will improve the sport in Tanzania.

The course was held at Filbert Bayi Schools in Kibaha, Coast Region, and was organized by Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC).

International Olympic Committee (IOC) funded the course through the committee's solidarity fund, with more than 25 coaches taking part.

Speaking on behalf of coaches who attended the course, Tanzania Volleyball Association (TAVA) coaches commission's chairman, Dismas Dick, hailed chief instructor, Tony Westman, and TOC for organizing the course.

Dick disclosed the course will help to improve the sport a lot as participants were drawn from all parts of the country.

"This was the best, I really thank the chief instructor, Tony Westman, for the knowledge which he imparted to us, it will help us improve the sport in the country," he said.

He further asked his fellow participants to make full use of the knowledge so that the game is played by many people in the country.

Somo Kimwaga, a local instructor, also asked those who completed the course to make sure that they impart the knowledge to their fellow coaches who did not attend the course.

He said all of the coaches passed the practical and theory tests and they will attend one-month online course organized by international volleyball federation (FIVB).



A Lugalo Club golfer competes in a past tournament that took place at the club's course in Dar es Salaam.

Unheralded golfer wins Lugalo Open

By Correspondent Mohamed Ugasa

MUFINDI-born and brewed professional golfer, Frank Mwinuka, chalked one over par 73 to beat club-mate Abdallah Yusuf by a single shot and win this year's edition of Lugalo Open championship that ended in Dar es Salaam on Saturday.

A total of 23 professionals featured in the rescheduled tournament that also attracted over 200 amateurs who played 36 holes for two separate days.

Dazzling and in-form Mwinuka spectacularly teed off with cracking tee shots to claim an avalanche of pars up to dog-leg par five sixth where he eagled, before dropping a shot at the subsequent hole.

He recovered with a birdie at the par four eighth but another bogey at the par three ninth slacked his composure to reach the turn with one under 35.

His turbulent back-nine saw him conceding costly double bogey at the pond-intimidating par four 16th after overshooting the sparkling green.

Mwinuka returned a two over 38 for the winning total, 73, the best score of the day enough to hit the podium.

Second-placed Yusuf teed off nervously to concede three back-to-back bogeys up to the par four fourth when his adrenalin cooled off to return into the game, picking

up pars for three over 39 outwards. While the back nine was highly challenging for most of the competitors, the home-grown golfer proved otherwise with unblemished one under par 35 for a total two over 74.

Third-placed among the professionals was Isaac Wanyechu who had an outward score of three over par 39 before tightening his grip to even at 36 and lose title chase by paltry two shots.

Bryson Nyenza concluded the top four with five over par 77 as he posted two over 38 at the end of the front nine and then returned at the clubhouse with additional three over 39 strokes.

Professional trio of Frank Roman, Athumani Chiundu and the towering Hassan Kadio all tied for fifth with identical seven over par 79. Only 14 pros were awarded with prize money out of the 23.

Fireworks exploded in amateur category as the winner was declared after a nerve-wrecking three-ball play-off at the end of the regulation 36 holes.

Seif Mcharo, Henric Nyenza and Isaac Daud had tied at 152 gross before going into the dramatic play-off at the par fours seven and eight then par three ninth.

Nyenza carried the day with a victory after posting 78, 74 scores. Daud had posted 72, 80 and Mcharo carded a 77, 75 ahead of claiming the play-off encounter.

However, three handicapper Mcharo was consoled with division A runners-up net award losing to Simon Baraka by a single shot. Nine handicapper Baraka netted 67, 78 for a total 145 strokes.

Korean duo of Jung Kyu Hwa and Tiger Lee claimed the Division B net awards with 76, 74 and 73, 76 net totals respectively.

Division C winner was Doto Kitinusa for his 76, 76 to beat Valentino Mkatinyo who netted a two day consistency of 77 scores.

Korean golfer Jin Soo Yang scored 74.77 to beat Dar Gymkhana Club's Salvatore Rwabizi (76,81) to win seniors category.

As usual Angel Eaton won the overall Ladies' crown. Amanda Mlula (74,75) and Zumla Hassan (74, 81) won the Army Ladies awards for beginners, respectively.

Nearest to the pin at the par three 9 was won by Godfrey Kirenga as Isaac Daud and Angel Eaton claimed Longest drive awards for men and ladies, respectively.

Deputy Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports Juliana Shonza presided over the longest-ever prize presentation ceremony that ended close to mid night.

Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) backed the tournament and promised to extend support in the next edition.

Host club golfers dominated the tournament as the rest came from Morogoro, Mufindi, Moshi, TPC Moshi, Kili and Arusha.

TSA to host fundraising swimming event

By Correspondent Renatha Msungu

TANZANIA Swimming Association (TSA) will stage a special swimming competition known as Swim-A-Thon which aims at raising funds to support the senior and junior national teams which will compete in World Championships.

Inviolata Itatiro, TSA secretary general, said the body needs to raise 120m/- to enable the swimmers to feature in the two major events in the world.

Inviolata said they have targetted to raise 35m/- in the competition scheduled to take place at Shaaban Robert swimming pool in Dar es Salaam on June 29 and its preparations are underway.

She said that juniors from 12 years and under in both girls and boys and seniors from 13 years and above in both girls and boys are expected to compete in the event.

"You need to register and pay 15,000/- and compete in the event. You can swim in any distance, we will start the event from 10 am to 5 pm," Inviolata said.

The World Swimming Championships will be held in Gwangju, South Korea from July 12 to July 28 and Junior World Championships has been scheduled for August 20 to August 25 in Budapest, Hungary.

Four swimmers have been selected to represent the country in the world event to be held in South Korea.

They are Hilal Hemed Hilal and Collins Saliboko in men's category while the women's category will see Sylvia Caloiaro and Shivani Bhatt take part, according to the TSA official.

The swimmers would be accompanied by national team's head coach, Alexander Mwaipasi, and two officials, Chairperson Imani Alimanya and Vice-Chairperson Asmah Hilal.

The officials will attend a high-level meeting organized by the world swimming governing body FINA.

Inviolata said TSA has to incur its own costs for four swimmers and two officials and FINA will refund the travel costs of USD 1,400 per person for three swimmers and two officials only.

She said the cash can only be claimed after the competition and upon the submission of tickets and respective invoices.

"TSA has not enough money to facilitate the team to travel. We need assistance to make the team compete in the event, we need to raise funds in order to field the swimmers in the respective events," the official said.

The junior swimmers, who will compete in the event, are Dennis Mhini, Delvin Barick, Christopher Fitzpatrick, Christian Shirima and Isam Sepetu who will compete in boys' category while Kayla Temba and Laila Rashid are in girls' category.

5 EATV **TONIGHT @21:00**

NIRVANA

TUESDAY

11:00 DADAZ (live)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 Dakika 10 Za Maangamzi
15:00 FUNGUKA
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music
19:00 EATV SAA I
19:30 MJADALA
21:00 Nirvana
21:30 Wakilisha
22:00 Grace Na Asili Yangu
22:30 Bongo Hills

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05:00 EA Breakfast
09:00 Supamix
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Panel Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Flexibles by David Chikoko



Dar es Salaam swimmer, Natalia Ladha, competes in a past swimming event which took place in the city.