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Kenya sets Tuesday as public holiday for Moi's funeral

NAIROBI

THE government of Kenya has declared Tuesday next week (February 11) a public holiday to enable people to attend former president Daniel Toroitich arap Moi's funeral service at Nyayo Stadium in the capital, Head of Public Service Joseph Kinyua said yesterday.

Moi, who died on Tuesday this week aged 95, will be buried at his Kabarak home in Nakuru County on the Wednesday of February 12.

"The full list of attendees will be announced in due course," Kinyua said at a press conference.

President Uhuru Kenyatta will lead the nation in a memorial service for the former Head of State.

The national memorial service, Kinyua said, will be an inter-denominational service led by the Africa Inland Church (AIC).

Before then, Kenyans of all walks of life will have three days from Saturday to Monday to view the body, which will be lying in state at Parliament buildings.

Kinyua said President Kenyatta, who is in the US, will be the first to view the body at State House on Saturday at 10.15 am.

As Mbowe criticises NEC, Majaliwa reassures MPs



President John Magufuli delivers an address at a Law Day anniversary event in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House

NEC is free and the constitution bars individuals including the president and other organs from interfering with its activities

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa yesterday sought to exonerate the National Electoral Commission (NEC) from accusations of bias and unfairness, saying the body discharges its functions in accordance with the Constitution.

Responding to a question by the leader of the official opposition in the House, Freeman Mbowe (Hai, Chadema), during the premier's direct questions session, Majaliwa said he has never witnessed the President or any other leader interfere with the operations of the electoral body.

In his question, Mbowe had sought to know what the government was doing to ensure that this year's General Election in late October is free, fair and credible.

The premier accused those who subscribe to

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Kenyans from all walks of life will have three days from Saturday to Monday to view the body, which will be lying in state at Parliament buildings

The body will leave the Lee Funeral Home at 8 am with the casket draped in the national flag.

The funeral procession will snake through Valley Road to Kenyatta Avenue and on to Parliament Road after which a military parade will be mounted in his honour.

"Members of the public will view the body at Parliament Buildings and we have made arrangements with the security teams to allow as many people as possible while making sure that we avoid any commotion," he told journalists on the steps of Harambee House.

The former Head of State will be accorded full military ceremonial honours, which include conveyance of the body under escort in a gun carriage, accompanied by military musical honours and a 19 gun-salute.

"In addition to other ways of remembering and honouring Mzee Moi, we encourage each and every Kenyan to plant a tree in his memory or undertake an act of benevolence for the most needy members of our society," he added.

JPM hails reforms in Judiciary, faults CID

By Henry Mwangonde

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday applauded reforms in the judiciary but pointed at the slow pace of criminal investigation as a major impediment to justice in the country.

Speaking during the commemoration of Law Day held in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the Head of State looked at the performance of the Judiciary in the past four years, saying that a lot has improved.

Investigators still let down the justice system as a whole with their endless incomplete investigation position taking in courts.

"Some suspects have been in remand prisons for so long. They are crying, unfairly blaming the magistrates and judges. This curse should be

carried by investigators," he said.

President Magufuli said that during his campaigns in 2015 he received complaints from many places ranging from case delays, delayed investigations and corruption.

He said in the past four years there are major reforms made to ensure that the Judiciary regains the public trust, by enhancing ability to hear cases with more court buildings put up.

Other reforms include law amendments, including the Criminal Procedure Act to introduce the plea-bargaining system aimed at decongesting prisons and enabling the early disposal of cases, he stated.

Many of these complaints have been addressed, with delayed criminal investigations

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Bypass road, airport improve city status

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

ARUSHA City Council is implementing a number of infrastructure development projects including a road bypass and renovation of airport as part of the Tanzania Strategic Cities Project (TSCP).

Speaking here yesterday, TSCP coordinator Agusti Mbuya said the projects to be carried out are the construction of a 3.442km Kisongo bypass and the 1.7km runway at Arusha Airport, noting that the council has already received

5bn/- from the Treasury for the implementation of the projects whose work is going on well.

TSCP is an investment operation that provides finance for critical infrastructure in four cities of Mwanza, Tanga, Mbeya and Arusha, along with four municipalities of Ilemela, Dodoma, Kigoma-Ujiji, Mtwara-Mikindani and the Capital Development Authority (CDA).

Mbuya explained that 4.1b/- will be used to build the Kisongo Bypass and 1.27b/- on the Arusha airport road, with construction work

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As Mbowe criticises NEC, Majaliwa reassures MPs

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the narrative that the electoral body lacked credibility to conduct a free and fair poll of imagining things.

"The narrative that this commission is not free is just some people's imaginations. But constitutionally and in its operation it is free," he said.

"If there are shortcomings, let's point them out. But I have never seen the president or a political party interfere with its work."

Mbowe had also asked about the fate of opposition political parties which he said have been barred from engaging in political activities for the past four years while leaders of the ruling party CCM crisscrossed the country doing politics.

Majaliwa replied that what matters to Tanzanians is development and various projects are being implemented in different parts of the country that benefit citizens regardless of their political leanings.

"We work to make this country safe so that productive activities can go on. So when we put in place a

mechanism to ensure that our people get development, it has nothing to do with political parties," the premier maintained.

Majaliwa insisted further that there is no MP or councillor barred from engaging in political activities within their areas (constituencies and wards). "If there are some problems somewhere, we can sit down and discuss them."

In his question, Mbowe said there remains 262 days to October 25 where voters will pick the president, MPs and councillors, yet opposition parties can't conduct political activities.

But the premier still maintained that NEC is free and the constitution bars individuals including the president and other organs from interfering with its activities.

"May be there are various interpretation of the word free; but as it is, we want it be known that the agency is there, it is free and discharging its functions without any interference from any quarters as stipulated in the 1977 constitution. That is the official explanation," he emphasized.



Hai legislator Freeman Mbowe (R), Leader of the Official Opposition in the National Assembly, asks Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa a question in the House in Dodoma yesterday during the weekly 'Prime Minister's Questions' session. Photo: PMO

Bypass road, airport improve city status

FROM PAGE 1

starting on Wednesday this week and slated for completion in April.

However he expressed doubts on timely completion of the work due to ongoing rains, as removing the heavy mud slows down the work, as done areas need to be redone.

Airport manager Elipid Tesha expressed gratitude to TSCP and the government for raising the 1.7 km road to tarmac level.

Revamping the road and extension work to the airport's runway shall increase government revenue, he said.

"Arusha airport is among airports with high revenue collection," he said, noting that more people and air companies will use it after refurbishment.

Arusha District Commissioner Gabriel Daqarro said completion of the bypass road will reduce congestion in the city as authorities will be in a position to redirect a portion of the traffic to the outside facility.

In February 2017, the World Bank approved \$130m in additional financing for the Tanzania Strategic Cities Project to benefit residents of the rapidly urbanizing cities, officials noted.

JPM hails reforms in Judiciary, faults CID

FROM PAGE 1

the remaining grievance that is still affecting justice delivery, he elaborated.

Law Day is commemorated during the first week of February annually, and this year it was attended by various dignitaries including the Speaker of the National Assembly, Job Ndugai.

A few months after assuming the country's highest office on November 5, 2015, Dr Magufuli demonstrated that his government would not only support the Judiciary to ensure timely delivery of justice, but also adhere to the rule of law and enhance delivery of justice.

In his remarks, Chief Justice Prof

Ibrahim Juma said the judiciary has also ICT technology, with a number of video conferencing devices installed in most courts in Dar es Salaam and at Ukonga Prison.

Improving court buildings chiefly involves installing documentation technology systems to ease access to information and expedite the dispensation of justice, he said.

Boosting the use of ICT is meant to provide timely and accessible justice to all, so the Judiciary has established a system for registration and direct reporting on administration of cases, titled the Judiciary Statistical Dashboard System (JSDS).

This application is used to keep

records and manage civil and criminal cases. Recent records indicate that 55,677 cases have been registered under the system, with 24,317 being civil and 31,360 criminal cases.

The system allows claimants to access the system and register cases. It can

similarly be used to enable different people to obtain information through SMS on mobile phones.

Attorney General Prof Adelardus Kilangi said his office was reviewing various contracts ranging from bilateral agreements, treaties and gas contracts.



President Magufuli said that during his campaigns in 2015 he received complaints ranging from case delays, delayed investigations and corruption



Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein exchanges greetings at Zanzibar State House yesterday with Angola's Ambassador to Tanzania, Sandro Agostinho de Oliveira, who went to introduce himself. Photo: Zanzibar State House

JPM appoints Ibuge PS in Foreign Affairs ministry

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT John Magufuli has appointed ambassador Col Wilbert Augustine Ibuge as Permanent Secretary in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and East African

Cooperation.

A press statement issued yesterday by the Directorate of Presidential Communications said the appointment took effect yesterday.

Before his appointment, ambassador Ibuge was Chief of Protocol in the same

Ministry.

Ambassador Ibuge replaces Dr Faraji Kasidi Mnyepe, who has been transferred from the ministry to become Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Defence and National Service.

Dr Mnyepe replaces Dr Florence Turuka who has retired from public service.

The appointment of the Chief of Protocol and the swearing in of ambassador Ibuge will be made later, according to the statement.

Parents blamed for shielding men who impregnated 100 schoolgirls

By Guardian Reporter

COLLUSION between parents and men who impregnate school girls has come to the fore again as a major hindrance to empowerment of girl child after more than 100 cases recorded in Rorya district, Mara region last financial year were all frustrated.

Rorya district medical officer (DMO) Peter Mkennda told the council meeting here yesterday that in the financial year 2019/2020 some 117 cases of impregnated school girls (13 primary school pupils and 104 secondary) were officially reported but not even a single one went through successful prosecution of culprits.

The problem, according to the DMO is parents teaming up with culprits hence stopping the wheels of justice from rolling and punishing those who cut the dreams of girls.

If justice took its course, the men would have been facing a jail sentence of 30 years as per the Written Laws Miscellaneous Act (No. 2), 2016 which stipulates the punishment for men who marry or impregnate primary and secondary school pupils.

Mkennda said: "Our Council is among the councils in the country that are hit by the challenges of girl pregnancies in schools but surprisingly parents seem to have no awareness in giving their cooperation by informing authorities of the incidents so that steps could be taken," he said.

He gave as an example of case taken to Tarime District Court Case No. TRR/CID/SCR/652/2019 involving a suspect who owns a dispensary in Mwarango village who was accused of conducting an abortion to a standard five pupil (15

to tamper with evidence but the case is still dragging for lack of witnesses.

Kyang'ombe Ward Councillor used the occasion to pile blames to the Police for being on the side of suspects and their habit of pushing parents to solve such issues within families.

He said some parents with little understanding hesitate to unearth the incidents and testimonies thereof to the relevant authorities.

Special Seats Councillor Mary Thomas said a large number of girl pregnancies at school including child pregnancies are wrecking families and parents especially on the girls whose future become ruined, as opposed to boys.

Amos Mang'era, a parent and resident of Kinyambbi village in Nkende Ward said the challenge being faced by some of the parents whose girls were impregnated come from the police who dilly dally in taking action and sometimes even create environment for bribery with the end result for the case to be dropped by the court for lack of evidence.

Rorya District Executive Director (DED) Charles Chacha used the occasion to mobilize parents of girls to report of pregnancies of their girls to the relevant authorities.

"Our Council is among the councils in the country that are hit by the challenges of girl pregnancies in schools but surprisingly parents seem to have no awareness in giving their cooperation by informing authorities of the incidents so that steps could be taken"

Sweden to further extend assistance to Tanzania in next four years - official

By Getrude Mbago

THE Swedish government has expressed its dedication to continue supporting Tanzania in the implementation of the forthcoming second phase of the Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN) programme which is expected to commence soon.

Implemented by the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF), the PSSN II will focus more in providing poor households with prerequisite entrepreneurship skills and income-earning opportunities to enable poor households establish small-scale business and projects for poverty alleviation.

Speaking yesterday when visiting some poor households in Vikuge village in Kibaha District, Coast Region chief economist from the Swedish Embassy in Dar es Salaam, True Schedvin, commended on how the programme had improved the lives of a number of poor Tanzanians.

According to her, Swedish government through international development agency (SIDA) has been supporting Tasaf since 2015 and it will continue extending its support for the country's welfare.

"We are so much impressed and we looking to further extend our support in the next four years, our pleasure is to see poverty index drops in Tanzanians," she said.

She said that Sweden also support Tanzania to implement projects in the fields of education, health, agriculture and others.

Schedvin noted that, for instance, that the programme had improved access to health care, school enrolment increased nutritional levels among beneficiary households, among other gains something which should be commended.

She cited TASAF as among pioneer programme which if well implemented will improve millions of poor

households thus breaking out the poverty cycle.

She noted that, for instance, the programme had improved access to health care, school enrolment increased nutritional levels among beneficiary households, among other gains something which should be commended.

Presenting an implementation report, TASAF coordinator for Kibaha distributed Sijaona Muhunzi said that through the established Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN) in Tasaf III, beneficiaries participate in public works such as putting up infrastructures in the area of education, health and water to improve social services and earn extra-income through the salaries they receive after work.

According to her, a total 4414 poor households have been benefitting from the programme thus improving their lives.

She said that Tasaf do not only provide funds to the beneficiaries but also link the beneficiaries to employment projects but also enable them establish community savings and investments groups where TASAF boost them with funds.

According to Muhunzi, through the programme poor families have received support; students are able to attend school as well as obtain social services, including health care, while others have been able to establish small-scale projects, breaking the poverty cycle.

She further said the programme has also enabled the beneficiaries to acquire basic services such as food, shelter and health service for which they could not get before the programme was launched.

She pointed out that the design of the next phase is aligned with the Second Five Year Development Plan (FYDPII), the anticipated National Social Protection Policy among other government directives.



NMB Bank Plc head of trade finance Linda Teggisa (R) addresses journalists at a large insurance stakeholders meeting in Dodoma yesterday. She is with African Trade Insurance Agency (Tanzania) resident underwriter Tusekile Kibonde. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt fetches 573.9bn/- from cashew auctions

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE government has collected 573.9bn/- from 72 cashew nuts auctions conducted through supervision of the parent ministry within a period of 14 consecutive weeks.

Agriculture minister, Japhet Hasunga, yesterday told a press conference in capital city that at least 222,998.2 tonnes of cashews were collected during 2019/20 season out of which a total of 222,530.8 tonnes were marketed which earned the country 573.9bn/-

He explained that despite the official closure of the relevant auctions, on 26 January this year, there will be auctions which will be extended that have been scheduled to climax on

February 9, 2020.

However, releasing the long report over production and selling of diverse key cash crops within the country during 2019/20 season, minister Hasunga unveiled that during the 2019/20 cotton selling season, at least 348,901 tonnes was produced, worth at 419bn/- which is an increase of at least 57 per cent in comparison with the past season of 2018/19 which saw the production stood at 222,790 tonnes.

Pertaining to coffee, the outspoken minister briefed that a total of 47,503 tonnes were marketed during the 2019/20 coffee auctions and direct sales season, worth at USD 87.56 million.

He detailed that, during 2019/20, the set target was to produce a total of 50,000 tonnes of clean coffee, added

that by 31st 2020, production of the key cash crop was at 55,979 tonnes out of which the Robusta coffee was 22,320 whereby Arabika was 33,659 tonnes.

Minister Hasunga also gave key production statistics over the county's tee production, detailing that from July to December 2019 the production was reached at an impressive level of 11,185 tonnes of dry tea, which is equivalent to 50,067 tonnes of fresh tea.

He stated that the production estimates is equivalent to 29.4 percent of the set production goals of producing at least 38,000 tonnes of dry tea during 2019/20. He inform that, during the season (2019/20) a total of 6.7bn/- was netted by smallholder farmers through selling of fresh tea in a period between July and December 2019, whereby

selling of dry tea abroad collected USD 7.4 million, equivalent to 16.7bn/-.

"Tea stands among key cash crops in Tanzania and the crop is grown throughout the country, from January to December. At least 70 per cent of tea is usually produced during a period from January and June, and 30 per cent is always produced from July to December," he expressed.

Minister Hasunga in 2019 production of tobacco was 70824 tonnes, worth at 231.7bn/-, saying all of the produced tobacco had already been marketed.

Moreover, he unveiled that the government, through his ministry has managed to get at least four new companies that will purchase the key cash crop, tobacco, in the coming season.

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By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

Govt identifies 6,393 street children in six regions

A TOTAL of 6,393 street children from six regions have been identified by the government, the National Assembly heard yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Dr Faustine Ndugulile made the statement when responding to a question posed by Special Seats MP, Fakharia Shomari

Khamis (CCM).

In her question, the MP said there has been a big increase of street children in Dar es Salaam the situation that denies them their basic rights including education and good upbringing, questioning the steps the government is taking to address the issue.

Responding to the question, Deputy minister said the six regions with a big number of street children include Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Mbeya, Dodoma, Arusha, and Iringa.

He noted that among identified street children, 4,865 are boys and 1,528 girls. He said the children have

been living on the streets due to various reasons including death of parents, broken families, violence against children and extreme poverty at households level.

He said in a period of between October 2018 and March 2019 a total of 2,702 children were provided with

various humanitarian assistance including Arusha 330 children, Dar es Salaam (475), Dodoma (337), Iringa (313), Mwanza (770) and Mbeya (447).

"The humanitarian assistance included medical treatment, food, shelter and school requirement.

Some of the children were trained in various life skills and sent back to their families," he said.

Dr Ndugulile said the government in collaboration with other stakeholders, continues to educate the public on the importance of good upbringing and protection for their children.

Tanzania conveys sympathy to Chinese people following coronavirus outbreak, now described as a global threat

By Guardian Reporter

FOREIGN Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Prof Palamagamba Kabudi has conveyed Tanzania's sympathies to China over the coronavirus outbreak.

In a telephone conversation with China State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Prof Kabudi said: "As comrades in solidarity and brothers sharing weal and woe, Tanzania stands firmly with China in this time of difficulty. The Tanzanian government appreciates China's efforts to care for its nationals living in China, and shares the WHO assessment that China's response has helped to curb the spread of the virus to other parts of the world.

The Minister stated that the government is confident that China will win the battle against the epidemic at an early date.

State Councillor Wang thanked his counterpart for offering sympathies and support. He commended Tanzania as a good and trustworthy friend, and hailed the friendship between the two countries as one that has withstood the vicissitudes of the world.

He said that in the face of the epidemic, the Chinese people are acting as one and various measures are falling into place.

"These efforts have brought encouraging news: cured cases have exceeded fatal ones by a significant

margin, and the increase of suspected cases is slowing down. We will definitely win this battle", said Wang.

Wang stressed that the World Health Organization (WHO) Director General had commended China's containment measures on multiple occasions, expressing confidence with China to prevail over the epidemic and praised China for setting a new standard for epidemic response.

"Recently, when speaking on behalf of Africa at the 146th session of the WHO Executive Board, the Tanzanian delegate spoke highly of China's prompt and adequate response. He said that the crisis would have been worse had it not been for the strict and timely measures taken by China. He also assured China of Africa's continued cooperation and solidarity. China appreciates these words of support", Wang noted.

He said China is also contributing to global public health as the number of infected cases outside China is hardly one percent of that in China, which proves the effectiveness of China's response in curbing the spread of the epidemic further afield.

Wang said China stands ready to increase information sharing with other countries in the spirit of openness and transparency and seek closer health cooperation with Tanzania and other African countries.



Residents of Solwa in Shinyanga Region visibly distressed (top) and making do with the only "reachable" means they could use to move their earthly belongings to safety (above), as captured earlier this week. This was after the road linking their ward and Salawe ward was rendered impassable after a strategic bridge was swept away by floodwaters. Combo photos: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

People moved out of lowland areas shouldn't go back, warns Majaliwa

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has directed regional and district commissioners to make sure that people residing in lowland areas who were relocated to safer places do not go back to their previous settlements.

Addressing a rally at Kipindimbi village in Kilwa district, Lindi region, the Premier said: "You should make sure all those relocated to safer places are not returning to their previous residential areas. This will help to control disasters especially during rains".

Majaliwa said it is the responsibility of the government to ensure the safety and security of all citizens including protecting them against possible disasters such as floods.

The Premier also visited various villages which were affected by recent floods which killed over 21 people in Lindi region. The visited villages include Nambilanje in Ruangwa district, Nakiu and Njinjo in Kilwa district and Kitomanga in Lindi district.

Earlier, Lindi district commissioner, Godfrey Zamboni informed the Premier that ongoing rains have killed 21 people in different villages while leaving 26,481 people from 4,344 households

homeless.

Zamboni told the PM that the rains have also damaged various social services infrastructures like schools, dispensaries, roads and farms.

"The rains affected all the districts in Lindi region, but the most affected area is Kilwa district where floods hit seven wards, in Ruangwa whereby a total of 18 wards had been affected, three wards Liwale and four in Lindi", said Zamboni noting the rains started in the region from January 18th to 29th 2020.

The RC said flood victims whose houses were destroyed by the floods had been provided with alternative shelters. He said the government had opened a special camp for the victims whereby they are also provided with relief assistance.

Zamboni told the PM that the region has received a number of aids from various stakeholders including the Prime Minister's Office which has provided 80 tents, 50 blankets, 1,500 buckets, 350 mats and 350 cups.

"We have also received food, medicines and school equipment from various stakeholders," the RC said.

The RC added they have also received rescue equipment including eight boats from the Tanzanian People's Defence Force (TPDF).

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By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

MWANZA Regional Commissioner, John Mongella has challenged engineers to ensure that their registration reflect on their performance at the field to bring development in the country.

The RC made the remarks here yesterday when speaking at the Engineering Professional Oath Ceremony and visits to construction sites of new ship and rehabilitation of Mv Victoria and Mv Butiama.

He said it will be appalling to see a registered engineer under performing at the field a situation that is quite shameful to the profession of engineering.

In that context, engineers should discharge their responsibilities in accordance with their oath to bring respect to the profession and also to make them be respected by the society they serve, he said.

He stated that engineering is one of the

Mwanza RC challenges engineers to go for better field performance

highly respected professions in the world as no development plan can be implemented successfully without using engineers therefore those experts should strictly adhere to principals and procedures governing them all the time.

According to him, engineering is everything, noting that even when President John Magufuli regularly talks about Tanzania of industries it is the engineers that make the country reach that stage working on the ideas of the Head of State.

He cited an example of when you want to build a classroom, dispensary, ship or construct a bridge, engineers are required to make the plan possible noting that in other words if there are no creative engineers development will

delay.

Speaking at the occasion, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Marine Services Company Limited (MSCL), Eric Hamissi said that state-owned company is prepared to go with the pace of infrastructure being implemented by the government to fast track economic development in the country.

He said that it is important to improve ship services in the country to enable transporting cargo received at Dar es Salaam port to other countries located in the Great Lakes region.

However, Hamissi thanked the engineers for a commendable job they have been doing in the implementation of ship building projects in the country.

By Guardian Reporter

THE Dar es Salaam-based Bandari College (BC) has unveiled its plan to purchase modern training equipment worth 1.5bn/- a move which will see more competent experts being produced yearly to serve in the shipping industry.

The college's board chairman, Deusdedit Kakoko said that an agreement has already been signed to purchase the equipment dubbed "Full Mission Crane Training Simulator".

"We are now mullied to invest heavily in manpower and modern equipment to provide quality education...Once purchased it will take at least six months in installation with its operation commencing in the next fiscal year," he said.

Eng Kakoko, who is the Director General of the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) said that the authority will continue investing in manpower

Bandari College unveils plan to purchase modern training gear

and modern equipment to enable the college provide quality education.

"We have also launched a new ICT system dubbed 'Students Information Management System' towards improving service provision in the college as well as making it one of the best varieties in and outside the country.

The new system replaces the manual based records and improves and upgrades the college's website. Therefore college staff and students are able to directly access all aspects of students' academic progress through available, reliable and secured online system.

For his part, Bandari College Principal Dr

Joseph Kakeneno said that the college is also planning to establish first degree and Masters in the area of competence in management, ship and water services.

Bandari College (Dar es Salaam) was established in 1980 to serve the needs of Tanzania seaports. It continued to offer training in the field of operational clerks, equipment operators and went further to conduct courses such as operations supervisory courses.

The college strives to perform activities which offer quality, dynamic and unique training packages to employees and non-employees of the shipping industry and other stakeholders.



Former Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Bernard Membe (L) briefs journalists in Dodoma yesterday shortly after an "interrogation" session with the CCM ethics committee. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Minister orders timely completion of Ndugai market, Nzuguni bus terminal

By Guardian Reporter

MINISTER of State in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Selemani Jafo has instructed authorities in Dodoma city to ensure timely construction of the Ndugai market and Nzuguni bus terminal.

Jafo noted that as per President John Magufuli directives, the two projects have to be completed by February 15, this year.

Laying foundation stone for the projects last year, President Magufuli directed contractors to complete the buildings by February this year as agreed in the contract.

Minister Jafo gave the directive here yesterday when he visited the projects, calling upon contractors to speed up the projects implementation. He urged them to increase workforce to be able to hand over the buildings to the government next week.

Jafo urged authorities to put in place a good arrangement for issuance of business stalls to allow small scale entrepreneurs (SME) to benefit with the market project.

He said that SMEs should be among the new market beneficiaries since the President values them and would want to see them flourishing in business.

The minister has also tasked authorities to look for a company that will be dealing with provision of

hygiene services at the facility.

Dodoma City Mayor, Godwin Kunambi assured the minister that all the directives will be implemented accordingly.

The bus terminal project also involves construction of a recreation park at Chinangali area, which will provide the residents with space for leisure, entertainment and recreational pursuits.

It will also build a large dumping site at Chidaya area, a lorry park at Nara area and six solid waste collection points.

Laying foundation stone for the projects which are financed by loans from the World Bank, President Magufuli proposed the new market to be named after the National Assembly Speaker Job Ndugai to honour his contribution to the city and the legislature.

Magufuli said: "This market will not only serve Dodoma residents but also traders in Mwanza, Iringa, Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and other regions as it will be built on international standards...It also has a section for petty traders."

"This market will not only serve Dodoma residents but also traders in Mwanza, Iringa, Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and other regions as it will be built on international standards...It also has a section for petty traders."

By Polycarp Machira,

Dodoma

Government pledges commitment to support Tanzanian innovators

THE government has stated the commitment to support young Tanzanian innovators realise their goals, saying the industrial economy drive need such workforce and projects.

The statement was made here on Wednesday evening by the Deputy Minister for Education, Science and Technology, William Ole Nasha while announcing the 2020 National Competition of Science, Technology and Innovation, abbreviated as MAKISATU in Kiswahili.

He said the government acknowledges a lot of innovation projects undertaken by many talented young people in the country that if adopted would help in economic development.

Addressing a press conference here, the deputy minister said registration for this year's competition started on 2nd January, 2020, calling on participants from primary, secondary, tertiary colleges, vocational trainings and universities to submit their innovation works.

"The aim of the competition is to identify, nurture and develop innovators whose if well utilized can help catalyze economic development as the nation is geared to industrial economy and achieving the 2025 vision," he said.

Ole Nasha said during the 2019 competition the government identified 415 young innovators where 60 of them were empowered for their innovation projects to

reach commercial level.

He thanked CRDB Plc for their continued support to the national innovative competition that started last year, appealing to other stakeholders to support the government in pushing

forward development projects.

Speaking at the same event, CRDB Corporate Banking Manager, Prosper Nambaya said his institution has decided to work closely with the ministry in supporting the completion

of project and others since there are many young Tanzanians with great innovative skills.

"We are aware that there are a lot of innovative skills that if identified and nurtured to the final level can help

improve national development," he said, adding that the bank is ready to support the ministry in different fields too.

He noted that every year the bank spends at least one percent of profit

made on corporate social responsibility in different areas like education and health among others.

Last year, the innovators were evaluated based on various criteria including the originality, the rate of innovation, the impact to community development, the science behind, usability on community, and cost of production among others.

The first winners in every category were awarded 5m/- each whereas second winners got 3m/- and third winners got 2m/- while 70 others were awarded certificates of participation.



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Position: Project Manager

Due to the award of a major contract in Dar es Salaam, G4S is seeking to recruit a Project Manager to manage the provision of security services on a large multi-site operation

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To be considered for this position the candidate must have experience in risk management and be an expert in all areas of physical security and access control. They must be fully conversant with the operational methods of all manned guarding, control room, patrol and response services.

In addition to a highly competitive salary, the post holder will be eligible for a monthly KPI based bonus and will be entitled to a car allowance and medical insurance.

Please send a CV listing all employment chronologically to cover the last ten years together with a cover letter setting out how you meet the minimum requirements. Details of current earnings and benefits should also be included.

To apply please send your email to careers@tz.g4s.com with Project Manager - Tanzania in the subject line.

The closing date for applications is 17th February 2020.



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EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

STUFFING AND DESTUFFING SERVICE (SEALING, STRIPPING, LOADING AND UNLOADING CARGO ON CONTAINER, TRUCK, TRAILER, WAGON OR OTHER EQUIPMENT USED TO DELIVER CARGO IN OR OUT OF PORT TERMINAL AND DRY PORT)

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- WCF registration certificate
- NSSF registration number
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- Safety policy
- Risk assessment of the task
- Safe work procedures for their entire scope of work

Interested vendors are required to submit their expression of interest with details of their capability and experience in a sealed envelope to TICTS finance office at PSPF building along Sokoine drive.

The submission deadline is before or on 14th February 2020 at 3:00pm, addressed to:

Chief Executive Officer
Tanzania International Container Terminal Services Limited
P.O Box 71442, Dar es Salaam
Tel. 255 22 2134056 Fax: 255 22 2134019
Email: ticts@ticts.com



LOST ORDINARY AND ADVANCED LEVEL CERTIFICATES



215619901

I, PEARSON STEPHANO MNKANI, HAVE LOST MY ORDINARY LEVEL CERTIFICATE (INDEX H438/60) AND MY ADVANCED LEVEL CERTIFICATE (INDEX T137/527).

I REQUEST ANYONE WHO MAY HAVE FOUND THEM TO PLEASE CONTACT ME THROUGH MY MOBILE NUMBER 0743065292, OR POLICE STATION BY NO ARU/ARU/RB/1118709/2020

Singida court sentences man of 74 to life in prison for rape of 13 students

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

RESIDENT Magistrate Court in Singida has sentenced one Daud Idd Karata aka 'Babuseya' a resident of Unyankindi in Singida municipality to life imprisonment after it found him guilty on 13 counts of involving in rape of students of various primary schools aged between seven to 12 years located in the municipality.

Government Prosecutor, Patricia Mkina alleged in court that in the first count, the accused committed the crime on unknown date in 2017 in Mitundurini Ward in Singida municipality by having carnal knowledge with a Std II student of Mughanga Primary School without her consent.

Mkina said, in the second count on the charge sheet in Case No. 217/2017, between October 2016 and October 2017 the accused, without her consent had carnal knowledge with a Std V student (12) of Nyerere Primary School while in the third count the prosecutor

claimed that on unknown date the accused had carnal knowledge, without her consent, with a 10 years old Std IV student from the same school.

In charges No. 4 to 13 that involved 10 students from Nyerere, Unyankindi and Singidani primary schools in Singida municipality the accused was similarly charged.

The accused was first referred to the court on October 30, 2017 and the hearing started under Magistrate Flora Benedict Ndale, but after she was transferred the case continued to be heard under Magistrate Aristida Tarimo up to the time judgment was delivered.

The prosecution side brought 41 witnesses and 24 exhibits to prove its case.

Delivering judgment Magistrate Tarimo said in counts Nos. 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 10 and 13 the Court sentences the accused to serve 30 years in prison whereas in counts Nos. 4, 11 and 12 she said the court sentences the accused to life in prison.



TPB Bank CEO Sabasaba Moshingi participates in the planting of trees at Mlimwa West in Dodoma city yesterday. The bank's staff and residents of the area planted a total of 500 trees - in support the city's environmental conservation campaign. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

A GROUP of tourists from Israel living in the United States some of who have disabilities has arrived in the country for a six-day tour during which they will scale up Mt. Kilimanjaro.

Speaking as they were preparing themselves to climb the mountain through Marangu gate, one of them who had disability, Shannon Barnes said the aim is to show the world that even people with disabilities can

US-based handicapped tourists to climb Mt Kilimanjaro

accomplish what other normal human beings can.

Barnes said they also want to prove to the world that a group of people with disabilities needs to be identified just like other groups and that they crave for same needs as do the others.

The leader of the company that is coordinating the trip, Sabina Kweka

who is the Director of Popote Afrika Adventure said this is the first group from the United States and that others will follow.

He said his company in collaboration with other institutions that care for people with disabilities, including one in the US has signed an agreement to ensure people with special needs receive their rights

including tourism.

Kweka said the arrangement of bringing in tourists with disabilities from various countries will also benefit those with similar handicaps from Tanzania.

He said tourists with disabilities apart from climbing Mt Kilimanjaro, will also visit other attractions including viewing

wildlife in various national parks and game reserves such as Serengeti and Ngorongoro and otherS in southern Tanzania.

Speaking about the visit, a representative from Mt Kilimanjaro National Park said the tour by people with special needs is a testimony that Mt Kilimanjaro serves tourists of all kinds, adding that they are proud to

receive these tourists to scale up the mountain.

Arnold John, a Tanzanian with disability who has joined their colleagues from the US thanked Popote Afrika Adventure for seeing the importance for encouraging tourists with handicaps to visit our tourists' attractions which are an inheritance for all Tanzanians.



Representatives of UN agencies and foreign diplomatic missions in Tanzania follow presentations at the commemoration of the anniversary of the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (February 6) organized by the European Union in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac institute (JKCI) in collaboration with experts from Saudi Arabia and United States of America has conducted a three days camp for treatment of twelve people found with chronic total occlusion (CTO).

JKCI Director of Cardiology, Dr Peter Kisenge told journalists in Dar es Salaam that the camp was to be held after a training of local experts on Monday.

"Treatment of total chronic occlusion

JKCI joins Saudi Arabian, US doctors in conducting 3-day camp for treatment of chronic total occlusion

is very complicated and requires high expertise. Through the camp, patients will get the right treatment," he said noting that patients will undergo minor surgeries through catheterization laboratory.

Dr Kisenge said through the surgery patients do not stay longer at hospitals as they are discharged

as soon as their done with the surgery.

He said through the camp local doctors will also add to their knowledge and skills on treatment of chronic total occlusion. He called on doctors across the country to refer CTO patients to JKCI for proper treatment.

The Cardiologist Dr. Eric Powers, from Charleston, South Carolina said the organization has been conducting regular training to JKCI cardiac experts. He said the regular trainings have improved treatment services at the facility since the experts can now manage conducting various cardiac surgeries.

In July last year, the JKCI was selected to be a centre for monitoring congenital heart infections and surgery to children in the world.

The announcement was made by the International Quality Improvement Collaborative for Congenital Heart Surgery (IQIC) of the United States of America.

Standard gauge railway set to undergo formal testing in May

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

TANZANIA'S standard gauge railway (SGR) is set to undergo its first formal testing.

SGR Project Manager, Machibya Masanja revealed the plans and said the test will be conducted in May after completion of the construction of the first phase in April.

The test runs will be done for a period of three months before the railway's official inauguration, which will allow goods and passenger services to commence. The country is constructing a standard gauge railway that will link Rwanda, Burundi and DR Congo to the Dar es Salaam Port.

The first phase of the railway line covering 202km from Dar es Salaam to Morogoro is in its final stages.

Machibya explained that phase one was initially to be ready in November last year but the deadline was missed when the drilling works for a tunnel near Morogoro, building of bridges and placement of culverts were paralysed by heavy rains.

The phase will have six main stations at Dar es Salaam, Pugu, Soga, Ruvu, Ngerengere and Morogoro, with the Dar es Salaam and Morogoro stations being the largest.

Construction of the second phase of the standard gauge railway line

covering 422 km is expected to start from Morogoro to Makutupora area in Dodoma Region.

Yapi Merkezi of Turkey and Mota-Engil Africa of Portugal are jointly handling the first and second phases of the project however, separate tenders will be floated for the three remaining phases of Makutupora-Tabora (294km), Tabora-Isaka (133km) and Isaka-Mwanza (248km).

The SGR project will cover 1,457kms from Dar es Salaam to the shores of Lake Victoria and will cost US \$7.5 billion over the next five years.

The Tanzania Railways Corporation plans to procure 1,430 cargo wagons and 20 locomotives for the line that will also serve neighbouring countries of Uganda, Zambia, DR Congo, Rwanda and Burundi.



The first phase of the railway line covering 202km from Dar es Salaam to Morogoro is in its final stages

JKCI is now recognised among 66 cardiovascular centers in 25 countries in the world and will be used as a center to teach experts on cardiovascular in the African continent.

Currently, the JKCI clinic attends between 25 and 30 children patients daily.

Last year the institute conducted open heart surgery on 182 children and catheterizations on 92 children, adding this year alone 82 children underwent open heart surgery while catheterizations were done on 26 children.

Tanzania's income per capita set to rise to US\$ 1,707 by 2021

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

TANZANIA'S income per capita is projected to rise to US\$1,707 next year, up from this year's projection of US\$1,550, the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) has revealed.

According to a presentation by the TIC Executive Director Geoffrey Mwambe before 12 parliamentary committees last week here and availed to the press yesterday, Tanzania economy has been on steady growth in the last 10 years, and the agency gives evidence for the contention in that document presented before parliamentarians.

The document says that in 2017 the GDP grew by 7 percent while the per capita income stood at US\$1,178.

In 2018 GDP grew by 7.1 percent and the per capita income rose to US\$1,293. "We see the per capita income rising again this year to US\$1,550, and our projections show that there will be yet another good rise to US\$1,707 next year," Mwambe told the MPs.

According to the document, in 2010 the GDP grew by 7 percent and per capita income stood at 530. Per capita income has steadily rose since then reaching US\$971 in 2015 and jumping to 1071 in 2016 and making another big leap to US\$1,178 in 2017.

Before the world, according to the document, "Tanzania is now one of Africa's most exciting investment destinations." Quoting the ranking made by the Rand Merchant Bank in 2018, the

document says Tanzania is positioned to the seventh slot; Egypt in the first slot followed by South Africa.

In the top ten group of Africa's attractive investment destinations formulated by the bank, Kenya was put in the fifth slot.

Between 1990 and December 2018, the document lists top ten foreign countries that have invested in Tanzania as China, UK, USA, Mauritius, India, Australia, Kenya, the Netherlands, Belgium and Egypt, collectively investing in 3,173 projects valued at US\$29,120.36 million, creating 549,770 jobs.

According to the document, 43 percent of the projects which started during that period belong to Tanzanians, 28 percent to foreigners and 29 percent are partnerships.

During the same period, a total of 11,509 projects registered in 15 sectors: 9,248 (were new ones), 3,500 (expanded), 6,047 (Tanzanian-owned), 3,978 (partnerships) and the projects created collectively 1,517,306 jobs.

Challenges that are highlighted in the document include ever-changing global incentives to attract investors. Locally, problematic and deficiencies in the 2014 Value-Added Tax Act, the 1996 National Investment Policy, the 1997 Investment Act and insufficient skilled workforce.

The center suggests that the Investment Act should be the Framework Law in using and interpreting laws relating to investment. It also calls for a handsome budget to administer successfully the land bank fund.



Moshi mayor Raymond Mboya (L, gesturing) and other councillors on an inspection tour of one of the development projects in the municipality yesterday. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA World Bank Resident Director, Mara Marwick has assured the government of the bank's cooperation in various sectors to achieve the intended development.

Marwick gave the assurance on Wednesday when she held talks with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation Prof Palamagamba Kabudi at the ministry's

Government, World Bank promise to strengthen ties

offices in Dar es Salaam.

She said the relationship between the World Bank and Tanzania is good and that the bank values this relationship since 1960s and is ready to support the country through grants or loans through various development projects implemented by the government.

She said the meeting discussed

important issues on Tanzania's development such as education, infrastructure development, industrial economy and human development.

Minister Kabudi said Tanzania will strengthen ties with the World Bank and called upon Tanzanians to disregard what he termed as mere gossip in the social networks and

instead they should wait for the official communication from the ministry and the World Bank.

"A lot has been said but most of it is untruth and sometimes it is not wise to respond to these as it can derail the wananchi from the basic issues and find ourselves responding to these gossips every day," said Prof Kabudi.

and energy sectors.

He said Tanzania still qualifies for loans from the World Bank, the African Development Bank (AfDB), the East African Development Bank (EADB) and many other financial institutions.

In another development Prof Kabudi met and held talks with the Executive Secretary of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Dr Stagomena Tax and discussed many issues on the community.



Abdul Kisukari (R), executive officer for Iyunga in Mbeya Region, pictured earlier this week receiving from Tanzania Breweries Ltd human resources manager Prudence Gerald (2nd-L) and Mbeya plant manager Godwin Fabian (C) 100 bags of cement which the firm donated to help in the construction of a health centre in the ward. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Parliamentary committee pleads for termination of firm's contract

By Guardian Reporter

MEMBERS of Parliament have advised the government to terminate the contract of Buckreef Gold Company Ltd between State Mining Corporation (Stamico) and Tanzam 2000 Ltd over delayed implementation and failure to improve the mine.

Parliament's Energy and Minerals Committee Chairman, Dustan Kitandula claimed that the investor has violated a number of conditions stipulated in the contract such as procurement of machines without consulting the State Mining Corporation.

Presenting the committee report for the 2019/2020 financial year, Kitandula said it is worth to terminate the contract since the investor has failed to improve the gold mine located in Geita district since 2011 when the contract was signed.

He said termination of the contract would not affect the government because it has so far lost millions in terms of revenues due to delayed implementation.

"We advise the government to terminate its contract with Tanzam 2000 Ltd for development of Buckreef Gold Company Ltd because the investor has violated parts of contracts including procurement procedures

which requires the investor to consult Stamico before doing any purchases", he noted.

The MPs also suggested for the government (Stamico) to hand over operations of some mines to artisanal miners to continue collecting revenues.

According to the committee, Stamico entered into an agreement with private firms-Tanzam 2000 Ltd, a subsidiary of Tanzanian Royalty Exploration Corporation (TRX) from Canada to operate Buckreef Gold Company Ltd from October 2011.

According to the contract, Stamico owns 45 per cent of the shares and Tanzam 2000 Ltd 55 per cent. The joint venture project includes a license for special mining activities-SML 04/92 and a mineral exploration contract.

Kitandula informed the House that Minerals Committee has already send a 'default note' to the investor-Tanzam 2000 Ltd as part of efforts to facilitate operationalization of the joint venture project.

Stamico, a state owned enterprise which was reestablished in 2015 with the aim of increasing the contribution of the mineral sector to the national economy and creating employment opportunities to Tanzanians.

Young people must be empowered to eradicate FGM - gender stakeholders

By Correspondent James Kandoyo

GENDER stakeholders have expressed the need to empower youth to take a leading role to end Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in the country.

They aired their views during the occasion of International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM held in Dar es Salaam yesterday themed-'unleashing youth power to eradicate FGM'.

The event brought together youth and change makers where they discussed about the world they imagine without FGM by 2030.

Rebecca Gyumi, the Ant-FGM champion and Executive Director of Msichana Initiative said there is a need to empower youth to eradicate FGM in the country.

She said since 30 percent of the reported events occur in rural areas, those living in respective areas should not be left behind to reach the target by 2030.

"The education and awareness programme should be delivered to the youth at their early stages of growth to enable them change the society's attitudes," said Gyumi.

National Coordinator of Police

Gender and Children's desk at Tanzania Police Force (TPF) Faidha Suleiman said safe houses are important for girls fleeing from their houses.

She said so far police have established more than 400 desks to ensure that all issues related to women violation are handled responsibly.

"We are still working to ensure the gender desk is institutionalized in the police general procedures and later incorporated in the mother law," she said.

In her opening remarks, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Representative, Jacqueline Mawon said

collective efforts have begun to bear fruits as evidenced by the decline in FGM cases in the country.

She said the decline, however, has been uneven and there are still women and girls in Tanzania who are subjected to FGM or live in fear of being cut.

Mawon added that as the population increase over the next decade, the number of girls at risk of FGM will increase, despite the reduction in percentage.

She said the 2020 marks the decade of action and delivery of sustainable development with ten years remaining

to meet the SDG of eliminating the harmful practice of FGM.

"We can still deliver on the 2030 promise but it will require major efforts by everyone, and if we are to be successfully, young people must be at the center of the fight against FGM - we must empower them to unleash their power," she said.

"We must support Tanzania's youths to create spaces for dialogue to engage with those who can sway communities -politicians, community leaders and elders-so that they can challenge and change attitudes that drive the practice," she added.

According to her, young people must be supported to shatter the silence that surrounds FGM and raise awareness about its harmful impacts with families, in communities and in schools.

The Head of Delegation of the European Union to Tanzania and the East African Community, Manfredo Fanti highlighted the need to empower the youths in the fight against FGM.

"Youths are the future generation therefore it is important to empower them to ensure they are freed from the unlawful practice," he said.

Key to successful agriculture in Africa is more fertilisers

A fertiliser is any material of natural or synthetic origin (other than liming materials) that is applied to soil or to plant tissues to supply one or more plant nutrients essential to the growth of plants. Many sources of fertiliser exist, both natural and industrially produced.

In the later half of the 20th century, increased use of nitrogen fertilizers have been a crucial component of the increased productivity of conventional food systems.

Management of soil fertility has been the preoccupation of farmers for thousands of years. The use of commercial fertilizers has increased steadily in the last 50 years, rising almost 20-fold to the current rate of 100 million tonnes of nitrogen per year. Without commercial fertilisers it is estimated that about one-third of the food produced now could not be produced.

The use of phosphate fertilisers has also increased from 9 million tonnes per year in 1960 to 40 million tonnes per year in 2000. Yara International is the world's largest producer of nitrogen-based fertilisers.

Fertilisers enhance the growth of plants. This goal is met in two ways, the traditional one being additives that provide nutrients. The second mode by which some fertilisers act is to enhance the effectiveness of the soil by modifying its water retention and aeration. For decades, fertilisers were too expensive for African farmers. They had to be imported, and transportation into the continent was expensive.

Now, though, Africa is turning a corner toward producing more of it locally. A Moroccan company has signed a nearly \$4 billion deal to build a fertiliser plant in Ethiopia. A Danish company is helping the

Democratic Republic of Congo build a \$2.5 billion fertiliser plant. The African Development Bank Group helped fund a new fertiliser plant in Nigeria that's already boosting farmers' yields.

And this August in Ghana, the vice president stood proudly before the largest fertiliser plant ever built in the country. Mahamudu Bawumia said the factory was the solution Ghana's farmers had been demanding.

African countries have some of the lowest rates of fertiliser use in the world, but efforts to change this come with some serious dilemmas. Some nutrients farmers add to the soil both nourish crops and contribute to the climate change that's already damaging food production in Africa. The wide acceptance and government support for fertiliser in Africa has been a long time coming.

As African governments turn toward encouraging farmers to use fertilisers and building plants that produce it, farmers will still face challenges, because, especially in the beginning, fertilisers need to be applied generously and consistently to eventually make soil productive. That's a big initial expense that many African farmers with small plots can't afford.

While governments are trying to address that problem with subsidies, another problem has cropped up: As fertilizer production in Africa has increased, so have reports of it being stolen and smuggled.

So, while public-private partnerships have built fertilizer plants across Africa. The private sector has to play a key role. And they have to play a key role in ensuring that fertiliser gets to the farmer, at the right time, in the right moment. African governments have made great strides with the public-private partnerships that have allowed them to build fertilizer plants.

Africa's future lies in its people, education is the great equaliser

GROSS domestic product (GDP) is a monetary measure of the market value of all the final goods and services produced in a specific time period. GDP (nominal) per capita does not, however, reflect differences in the cost of living and the inflation rates of the countries; therefore using a basis of GDP per capita at purchasing power parity (PPP) is arguably more useful when comparing living standards between nations, while nominal GDP is more useful comparing national economies on the international market. [4]

The OECD defines GDP as "an aggregate measure of production equal to the sum of the gross values added of all resident and institutional units engaged in production and services (plus any taxes, and minus any subsidies, on products not included in the value of their outputs). An IMF publication states that, GDP measures the monetary value of final goods and services—that are bought by the final user—produced in a country in a given period of time (say a quarter or a year).

Total GDP can also be broken down into the contribution of each industry or sector of the economy. The ratio of GDP to the total population of the region is the per capita GDP and the same is called Mean Standard of Living. GDP is considered the "world's most powerful statistical indicator of national development and progress".

GDP can be determined in three ways, all of which should, theoretically, give the same result. They are the production (or output or value added) approach, the income approach, or the speculated expenditure approach.

The most direct of the three is the production approach, which sums the outputs of every class of enterprise to arrive at the total. The expenditure approach works on the principle that all of the product must be bought by somebody, therefore the value of

the total product must be equal to people's total expenditures in buying things. The income approach works on the principle that the incomes of the productive factors ("producers," colloquially) must be equal to the value of their product, and determines GDP by finding the sum of all producers' incomes.

In the same vein, Africa's economies are growing strongly, but growth alone cannot meet the needs of the continent's poorest citizens, because "nobody eats Gross Domestic Product (GDP)", the President of the African Development Bank, Akinwumi Adesina said as he unveiled the Bank's flagship economic report recently.

The 2020 African Economic Outlook (AEO) showed that the continent's economies are growing well, higher than the global average. The report projected a steady rise in growth in Africa from 3.4 per cent in 2019 to 3.9 per cent in 2020 and 4.1 percent in 2021.

According to the report, the figures do not tell the whole story across the continent, the poor are not seeing enough of the benefits of robust growth. Relatively few African countries posted significant declines in extreme poverty and inequality, which remain higher than in other regions of the world. According to Adesina "growth must be visible, growth must be equitable, growth must be felt in the lives of people."

The theme of the 2020 African Economic Outlook report, Developing Africa's workforce for the future, calls for swift action to address human capital development in African countries, where inclusive growth has been held back by a mismatch between young workers' skills and the needs of employers. In its recommendations, the report suggests on improving access to education in remote areas, incentives such as free uniforms and text books, banning child labour and improving teaching standards.

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Change to the Refugees Act moves SA much closer to Trump's America

By Nadia Shivji

AN amendment to South Africa's Refugees Act, introduced in the name of 'national security', is instead a direct assault on the constitutionally guaranteed separation of powers between government and the courts. It violates national, regional, and international law.

Since its inception, the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa has protected South Africa from its government. A document heralded internationally as a model of democratic rights, the Constitution guarantees all people on South African soil the right to dignity, the right to food, and most important for the purposes of this article, the right to access the courts. But in one fell swoop, the government has removed that right from asylum seekers and refugees. With the amendments to the Refugees Act, that protection is under threat.

Adopting the term "national security" from post-9/11 America, the Minister of Home Affairs now has unfettered authority to issue an order requiring the immediate detention and removal of an asylum seeker or refugee who they feel is a threat to the national security of the Republic. What is notably absent from the new legislation is what exactly "national security" means. What does one have to do to become a threat to national security?

In America, it typically starts by being a Muslim male of Middle Eastern origin, as seen in recent executive orders from President Donald Trump that ban citizens from five Muslim-majority countries (Iran, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Somalia) from travelling to the USA and which he is currently seeking to expand. Though there are certainly exceptions where other minorities have had the honour of being designated a national security threat. In short, "national security" is a vague term which can easily be used as a vehicle for unconstrained discrimination against the most vulnerable in society.

The results of national security legislation in other countries in the past 20 years have played out in various ways. Children have ended up on the no-fly list in Canada because their names sound similar to wanted terrorists. National security forms the justification of the concentration camps at the southern border of the USA where asylum seekers are sent and children separated from their parents. In India, it has led to new citizenship legislation that is widely seen as anti-



A man peels a boiled egg to eat, as African foreign nationals from various African countries take refuge inside of the Central Methodist Church, in Cape Town, South Africa.

Muslim. America was caught tapping the phones of European leaders, including close allies, in the name of national security. Everywhere it has led to reduced rights of private individuals in the name of an undefined threat.

More worrisome still, the provisions allow the Director-General of the Department of Home Affairs to ignore an order from the High Court of South Africa. The provision states that if the Minister issues an order to remove a refugee or asylum seeker on the basis of national security, the individual the order is issued against may file an application for judicial review within 48 hours.

In reality, this is almost impossible. It would require the individual to find an attorney willing to take on their case while in detention. Even if they find an attorney, the attorney has to meet with the client in detention. Currently, if an attorney wants to meet with a client detained at Lindela Repatriation Facility, the largest and principal holding facility for detained migrants, they are required to give 48 hours notice to the facility. This alone makes the provision impossible to comply with.

Even if that were not the case, the newly hired attorney would have to draft several legal documents that outline all of the intricacies and details of the individual's case, their life story, and the basis on which the order is unlawful, serve it on all parties involved, and file it with the court all within two days.

If by some miracle the individual and their hypothetical attorney are able to overcome the monster task above, and they are granted a court order overriding the deportation order, they are still not safe. They then have to get a confirmation of that High Court Order from the Constitutional Court within two calendar weeks. Usually, once you

file an application for confirmation with the Constitutional Court you will be given a court date that is several months in the future. Oral submissions are then made on that date, and in rare cases, the Constitutional Court will grant the order on the spot. More often they reserve their decision and it will be released anywhere from a few weeks to several months later. The idea that confirmation could be acquired within two weeks is laughable to anyone with any experience at all with the judicial system.

Aside from procedure, this also undermines the authority of the High Court of South Africa. To hold an order of the High Court to be valid only for a period of two weeks without the confirmation of the Constitutional Court makes the High Court order worth little more than the paper it is written on. The Constitutional Court ordinarily hears confirmation proceedings or challenges to decisions of the High Court regarding constitutional matters. It does not merely confirm orders already granted by the High Court on non-constitutional matters. To require such detracts from the purpose of the Constitutional Court and effectively turns it into an immigration court.

But timelines are not even the most concerning part of this amendment. What is most concerning is this: if the Constitutional Court does not confirm the High Court order within two weeks, then "... the Director-General must, notwithstanding the legal status of the order issued by the Minister, proceed with the removal of the person from the territory of the Republic...".

Courts are the guardians of the Constitution. The Constitution grants all people on South African soil the right to access the courts. By issuing the authority to override a court order, the newly enacted Regulations and amended Act directly violates the

Constitution. There is a separation of powers between the courts and the government for a reason. The courts provide checks and balances on the authority of the government in order to protect the people. By violating the Constitution, the government is overstepping its own authority and entering the realm of the courts. The new amendments also infringe upon the Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, which adopts the United Nations Convention on the Status of Refugees and the United Nations Protocol on the Status of Refugees. Article 16 of the UN Convention guarantees the right to access to the courts. In other words, it violates national, regional, and international law.

So why should South Africans care? If this only impacts non-South Africans, why should citizens and permanent residents be concerned? Every single person on South African soil should care, regardless of their status in this country, because once a government starts violating the Constitution, it is a slippery slope and there is no way to know who will be next. Today, refugees and asylum seekers are losing their rights. Tomorrow, it could be women, the elderly, or members of the LGBT community. Allowing even a single individual person to lose their constitutional rights sets a precedent that could lead to the rest of South Africa losing them too.

Let's be clear: there are real threats to the security of the nation that the government needs to be aware of and protect against - the climate crisis, water shortages, and gender-based violence all come to mind. But that does not mean normal administrative roles should be placed under the umbrella of defence. South Africa is not at war. Unlike other nations that are hiding behind the guise of national security with zero regard for the fallout for ordinary citizens, South Africans remember what it is like to live under an opaque regime that commits horrific atrocities in the name of keeping the peace.

South Africans fought to overthrow that regime; the struggle is within living memory. Using national security as an excuse to grant excessive power to a single member of the executive and to attempt to circumvent the Constitution and the judiciary - which is exactly what this new amendment does - is a blatant disregard of the rights South Africans worked so hard to achieve. This legislation belongs in the apartheid era; today South Africa is better than this.

The Gambia gives international justice an unlikely boost

BY OTILIA ANNA MAUNGANIDZE AND KAREN ALLEN

In a watershed moment for international justice, on 23 January the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ordered the government of Myanmar to, among others, immediately protect the Rohingya from further persecution.

The ICJ - not to be confused with the International Criminal Court (ICC) and criminal courts in general - deals with legal disputes between states. As politicians argue about whether or not genocide is happening in Myanmar, The Gambia left it to independent judges to decide. So, in this case, the ICJ became the first step towards state accountability that could result in individual prosecutions on charges linked to genocide at courts like the ICC.

The two states in this case are, in many ways, worlds apart. The Gambia seemingly has little connection to Myanmar with 11 500 km between them. In bringing the matter, the West African country asked the ICJ for an urgent ruling and provisional order to prevent any further acts of violence or destruction, and to preserve any evidence of genocide against the Rohingya.

The order is provisional until the ICJ deals with whether Myanmar is in fact carrying out genocide against the Rohingya people. Already, the court's decision said that some of the actions outlined by The Gambia could amount to genocide.

As politicians argue about genocide in Myanmar, The



The small West African country's case against Myanmar shows the reach of international justice. FILE PHOTO

Gambia left it to independent judges to decide

How could the smallest country in continental Africa (only five island nations are smaller) bring such a mammoth case to the ICJ? In international law, the size of a country doesn't matter - all have an equal footing. To strengthen its case, The Gambia's application was backed by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, a group of 57 mainly Muslim countries of which it is part.

The case, which tackles whether the Muslim Rohingya minority in Myanmar are being specifically targeted based on their religion, is significant in three other ways. First, it is instrumental in (re)shaping how the world views the global

nature of international crimes such as genocide.

Second, it shows the role the ICJ plays in interpreting international conventions such as the 1948 Genocide Convention. Third, once the ICJ deals with the substantive arguments, it will clarify whether or not genocide is occurring in Myanmar, which in turn will enable decisions to be taken on situations in other countries. The ICJ decision will also outline the responsibilities of states to prevent or stop genocide.

The Gambia relied on witness testimonies and reporting from numerous official sources including a United Nations (UN) fact-finding mission in Myanmar to allege that

Myanmar had committed atrocities against its people. Myanmar's government disputes the claims and argues that it is responding to a terrorist threat. It says its actions are aimed at ending an 'internal armed conflict' with the Arakan Army in Rakhine State (where many Rohingya come from).

The ICJ's provisional order on Myanmar could serve as a political catalyst for action

It's worth emphasising that just days before the ICJ's interim order, Myanmar's own independent commission of inquiry found that crimes against humanity, including sexual violence, were committed in Rakhine.

However the commission

didn't find evidence of genocidal intent by the state. It also recommended domestic prosecutions - something Myanmar's government says it is committed to. Since the crisis started, Myanmar has refused entry to UN investigators, meaning evidence is being collected from outside the country - mostly in neighbouring Bangladesh.

In the provisional order, the ICJ couldn't - yet - rule on whether the Rohingya were potential victims of ongoing criminal acts directly targeting them based on their ethnicity and religion with the intention to exterminate them in whole or in part. This will come later when the ICJ rules on whether the Genocide Convention

applies in this case and, if so, whether genocide can be said to be happening in Myanmar.

Regardless, already the ICJ's provisional order could serve as a (political) catalyst for action. Indeed, by ordering Myanmar not only to protect the Rohingya against persecution but also preserve any evidence, the ball is already in the country's court. But with Myanmar pushing for the problems to be dealt with internally, international prosecutions would only occur if the state itself was found to be instrumental in a genocide.

Whatever its motives, The Gambia's ICJ actions

offer important lessons on pushing for accountability

It's fairly new territory for international justice, but should the ICJ find in favour of The Gambia's arguments, this could put pressure on the UN Security Council to refer the whole situation to the ICC. This won't happen just yet.

Exercising caution, UN Security Council members will probably use more than the final ICJ decision to determine their next steps. The ICC is already investigating the matter from across the border in Bangladesh. The Gambia's role is significant because in seeking to hold leaders accountable, it would broaden the scope of the investigations.

In bringing the case against Myanmar, The Gambia is seeking to position itself as an active participant in the international legal system. The Gambia has its own much-contested human rights record and was recently in the spotlight for crackdowns on protests. This makes it an unlikely champion for international justice and some have questioned whether its move in the Myanmar case was altruistic or an effort to whitewash its own chequered past (and present).

Whatever the motives, The Gambia's actions at the ICJ offer important lessons for other countries on pushing for accountability - whether at home or further afield.

Otilia Anna Maunganidze, Head of Special Projects, ISS Pretoria and Karen Allen, Senior Research Advisor, Emerging Threats, ISS Pretoria

Economic power in Pretoria: Merkel and Ramaphosa meet

By Peter Fabricius

German Chancellor Angela Merkel will meet with President Cyril Ramaphosa in Pretoria on Thursday 6 February, lending him her country's powerful - and badly-needed - support at a precarious moment in his efforts to reform South Africa's economy and polity.

For Ramaphosa, the endorsement of the leader of Europe's most powerful economy is very important, particularly in his drive, launched in 2018, to boost investment by \$100-billion in the five years to 2023.

Conversely for Germany, which has more than 600 companies and hundreds of millions of euros invested in this country, and which exported about R127-billion worth of goods to South Africa in the year ending November 2019, the success of Ramaphosa's reforms is not just a matter of altruistic concern about South Africa's future but also of vital self-interest.

Steffen Seibert, spokesperson for the German federal government in Berlin, said when he announced the visit: "South Africa is our most important economic partner in Africa. South Africa is on a course of economic reform. The visit's goals include the support of the reform course of the Ramaphosa government, as well as the further intensification of our economic rela-



German Chancellor Angela Merkel receives South African President Cyril Ramaphosa (L) in Berlin, Germany, 30 October 2018. File photo

tions." Underscoring the economic priority of the visit, Merkel will be accompanied by a large business delegation. Ramaphosa and Merkel will participate in a "business roundtable" with German and South African company representatives and Merkel will meet with students for an exchange at the Future Africa Campus of the University of Pretoria.

"The talks in South Africa will focus on international, regional political and economic issues as

well as on bilateral cooperation in civic and educational areas," Seibert said.

After South Africa Merkel will travel to Angola where President Jose Lourenco is also, perhaps not coincidentally, facing political resistance from the old guard as he tries to reform an economy and political system corrupted and mismanaged by his predecessor.

Solid and vibrant ties "It's a great - and the right - time for the German chancellor to visit South Africa," Germany's ambas-

ador to South Africa, Martin Schaefer, said this week.

"Centre stage will take, of course, her meetings with President Cyril Ramaphosa on Thursday. The ties between our countries, the biggest democracies and economies of our sister continents, are strong - politically, but also economically. South Africa is by far our most important economic partner on the African continent. More than 600 Ger-

man companies are active in South Africa, creating jobs, providing training and contributing to transformation. The goal of the visit is to further intensify these solid and vibrant ties.

"There is a lot of interest from and expectations in Germany in President Ramaphosa's economic reform drive... We cooperate closely on the international agenda. Germany and South Africa share the same val-

ues and interests in a rules-based multilateral order that we both have every reason to defend.

"That's why we work closely together as non-permanent members on the UN Security Council and at the G20. This year will be an important one for the world, and for both our countries - with South Africa taking over the African Union chairmanship right after the chancellor's visit and Germany taking over the presidency of the Council of the European Union later this year. These come with so many important and urgent issues for the chancellor and the president to discuss, on the African continent and beyond."

Ramaphosa's office said total trade between the two countries reached R235-billion in the year ending November 2019. It added that South Africa's exports (at R108-billion) exceeded R100-billion for the first time, narrowing the trade deficit. And it said Germany was the third-largest source of overseas visits to South Africa.

There were 72 bilateral agreements between the two nations, providing a legal framework for cooperation in several areas and this relationship was further strengthened by a Binational Commission, aimed at boosting diplomatic cooperation in foreign and security policy, migration and humanitarian assistance, economic and energy devel-

opment, environmental control, science and technology, arts and culture, labour and social affairs, and vocational education and training.

The last is a particularly important area of cooperation between the two countries as Germany has for many years been helping to boost South Africa's vocational training based on its own successful model of shared on-the-job training in which workers oscillate between educational institutions and company internships.

Schaefer also advocated another successful German economic institution in a recent column for News24, where he suggested that South African business and unions - which are most often in conflict - could take a leaf from the cooperative konfliktpartnerschaft (conflict partnership) between these two institutions in Germany which he said was responsible for Germany's great economic success.

Ramaphosa's office said he and Merkel would also discuss greater cooperation between the two countries on the United Nations Security Council where both are currently non-permanent members.

"The two countries are committed to advocating for world peace and security, strengthening and reform of multilateral institutions and responding to climate change."

DM

'Africa must prioritise upskilling its unemployed youth'

MBABANE

Africa's inability to produce adequate skills is negatively impacting its economic growth.

In fact, the continent is not getting a good return even on the minimal investment it is making in education, says Thembinkosi Dlamini, an economist and senior extractives lead at Oxfam South Africa.

He was responding to one of the main findings in the African Development Bank's (AfDB) 2020 Africa Outlook Report, released last week. Titled Developing Africa's Workforce for the Future, the report notes that most African countries at all levels of income exhibit lower educational attainment, both in quantity and quality.

Thembinkosi Dlamini told IPS that education in Africa remains untransformed to meet the skills of the future. He attributed this to lack of foresight and dwindling public investments in education.

The report notes that many African countries' student expenditure is the lowest in the world, at \$533 for primary and \$925 for high school. This is despite the fact that African countries allocated an average of 5 percent of GDP and 16 percent of government budget to education - just above the United Nations recommended lower limit of 4 and 15 percent, respectively from 2010-17.

As a result, Africa's growth has not been inclusive because of the lack of jobs in high-productivity sectors such as manufacturing.



Youth at the Grand Médine town hall in Dakar, Senegal. Senegal has a large youth population, half of which is under the age of 18. By 2025, 376,000 youth are expected to enter the job market that offers only 30,000 jobs. And this number will rise to 411,000 in 2030, according to the Wilson Centre. File photo

Moreover, large swaths of the population are stuck in low-productivity, low-paying jobs in traditional agriculture and informal sectors.

"The slow pace of structural transformation stems from shortcomings in human capital reflecting low skills and education levels," reads the report.

Only about a third of African countries have achieved inclusive growth. The report observes that countries with better education outcomes and higher rates of structural change are more likely to achieve inclusive growth.

"Countries with active inequality-reducing policies have better prospects of reducing extreme poverty more by 2030," states the

report.

The report also points out that there is a lack of complementarity between physical and human capital in African countries resulting in a limited contribution of education to increasing labour productivity growth at the macro level.

"Public investments in both education and infrastructure can yield greater benefits in promoting long-term growth than investing only in education or only in infrastructure because both types of investment strongly complement each other," reads the report.

Speaking at the launch of the report in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, AfDB president, Dr Akinwumi Adesina, said physical infrastructure, while im-

portant, is not enough to drive much needed greater growth and productivity of African economies.

"African countries should accelerate investments as well as the development of human capital," said Adesina.

Unemployable with a master's in engineering

The lack of investments or available job market is a case in point for Mkhonzeni Dlamini's [no relation to Thembinkosi Dlamini].

Mkhonzeni Dlamini (32) graduated with a BA in Electrical and Electronic Engineering from the University of Eswatini six years ago. He thought getting a job would be easy because Eswatini's government had classified his qualification as one of the priority courses

owing to the shortage of engineers in the country. However, Mkhonzeni Dlamini failed to get a job the following year. He then decided to pursue a Master's Degree in Electrical Engineering in Taiwan, hoping that this would improve his chances. He graduated in 2018 and returned home.

"Even now, I'm unemployed," he told IPS, adding: "I don't understand why a person with my skill is failing to get a job considering that the country needs engineers to develop."

The visibly frustrated Mkhonzeni Dlamini blamed this situation to the "government's poor planning", saying that there are many other young graduates, including doctors, who are idling at home because there are no jobs.

"The government doesn't seem to have a training plan to match available jobs. In fact, the government doesn't seem to know how many students are on training and plan to create jobs for those graduates," said Mkhonzeni Dlamini.

Having searched for a job since his return in 2018, he is now considering leaving the continent.

"Like many African graduates who are frustrated like me, we're now thinking of going back to the countries that colonised us," he said. Mkhonzeni Dlamini is exploring possibilities of getting a job in the United Kingdom.

Educating Africa's youth for jobs of the future

Meanwhile, Adesina said youth unemployment must be given top priority. With 12 million graduates enter-

ing the labour market each year and only three million of them getting jobs, the mountain of youth unemployment is rising annually.

He said given the fast pace of changes, driven by the 4th industrial revolution - from artificial intelligence to robotics, machine learning, quantum computing - Africa must invest more in re-directing and re-skilling its labour force and, especially the youth, to effectively participate.

"The youth must be prepared for the jobs of the future - not the jobs of the past," said Adesina.

Thembinkosi Dlamini agreed.

"We haven't seen academic papers recently testing the relevance of the education to current and future needs of the economy," Thembinkosi Dlamini told IPS, adding: "The report correctly points out the high skills mismatch particularly amongst youth employees [saying] that Africans are miseducated."

Leave no country, no youth behind

Despite the limitations in the workforce, the report notes some success stories on the continent.

In 2019, East Africa was the fastest-growing region, and North Africa continued to make the largest contribution to Africa's overall GDP growth, due mainly to Egypt's strong growth momentum. Moreover, six African countries are among the world's 10 fastest-growing economies: Rwanda at 8.7 percent, Ethiopia 7.4 percent, Côte d'Ivoire 7.4 percent, Ghana 7.1 percent, Tanzania 6.8 percent, and Benin 6.7 percent.

Former Liberian Presi-

dent, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who attended the launch together with ministers and other dignitaries, described these six economies as the "stars among us".

"We want to see more, particularly countries like mine, which have been left behind, so that more can be done to give them the support that they need," she said.

Economic growth in Africa is estimated at 3.4 percent for 2019, about the same as in 2018. Although stable, this growth rate is 0.6 percentage point less than the rate projected in the 2019 African Economic Outlook. It is also below the decadal average growth for the region (5 percent).

The slower than expected growth is due partly to the modest expansion of the continent's "big five" - Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Nigeria, and South Africa - which jointly grew at an average rate of only 3.1 percent, compared with the average of 4.0 percent for the rest of the continent's economies, notes the report.

Africa's GDP growth is marginally above the world average of 3.0 percent for 2019 and well above the average for advanced economies at 1.7 percent.

It also exceeds that of emerging and developing economies outside Africa, excluding China and India.

While the statistics matter, AfDB's Adesina said the faces behind the figures should be prioritised.

"And every single day we work, let's look at the real lives behind the statistics. Let's hear their voices," said Adesina.

Agencies

CANBERRA, Australia

Coping with Australia's surfeit of natural disasters - lessons to be learned

I love visiting Canberra in the summer. The air is clean. The water in lake Burley Griffin is crystal clear and the "go boats" merrily bob up and down with their wine sipping occupants while black swans frolic in peace.

Canberrans, who are habitually relaxed, become more friendly. Clothes worn become decidedly casual and barely adequate.

BBQs get lit and the smell of burnt meat and beer induced laughter pervade the backyards. And the "laid back like a lizard on a summer's day" becomes more than a casual expression.

But this year was different. Summer temperatures continued to establish new records. The capital clocked up an unprecedented 43 degrees Celsius, a figure more familiar in Middle Eastern cities.

Bush fires have continued to ravage the countryside for months, destroying hundreds of thousands of acres of forest and farm land (an area bigger than Scotland has been consumed by the flames so far) and thousands of houses.

The Canberra airport was closed for an afternoon due to the threat posed by an expanding grass fire close by.

Farm animals, by the thousands, have perished in the intense heat and insurance claims are expected to exceed one billion Dollars. Millions of native animals, some endangered, have also been wiped out.

Thick smoke caused by the fires blanketed major cities, including Canberra, turning day into night in this normally sun swept land of clear skies, raising fears of



possible long-term health implications.

On some days, the air quality in the capital Canberra, was considered to be the worst in any capital city in the world. Restaurants suffered seriously with customers staying at home in droves due to the thick smoke hovering over the city.

The Rose sipping sophisticates just stayed at home. Adding insult to injury, a cricket match at the Manuka Oval in the city was cancelled due to the smoke.

The simmering debate on climate change boiled over, even raising concern in Davos, but the deniers, some in high places, continued to shy away from the hard issues, issues that are likely to impact on the future of our planet.

An unbelievably ferocious hail

storm seriously damaged over 30,000 cars in Canberra and resulted in a flood of insurance claims. The city, nay the country, is not equipped to deal with so many modes of transport being damaged in such a short period.

Certainly, it will not be possible to replace the damaged cars any time soon. The city may have to adopt innovative solutions to cope with this challenge, including expanding its fleet of buses and even providing free rides. Canberra, enamoured with the private car for so long, may have to get used to public buses and even using the much-denigrated light rail service.

Canberra folk might even begin to tolerate an additional few minutes in daily travel time, which is not even an issue in other capital cities! It may even be a blessing in disguise provid-

ing more texting and emailing time for the commuter without running afoul of the police.

A chorus of messages of sympathy poured in from world leaders. The world was genuinely shocked at what Australia was experiencing. But it was heartening that the country, faced with this unprecedented catastrophe, rallied quickly and methodically set about the task of containing the fires, rebuilding and restoring.

The example set to the world was truly impressive. Many good practices were actually implemented.

Much has been said about what could be done to avoid or at least minimize damage of this nature in the future, not only in Australia but elsewhere in the world where unexpectedly severe natural phenomena have

begun to cause widespread disruption to the lives of ordinary people and national economies. The debate will continue.

But to facilitate discussion, and the possible adoption of appropriate measures in response in the future, we will propose some ideas gleaned from Australia's experience and experiences elsewhere in the world. Bush fires in Australia will continue to occur in the future. Some will be more devastating than others.

Why not establish a centrally controlled dedicated fund to be accessed only in the event of a major natural disaster, especially bush fires. Other natural disasters like droughts, floods and tsunamis also can be covered.

This will be in the nature of a fund controlled by the central government and will obviate the need to scamp around to locate monetary resources after the event. In Australia and other federal jurisdictions, the primary responsibility for dealing with natural disasters will remain with the constituent states.

An interstate mechanism with individuals with experience and expertise in the field which could be activated at short notice might also help. A rich country like Australia should be capable of setting aside resources for this purpose given that natural disasters seem to be happening at all too frequent intervals.

Likewise, in Australia, the federal government could acquire a reserve of equipment, fire trucks, fixed wing aero planes, helicopters and

other equipment to be kept ready to respond quickly in an emergency. The need to obtain equipment at short notice from overseas can thus be obviated.

What is more, Australia's reserve stock of equipment could be lent to other countries in emergency situations. The occurrence of major forest fires has become a noticeable summer phenomenon in the northern hemisphere also. Tsunamis, floods, forest fires, etc occur regularly elsewhere in the region. While, it may be possible to recover the cost of making equipment available, the goodwill generated would also be considerable.

Operators of such equipment could be trained in advance. They could be members of the civil defense force who could be called up for duty at short notice. A pool of such trained personnel would be an asset readily available to be deployed to assist in any emergency situation.

In the meantime, Australia should also take a more proactive attitude towards anthropogenic climate change. There is a crescendo of voices around the world pushing governments to do more about climate change. It is an issue which has galvanized opinion in the past.

Historically, Australia played a leading role in global discussions in advocating measures to address environmental degradation, climate change, ozone depletion, hazardous waste, preservation of the Antarctica, sustainable development, etc. Australia spoke

with a voice that commanded respect. It can continue to play a lead role and recover its moral authority without necessarily compromising its economic options.

In Australia, it is also vital to deal quickly with the seriously negative impact of the bush fires on tourism which has affected thousands of businesses and jobs. The tourist industry, a major employment generator, is hurting.

The images of the ferocious fires and the blanketing smoke beamed in to living rooms around the world cannot be erased overnight. A multi-media response is immediately required. It is important to acknowledge what happened honestly and highlight the proactive and businesslike manner in which the Australian people responded.

The bravery of ordinary volunteer firefighters and civilians, reflecting the nation's "can do and we will spirit", need to be given prominence in the media. The rapid recovery action taken, despite the odds, needs underlining.

Depending on the tourist market, people from those markets need to highlight Australia's response in the different languages. Australia has been through much but the opportunity presented to demonstrate what it can do is significant.

As the lucky country reels under the impact of the fires, smoke, floods, heat and hail, it still remains the land of dreams for many.

Agencies



Tourists from the US engaged in last-minute preparations on Tuesday before setting out for a six-day climb of Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest and one of the continent's most magnificent sights. The expedition is organised by Popote Afrika Adventure. Photo: Correspondent Asraj Mvungi

A decade of accelerating actions towards zero FGM

By Guardian Reporter

When Tabitha was growing up in rural Kenya, most of her 16-year-old peers were subjected to female genital mutilation - a human rights violation that more than 4 million girls worldwide are at risk of this year. Yet Tabitha remains unharmed, thanks to the unwavering support of her parents, who, in spite of enormous social pressure, saved their daughter from the same fate.

On the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, UNFPA Executive Director Dr Natalia Kanem, UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore, UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka and WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus issued a joint statement whereas they joined Tabitha and young people around the world who are standing up for their rights with urgency and energy.

The officials insisted the need to engage peers, families, communities and governments to end the harmful act of gender-based violence as promised by the international community in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

"While significant progress in eliminating the practice has been made in the last 30 years, approximately 200 million girls and women alive today have had their genitals mutilated. This can lead to long-term physical, psychological and social consequences", read the statement.

It said adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 in countries where female genital mutilation is prevalent are less supportive of continuing the practice than are women aged 45 to 49.

In many countries, young girls are at much lower risk of being subjected to female

“While significant progress in eliminating the practice has been made in the last 30 years, approximately 200 million girls and women alive today have had their genitals mutilated. This can lead to long-term physical, psychological and social consequences”

genital mutilation than their mothers and grandmothers were. However, rapid youth population growth in countries where female genital mutilation is prevalent could lead to a significant rise in the number of girls at risk by 2030.

The statement reads: "Today's young people can play a critical role in ending the practice. Unleashing the power of youth means investing in youth led movements to champion gender equality, end violence against women and girls and eliminate the harmful practices. This requires including young people as partners when designing and implementing national action plans, building relationships with youth-led organizations and networks that work to end female genital mutilation and recognize it as a form of violence against women and girls, empowering young people to lead community campaigns that challenge social norms and myths, and engaging men and boys as allies".

The officials said achieving zero FGM requires strong political leadership and commitment.

"But this is not a goal young people can achieve alone, nor can it be addressed in isolation from other forms of violence against women and girls or from gender inequality", it said.

Last year, at the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25, governments, civil society, faith-based organizations and private companies recommitted to ending gender-based violence and harmful practices - such as female genital mutilation - in 10 years, the same timeframe for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

In March this year, countries will mark 25 years since the Beijing Platform for Action, a global commitment to advance women's rights across 12 critical areas, including the elimination of all harmful practices against girls and women.

This year, the organizations will announce the creation of a new 'Generation Equality' to drive further investment and results for gender equality.

"Now is the time to invest, translating the political commitments already made into concrete action. Now is the time to do more and do it better and faster to end the practice once and for all. Now is the time to keep our promise to Tabitha and all girls of reaching zero female genital mutilation by 2030", read the statement.

Big Tim, Kenya's last giant elephant, dies at 50

NAIROBI

DUBBED a 'national treasure' in Kenya, Big Tim died in a national park from natural causes, KWS said in a statement on Wednesday.

Big Tim died in Mada area of Amboseli National Park from natural causes, KWS said in a statement on Wednesday.

"The celebrated elephant died early on Tuesday morning aged 50", the statement said. He was "a benevolent, slow-moving preserver of the peace at Amboseli", KWS said. "He was well known and loved throughout Kenya".

Big Tim's carcass was found at the foot of the snowcapped peak of Kilimanjaro, the Amboseli Trust



for Elephants said.

An elephant is technically a 'tusker' when its ivory tusks are so long that they scrape the ground.

Usually, only old bull elephants grow their tusks long enough to reach this acclaimed status.

But conservationists estimate only a few dozen such animals with tusks that size are now left on the continent due to poaching.

Animals with the biggest ivory and elephants with the

heaviest tusks are most at risk from poachers.

Tim was named by researchers who called each elephant in the family herd the same letter to help identify them; Tim was a member of the 'T' herd.

The giant pachyderm once roamed outside the national parks into farming lands and had survived poachers and angry farmers.

Vets once treated him for a spear that had gone through

his ear and snapped off into his shoulder.

"Our hearts are broken," said Wildlife Direct, a Nairobi-based conservation campaign group.

"Tim was one of Africa's very few Super Tuskers, and an incredible elephant whose presence awed and inspired many. He was one of Kenya's National Treasures." Big Tim's body is being transported to the Kenyan capital Nairobi, where a taxidermist will preserve it for display at the national museum, KWS said.

Poaching has seen the population of African elephants plunge by 110,000 over the past 10 years to just 415,000 animals, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).



OPPORTUNITIES KNOCK



Employment Opportunity

Position: Head of Corporate & Investment Banking (1 position)

Job Grade: Director

Reporting to: Managing Director

Location: Head Office, Dar es Salaam

Job Purpose:

- Set the strategy and lead the execution of all required Corporate and Investment Banking activities in NBC in alignment with NBC Board & Absa Group strategic objectives
- Leverage expertise across the Group to deliver a seamless banking experience in Tanzania
- Leader of the business and an integral member of the NBC Country Management Committee and the Absa Group Corporate Investment Banking Team

Main accountabilities and approximate time split;

- Develop and direct the delivery of Corporate and Investment Banking strategy in support of the CIB Africa strategy
- Provide strategic and integrative leadership to the Corporate and Investment Banking Team, ensuring the development and delivery of integrated and scalable Products & Solutions to drive the NBC growth agenda
- Contribute and deliver to the improvement of the risk profile by delivering improved governance, risk management, controls and compliance requirements.
- Ensure oversight of day to day control requirements in the Corporate & Investment Banking function.
- Understand, own and bring to life the NBC mission, brand and strategy.
- Develop strategy/policy and ensure the achievement of Corporate & Investment Banking Strategic Priorities.
- Have aggregate P & L accountability for the Corporate & Investment Banking function.
- Act as Senior Relationship Executive for a select number of Large Corporates, Global Corporates, Public Sector, Local Banks and Non-Bank Financial Institutions
- Generate proposals to grow the client base of the Corporate & Investment Banking portfolio.
- Develop and agree stretching targets for the Relationship Management Teams to maximize performance of the NBC Corporate & Investment Banking franchise.
- Manage and oversee resource allocation to drive NBC's short term and long term plans.
- Generating, evaluating and making recommendations for the growth of the business to the MD / Board.
- Develop and lead the strategic direction of Corporate & Investment banking franchise ensuring alignment to customer demands, and creating competitive advantages.
- Lead the Corporate Banking franchise to a global standard, attracting world class talent, drive performance using reward practices to incentivize outstanding performers
- Resource, develop and maintain a motivated high performing

team committed to achieving success through collaboration.

- Agree challenging performance and development objectives for all direct reports, in conjunction with Regional Coverage and Product Heads, providing regular feedback/coaching.
- Champion the cultural change to reinforce consistent operational effectiveness.
- Create a sense of urgency and excitement around the Vision & Values, ensuring individual actions, processes and practices are aligned.
- Pursue own development to increase personal effectiveness, acknowledging strengths and areas of self-development

Technical Skills/ Competencies

- Strong analytical and problem-solving capabilities
- High Commercial acumen
- Communication/Influencing skills
- Stakeholder/customer relationship management
- Strong selling and negotiation skills
- Excellent diagnostic skills and rigorous approach to problem solving
- Excellent comprehension skills to understand and interpret industry data and economic trends
- Strong credit risk analysis skills
- Team creation and co-ordination skills to mobilize and manage product & sales specialists
- Strong Leadership and team-working skills at a senior executive level
- Ability to think creatively and identify innovative solutions

Knowledge, Expertise and Experience

- Deep understanding of the Tanzania business environment
- Substantial senior management/executive experience in a Corporate & Investment Banking environment.
- Detailed understanding of the local and regional economic, political, legal and regulatory environment
- Experience of working in a multinational, multi-segment environment with a matrix reporting structure.
- Banking and Financial services industry related knowledge

Remuneration:

Attractive salary.

NBC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

All interested applicants are invited to apply for the role on our website at <https://www.nbc.co.tz/en/vacancies/>

Please send all applications before 16th February 2020

KUALA LUMPUR and PENANG

Financialisation increases inequality

Financialisation has worsened inequality through various channels, including macroeconomic policies. For example, quantitative easing and low, if not negative interest rates have fuelled credit and asset price bubbles, while fiscal spending cuts have adversely affected those depending on government assistance.

Inequalities have increased due to financialisation. The rich benefit from more rentier options and government efforts to protect the value of financial assets. The main gains of financialization tend to go to those who most successfully speculate at low cost, and to the asset management and investment firms involved.

Financial globalization has been accompanied by increased income inequality and broad stagnation in real incomes of wage earners in OECD countries. These developments starkly contrast with the 1990s' promises of 'citizens as investors' and agents for 'democratizing finance'.

Financialization in high-income countries has transformed everyday life with more and more financial products (home mortgages, private health insurance, pensions, stocks, and other securities) needed to deal with future uncertainties no longer mitigated by the welfare state.

Financial globalization affects lives and livelihoods in developing countries somewhat differently. Financialization is less pronounced in the South than in the North as fewer people have access to the formal financial system. Middle class families seek asset-based welfare



– via mortgage housing, insurance and pension funds – while financial inclusion may reach others.

Financialisation enriches

As yields on long term securities plunge and asset prices surge, very low interest rates encourage companies, private equity, hedge funds and the rich to borrow even more to invest in financial assets, sending prices even higher.

Finance also increases inequality through greater wealth concentration thanks to exclusive wealth management services for rich clients who get favoured access to specialized services and structured, high yield

products.

Corporations and wealthy individuals use the best available professional services for tax avoidance and evasion, often facilitated by banking secrecy.

Private banking employs top fund managers to manage the wealth of rich clients, offering double digit returns while ordinary depositors have to accept modest interest rates on their deposits.

Rising debt and equity transactions have generated lucrative fees for bankers, traders, fund managers and private equity investors, mainly benefiting market players with means.

With finance capturing more profits than manufacturing, unlike before, those working for finance now secure much higher incomes compared to others. 'Excessive' financial sector salaries took off in the 1980s, reaching 40% just prior to the 2008 Global Financial Crisis, with 'rents' accounting for 30-50% of this 'excess'.

The protracted decline of real wages in the US and the UK has been enabled by new rules and laws favouring wealth owners over labour incomes. In the US, capital gains can be taxed a maximum of 20%, while the highest marginal tax rate for wages is 37%.

Financial inclusion

By contrast, the poor have less, but also costlier access to finance, and contribute more to financial gains for others, e.g., through sub-prime mortgages, or unsecured personal loans.

Stagnant or declining wages have imposed greater indebtedness on the poor, with finance reaping lucrative profits from such lending to households. Between 1960 and 2007, US household debt rose from 41% to 100% of annual GDP.

But the celebratory dis-

course of 'financial inclusion' presumes that everyone successfully manages their involvement in increasingly complex financial markets, and that light regulatory touches and 'financial literacy' effectively deter predatory financial practices.

With real wages for many not rising for decades, increased financial inclusion has meant greater indebtedness for many of them.

Some national financial authorities have tried to make financialization more inclusive through initiatives

to reach the 'unbanked', e.g., via micro-finance schemes and 'agent banking', with technological innovation and FinTech showing potential in this regard.

Such technological innovations in finance have had mixed distributional consequences. Higher computing capacity has enabled financial innovations that enrich investors, with economies of scale, at the expense of the less tech savvy and less well informed. But innovations can also serve those with less means.

Vicious cycle

If inequality contributed to the 2008 Global Financial Crisis, 'unconventional' monetary policy responses to the crisis, especially quantitative easing (QE), have also exacerbated inequality as QE works by raising financial asset prices.

With the earliest hints of recovery after 2008 and the bailouts, the 'masters of the universe' who had been pleading for them, claiming they were 'too big to fail', changed their tune, condemning fiscal efforts as irresponsible.

Financial crises thus offer opportunities for those with power and influence to secure reforms to their advantage. This also happened following the 1997-1998 Asian financial crises, after a decade of financial liberalization following military rule in South Korea.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) provided emergency credit, requiring major structural changes, including greater 'labour market flexibility', reducing workers' bargaining power and reversing the rising wage shares and low inequality of growth before 1998.

Agencies

By Jay Grunder

Brexit opens new trade doors for Africa

Contrary to the prophets of doom, the exit of the UK from the European Union could end up being a boon for African nations, especially if British Prime Minister Boris Johnson follows up his initial expressions of interest with concrete negotiations and treaties.

Since securing a more solid domestic political position in the December 2019 election, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has shown a commendable interest in UK-Africa relations. However, many on the continent and in the commentariat have treated Johnson's interest with suspicion, like Emma Ruiters, ("Africa, beware of Boris Johnson", *Maverick Citizen*, 2 February 2020). Although they accuse the UK's Prime Minister of being stuck in the past, it is often these commentators who are blinded by history.

The UK is currently facing a challenge that few nations have faced before. For just short of half a century it has fallen under the umbrella of the EU. Under the EU agreement, and its predecessor organisations, the UK progressively ceded part of its diplomatic operations and virtually all of its trade negotiations to the multilateral body. Now, the UK needs to figure out how it will make its own way in the world. As a result, the next few years will see the country re-define its foreign relations as it drifts away from the EU and seeks new partnerships on the world stage.

It should be self-evident, but apparently it does in fact need stating, that British foreign policy is conducted



British Prime Minister Boris Johnson

with the best interests of Britain in mind. In this way, the UK is the same as the United States, the EU, China, all African nations, and in fact pretty much every country on earth. It is a generally accepted tenet in international relations that countries carry out the policies, and pursue the relationships, that they think will benefit themselves the most.

It is slightly perplexing to warn African countries of this widely understood fact, and then proceed to reference China in the next line, in the same week that *Daily Maverick* carried a story about China's attempts to strong-arm Eswatini into dropping its recognition of Taiwan. African leaders will be well aware of the fact that the UK will approach any negotiations looking to improve their current position, and will likewise be doing the exact same to improve the benefits their own

country can obtain from bilateral relations.

When the UK considers its future allies and trade partners, Africa will have to come into the equation. The continent is showing impressive rates of economic growth, and in the past decade it has produced a few impressive success stories. The continent also boasts a young and growing population, with projections that it will overtake Asia in working-age population by the end of the century.

However, as much as one cannot understate the importance of Africa in the modern world, one should be careful not to overstate it either. The UK is facing a year (potentially years) of gruelling negotiations with the EU over its future trading arrangement. According to the World Bank's 2018 figures, the combined GDP of the EU (excluding the UK) is around \$16-trillion, while in contrast

the figure for sub-Saharan Africa is \$1.7-trillion. By way of illustration, this puts the size of the entire combined economies of sub-Saharan Africa (all 48 of them) between that of Spain (\$1.4-trillion) and Italy (\$2-trillion), the fourth and third-largest economies in the EU respectively.

The clear gulf in size between the EU and sub-Saharan Africa hides another factor that needs to be considered by any country deciding to prioritise foreign relationships. The EU is a partially centralised superstate that negotiates trade agreements as one bloc. Sub-Saharan Africa is a mish-mash of independent countries, regional entities with overlapping memberships, and half-completed mega-regional agreements. Negotiations with African countries will often need to be done one-on-one, greatly increasing the complexity of a focus on Africa.

If you look at African countries independently, their importance declines even more. Nigeria, the largest economy on the continent, has roughly the same GDP as Ireland or Denmark, far less than the rising powers of the BRICS nations or other leading developing nations such as Indonesia or Mexico. Africa undoubtedly has an important place in the world, but failure to acknowledge just how far African economies currently lag behind much of the rest of the world is a recipe for outside expectations and policy failure.

The Commonwealth has long drawn the ire of many on the continent who believe that it is the last hangover of the Old Empire, a relic that is long past its sell-by-date and never justifiable in any way. The imperial history of the Commonwealth is obvious, glaring, and jarring to many, so it is understandable that it is viewed with suspicion. However, the reality is that the modern Commonwealth is just like the Queen's leadership of the organisation; entirely ceremonial. There is no serious attempt to turn the Commonwealth into anything more than its current status as an excuse for world leaders to jet off to some desirable location to sip champagne and rub shoulders with the great and powerful.

Few outside the tiny United Kingdom Independence Party, UKIP (which received 0.1% of all votes in the most recent parliamentary election), and perhaps the more hardline Brexiteers in the Conservative Party, believe

that the Commonwealth has the potential to become an economic federation to rival the EU. Those that profess to believe this claim are usually just flailing around for any post-Brexit trade and economic strategy that doesn't include the EU, no matter how outlandish it may be.

All told, it is unlikely that the Commonwealth will be the centrepiece of UK foreign policy in the next decade, and those decrying the return of Empire that such a focus would entail are as stuck in the past as those advocating for a new Imperial dawn.

This is not to say that Commonwealth countries will be ignored altogether in the post-Brexit era. It would be foolish to ignore the benefits of long-lasting economic ties and a shared (business) language. However, the focus is likely to be on the more developed economies of Australia and Canada, which present opportunities in the services industry and in high-tech value chains, and India, which has an economy and population roughly the same size as all of the other developing Commonwealth countries combined. It is far more likely that the UK will pursue relations with these three countries on an individual basis than try and herd all 50-plus proverbial cats of the Commonwealth in one direction.

Africa has been given an opportunity from the chaos of Brexit. The world's fifth-largest economy is seeking to re-evaluate its existing relationships, and create new ones, and there is a pos-

sibility that African nations could be significant benefactors from this. Britain is not a superpower like the US or China; however, it is still a major economy and an important trade partner of many nations on the African continent. The \$46-billion in two-way trade conducted between the UK and Africa may amount to less than a quarter of the continent's two-way trade with China, but this figure still represents an amount equal to the entire economy of the Democratic Republic of Congo (a country of 90 million people and the second-largest African country by geographic size).

Boris Johnson has indicated a willingness to improve his country's ties with Africa, and has backed this up with swift action. Opening more embassies on the continent, improving access to UK universities for African students, and increasing the importance of UK-Africa relations under his government, are promising steps that hint to a better-shared future for all parties.

African countries would do well to take advantage of any potential "pivot to Africa". Some, such as South Africa and the rest of the SACU nations (plus Mozambique), have already taken advantage of Britain's exit from the EU to secure their future trade relations with the country, concluding the SACUM-UK EPA in 2019 that will cover trade between the two once the UK's transition period with the EU concludes.

Agencies

SHANTA GOLD AWARDS ITS TOP EXECUTIVES WITH PERFORMANCE SHARES

By Property Watch Reporter

OUTSTANDING performance of Shanta Gold Limited's New Luika Gold Mine in Mbeya region has seen its top management executives get awarded over 6.5 million shares worth over 2bn/-.

In a recent statement issued to satisfy London Stock Exchange requirements, the company said the bonus shares given to Person Discharging Managerial Responsibilities have been awarded to CEO Eric Zurrin, Chief Financial Officer Luke Leslie, New Luika Gold Mine's General Manager, Honest Mrema, Singida Gold Mine's General Manager, Philbert Rweyemamu and Head of Corporate Affairs, Calvin Mlingi.

"Performance pay in shares is based on prescribed KPIs (key performance index) set out at the beginning of 2019 and the number of shares awarded is calculated based on an average share price over the calendar year 2019," the company said in its statement.

Shanta's flagship New Luika Gold Mine commenced production in 2012 and produced 84,506 ounces in 2019. The statement further noted that each of the top executives were issued with ordinary shares of 0.01p each in the company. In aggregate, this will result in the issuance of 6,555,926 ordinary shares.

The company said Zurrin earned 2,762,284 shares worth over £290,039 (over 869.4m/-) while Leslie got 2,301,903 shares worth over £241,699 (over



New Luika Gold mine in Chunya district of Mbeya region.

724.6m/-). The statement however did not give details of earnings by local managers Mrema, Rweyemamu and Mlingi although by calculation they got 1,491,739 shares worth over 434.2m/-.

"Application has been made to London Stock Exchange Plc for those 6,555,926 ordinary shares to be admitted to trading on AIM. Admission is expected to occur

and dealings in the new ordinary shares are expected to commence on the LSE at 8.00 a.m. on or around 6 February 2020," the statement added.

The January 20, 2020 dated statement further noted that from admission, the company's issued ordinary share capital will comprise 793,931,012 ordinary shares with voting rights. No ordi-

nary shares are held in treasury.

The figure of 793,931,012 may be used by the company's shareholders as the denominator for the calculations by which they will determine if they are required to notify their interest in, or a change to their interest in, the company under the Financial Conduct Authority's Disclosure Guidance and Transparency

Rules.

Shanta Gold is an East Africa-focused gold producer, developer and explorer. It currently has defined ore resources on the New Luika project in Mbeya region and holds exploration licenses covering approximately 1,500 square kilometres.

Snapshot of China's command over the global transport infrastructure sector

BEIJING

Chinese companies are increasing their presence in the world's hottest transport infrastructure markets, according to the latest data from Fitch Solutions Macro Research, a unit of Fitch Group.

Its catalogue of over 23,000 projects in 196 countries shows Asia's infrastructure pipeline making up 51% of the global pie in terms of project value. And within Asia, China has the biggest transport project pipeline by value, which is close to \$830bn.

In a note to GCR, Fitch predicted that China's transport sector will grow by 5.5% a year to 2028, outpacing the broader construction sector that it says will grow on average by 4.2% a year in the same period.

So, Chinese companies are busy at home, but they are also busy abroad, often under the banner of its Belt & Road Initiative (BRI). Chinese firms are super-active in Asia and Africa, especially Ethiopia. Chinese companies are active in 123 countries as builders, financiers and sponsors, according to the data.

Nowhere are they more active than in Ethiopia, where close to 25 Chinese companies are working on around 85 projects. Most prolific is the giant China Communications Construction Company.

Bangladesh and Pakistan also host many Chinese companies, around 20 each. A smaller number of Chinese companies are active in Kenya, Sri Lanka and Nigeria, although in each of these countries Chinese firms are engaged in between nine and 15 active projects.

Chinese contractors can credit their impressive global reach to Chinese finance for infrastructure projects, which normally comes with the condition that a Chinese contractor does the work. Asia dominates the global transport projects pipeline

Consequently, the Exim Bank of China is the most active Chinese entity in infrastructure projects, both in terms of the number of occupied project roles and the geographic spread of these roles. Sri Lanka hosts Exim Bank's largest presence in any single country, accounting for 11% of the bank's project roles, followed by Ethiopia with 7% and Tanzania with 6%.

Meanwhile, Western Europe sits as the second-largest region behind Asia in terms of the size of its infrastructure pipeline: Fitch values it at close to \$800bn. In Asia, China, India and Australia are the biggest single markets

It is followed by North America's respectable pipeline of \$650bn. Next in the league table is India. Fitch values its pipeline at over \$550bn, equivalent in value to all of Latin America, which demonstrates the link between big populations and infrastructure demand. The bulk of India's project pipeline is rail, which accounts for over 52% of its pipeline value, followed by roads, at 36%.



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New construction technology makes it into Rwanda

KIGALI

Rwandans are set to benefit from low cost-housing made out of a new construction technology "Earthbag," that is currently used in different countries in Asia, the US and Europe.

Earthbag construction (building with polypropylene bags usually filled with earthen materials) is a versatile, easy-to-master, low-impact, and highly durable form of building, suitable for structures from houses to root cellars.

Affordable Human Needs, an American-based firm with African Headquarters in Rwanda, is leading the project with the main focus of facilitating Rwandan low-income earners to own their own homes.

This week, the first ever built Earthbag houses will be officially inaugurated in Gatwe village Gigaragara cell located in Shyorongi sector, Rurindo district in Northern Province. The houses will be freely handed over to the two needy families.

According to James Ngarambe the Affordable Human Needs Country Director, the new technology is affordable and will be taken to the entire country. "Majority of our population cannot afford to construct expensive homes and that's why we came up with the solution to help Rwandans own their own homes affordably," He said adding "We started with Northern province and our target is to reach all sectors in the country," Ngarambe said.

Earthbag buildings are famous for their ability to endure fire, flood, wind, earthquake and vermin and have been successfully used in disaster-prone zones all over the World. This technology makes minimal use of cement, concrete, steel, timber meaning it doesn't deplete the scarce natural resources.

This technology is basically a wall system with structures composed primarily of ordinary soil found at the construction site. The soil is stuffed inside polypropylene bags which are then staggered like masonry and solidly tamped; barbed wire laid between the layers of bags serves as cement.

According to Joyce Kung the founder and Chief Executive officer of Affordable Human Needs, the organization was inspired by the Country's good governance and stability adding that they're focusing on various sectors with the aim of providing solutions to human basic needs.



DCB Commercial Bank Plc's headquarters in Dar es Salaam.

DCB Bank invites clients seeking long-term property loans

By Property Watch Reporter

PEOPLE seeking long term loans, which include those needed to acquire real estate property, can now approach DCB Commercial Bank Plc.

Announcing the bank's 2019 results in Dar es Salaam this week, the bank's Finance Director, Zacharia Kapama the Dar es Salaam community owned bank which has since turned commercial after listing at Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange in 2008 has enough funding to meet customer need.

DCB which is a member of Tanzania Mortgage Refinance Company Limited is among ten leading banks in the market commanding over 80 percent of mortgage lending in total.

"Since inauguration in 2001, we have not hit snag as we have continued to grow annually. Our financial successes and ability to issue big-cum-long term loans is a result of our good performance services which saw us post profit of 2.3bn/- last year compared to 1.6bn/- in 2018," said Kapama.

He pointed out that DCB has succeeded to launch digital platform services to reach more

customers especially those living in rural areas hence increase revenue while extending banking services to the majority in line with the government's financial inclusion agenda.

Backing Kapama's position, DCB Director of Business, James Ngaluko in recent years, the bank's management has introduced a number of products and services that meet customer needs in the market.

"Our successes go along with provision of quality services and innovative products which are appealing to the market. We introduced new products such as 'Lamba kwanza'

fixed deposit account, 'Skonga Account,' 'DCB Sokoni' and contractors guarantee accounts during tender bidding process," Ngaluko said.

He further noted that improved mortgage loans with support from TMRC have also contributed much to the good performance noting that the public has responded well to such long term financing. "We have also improved our services by abolishing maintenance fees for accounts such as 'Vikoba,' government projects' accounts and retirees' accounts that attracted more customers," Ngaluko noted.

HEALTHY ENTREPRENEURS KEY TO RURAL INDUSTRIALISATION

By Property Watch Reporter

WOMEN entrepreneurs based in rural areas can play a key role in advancing industrialization hence need support by both the public and private sectors.

Chairperson of Ronheam Foundation, Leyla Mbville said in Dar es Salaam earlier this week after donating bed sheets, bottled water and other necessities to patients at Mwananyamala hospital that her not for profit organization was established to expand livestock farming among women in rural Tanzania.

"Our organization was born out of day to day business interactions with local farmers and livestock keepers especially in transactions and field trips to care for their animals when we supplied them with veterinary drugs and other inputs," said Mbville who also noted that women a responsible to raise healthy communities.

"One of the detailed observations but a glaring fact was that men were more involved in keeping of the large animals (cattle) while women



Khadija Sawa, a patient who had just given birth at Mwananyamala hospital in Dar es Salaam earlier this week, is seen here with Sister Nuru Mahambe (R) and Ronheam Foundation chairperson, Leyla Mbville. Photo: Guardian Photographer

concentrated on small ruminants and poultry," she added while noting that for industrialization to succeed rural women entrepreneurs should not be ignored. She said Ronheam Foundation members decided to donate to Mwananyamala hospital patients during the month

of February which has Valentine's Day as a day of love hence the need to care and remember those that need help like new mothers.

During the visit, Mbville and her peers accompanied by a nurse, Nuru Mahambe cheered new mothers who included Hadija Sawa who had just given birth to a baby boy. The Ronheam Foundation's Chairperson further noted that as the country's industrialization drive is at its infancy, it is important to not only improve the existing infrastructure but also transform the mind-sets of the people who heavily prefer imported manufactured goods.

"By producing everything locally, it would essentially mean improving the quality of our products to meet and exceed international thresholds mainly in the primary sector of production which is agriculture," she argued.

Mbville argued that while crop production has thrived throughout the decades, livestock farming lags behind hence, "We have witnessed the rise of various projects that are currently reforming Tanzania from good roads to the availability of essential utilities such as electricity and running water."

Kenya Power, Lamu farm sign 20-year wind electricity deal

NAIROBI

Kenya Power Loading... has signed a 20-year Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with a Lamu-based wind power company.

The project is owned by Baharini Wind Power Company which is backed by Belgium's Elicio Company and Kenya's Kenwind Holdings Limited. The initial plan includes setting up 38 turbines which will produce 90 megawatt (MW). The project is planned on a 3,206-acre land at Baharini Village, about 40 kilometres from the new Kililana Lamu Port South Sudan Ethiopia Transport (Lapsset) project.

"We are happy that finally, the PPA has been issued by Kenya Power. That's enough indication that the project is viable," said Susan Nandwa, Baharini's power project director. "The project is crucial since it will bring about regional transformation bearing in mind that the power generated will be supplied to the Lapsset project in Kililana."

The project has delayed by over eight years. Ms Nandwa said the project's tariff per kilowatt-hour (kWh) has been lowered from the initial 12 US cents to seven US cents. She noted that the power generation plant is still viable with the reduced charges to the national electricity distributor.

Ms Nandwa said the company has initiated a resettlement action plan as it prepares to launch construction. She said all the affected land owners will receive fair compensation. An estimated 600 farmers are expected to be removed to pave way for the project.

The resettlement is being conducted by consultants from SGS Kenya, an inspection, verification, testing and certification company. The process is expected to be concluded in four months after which other procedures will follow before compensation of the affected land owners.

Kenya has been deepening supply of power from cheaper sources such as wind and geothermal steam. This is expected to translate to reduced power bills for consumers and reduced pollution. The government has ambitions of using electricity exclusively from clean sources like wind, solar, hydro and geothermal in the next few years.

Cable ship Leon Thevenin heads to Angola

CAPE TOWN

In a fresh announcement related to the undersea cable restoration mission, the cable vessel Leon Thevenin is said to have departed Cape Town harbour on 22 January 2020 and is heading for offshore Angola.

This is where the first steps of the physical repair on damaged undersea cables – South Atlantic 3/West Africa Submarine Cable (SAT3/WASC) and the West African Cable System (WACS), according to Openserve.

In its latest statement, the company said: "Following delays caused by weather conditions last weekend, loading of the vessel with all gear and material required for the undersea cable repairs was completed by 17:40 yesterday. The Leon Thevenin then set sail from South African shores with Chief of Mission, Didier Mainguy and 53 other crew members on board. A Senior Representative from the WACS and SAT3 consortium forms part of the ship's crew."

The vessel is expected to reach its first repair site on 28 January 2020 – "weather conditions permitting," Openserve added. Leon Thevenin was dispatched by the Maintenance and Operations Sub-Committees of the SAT3/WASC and WACS consortia due to a simultaneous dual cable break that occurred in the early hours of last Thursday, 16 January 2020.

"The breaks have resulted in South African internet users, whose ISPs are connected to international connectivity on both or either of these cable systems, experiencing reduced speed on international browsing and in some cases increased latency. There is also impact on international voice calling and mobile roaming," Openserve stated. The company said it will continue to maintain interface with the consortiums and their OEM partners until both cable systems are up and running again.



Thuru Lodge, a wildlife ranch in the dusty Northern Cape province.

Lack of rainfall threatens South Africa's wildlife ranch business

CAPE TOWN

Animal carcasses have become a depressing but familiar sight at Thuru Lodge, a wildlife ranch in the dusty Northern Cape province, which draws visitors to see its herds of giraffe and antelope.

"We've had very little rain in the past seven years," says Burger Schoeman, manager at the lodge, which depends on tourism. "The rainfall of the past five years in total is 250 millimetres – the same amount we normally would get in a year."

The lodge has lost around 1,000 animals of its usual stock of around 4,500. Thuru attracts tourists who come for game drives – trips around the farm in an open top vehicle, as well as licensed hunters. Lack of rain means very little vegetation and animals slowly succumb to thirst and starvation. "We drive tourists around and come across dead animals – this is not nice for visitors to see," Mr Schoeman says.

Wildlife ranching is big business throughout southern Africa. The creatures that are most commonly associated with Africa – lions, elephants, rhinos and others – draw tourists from around the world. State wildlife reserves such as the Kruger Park that are the size of Belgium span borders and are home to vast herds.

Private ranches also proliferate, with more and more farmers abandoning cattle and crop raising. Instead, many are purchasing wild animals and investing in luxury guest facilities.

South Africa in particular, which legalised the private ownership of wild animals in 1992, has seen a rapid growth in game farming.

"This is one of the only industries in which South Africa has a comparative advantage over the rest of the world," says Tebogoo Mogashoa, president of Wildlife Ranching South Africa (WRSA). Private ranches have gone from almost none 30 years ago to 10,000, and these now account for just more than 15 per cent of the country's land mass, according to figures supplied by the environment ministry.

Altogether, ecotourism brings in almost \$1 billion (Dh3.67bn) into the country per year, government figures show. The revenue is sorely needed as South Africa attempts to hang onto its investment grade rating for its sovereign debt with Moody's. The other two major ratings agencies, Fitch Ratings and S&P Global, have already downgraded the country's issuer rating to junk status.

"In the long term, it's a good, stable cash flow business if managed correctly," Mr Mogashoa says, who himself has a game ranch about 300 kilometres north of Johannesburg. However, the region is once again in the grip of a drought that threatens humans and animals alike. It is mostly the impact on humans that gets attention, such as when Cape Town very nearly became the first city in modern times to run out of water two years ago.

Although nick-of-time rains spared the city from going dry, the country – and those surrounding it such as Namibia, Botswana

and Zimbabwe – remain desperate for rain. Entire populations of animals are now at risk and drought is a threat to large sections of the game farm industry. In the Northern Cape alone, more than two-thirds of the wildlife has died, according to WRSA.

While water for drinking can be secured through borehole drilling, it is not enough to make up for the shortage of rain needed to grow fodder. The cost of trucking animal feed over hundreds of kilometres is something that most farmers cannot afford.

"This is very worrying," says Wandile Sihlobo, chief economist of the Agricultural Business Chamber of South Africa (Agbiz). He says farmers cannot afford to indefinitely supply feed to their stocks, and that the authorities should provide assistance.

"The quickest thing that can be done is the supplying of feed to farmers. We understand the national government's finances are constrained, so it is up to provincial governments to reallocate some of their resources to assist farmers."

The government has consequently pledged 300 million South African rand (Dh75.6m) in drought aid to the region. The value of wild game goes beyond just tourism. Rather, trade in wildlife has also become an industry in its own right. Regular auctions of prize stock animals are held, including lions, rhinos, ostriches, buffalo and many more.

The president of the country Cyril Ramaphosa is himself a keen animal collector

and suffers under the nickname critics gave him of 'buffalo man,' after reportedly spending more than a million dollars on a bull.

Neil Dodds, chairman of the Summit Group industrial conglomerate that holds regular game auctions, says the company's last sale was 'tough' but went reasonably well, having knocked down almost 8 million rand in sales. "To get that amount of money out in current conditions with the drought and tough conditions was a pleasant surprise."

Many potential buyers are staying away, though, because they are waiting for the rains to return. "Everybody is saying, they'd love to buy, but just cannot afford another mouth to feed on their farms."

Perhaps the most lucrative aspect of game ranching is hunting; hunters spend nearly 14 billion rand a year, according to research headed up by Peet van der Merwe, professor of tourism at North-West University. It is hunting that keeps the game industry alive, supporting farmers and auctioneers alike.

"These private reserves rely heavily on hunting to keep their businesses going and hunters need game to hunt," he says. "Therefore, private reserve owners often need to breed game for this purpose."

Hunting, of course, has become a red-hot subject of controversy. Images of wealthy westerners posing over the body of an animal – such as the killing of Cecil the lion in Zimbabwe a few years ago – generate fierce online debate.

CONSTRUCTION

The Guardian
PROPERTY WATCH
 DISCOVER INFORM INSPIRE

UK TRANSPORT SECRETARY LIKELY TO CANCEL ARRIVA'S NORTHERN RAIL FRANCHISE

LONDON

Britain will bring to an end the Northern Rail franchise run by Deutsche Bahn's Arriva due to its "completely unacceptable" performance, Transport Minister Grant Shapps said on Thursday.

Mr Shapps told BBC TV he was no longer willing to tolerate the high level of delays and cancellations suffered by rail customers in the north of England, the latest problem to hit Britain's ailing network. "I'm simply not prepared for the service on Northern to carry on as it is and I am taking action," he said of a contract that was due to run until March 2025.

Asked if that meant he would strip Northern of the franchise he said:

"(That is) absolutely the case. I do not think that the service being operated on Northern ... is anywhere near acceptable." Britain privatised its rail services in the 1990s, with rail routes grouped into franchises and run by private operators for around 10 years, and the infrastructure managed by the state-backed Network Rail.

The model has been attacked by passengers, unions and politicians, who have said it results in expensive, overcrowded and unreliable services. The government has had to take over the running of some lines in recent years after private companies failed to turn a profit. The Scottish government said recently it would use a break clause to end its rail franchise provided by Dutch group Abellio.

Northern, which operates services throughout the north of England, has had to apologise for late running and cancelled trains, and problems with introducing new timetables. Arriva won the franchise in 2015 to run the service until 2025, helped by a promise to deliver new and refurbished trains, more services, improved stations and options for lower fares.

The government could strip Northern of the full 2025 franchise, or issue a short-term contract to them. Arriva said the franchise had faced several material and unprecedented challenges in the last few years, outside its control. "That's why the government has asked us to prepare a business plan for a shorter 'Direct Award'," it said in a statement. "These discussions are ongoing."



Train carriages at a station in the UK.

Novatek announces plans to build third massive LNG plant in Siberia

TOKYO

Novatek, the largest private natural gas supplier in Russia, has said it will have sufficient gas reserves to add a \$10bn LNG plant to its processing complex in northwest Siberia, and that it plans to build a series of transshipment complexes.

The company began producing LNG at its Yamal plant on the Gydan peninsula in 2017 and plans to start a second, Arctic LNG 2, in 2023 at a cost of \$10bn. Now Leonid Mikhelson, Novatek's chief ex-

ecutive, has told reporters that the company has acquired sufficient gas licences to build another \$10bn plant, although he did not say when work might begin.

Speaking at a press conference in Tokyo, Mikhelson said Novatek's holdings on the Gydan gave it "the necessary resource base for another LNG project of the size of Arctic LNG 2," which has a production capacity of 20 million tonnes of LNG a year, Reuters reports.

Novatek last week concluded an agreement with a number of Japa-

nese firms to develop a reloading complex for LNG in the Gydan. A press release from the company said a cooperation agreement had been reached with logistics company Mitsui OSK Lines and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation to build a number of LNG transshipment complexes in the territory of Kamchatka and Murmansk.

Mikhelson said in the release: "We have already started successful cooperation with Japanese companies in large LNG projects,

including Yamal LNG and Arctic LNG 2, and, accordingly, we see great potential in expanding further this mutually beneficial cooperation."

"The construction of the Kamchatka and Murmansk transshipment complexes will help to optimise logistics and maximise the efficiency of LNG deliveries from Yamal and Gydan to LNG key markets of the Asia-Pacific region, including Japan, the largest global LNG consumer. We think we will reach final arrangements for these

projects by year end."

The expansion is based on an expected surge in demand for LNG. The latest forecast from Shell says global demand will rise 27 million tonnes to 319 million tonnes in the course of this year. The involvement of Japan in Novatek's plans reflects the fact that Japan is the largest importer of LNG in the world, with an annual demand of 83 million tonnes in 2018. When built, Novatek's three plants would be equal to about three quarters of this.



Novatek's Yamal plant.

BAM tries high-tech AI concrete-cure prediction system

LONDON

Royal BAM Group subsidiary BAM Nuttall has partnered with concrete tech firm Converge to apply what is claimed to be the world's first concrete strength prediction engine, using artificial intelligence (AI) and sensors embedded in the concrete.

They say the system can predict when a concrete slab will reach strength with an accuracy of +/- 5%, even several days in advance, meaning a project team can plan ahead when exactly to mobilise teams for post tensioning or formwork striking.

Currently, contractors work to standard curing formulas with wide error margins, and confirm strength with manual cube tests, all of which introduces programme delays, especially over multiple slab pours. Converge says the system save "weeks of lost potential progress."

The system uses disposable sensors embedded in the concrete that capture data about the concrete's changing condition. Alerts can be sent to engineers' mobile devices. Sensors also analyse local weather, while historical concrete curing data are also analysed to make the prediction through AI.

Converge estimates that the construction industry loses millions of pounds each year through time lost when concrete sits on the critical path. Sam Ellenby, Converge's product lead, said: "Our users were waiting for concrete to hit a critical strength before scheduling the next activity, but this often meant that the site teams needed to strike formwork or tension the slab were deployed in other areas when the time came to act. Thus, critical actions were frequently delayed."

Colin Evison, BAM Nuttall's head of innovation, said: "This advancement in construction technology is a game changer. "The Converge prediction engine gives us insight into material performance we didn't think possible. We are delighted to be Converge's industry partner in bringing this exciting new tool to market." The technology has been used during BAM Nuttall's expansion of London City Airport. Funding for the team's strength prediction engine came from a grant awarded by Innovate UK in 2018.

Emaar says it is evaluating financing options including asset sales

DUBAI

Emaar, the biggest UAE developer by market capitalisation, "is continuously exploring various financing options as part of its strategy to streamline its business and generate value," the company said in a statement to the Dubai Financial Market, where its shares trade. The company added it will announce

details of such opportunities as and when they are finalised.

Emaar's statement is in response to a Reuters report this week, which said the developer is close to selling its district cooling business to the Dubai-listed National Central Cooling Company (Tabreed). The report, which cited unnamed sources, said HSBC is advising Tabreed on the purchase, while firms including Standard

Chartered are working with Emaar on the deal.

In its bourse filing on Thursday Emaar did not confirm or deny the potential deal. In a separate statement to the DFM, Tabreed said it is "continuously exploring acquisition opportunities in the region as part of its overall growth strategy."

District cooling firms deliver chilled water through insulated pipes to

cool offices, industrial and residential buildings. Emaar's district cooling business, which operates in the UAE, was established in 2004, according to the report.

Emaar's primary business focus is on real estate, retail and hospitality sectors. The developer behind the Burj Khalifa, the tallest building in the world, has sought to divest some of its non-core assets as it looks to pursue

growth and remain asset-light amid difficult market conditions.

The company in February last year completed a Dh2.2 billion deal to sell five of its hotels, including the flagship Address Dubai Mall and Address Boulevard, to Abu Dhabi National Hotels. The proceeds of the deal will be used to finance commercial properties that generate a higher return on investment, the company said in a

December 2018 bourse filing.

Tabreed operates 79 district cooling plants located throughout the region, and delivers over 1.16 million refrigeration tonnes to key developments such as Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, the Dubai Metro, Ferrari World Abu Dhabi, Yas Water Park, Abu Dhabi's Al Maryah Island, Bahrain Financial Market and the Jabal Omar Development in Saudi Arabia.

WORLD

Trump's trial is over but the final verdict is not yet in

WASHINGTON

IN Hollywood, it is called a false ending - where the story appears to be heading to a close but is not yet over.

President Donald Trump's impeachment trial ended on Wednesday with a conclusion that was unsurprising - his acquittal. But in reality the end of the story will play out in November, when American voters go to the polls.

That is when Democrats will finally learn whether their gamble to impeach a president for the third time in U.S. history paid any electoral dividends in winning over undecided voters. Opinion polls during the impeachment proceedings suggested little political harm to Trump - opinions among Republicans and Democrats were largely entrenched from the outset.

November is also when Republican Party lawmakers in the U.S. Congress, especially those in districts and states that are a toss-up, may learn the political costs of erecting a human wall to block efforts to remove Trump from the Oval Office.

Trump's lawyers argued that with elections nine months away it should be left to the voters to render the final verdict on whether Trump abused his office by pressuring Ukraine to investigate a Democratic political rival, Joe Biden.

The impact of the trial on the election is far from clear. By the time Election Day arrives, Trump's impeachment, and

the partisan battle around it, may be a distant memory for many voters more focused on bread-and-butter issues.

Still, the impeachment of one of the most polarizing presidents in modern U.S. history has shaken up the election race by energizing both parties' bases.

"I think it's done one good thing for Democrats. It has awakened some of the activists to the very real possibility that Trump will win a second term," said Larry Sabato, director of the University of Virginia's Center for Politics.

Trump has raised millions of dollars for his re-election campaign off the impeachment trial, netting \$46 million in the fourth quarter of 2019 in the most lucrative haul of his re-election campaign. The money, raised during the impeachment inquiry, was mostly from supporters angry at Democratic efforts to oust him from office, Republican officials said.

Democrats, who have to worry about their fragile controlling majority in the House, saw massive fundraising spikes too on both Democratic presidential candidates and in congressional races.

Republicans and Democrats are likely to attack their opponents' impeachment votes in the Senate and the House of Representatives in media ads during the election campaign, some political analysts said. In some places that has already begun.

Representative Joe Cunningham, a Democrat who flipped a South Carolina



President Donald Trump

district in 2018 that had been Republican for decades, launched advertisements in his district this month to emphasize his legislative achievements to counter a wave of anti-impeachment attack ads by Republicans.

Cunningham's approach echoes that of many Democrats, especially in vulnerable districts: Say little about impeachment and focus on accomplishments. "I just want to make sure the record is clear on exactly what we are doing, and where our focus is," the congressman told Reuters.

SWAYING VOTERS

When House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the top Democrat in Congress, announced the impeachment inquiry in September, many Democrats were hopeful of winning over a greater share of public opinion. Pelosi cited polls showing increased support among Americans for an inquiry into Trump's conduct.

Over the course of months, public opinion edged towards support for impeachment but the hoped-for groundswell failed to materialize despite televised congressional hearings in which current and former government officials detailed a pressure campaign to push Ukraine to carry out the probes Trump sought.

Pelosi's decision to launch the inquiry did quell a growing clamor within her party, especially from the left, for Trump to be impeached, an effort she had been resisting for months amid worries it could backfire on Democrats electorally.

Her decision gave the party a united public stance against what Democrats viewed as Trump's outrageous behavior, a rallying cry they can use against Republicans through November.

Democratic lawmakers say the decision by Sen-

ate Republicans not to allow witnesses at Trump's trial and to acquit him could come back to haunt them in November.

"A lot of people are going to look at the Republican Party and say, 'They were more about protecting the president than they were about finding out what really happened.'" California Representative Gil Cisneros, one of the last House Democrats to back an impeachment inquiry, said in an interview.

Trump too can now boast he has survived both an inquiry by Special Counsel Robert Mueller into Russian election meddling in 2016 to help him get elected and now impeachment, efforts that he has said are driven by "Deep State" elements within the U.S. government opposed to his presidency.

Reuters/Ipsos polling shows that the impeachment proceedings have not had an impact on Trump's popularity among Americans.

The latest poll, conducted on Feb. 3-4, showed 42% of American adults approved of his performance, while 54% disapproved. That is nearly the same as it was when the House launched its impeachment inquiry in September, when his approval stood at 43% and his disapproval at 53%.

"The ultimate deciders are the independent voters who seem to have broken at least even, if not slightly in favor of the president on the issue of fairness," of the process, said Republican Senator Tim Scott of South Carolina, where Trump scored a solid victory in 2016.

Representative Jeff Van Drew of New Jersey, whose concerns over impeachment led him to abandon the Democratic Party for the Republicans, said of Trump: "I don't think anybody's invulnerable, and I don't think you should ever say that."

But he added: "I certainly think it's benefited him."

Agencies

A South African doctor's faith in anti-epidemic battle

HANGZHOU

SOUTH African doctor Brett Lyndall Singh left the Chinese hospital at 6:30 p.m. after another busy day. The coronavirus outbreak had quieted the city, with few pedestrians on the streets.

Singh is studying medicine in China and currently a clinical clerk at the Second Affiliated Hospital and Yuying Children's Hospital of Wenzhou Medical University (WMU), east China's Zhejiang Province.

He has spent nine years studying and working in the city, and chose to stay and hold his ground in the wake of the epidemic.

"I'm a doctor and it is Wenzhou that made me who I am," Singh said. "Now the city needs me."

Determined to study medicine as a child, he came to China and studied at WMU as an international student in 2011. He has worked in the hospital since 2016, where he sees more than 50 pediatric patients every day.

Over the past three years, many local residents in Wenzhou have received medical treatment from the foreign doctor who can speak fluent Chinese.

As the hometown of numerous merchants nationwide and all around the world, Wenzhou has nearly 2.5 million people living outside the city, incomplete statistics showed.

According to a local government official, about 20,000 Wenzhou people returned to Wenzhou from Wuhan, the worst-affected area in the epidemic, before the Spring Festival.

The city has the highest number of confirmed cases of novel coronavirus infection among prefecture-level cities except those in Hubei Province in China, with a total of 364 confirmed cases reported by the end of Feb. 4.

Although Singh was not assigned to treat patients infected by the novel coronavirus, he has been treating other patients. The foreign doctor also provides online medical consultations via WeChat.

"People I know in Wenzhou did not flinch," he said. "Everyone is fighting."

Since the outbreak of the epidemic, Wenzhou people from all over the world have donated money and supplies through various channels to support Hubei, Zhejiang and other places.

"People have reduced their outdoor activities as requested and wear masks in public spaces. The suspected cases have been transferred to designated hospitals," Singh said.

The city has so far seen 17 patients discharged from hospital after recovery.

"People in Wenzhou are not panicked," Singh said. "I have faith in this city."

Xinhua

Russian defence firm at final stage of developing new combat module

LUCKNOW/India/

THE Burevestnik Central Research Institute (part of Uralvagonzavod manufacturer within the state hi-tech corporation Rostec) is at the final stage of developing the latest AU-220M remote-controlled combat module, Burevestnik CEO Georgy Zakamennykh said at the Defexpo international arms show in India on Wednesday.

"The module is currently undergoing preliminary trials and is at the final stage of its development. Some potential customers is displaying their interest in it and the module has big export potential," Zakamennykh said.

The module was considerably improved during its development, the chief executive added.

"In particular, the armament was improved: the 57mm cannon of high ballistics is capable of striking all types of targets in the battlefield, apart from main battle tanks," he specified.

The AU-220M is an unmanned cannon and machine-gun module. It is designed to serve as the armament for various combat vehicles, first of all, infantry fighting vehicles both operational (upon their upgrade) and new hardware based on the Armata, Kurganets-25 and Bumerang platforms. The module can be used as the armament of small-displacement ships and boats.

The gun mount has a circular rotation and a firing range of up to 14.5 km with a maximum rate of fire of 80 rounds per minute. The ammunition load includes 80 unitary 57mm munitions: multifunctional remote-controlled, armor-piercing and guided projectiles, which allows effectively striking small-size unmanned aerial vehicles, low-flying aircraft and helicopters, and also land-based light-armored hardware and field fortifications. Agencies

Agencies

UK eyes early free trade pact with Australia after leaving EU

SYDNEY/LONDON

BRITISH Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab hopes a free trade deal with Australia will be one of the first such pacts to be secured, now that Britain has left the European Union, he said yesterday.

After formally leaving the EU on Jan 31, Britain entered a transition period that allows it to negotiate future ties with Brussels and begin talks with other major economies, such as the United States and Ja-

pan.

"We have a trade relationship already worth 17 billion pounds, but we have the potential to do so much more," Raab (pictured) told reporters in the Australian capital of Canberra. The figure is equivalent to US\$22 billion.

"Australia hopefully will be part of that first wave of high priority deals that we are pursuing," added Raab, speaking after he met Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne.



Neither Raab nor Payne gave any timetable for the start of free trade talks.

Australia is in the midst of talks with the EU for a trade deal, but Payne said the talks with Brussels would not slow the progress of a British deal.

Although Australia has strong ties with Britain as a former colony, the trading relationship has waned significantly over the last 50 years.

Britain now takes just 3 percent of Australia's exports, while China takes nearly 40 percent. Britain's entry into the Common Market

in 1973 was widely considered a betrayal in Australia, upending decades of tradition and a host of tariff deals.

Supporters of Britain's exit have argued, however, that "family ties" with Commonwealth members, such as Australia, could compensate for the partial loss of Europe's 444 million customers.

During his two-day visit to Australia, Raab will also meet Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Trade Minister Simon Birmingham.

Sudan gives Israel initial okay for overflights - official

KHARTOUM

SUDAN has agreed to allow flights heading to Israel to cross its airspace, a military spokesman said on Wednesday, two days after Sudan's military head of state held a surprise meeting with Israel's prime minister.

The meeting in Uganda between Sudan's Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu stirred controversy in Sudan after Israeli officials said it would lead to

normalizing relations between the two former foes.

"Al-Burhan said his meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was in Sudan's supreme interests and that it was with the knowledge of Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok," Sudanese army spokesman Brig. Amer Mohamed al-Hassan said during a press conference in Khartoum on Wednesday.

He further quoted Burhan as saying "there were preparatory talks

three months ago with the Israeli prime minister and US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo."

Tensions have risen between the military and civilian groups sharing power after last year's overthrow of former president Omar al-Bashir. The cabinet has held two emergency meetings over the Uganda trip, about which it says it was not informed.

Sudan's military responded with a rare political statement on Wednesday, describing Burhan's

trip to meet Netanyahu as being in "the highest interests of national security and of Sudan."

Sudanese military spokesman Amer Mohamed al-Hassan told Al Jazeera there had been an agreement "in principle" for use of Sudan's airspace by commercial aircraft traveling from South America to Israel, though he said technical aspects of the overflights were still being studied and Sudan had not agreed to overflights by Israeli carrier El Al.

"Sudan has not announced full normalization (with Israel), but it is exchanging interests," he said.

Netanyahu had previously said opening Sudanese airspace to Israeli civilian planes would cut hours off flights to South America, Israel's fourth-most important travel destination.

That African air corridor would also include Egypt and Chad, with which Israel renewed long-severed relations in 2018.

Agencies

Wuhan takes efforts to combat novel coronavirus at community level

WUHAN, the epicenter of the novel coronavirus in central China's Hubei province, is taking every measure to terminate the spreading of the virus at community level.

The municipal government is requesting its neighborhood communities to conduct comprehensive investigation, send vegetables and medicines to those with trouble going outside, and remind those who develop a fever to timely examine at community medical and health institutions.

"Thanks to the thermometer and masks offered by the community workers, as well as their caring sent through the phone calls, the fever of me and my husband disappeared after about a dozen days, and we finally feel assured," said Zhang Yuqin, a 57-year-old citizen from a community in Zongguan street, Qiaokou district of Wuhan.

Liu Derong, director of the neighborhood committee introduced that the security guards and volunteers in the community have screened a total of 25 people with fever, carrying out publicity work and disinfecting the streets.

They contact and monitor those with fever every day on schedule, and help community health service centers with the screening work. They also request those who stayed closely with the infected to isolate themselves at home. Besides, they are also releasing real-time information of the epidemic control and prevention on a neighborhood-based mobile application.

At present, the city is waging a war against the novel coronavirus, mobilizing all of its neighborhoods and communities.

In Huashan neighborhood of Wuhan's East Lake High-Tech Development Zone, 33 Party cadres used megaphones on the



A doctor at a community health service center in Tangjiadun community, Jiangnan district of Wuhan, central China's Hubei province introduces basic knowledge of the novel coronavirus to local citizens, Jan. 21, 2020. (Photo People's Daily)

streets to advertise the doggerels they made to encourage the citizens to frequently wash their hands, reduce the frequency of going out and wear masks.

In Lijiawan, Qingshan district, a fevered man was sent to the hospital by local police officers who used a wood door as a stretcher and took the man to an ambulance after

carrying him over 1,000 meters.

Now, the city's community health service centers are shouldering huge responsibility as the first checkpoints in the battle against the novel coronavirus, and most of the doctors are working hard to screen the fevered.

On the afternoon of Jan. 29, receptionists at the community health service center near Huazhong University of Science and Technology in Hongshan district were measuring the temperature for visiting citizens with non-contact infrared thermometers. They inquired the symptoms and contacts of those who had developed a fever and guided them to the fever clinic.

"To prevent and control the disease, all of our staffs canceled their holidays and are working on shift to guarantee the precheck for the fever clinic," said Zhou Feipeng, chief of the Party branch at the

community health service center.

Since Jan. 25, the center has received over 300 patients with fever. It also established a 7-member doctor team to visit the families in the community to avoid frequent "out-of-fear" visits to the center.

Besides, the center is also operating a hotline to teach the citizens how to self-isolate, on which Wu Min, head nurse of the emergency ward offers 24-hour services with her team.

According to Wuhan Municipal Health Commission, a total of 205 community health service centers in the city have established precheck clinics, enabling those with ordinary fever to receive treatment at community-level institutions. The precheck clinics will also make orders for the patients that need to be sent to fever clinics or designated hospitals for further examination.

People's Daily

Biden says he is 'not going anywhere' after poor showing in Iowa

SOMERSWORTH, N.H.

FORMER U.S. Vice President Joe Biden vowed on Wednesday to go on fighting for the Democratic presidential nomination despite what he called the "gut punch" he took in Iowa, where he lagged in fourth place.

With 97% of precincts reporting from Monday's caucuses, Biden was behind former South Bend, Indiana Mayor Pete Buttigieg and U.S. Senators Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren in the first nominating contest of the 2020 campaign.

"I am not going to sugarcoat it: We took a gut punch in Iowa. The whole process was a gut punch," Biden said in Somersworth, New Hampshire, where he was campaigning. "This isn't the first time in my life that I've been knocked down."

Biden, who bills himself as the most electable Democratic candidate to take on Republican President Donald Trump in the Nov. 3 election, led many national polls in the run-up to Iowa and has a host of high-profile endorsements.

But his campaign is in trouble.

"There are an awful lot of folks out there who wrote off this campaign. ... They've been trying to do that from the moment I entered the race. Well, I've got news for them. I'm not going anywhere," Biden said.

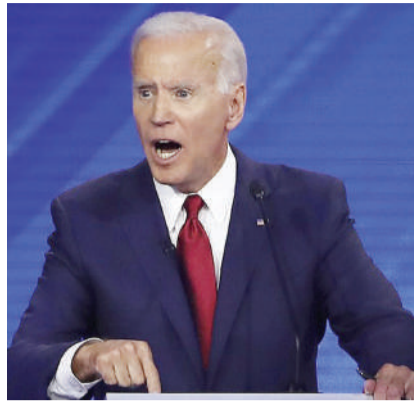
In an unusually direct address, Biden took aim at Sanders and Buttigieg as he tried to recover ahead of the New Hampshire state primary next Tuesday.

Biden, 77, said every Democrat running for the House of Representatives or Senate this year would have to carry the label "socialist" if Sanders became the Democratic nominee. An independent, Sanders calls himself a democratic socialist.

BUTTIGIEG AHEAD

Buttigieg, 38, held a very narrow lead over Sanders, 78, in the Iowa caucuses, according to partial results released on Wednesday. Problems with an app used for vote counting had delayed a final count. Warren, 70, placed third.

Buttigieg, who would be the first openly gay U.S. president if elected, had 26.2% of state delegate equivalents, the data traditionally reported to determine



the winner. Sanders was closing in with 26.1%, Warren was at 18.2%, and Biden garnered 15.8%.

Sanders was slightly ahead of Buttigieg in the Iowa popular vote, which is not used to determine the delegates who will formally choose the nominee at the Democratic National Convention in July.

After more than a year of campaigning and spending more than \$800 million, the results in Iowa had been expected to provide some answers for Democrats desperately trying to figure out how to beat the businessman-turned-president.

But the delay has blunted the momentum of the state's eventual winner. The partial results have been released in batches on Tuesday and Wednesday and the Iowa Democratic Party has not said when it will announce the rest.

Buttigieg has argued it is time for a new generation of leaders and that his lack of experience in Washington makes him an ideal candidate to break the partisan gridlock there.

But he might struggle to win in New Hampshire, where Sanders, who represents neighboring Vermont, leads in many opinion polls, and in the next Democratic primary in South Carolina on Feb. 29 where Biden expects to receive strong backing from the African-American vote.

Biden accused Buttigieg of being insufficiently supportive of the achievements of the Obama administration and cast doubt on his experience.

"It's a risk - to be just straight up with you - for this party to nominate someone who's never held an office higher than mayor of a town of 100,000 people in Indiana," said Biden, who was President Barack Obama's vice president for

eight years.

Jeannie Collins, 34, who works in human resources in Manchester, New Hampshire, said she was leaning toward voting for Sanders but agreed with Biden's concern that the senator may be too left wing for many Americans.

That concern was more likely to make her vote for Buttigieg rather than Biden, she said.

"I just feel like it's time for the younger generation. That's why I really like Buttigieg," she said. She described Sanders as "older but his views are younger".

Two other Biden opponents - Warren and billionaire former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg - released ads on Wednesday highlighting their ties to Obama in a move to pick up Biden supporters who may be reconsidering after his poor performance in Iowa.

Warren's advertisement about her creation of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau during Obama's administration uses narration from the former president praising Warren as being "very tough" and "one of the country's fiercest advocates for the middle class".

Agencies

Kremlin hopes US stops demonising Russia as 'boogeyman' in its domestic political battles

MOSCOW

THE Kremlin hopes that the United States will stop demonizing Russia using it in its domestic political battles. In addition, Moscow hopes that bilateral relations between both countries will be normalized, Russian Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists yesterday.

Asked at a news conference to comment on the US Senate's acquittal of President Donald Trump, ending the recent impeachment trial, Peskov replied that Russia "traditionally does not consider itself entitled to intervene in the domestic affairs of the United States."

"This decision by the Senate was well predicted, and well predicted by anyone, even by those, who are not experts in US domestic affairs," he stressed.

"For us, the main thing is that during all the domestic political and pre-election struggles, the United States stops using Russia as the chief boogeyman and demon on the US arena of domestic politics since we deem this as utterly objectionable," Peskov elaborated.

The presidential spokesman also said that as soon as Washington ceases sacrificing US-Russia relations on the altar of domestic politics then "opportunities will arise to normalize ties."

The Senate voted on Wednesday to acquit US President Donald Trump of both articles of impeachment - abuse of power and obstruction of Congress. The results of the vote on both charges were below the two-thirds majority required - the approval of 67 senators - which was needed for Trump's conviction and removal from office.

Agencies

Uganda calls for sustained fight against Female Genital Mutilation

KAMPALA

UGANDA on Wednesday called for a sustained fight against female genital mutilation (FGM) if the United Nations target of eliminating the procedure by 2030 is to be achieved.

Peace Regis Mutuuzo, minister of state for gender and culture affairs, told reporters here ahead of the International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM to be commemorated on Thursday that all responsible government

agencies, civil society organizations and the community must play their part to stop the vice.

According to the World Health Organization, FGM has no medical justification and leads to long-term physical, psychological and social consequences.

Mutuuzo said although the practice is outlawed in Uganda, studies are showing what she called a "disturbing trend of FGM surge" in parts of the country where it is practiced. She said within a period of

three months (November 2018 to January 2019) in Kapchorwa, Kween and Bukwo districts an estimated 350 girls and women were mutilated. "This demonstrated the need for consistency and sustainability of interventions," she said.

The minister said despite the surge, overall the practice is reducing in the areas where it is practiced like in the northeastern part of the country.

According to the Uganda Demographic and Health Survey

2016, national prevalence is 0.3 percent, a decrease from 1.4 percent in the survey done 2011.

However, an FGM specific survey in the 6 FGM practicing districts revealed an average prevalence of 27 percent with Moroto having the highest prevalence of 53 percent.

The national decline is attributed to law enforcement and community sensitization and mobilization efforts on the effects of FGM.

According to the ministry

partnerships at all levels and between government agencies, local government, civil society organizations and cultural institutions have been critical in pulling down the figures.

Mutuuzo said over the next 10 years, government with support from partners is going to accelerate the fight against FGM in a bid to meet the UN target by 2030.

Some of the measures that are going to be fast-tracked include community engagement for de-

velopment of agreed and locally accepted alternative rites of passage to initiate girls and women into womanhood.

"This will eliminate the practice while at the same time retaining a sense of cultural identity among the communities," the minister said.

She said law enforcement is going to be strengthened including establishing police posts in hard to reach areas. She said the FGM would also be reviewed.

Xinhua

China takes all-out efforts to ensure safe holiday returning trips amid novel coronavirus outbreak

IN the early morning of Feb. 1, 2020, when many people were asleep in the warmth of their quilts, groups of bullet trains were heading into the maintenance warehouse of Nanchang West Railway Station in Nanchang, east China's Jiangxi province.

There, mechanics and disease control personnel were overhauling the body parts of the trains and carrying out disinfection operations on passenger compartments.

To prevent and control the spread of the novel coronavirus, the State Council of China announced that the Lunar New Year holiday was extended to Feb. 2, and the extension will be longer in certain places. As the holiday has come to an end for most people, the country is seeing a travel rush in recent days.

At the critical moment of virus prevention and control, railway workers joined the fight against the novel coronavirus. While maintaining the bullet trains, they've also engaged in epidemic prevention and disinfection work, in order to make sure that the trains are clean and free from failures. All the efforts aim at satisfying passengers' travel needs after the holiday.

Zhang Liubo, chief disinfection expert of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, said the large flow of population poses a very serious challenge for epidemic prevention and control, suggesting that passengers protect themselves during their trips so as to reduce virus prevention and control pressure of relevant departments after they arrive at the destinations.

At present, all passengers' body temperatures need to be measured at both entrances and exits of all operating railway stations across the country. Those identified with a fever, one of the symptoms of the novel coronavirus infection, will be put under isolation on the train and delivered to the next station with an observation ward. Meanwhile the train will be sterilized, and those in close contact with the suspected cases are recorded.

As a measure to prevent and control the new coronavirus virus, Beijing Capital International Airport has increased the amount of fresh air supply in each terminal to ensure sound ventilation and amplified the frequency of disinfection for equipment and facilities. In addition, the boarding bridges,



A train attendant takes body temperature of a boy on train D354 from Chengdu East Railway Station to Shanghai Hongqiao Railway Station, Feb. 2, 2020. A travel rush is seen after the Spring Festival holiday. To contain the spreading of the novel coronavirus, the train attendants have to inspect train cabins on a regular basis, and observe passengers and ask if they have such symptoms as fever, cough and dyspnea, so as to ensure safe travels. By Hu Zhiqiang, People's Daily Online

baggage carousels and other areas used by flights with fevered passengers will be disinfected immediately after the flights are completed.

The airport is currently equipped with 49 temperature measuring devices to take the temperature of all passengers arriving in Beijing and all personnel entering and leaving the terminals.

The airport has also launched special transfer procedures and routes to avoid contact between fevered passengers and the rest. While providing travel services, the airport has obtained protective materials through multiple channels so as to protect each employee on the front line of epidemic prevention and control.

People's Daily

Guangzhou takes measures to protect foreigners amid coronavirus outbreak

AS the battle against the novel coronavirus has become a battle for all in China, southern Chinese city of Guangzhou on Jan. 28 issued an open letter to all expats in the city, offering health guidelines in English, Japanese, Korean and French to help them cope with the current epidemic.

The letter has been posted at all 41 community offices of foreigners' assistance in Guangzhou for better publicity.

One of the offices lies in Yuexiu District's Jianshe Road community, where many exotic restaurants are located. It manages 510 foreigners and quite a few of them dwell in nearby apartments.

When screening local residents, staff members from local rental management offices posted the health guidelines near the dwelling places of the foreigners and requested property management personnel to strictly follow the guidelines.

On Jan. 27, thermometer showed that the temperature of a Guinean man was 37.9 degrees Celsius, higher than the normal level. Learning that the man lives alone, a property management staff sought help from the rental management center.

"I took his temperature every two hours each day, and also



On Feb. 1, a staff member at a checkpoint in Leshan, southwest China's Sichuan province takes temperature of a citizen. (People's Daily)

sent food and medicines to him," said a staff surnamed Liang from the center.

Three days later, the Guinean man's temperature returned to normal and he expressed his gratitude in his fluent Chinese.

Jianshe Road is where Guangzhou's urban construction started, and is home to constructors in all industries, while Jianshe 6th Road is known for its exoticism. The complex neighborhood and the large number of foreign dwellers have no doubt posed a huge challenge for the virus prevention and control in the community.

The work commission of the Jianshe Road community made a quick decision, calling on Party

members to return to work on the second day of the Chinese New Year.

They posted and distributed health guide flyers, investigated at shopping malls and fairs, and called the residents who hadn't returned, starting a war against the novel coronavirus with strict regulations.

A series of touching stories of mutual assistance have been happening in the Jianshe Road community during the war against the virus. The people there, regardless of identities, regions and nationalities, are making concrete efforts to win this battle.

People's Daily

Drone technology key to better service delivery in rural Africa

KIGALI

EMBRACING drone technology will play a key role in improving people's lives in Africa, especially those in rural areas who are unable to receive government services in terms of medical supplies and crop monitoring on time, officials said Wednesday.

"Drone technology has proved to be efficient in terms of performing last-mile delivery to people who live in rugged and rural terrains that are difficult to reach in case of emergency," said Temie Giwa-Tubosun, chief executive officer of LifeBank, a Nigerian blood transfusion company.

She was speaking at the formal opening of the African Drone Forum 2020 (ADF 2020)

and flying competitions in the Rwandan capital, Kigali.

Drones are able to perform dangerous jobs in emergency scenarios and it's time for African countries to embrace the use of drone technologies to save lives, she said.

"We have mastered the delivery of critical supplies. In the past, we have been able to deliver on average in 45 minutes.

However, there are some patients who do not have 45 minutes, so we decided to use the drones to deliver much faster," Giwa-Tubosun said.

The Africa Drone Forum, the first to be hosted in Rwanda, brings together over 800 delegates from across the globe, including drone technology enthusiasts, aviation regulators and government officials.



The forum, which runs through Friday, aims to discuss ways to provide a framework for

policies needed to enable the safe deployment of drone technologies in Africa that respond

to global challenges."Increasing drone use in Africa will bring immense benefits to agriculture,

infrastructure, business, tourism and health.

It's a cool new technology that would help African countries save lives, most especially in rural remote areas," said Eteni Longondo, minister of health of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

According to him, drone technology would also provide farmers with real-time information about their land and agricultural productivity through aerial mapping. "In DRC we are looking at using drones to alleviate over-burdened medical supplies in our vast country most especially in rural remote areas," Longondo told the forum.

Speaking at the forum, Rwandan President Paul Kagame said the use of drones to deliver life-saving blood products and vac-

cines to remote health centres is already a reality in Rwanda, through a partnership with Zipline.

"A Rwandan company, Charis UAS, is using drone technology for crop monitoring and mapping, to support the productivity of our farmers," he said.

There is so much that can be done with this technology and the African Drone Forum is about turning challenges into opportunities, Kagame said.

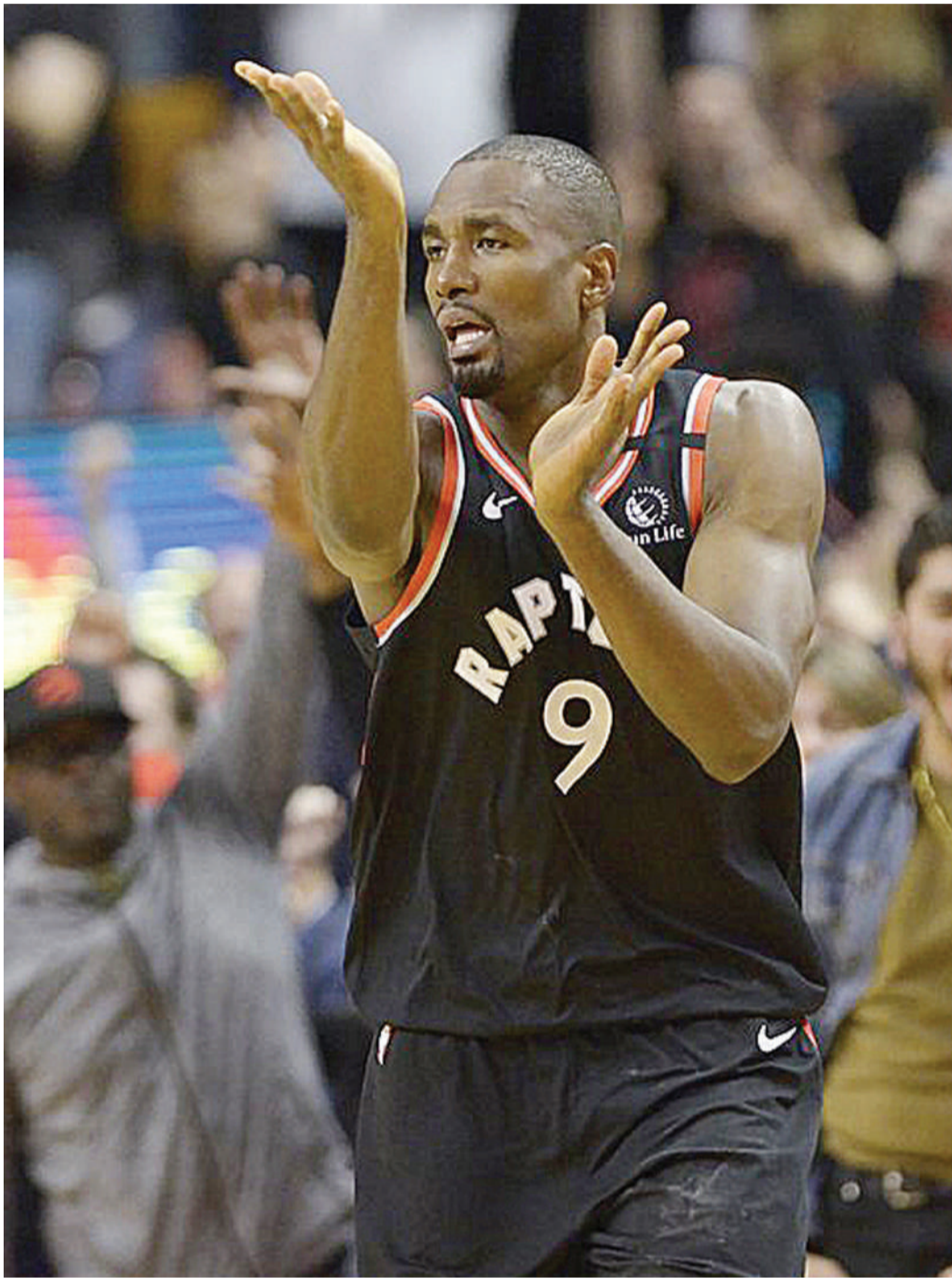
The day before to formal opening, drone technology proprietors participated in Lake Kivu Challenge Flying Competition, in Karongi district, western Rwanda.

The contest will take place again later this week, according to forum organizers.

Xinhua

SPORT

Raptors beat Pacers for team-record 12th straight win



Toronto Raptors center Serge Ibaka (9) reacts after making the winning basket during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Indiana Pacers, Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020 in Toronto. (AP)

TORONTO

SERGE Ibaka had missed five of his six attempts from 3-point range, but didn't hesitate when it was time to take the biggest shot of the game.

Ibaka hit a go-ahead 3 with 30 seconds remaining and the Toronto Raptors rallied from 19 down to beat the Indiana Pacers 119-118 Wednesday night, setting a franchise record with their 12th consecutive victory.

"He deserved it because he's been working his tail off on his shooting," Raptors coach Nick Nurse said.

Kyle Lowry had 32 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds, and Ibaka scored a season-high 30 as Toronto fought back after trailing by 11 with less than four minutes to play. The defending NBA champions scored the final 11 points of the game.

"We play 48 minutes," Lowry said. "That's how we play. We gave ourselves a chance, put the press on, made some shots, got aggressive and played better defense down the stretch."

Toronto's closing offense was pretty good, too. A trio of Raptors scored in double figures in the fourth, led by Ibaka's 15 points.

Ibaka said a pep talk from Nurse inspired him to keep firing even after he struggled from distance early.

"Nick told me in a timeout, 'Serge, keep shooting with confidence, just push the ball,'" Ibaka said. "He gave me a lot of confidence."

Pascal Siakam scored 25 points, Terence Davis had 11 and Fred VanVleet added 10 to help the Raptors earn their 12th straight home win over Indiana.

Malcolm Brogdon scored 24 points and Justin Holiday added a season-best 22, but the Pacers lost their third straight overall. Domantas Sabonis had 15 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists for his third career triple-double.

"Poor execution the last five minutes of the game," Pacers coach Nate McMillan said.

Indiana guard Victor Oladipo started for the first time since returning from injury last week and scored a season-high 13 points in 25 minutes.

"I feel like I played a little better today," Oladipo said. "I could actually feel my legs kind of getting under me, especially defensively."

"It's a tough loss, obviously, but there's a lot of basketball left," he added. "We've just got

to continue to keep getting better, keep getting stronger, and getting healthy as well. Everything else will take care of itself."

Toronto was the opponent in January 2019 when Oladipo had to be carried off the court on a stretcher because of a ruptured tendon in his right knee.

Oladipo played seven minutes in the first quarter, then checked back in with 4:17 left in the first half. He started the second half and was replaced by Aaron Holiday with 3:24 remaining in the third period. Oladipo returned for his final stint with 5:34 left in the fourth and closed out the game.

Holiday shot 6 for 9 from 3-point range and Brogdon went 4 of 7 as the Pacers finished 19 for 39 from deep, a season high for made 3s.

Toronto's Rondae Hollis-Jefferson returned after missing four games because of a sprained right ankle. He did not score in 13 minutes.

The Raptors trailed 106-103 after Siakam's driving dunk with 5:05 left, but Holiday made a 3. Oladipo hit a jumper and Brogdon connected from deep to put the Pacers up 114-103 with 3:50 to go.

Siakam hit one of two at the line with 1:15 left to bring Toronto within four, then forced a steal and drove for a layup to make it 118-116 with 1:06 remaining.

The Pacers called a timeout and gave the ball to Oladipo, but his shot didn't fall, leading to Ibaka's go-ahead 3 at the other end.

Oladipo missed a 3 with 10 seconds to play and VanVleet stripped Brogdon to seal an historic win for Toronto.

Meanwhile, in Los Angeles, once the Los Angeles Clippers figured out Miami's zone defense, their 3-point barrage was on.

Paul George and Landry Shamet each scored 23 points to lead eight Clippers in double figures, and Los Angeles beat the Heat 128-111 on Wednesday night for its third consecutive victory.

"We were moving the ball against the zone, getting the right shots. We just weren't making shots," said Shamet, who was 1 of 7 in the first half. "It all started to come together in the second half."

The Clippers made a franchise-record 24 3-pointers, their most since hitting 20 against Houston on Jan. 18, 2016.

Africa should seek to promote its derbies more effectively

BY CORRESPONDENT LLOYD ELIPOKEA

FEW would dispute the contention that African football is today regarded in a distinctly more respectful and admirable fashion in comparison to the past.

Granted, admittedly, no African country has advanced to the semi-finals of the football championship of all championships, the global show-stopper, World Cup yet.

However, even despite this glaring failing, continental football can still proudly lay claim to other successes which are of huge significance.

These achievements include Nigeria winning the gold medal for football at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics and the U-20 Ghanaian national team reaching the final of the 2009 U-20 World Cup among other glorious highs.

However, in the interests of improving African football, this writer would modestly seek to highlight an area of continental football, which perhaps needs to be exploited more aggressively.

And this area in question is the popularity of continental football's most renowned club derbies.

Indeed, if you have observed in recent years just how earnestly core sporting brands of the Western world like the NBA and the NFL have successfully played a few of their league games in foreign capitals away from home such as Paris and London, then I am sure you will see the wisdom of us promoting our most prominent club football derbies more robustly.

We have to remember that there are some seemingly ever-present football derbies which are well-known across the continent.

Such immensely popular city duels include the Hearts of Oak versus Asante Kotoko of Accra, Ghana, the unfailingly entertaining Kaizer Chiefs against Orlando Pirates Soweto derby of South Africa and lastly but certainly not least, our very own 'Kariakoo Derby' between those two arch-enemies Simba and Yanga of our 'Haven of Peace'.

In this corner of the Guardian's



Yanga defender, Andrew Vincent (L), blocks Simba forward, John Bocco, in Vodacom Premier League duel, which took place in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SPORTPESA

sports pages on a weekly basis, I have toiled relentlessly to try and dish out kudos where such kudos are so deserved.

And, this time around, the country that justly deserves such kudos is South Africa whose fond nickname is the 'Rainbow Nation'.

Indeed, South Africa is arguably the only African country which has sought to promote its glinting jewel in terms of derbies, the Soweto meeting between Kaizer Chiefs and Orlando Pirates to shores beyond the continent.

In the recent past, for example, the governing body of South African Football Association, SAFA's efforts to promote the 'Soweto Derby' in Europe have met with some relative success.

However, if I were in the shoes of top administrators around the continent who might be interested in taking up my idea, I would advise them in a few ways which is what we shall be looking at

in the subsequent, few paragraphs of this commentary.

To begin this segment of today's sporting narrative, let us consider the Ghanaian Football Association (GFA) as an example to help us in this regard.

Well, first of all, I would advise the GFA to begin promoting the Accra city derby of Asante Kotoko versus Hearts of Oak to only the West African region at the start.

In order to fulfill this goal, I would call upon the GFA to solicit the help of the Ghanaian government.

The type of help that I foresee the GFA might need is in terms of financial assistance and just in the most literal meaning possible, government support.

With both these forms of assistance in hand, the GFA would try to hire the services of the most top-rated marketing and advertising firm in all of Ghana to promote aggressively the Accra city derby

throughout every land surface of the West African region.

The intention here being that on D-Day in West Africa, the Accra city derby is broadcast live in all the capitals of West African Regional Member-Countries.

In addition, the three partners who make up the triumvirate who are: the Ghanaian government, the GFA and the marketing agency, which for the sake of simplification, we shall 'X' might also decide to enlist the help of the cable TV DSTV Satellite network which boasts of a wealth of experience in broadcasting live African league matches to the entire continent.

Finally, I'd like to hasten to emphasize that the ideas explored in this article are not binding in nature (are not cast in stone).

If anything, Dear Reader, please just view the contents of today's piece as an attempt to spark wider debate on the central thrust of this piece.

Kirk Douglas rose from poverty to become a king of Hollywood - I

NEW YORK

HE was born Issur Danielovitch, a ragman's son. He died Kirk Douglas, a Hollywood king.

Douglas, the muscular, tempestuous actor with the dimpled chin, lived out an epic American story of reinvention and perseverance, from the riches he acquired and risked to the parts he took on and the boundaries he defied. Among the most popular, versatile and recognizable leading men of the 20th century, he could will himself into a role or a favorite cause as mightily as he willed himself out of poverty.

Douglas, who died Wednesday at 103, was a force for change and symbol of endurance. He is remembered now as a final link to a so-called "Golden Age," the father of Oscar winner Michael Douglas and a man nearly as old as the industry itself. But in his prime, he represented a new kind of performer, more independent and adventurous than Clark Gable, Spencer Tracy and other greats of the studio era of the 1930s and 1940s, and more willing to speak his mind.

His career began at the peak of the studios' power and ended in a more diverse, decentralized age that he helped bring about.

Reaching stardom after World War II, he was as likely to play cads (the movie producer in "Bad and the Beautiful," the journalist in "Ace in the Hole") as he was suited for the hero-slave in "Spartacus," as alert to the business as he was at home before the camera. He was producing his own films at a time most movie stars were content to act and was working with an enviable range of directors,



In this Monday March 25, 1996 file photo, Hollywood star Kirk Douglas accepts the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 68th Annual Academy Awards in Los Angeles. Douglas, the intense, muscular actor with the dimpled chin who starred in "Spartacus," "Lust for Life" and dozens of other films, died Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020, at age 103. (AP Photo)

from a young Stanley Kubrick to a middle-aged John Huston, from a genius of noir like Jacques Tourneur to such master satirists as Billy Wilder and Joseph L. Mankiewicz.

Acting served as escape and as confession. His favorite among dozens of films was the contemporary Western "Lonely are the Brave," which came out in 1962 and included a line of dialogue Douglas called the most personal he ever spoke: "I'm a loner clear down deep to my very guts."

He never won a competitive

Oscar, but he received an honorary one, along with a lifetime achievement award from the American Film Institute, an honorary Golden Globe and a Presidential Medal of Freedom.

His standing came in part from his role in the downfall of Hollywood's blacklist, which halted and ruined the careers of writers suspected of pro-Communist activity or sympathies.

By the end of the 1950s, the use of banned writers was widely known within the industry, but not to the general public. Douglas, who years earlier had

reluctantly signed a loyalty oath to get the starring role in "Lust for Life," delivered a crucial blow when he openly credited the blacklisted Oscar winner Dalton Trumbo for script work on "Spartacus," the Roman epic about a slave rebellion that was released in 1960. (A few months before, Otto Preminger had announced Trumbo's name would appear on the credits for "Exodus," but "Spartacus" came out first.)

"Everybody advised me not to do it because you won't be able to work in this town again and all of that. But I was young enough to say to hell with it," Douglas, criticized at times for taking undue credit for bringing down the blacklist, said about "Spartacus" in a 2011 interview with The Associated Press. "I think if I was much older, I would have been too conservative: 'Why should I stick my neck out?'"

The most famous words in a Douglas movie were said about him, not by him, in "Spartacus." Roman officials tell a gathering of slaves their lives will be spared if they identify their leader. As Douglas rises, a growing chorus of slaves jump up and shout, "I'm Spartacus!" Douglas stands silently, a tear rolling down his face.

Life was not a role to be underplayed. His outbursts frightened co-workers and family members alike. He was compulsive about preparing for movies and a supreme sufferer on camera, whether stabbed by scissors in Wilder's "Ace in the Hole" or crucified in "Spartacus." AP

TO BE CONTINUED

Manchester City monitoring Messi situation - sources

LONDON

MANCHESTER City are monitoring Lionel Messi's public fallout with Barcelona and believe they would be in the running if the Argentina star decides to leave Camp Nou, sources have told ESPN.

Messi has been involved in a row with Barcelona sporting director Eric Abidal over his claims players forced the dismissal of coach Ernesto Valverde.

The 32-year-old reportedly has a clause in his contract that would allow him to leave the club for free at the end of the season, although it is unclear whether he could join a Champions League rival like Manchester City. The Premier League holders privately admit his departure remains unlikely, but they would be interested if he decides to move either this summer or at the end of his current deal in 2021.

City maintain they would be at the head of the queue for Messi's signature because of his strong relationship with director of football Txiki Begiristain, chief executive Ferran Soriano and manager Pep Guardiola.

Together Messi and Guardiola won the Spanish title three times and the Champions League twice in four seasons at Camp Nou between 2008 and 2012. City are also one of only a handful of clubs who could afford Messi's wages of more than £50 million a year.

Abidal, a former teammate of Messi's at Barcelona, said this week "a lot of players were not happy and did not work much" when discussing the sacking of Valverde.

It prompted Messi to hit back in a post on Instagram suggesting the Frenchman should name the players he felt had been involved in undermining the coach.

He wrote: "I honestly do not like to do this kind of thing but I think that everyone has to be responsible for their job and take responsibility for their decision."

"Players for what happens on the field, we are also the first to acknowledge when we don't play well."

Despite the acrimony on Tuesday, sources have told ESPN that Messi assured Barcelona president Josep Maria Bartomeu on Wednesday that he is happy to turn the page on the incident and focus on the club's targets on the pitch between now and the end of the season, when he will move into the final 12 months of his contract.

Earlier on Wednesday, Valverde's replacement Quique Setien was faced with a barrage of questions about how Messi's social media post could affect the team, who are three points behind Real Madrid at the top of La Liga and still in the Copa del Rey and the Champions League. He repeated that his only focus was the Athletic Bilbao game in the Copa del Rey on Thursday, although he said he had briefly spoken about Tuesday's incident with his squad.

"These things don't affect me," he added. "I try to make sure they don't affect my players, either."

"We spoke about it for one minute earlier but that was all. What interests me is football. At any club of this size, there are problems, but they are not things I can control."

Mourinho admits 'best team lost' as Son sends Spurs into FA Cup fifth round

LONDON

JOSE Mourinho admitted Tottenham got lucky after Son Heung-min's late penalty secured a dramatic 3-2 win against Southampton on Wednesday's FA Cup fourth-round replay.

Mourinho's side were 12 minutes away from being knocked out after squandering the first-half lead given to them by Jack Stephens' own goal.

Shane Long and Danny Ings scored as Southampton hit back to take the lead at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

But Lucas Moura equalised before Son won and converted the decisive penalty with just two minutes left.

"I have to be honest and say I think the best team lost on the pitch but my team were the ones with more heart and went to their limit," Mourinho said.

"We suffered but we deserved to win because we were in our limits. Southampton were fresher than us but we played with our souls and heart and gave absolutely everything."

Tottenham, who last won the FA Cup in 1991, will host struggling Norwich in the fifth round in the first week of March.

Aiming for the first trophy of his reign, Mourinho, who replaced Mauricio Pochettino earlier this season, will be relieved Tottenham avoided a surprise exit from a competition he has not won since 2007 with Chelsea.

Taking credit for the win in classic Mourinho self-promoting style, he said: "I think I did very well because I had to manage a team with so many difficulties."

"The priority is to survive. We have lots of difficulties. I'm not speaking just about Harry Kane, I'm speaking about injuries to Giovanni Lo Celso and Erik Lamela."

"Today was a team completely un-



Tottenham striker Son Heung-min is brought down by Southampton keeper Angus Gunn (AFP Photo)

balanced, really hard to organise it."

Tottenham are without a major trophy of any kind since the 2008 League Cup and Mourinho would dearly love to end that drought, but his team will have to improve significantly on this erratic display.

Mourinho will also have to get Jan Vertonghen back onside after the defender's dejected trudge off the pitch following his substitution.

"I understand his sadness, it is normal. He is always respectful and always professional. It doesn't make me happy to make a substitution. I did it for the team, Jan is happy for the team," Mourinho said.

Tottenham had won eight of their last nine home games against Southampton, including a 2-1 success in the Premier League earlier this season, and they were in front after 12 minutes.

- Momentum swing -

Ryan Sessegnon's burst opened up the Southampton defence and when the ball bounced to Tanguy Ndombele on the edge of the area, the midfielder drilled a powerful shot that took a big deflection off Stephens into his own net.

Ings should have equalised when he ran onto James Ward-Prowse's pin-point pass and got to the ball ahead of the hesitant Hugo Lloris, but the in-form striker's shot cannoned back off the bar.

Southampton's 34th-minute equaliser carried more than a whiff of blame for Lloris, who limply parried out Nathan Redmond's shot for Long to slot home.

There was a blow for the visitors before half-time when Ward-Prowse was stretchered off after needing oxygen for a knee injury suffered in a challenge with Sessegnon.

Ralph Hasenhuttl's side deservedly

took the lead in the 72nd minute.

Redmond made an incisive surge from deep inside his own half and slipped a pass to Ings, who cut past Japhet Tanganga before curling a fine finish into the far corner from 18 yards for his 17th goal of the season.

But Lucas came to Tottenham's rescue in the 78th minute when he took Dele Alli's pass and cleverly turned into the space on the edge of the area before drilling a superb strike into the far corner.

The momentum had swung in Tottenham's favour and Son won it in the 88th minute when he charged into the area and went down under minimal contact from goalkeeper Angus Gunn.

Son stepped up to take the penalty himself and fired home to send Tottenham into the last 16.

AFP

Ighalo: I took pay cut to make Man U move

LONDON

MANCHESTER United forward Odion Ighalo has said he took a pay-cut in order to facilitate his deadline-day transfer to Old Trafford from Shanghai Shenhua.

United boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer had been in the market for a forward following an injury to Marcus Rashford and Nigeria international Ighalo completed a shock loan move to United in the final hours of the transfer window.

And Ighalo, who is a boyhood United fan, said he was so keen to make the deal happen with so little time left in the January window, he opted to take less money.

"My agent called me the day before and said Man United," Ighalo told United's website. "I would love to go."

"A few other clubs had shown interest, I said please, just pick United, if it's going to be possible. At 11 p.m. in Shanghai, my agent called me [to say] that United want to do the deal, so I woke up that night and started looking for a translator to go to the directors' room and hit his door and all that."

"My agent wants to speak to you, United are coming for me, you have to make this happen and all that you know. So they started talking and discussing, I didn't sleep throughout that night, because it was going to

end at 7 a.m., Shanghai time, and the transfer [window] is going to close there."

"So, from 11 p.m., there was paperwork, negotiating and all that, for the loan deal and all that, so we are talking and other teams are calling them, wanting me, but I told my agent that this is what I want. I want to come here. He said you're going to get a pay-cut to go to United. I said I don't care. Make this deal happen. I want to go to United."

"I don't care how much is the pay-cut, I know that, make it happen. So the director and everybody didn't know what to say anymore, because I had already made up my mind, so my agent started putting it in order, and, at 5 a.m., we finished."

"My agent said he'd forwarded all the papers to United, they will confirm for me if everything is OK. I think, around 5 a.m.-6 a.m., he said: 'Everything is OK, it's done.'"

"I was excited. I called my mum and she was happy, crying and all that. This is your dream and all that and I'm happy for you. It was dramatic, I didn't sleep through, I was very happy that finally we got the deal done."

Ighalo was United's third signing of the January transfer window following the arrivals of Bruno Fernandes and Nathan Bishop.

(Agencies)

German FA to investigate Jordan Torunarigha Schalke racism incident

BERLIN

THE German FA (DFB) is to investigate after Hertha Berlin defender Jordan Torunarigha was subjected to racist abuse during a German Cup match against Schalke in Gelsenkirchen.

On Wednesday, the DFB's disciplinary committee asked Torunarigha for a statement after the Germany Under-21 defender was the victim of chanting at the Veltins Arena during Tuesday's match.

Schalke's sporting director Jochen Schneider said he has apologised to Torunarigha and vowed to find the culprits.

"There is zero tolerance. I lack any understanding for complete idiots of this kind," said Schneider after the game.

"We will do everything we can to track down those responsible and impose consequences."

Hertha coach Jurgen Klinsmann

and his players complained after Torunarigha, 22, was the victim of racist chants before he was sent off during extra time in the 3-2 third round defeat.

"The boy was insulted. We told the referees that they had to protect him," Klinsmann said.

Hertha defender Niklas Stark, 24, heard "monkey calls" aimed at Torunarigha.

"There were racist insults from the stands," Stark said.

"Jordan is an emotional player and if something like that happened to me, I would probably be freaked out too."

"It's not on and it's only human to react like that."

"We, as a team, as a club, actually the entire Bundesliga, must stand behind him."

Hertha manager Michael Preetz gave the club's backing to Torunarigha, adding "the incident has hit us all very hard". AFP

Ahly get chance to avenge CAF Champions League humiliation

JOHANNESBURG

THE CAF Champions League quarter-finals draw made in Cairo on Wednesday offered local club Al Ahly a chance to avenge one of the most humiliating defeats in their 113-year history.

Ahly were trounced 5-1 on aggregate by Mamelodi Sundowns of South Africa in the quarter-finals last year, and the clubs will meet at the same stage this season.

The 5-0 first-leg loss was the heaviest suffered by the Cairo Red Devils in an international competition and the biggest since a 6-0 defeat by Zamalek in the 1942 Egyptian Cup final.

"They performed like amateurs," said pundit and former Ahly star Wael Gomaa at the time. "The team showed no personality, no spirit, no leadership. It was an utter shambles."

One difference this season is that Ahly will enjoy home advantage first, on February 28 or 29 in Cairo, with the return match in Pretoria the following weekend.

Another change is that Uruguayan Martin Lasarte no longer coaches Ahly with Swiss Rene Weiler now in charge of the club that have been African champions a record eight times.

Former South Africa forward and coach Pitso Mosimane has steered Sundowns since 2012 and led them to their lone Champions League title four years ago.

Ahly and Sundowns have reached the knockout stage with identical records of seven victories, two draws and one loss from qualifying and group matches.

The Egyptians fell away to Etoile Sahel of Tunisia in the group stage while the South Africans went down in their first qualifier, against AS Otoho in Congo Brazzaville.

Esperance of Tunisia and Zamalek of Egypt meet in Qatar on February 14 for the CAF Super Cup, an annual match between the Champions League and Confederation Cup trophy-holders.

Then, just two weeks later, the Blood and Gold and White Knights clash again, this time in the first leg



Swiss Rene Weiler, the coach tasked with leading Al Ahly of Egypt to a record-extending ninth CAF Champions League title (AFP Photo)

of a Champions League quarter-final in Cairo.

Esperance are seeking a third straight title -- a feat not even the great 2005-2008 Ahly team of Essam el Hadary, Gomaa, Mohamed Aboutrika, Mohamed Barakat and Emad Moteab could achieve.

Moroccan city Casablanca provide two contenders with Raja facing TP Mazembe of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Wydad meeting Etoile Sahel.

All eight survivors have won the competition, led by Ahly with eight successes, including two back-to-back triumphs.

Draws

Quarter-finals

Al Ahly (EGY) v Mamelodi Sundowns (RSA)

Raja Casablanca (MAR) v TP Mazembe (COD)

Zamalek (EGY) v Esperance (TUN, holders)

Wydad Casablanca (MAR) v Etoile Sahel (TUN)

First legs: Feb 28/29, second: Mar 6/7

Semi-finals

Raja/Mazembe v Zamalek/Esperance

Wydad/Etoile v Ahly/Sundowns

First legs: May 1/2, second: May 8/9

Note: final will be played on May 29 at a neutral venue to be announced.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Mourinho admits 'best team lost' as Son sends Spurs into FA Cup fifth round

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Dar es Salaam's junior swimmers feature in training session recently.

Premier League Board slaps three-year ban on match official

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Premier League Board (TPLB) has slapped a three years' ban on assistant referee Kassim Safisha for his poor decision during a league match between Simba SC and Namungo FC, which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

Information released yesterday by Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) information officer Clifford Ndimbo said 'TPLB officials that met on Monday banned Safisha for three years for his failure to discharge his duties diligently.'

"In a game number 150 involving Simba SC and Namungo FC, second assistant referee Kassim Safisha has been banned for three years for his failure to perform his duties during a game which was played at the National Stadium on January 29, 2020," said part of the press release.

It further said referee Meshack Suda, who officiated match number 157 between Azam FC and Mtibwa Sugar, has been written a letter of reprimand to perform his duties with due care.

Ndimbo also said TPLB has disclosed match commissioner Abdallah Zongo, who oversaw the match between Azam FC versus Mtibwa Sugar, has been struck off the list of commissioners due to his failure to perform his duties.

"In a game number 157 between Azam FC and Mtibwa Sugar which ended in 1-1 draw, referee Meshack Suda has been written a letter reprimanding him to be careful while performing his duties, commissioner Abdallah Zongo who oversaw the match has been removed from the list of match commissioners," said part of Ndimbo's press release.

He also said TPLB has referred Friends Rangers official Herry Chibakasa to TFF Disciplinary Committee for his involvement in a fight with a supporters of Dodoma United in First Division League (FDL) game.

The federation has also banned referee Salum Mkohe for three months. The referee officiated a Second Division League (SDL) game pitting Dar City FC against African Sports at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam on January 31.

Soccer player Rajabu Kipango has as well been referred to the federation's Disciplinary Committee



Yanga players celebrate the side's first goal netted during a Vodacom Premier League clash with Lipuli FC, which took place in Dar es Salaam mid this week. Yanga won 2-1. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

for beating a player from the opponents.

In another development the government has directed that the National Sports Council (NSC) should come up with solutions for the rampant complainant of poor and biased officiating in various football leagues played in the country.

Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Harrison Mwakyembe, issued the directive on Wednesday.

The minister said there have been a lot of complaints on biased and poor officiating by referees during Mainland Premier League and FDL games.

He said the government has invested a lot of money in sports

infrastructure with the aim of seeing to it the game of football is officiated fairly and not spoiled by referees.

"There have been a lot of complaints lodged to my office on poor officiating by our referees and stakeholders are seeing no any action taken, I'm asking the National Sports Council (NSC) to act now," he disclosed.

"I'm giving them three days to come up with the remedies and ways on how this can come to an end," he said.

The minister said if NSC will find that the men in black are incompetent, inconsistent and biased, actions must be taken.

Recently there have been a lot

of complaints lodged by coaches and other stakeholders on poor officiating especially in Premier League games.

The games in which officiating had raised a lot of eye brows include a match between Yanga against Lipuli FC which had the former winning 2-1, Simba versus Polisi Tanzania which the hosts won 2-1.

Controversial decisions as well happened in the league's encounter between Azam FC and Mtibwa Sugar which had the outfits settling for 1-1 draw, Yanga against Coastal Union game which had the former 1-0, Federation Cup match between Simba and Mwadui FC which ended with the hosts winning

2-1, and a league match between Simba and Namungo FC, in which the hosts posted 3-2 win.

The above are some of the numerous wayward decisions made by the referees and have blighted the league in recent games.

Commenting on the same, Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) president, Wallace Karia, said the federation has advised Premier League Board to meet with the Football Referees Association of Tanzania (FRAT) to know the root cause of the problem and come up with measures.

In a monitored radio interview, Karia said they are not happy with the reports of biased officiating in Premier League and FDL games.

"There are a lot of complaints on how our referees are officiating the games, we have advised the Premier League Board to meet with FRAT to look at how, who and why there are many cases and for sure action will be taken," he said.

He also brushed the suggestions by some sectors that poor officiating is the result poor packages which referees get after officiating games.

"That cannot be true, if someone (referee) thinks what he or she gets is not what they deserve they can leave the job (officiating) and in most cases they are the assistant referees who mislead centre referees and the unfortunate thing is that referees' decision is final no matter how bad it is," he said.

Karia also disclosed that TFF is in the process of having a referee body which will be independent.

"Federation of International Football Associations (FIFA) and Confederation of African Football (CAF) have directed all national football federations should have referees' bodies which are independent, there should not be elected people in the referees' bodies, the bodies should only be made up of professional referees, we believe this will help the bodies come up with non-biased judgments," he said.

All set for French Schools swimming tournament

By Correspondent Renatha Msungu

A total of 25 events will spice up the inaugural French Schools swimming competition which has been scheduled to take place at International School of Tanganyika (IST) Masaki Campus in Dar es Salaam tomorrow.

Out of the events, 20 events will have swimmers compete in 25 meters in such styles like Backstroke, Butterfly, Breaststroke and Freestyle.

The swimmers will compete in the 25 meters race due to their age except in the open events whereby mixed ages would compete. However, swimmers will have to compete in 25 meters open Butterfly style.

There will be also 50 meters open events for Backstroke, Freestyle and Breaststroke respectively. Also in the list is 100 meters Medley relay race as per released schedule.

The competition will feature three clubs namely Dar es Salaam International Academy (DIA), International School of Tanganyika (IST) and BayBridge according to Emmanuel Isobe, who serves as the tournament coordinator.

The competition has been organized for the swimmers who are yet to compete in any competition and will have three age categories.

The age categories are six to seven years, eight to nine years and 10-year old swimmers in both boys and girls.

He said the competition has been scheduled to start from 8am to 4pm and believes the event will scout young and talented swimmers in the city.

Isobe said the event will be held in 25 meters swimming pool which will soon be launched.

"Swimmers and coaches have been urged to be punctual in order to start the event as per our schedule," he noted.

He said the winners would be awarded special prizes and heat would be regarded as the final to pick the winners.

Isobe said they are planning to stage the event annually and apart from promoting and scouting the swimmers, the event gears towards increasing the number of events for the swimmers in the country.

"This is a place where all swimming stakeholders will meet and share their views. So people should expect lots of excitement from our swimmers," he said.

Dar boxers set for 2020 Olympics' qualifiers

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

FOUR Tanzania amateur boxers will jet off to Senegal on Sunday to battle it out in qualifiers for the boxing slots for the 2020 Olympic Games, which will be hosted by Tokyo.

Boxing Federation of Tanzania (BFT) Secretary General Lukelo Willilo said the Dakar qualifiers have been slated for February 18-28 at the Dakar International Expo Centre, Diamniadio.

Willilo disclosed the national boxing squad will depart two days before the event.

He said the four pugilists will travel to Senegal under the sponsorship of the Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC).

The BFT official said currently nine boxers are undergoing intensive training at Mapinga camp in Coast Region.

"The team is undergoing intensive training at Mapinga camp, we thank the Chief of Defense Forces (CDF) for this camp and Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) for sponsoring the team's trip to Senegal," he disclosed.

"The team is expected to depart on February 16, we are confident they will do well in Senegal and qualify for the Tokyo Games," he said.

The Senegal event will be the last boxing qualifying event to be held in Africa.

The other qualifiers will take place in France in May at the Grand

Dôme, Villebon-sur-Yvette.

Meanwhile, TOC secretary general Filbert Bayi has urged the local boxers who will compete at the Senegal games to make full use of the opportunity.

"TOC will sponsor four boxers to Senegal for the Tokyo Olympics qualifying event, our boxers should make use of the chance as the remaining qualifying events will be held in France, the Paris event will be very tough as it will be the last one for all boxers who failed to qualify," he said.

The final world event in Paris will give athletes a second chance to qualify, and will therefore be open only to those boxers who have not yet qualified from the continental events.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

