



National Pg 3 ITU urges space for young innovators



National Pg 4 WB launches update report today



National Pg 5 Kagera coffee production rising



National Pg 6 CMSA to introduce awareness programme



'UK immigration system overtly discriminates against Africans'

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

AFRICANS are twice as likely to be refused UK visas than applicants from any other part of the world, a report unveiled yesterday by the country's All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPG) shows.

The study said the UK immigration system is "biased or even discriminating" against Africans and is "not currently fit for purpose."

"The UK has good relations with most African countries, but it needs to be recognised that no single issue does more potential damage to the image or influence of the UK in Africa than this visa question," reads the report.

"The fact that refusals for applicants from Africa in 2018 were running at more than double the global average suggests that something is amiss. The situation needs to be addressed."

It presents multiple challenges, including the need to travel long distances to apply for



It presents multiple challenges, including the need to travel long distances to apply for a visa, financial discrimination and no right of appeal, the report said

a visa, financial discrimination and no right of appeal, the report said.

"At a time when the UK needs to be 'open for business,' the broken visas system is doing severe damage to UK-Africa relations across a variety of sectors," said Chi Onwurah MP, Chair of the APPG for Africa.

"It is embarrassing, patronising and insulting to African applicants and leaves the slogan of 'Global Britain' empty and meaningless," she declared.

The group said it had undertaken to coordinate the gathering of as much hard evidence on this issue as possible and particularly in cases where visas appear to have been unjustifiably refused, to the detriment not only of the individual concerned but to British national interests.

To that end it invited submissions and held a well-attended hearing in January 2019, the outcome of which has been discussed in detail by the Group with the Minister for Immigration.

It came up with a number of recommendations to ease things, including expedited application processes for those applicants who currently have to travel to a neighbouring country to apply and/or be

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Ball in investors' court as govt moves to end drug shortages



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa talks with University of Dodoma students when inspecting pavilions at the 14th Universities Exhibition Week at Mnazi Mmoja grounds in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: PMO

Minister woos banks, contractors object to REA delayed payments

By Aisia Rweyemamu

ENERGY Minister Dr Medard Kalemami yesterday appealed to financial institutions to advance loans to private contractors implementing the 7trn/- phase III of the rural electrification programme without fear of default because the contracts are protected by government guarantees.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday during an energy stakeholders meeting to discuss challenges facing execution of the projects under the Rural Energy Agency (REA), Dr Kalemami said contractors faced difficulties in their loan applications because they are private entities.

"I call upon banks to advance loans to these approved contractors because they are not a



I call upon banks to advance loans to these approved contractors because they are not a default risk as their contracts are protected by government guarantees

default risk as their contracts are protected by government guarantees," he said.

The minister declared that the government has set aside more than 600bn/- guarantee funds posted with the Bank of Tanzania to ensure purchase of materials in the implementation of phase III of the programme.

"The contracts entered between the government and these service providers should serve as assurance to financial institutions that loan repayment is guaranteed," Dr Kalemami said.

But according to contractors, the banks usually demand documentation from them apart from their contracts with the government as loan conditions.

"Among the documents they demand is

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NEC consulting widely ahead of civic polls, general elections

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

AS countrywide updating of the permanent roll of voters starts today ahead of civic polls later this year, the National Electoral Commission (NEC) has said it has consulted widely with stakeholders and is ready to deliver the poll.

Speaking here yesterday, NEC Chairman Judge (Rtd) Semistocles Kajjage said consultations have already taken place involving key stakeholders such as leaders of political parties, women, youth groups, people with disabilities and civil societies.



He was briefing reporters on the launch of countrywide update of permanent roll of voters to be officiated by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa here today.

"All registered political parties are legally allowed to send their agents—one from each political party—to registration stations to observe the exercise," he said.

Judge Kajjage noted that after the launch at national level, the exercise will take place in Kilimanjaro and Arusha regions for seven days before proceeding elsewhere.

The exercise will involve registration of new

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It is estimated that around 269bn/- is spent every year to buy medicine abroad as 85-percent of hospital drugs are procured from outside

By Henry Mwangonde

TANZANIA needs an estimated 1.189trn/- (\$517 million) investments in the pharmaceutical industry to fill the drug shortage gap and export to neighbouring countries, it was revealed yesterday.

The Commissioner for Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in the Ministry of Finance and Planning, Dr John Mboya said the amount will be spent on building, operating and maintaining such industries.

Speaking at the International Pharmaceutical Investors Conference in Dar es Salaam, Dr Mboya said the PPP concept in the pharmaceutical industry has been designed to improve investment in the sector. It is in the feasibility study stage under a team led by Treasury Permanent Secretary Dotto James.

"This is a huge amount so we need more investors both local and foreign. That is why we have introduced PPP so that we encourage local investors to participate fully," he stated.

It is estimated that around 269bn/- is spent every year to buy medicine abroad as 85-percent of hospital drugs are procured from outside.

Trade and Industry Minister Innocent Bashungwa said the government was ready to offer support to investors who will be ready to invest in the pharmaceutical industry.

"The blueprint document has deleted some taxes that were a nuisance to investors," he asserted, noting further that the strategy is being implemented to make Tanzania a suitable and competitive investment area.



The conference is hosted by the Medical Stores Department (MSD) and brought together local and foreign investors from various countries

The conference is hosted by the Medical Stores Department (MSD) and brought together local and foreign investors from various countries.

MSD Director General Laurean Rugambwa said an analysis is being conducted on how PPP can be implemented in the pharmaceutical industry, specifying that the areas which are being examined are publicized, with information issued to investors on potential PPP project areas. "By this year we expect to finish building three industries," he said, citing the fact that there is a wide local market and opportunities in regional trade blocks.

MSD PPP project manager Fredrick Pondamali said there are challenges that MSD faces currently in supplying drugs, including reaching out to remote areas due to lack of infrastructure. "It takes too long to finish one procurement circle due to government procurement processes," he declared.

Last year, the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) appointed MSD as sole distributor of essential drugs for 15 member states.

This was good news for Tanzanian industrialists to start improving their quality of products so as to meet international standards.

MSD affirms that it has enough capacity to distribute drugs, medical equipment and chemical reagents to those countries, "but it is a chance for Tanzania to tap into this opportunity."

Availability of essential drugs to dispensaries, health centres and hospitals has increased from 36 percent in 2016 to just over 80 percent, this year, the manager added.



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Minister woos banks, contractors object to REA delayed payments

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letter of credit from the government which takes long to process," said Jonathan Mshiu.

Apart from access to loans, another challenge raised by the contractors during the meeting was delayed payments by the government, which they said makes it impossible to complete the works as per their contracts.

"Payments from our employer (the government) normally take too long and as a result we stay idle as we cannot buy materials and complete our works on time," said Sebastian Mteleke.

On delayed payments and its impact on the completion of works, the minister responded by challenging the contractors that it means that they are ill-prepared.

"I'm surprised to hear you complain about financial challenges. There are three qualities of a good engineer: one, you must have enough capital, two you must be able to deliver quality job within a scheduled time and three, you must have enough resources," he declared.

He warned that with effect from yesterday, he would not entertain contractors stopping the job on account of delayed payments.

He said he expects the projects will be implemented at high speed because all the necessary equipment including electricity poles, meters, cables and transformers are available in the country.

Dr Kileleki directed REA to take serious measures upon those who fail to complete projects within a given time frame, including blacklisting them so that they cannot be involved in future projects.

According to the minister, the phase III project is bigger than previous projects, of which the first stage of phase three is being implemented by 16 contractors, eleven being Tanzanian and five foreigners.

However, the phase III project aims to electrify around 7,873 villages, so that all villages have power access by 2021.

The total cost of the project is 7trn/-, where 4trn/- will be spent on electrification of villages that have never been connected and 3trn/- for refurbishing power connection where electricity infrastructure already exists.

As of June 2016, 4,395 villages were already connected to electricity during Phase I and II of the project, the minister noted.



Doctor Barbara Ferdman from CardioStart International of the United States America talks at the appreciation ceremony for the cardiac specialists from USA in collaboration with their colleagues at Jalaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute for organising a special camp for the patients in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Left is JKCI managing director Prof. Mohamed Janabi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'UK immigration system discriminates Africans'

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interviewed for a visa (low cost).

Other recommendations include clearer information to visa applicants on visa application processes and requirements, especially in terms of supporting documents that must be submitted by the applicant, a low cost matter.

Where decision-making is fully digitized, the processing system has to ensure documents are scanned in the country of application, a medium cost requirement, the report noted.

And in order to improve decision-making, the group advised greater quality control of rejection letters before they are issued, in particular to ensure the supporting evidence has been fully taken into account and that the guidelines for clearance officers are changed.

This will ensure that the reasons for refusal

cannot be based on prejudicial or biased assumptions, a medium or low cost demand, it said.

Where there is clear and compelling evidence that a visit is fully-funded by a credible UK-based sponsor, there is need to remove the requirement for the applicant to submit bank statements and prove affluence.

Alternatively, the processing agency may publish the evidence-base establishing the causal link between poverty and overstaying, a cost neutral requirement.

"High Commissions and Embassies should be allowed greater input to the decision-making processes as a matter of course. Streamlined processes should be explored to speed up and simplify the process for VIPs, a low cost need," it added.

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voters as well as updating of voters' personal information for those who have shifted areas of residence and other related changes.

"We have put in place a total of 37,407 voter registration stations in Tanzania Mainland and 407 in Zanzibar," he stated.

Judge Kajage reminded Tanzanians on the importance of registering themselves as voters, as those missing in the roll will not be able to cast the ballot in the civic polls slated for October 2019.

Although managed by the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), the same register and card issued by NEC are used.

He appealed to residents of Kilimanjaro and Arusha regions to turn up in big numbers to give the exercise a good start before

NEC consulting widely ahead of civic polls, general elections

proceeding to other regions.

Although the electioneering process has begun, the opposition and activists have been demanding electoral reforms ahead of local elections in October, and general elections next year.

Two months ago, opposition parties including CCK, NLD, NCCR Mageuzi, Chadema and ACT-Wazalendo formed a coalition calling for the creation of an "independent" electoral commission.

Among the bones of contention with the opposition is the fact that the NEC chairman and other commissioners are appointed by the president.

Another is that electoral laws give municipal, town and district executive directors (DEDs) powers to supervise elections for NEC.

In a ruling, the High Court said sections 7 (1) and 7 (3) which empower DEDs to supervise and coordinate registration of voters for presidential, parliamentary and council elections were contrary to the constitution.

Lady Judge Atuganile Ngala said the provisions contradict section 74 (14) of the constitution for not setting limitations to ensure the independence and accountability of DEDs who double as returning officers during polls. The government appealed the ruling.



Executive director in Arumeru district Dr. Wilson Mahera (L) and Water Boys director Nicole Woods cut a ribbon to inaugurate water project at Sekei primary school yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Allan Isack

US Embassy congratulates Maxence Melo for the international Press Freedom Award

By Guardian Reporter

THE United States Embassy in Tanzania has congratulated Maxence Melo, for being named as a recipient of the committee for protecting journalists' 2019 International Press Freedom Award.

A statement from the U.S Embassy in Dar es Salaam said that despite facing numerous legal challenges, Maxence Melo and Jamii Forums had remained at the forefront advocating for freedom of expression and the press.

"Maxence Melo's recognition is a reminder of that heritage; a

heritage which is threatened when incidents of abuse, harassment, and disappearances overshadow a tradition of media-driven social progress. The U.S. embassy in Tanzania urged the government to safeguard that heritage by promoting the safety of journalists and

combating impunity for those who harm them", read the statement in part.

Tanzania boasts a rich media history, dating back to Radio Tanzania Dar es Salaam's role in the liberation of Africa, the fostering of African unity, and the promotion of peace and justice.

New species of tree discovered in Usambara Arc mountains

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

RESEARCHERS have discovered a new species of tree in the Usambara Mountains in Tanzania, part of the Eastern Arc Mountains, and a globally important region for species in need of conservation.

The tree, which grows up to 20m tall and has white flowers, has been categorized as endangered due to its restricted population range at only 8km-sq. It is as yet unknown what kind of wildlife might rely on the tree, but it is most likely pollinated by a species of beetle.

Researcher Dr Andy Marshall, from the University of York's Department of Environment and Geography, discovered the tree when carrying out a survey of the forest to understand the environmental factors that influence the amount of carbon that forests can store.

Botanist George Gosline, from Kew Gardens, recognized that this is a new species related to a group previously thought to be restricted to western Africa. This, in turn, led to the recognition of three new species in the group.

Dr Marshall said: "The tree is in a particularly beautiful part of the world - up high in the clouded mountains and surrounded by tea estates. Now that we know it exists, we have to look at ways to protect it."

He added: "With such a small population, it is important that it does not become isolated from other forests in the region, due to increasing agriculture. Small forests need to be connected to others to ensure seed dispersal and species adaptation to climate change."

The forests of these mountains have been reduced in size by thousands of square kilometers over the past hundred or so years and are now threatened by climate change. The researchers argue that it is essential to look at conservation methods in order to maintain or increase the tree population.

Research shows that forests that have been restored with the help of

human intervention rarely achieve the same number of species that would have occurred naturally. This means that conservation efforts should begin before any further damage occurs.

A research project, led by Dr. Marshall, in another part of Tanzania, the Magombera Forest, should provide researchers with a further understanding of the best methods to employ for protecting these secluded rare species. The project includes working with local villagers to develop new methods for restoring forests and to find alternative sources for wood, and how local people can help to reduce wildfires and invasive vines that can kill trees.

With local support, thousands of small trees have grown back in areas once lost, suggesting that a similar approach could be used in other areas where species are at risk of becoming extinct through human activity and climate change.

George Gosline, the botanist from Kew Gardens, said: "The discovery of this extremely rare species reaffirms the importance of the Eastern Arc Mountains as one of the most important reservoirs of biodiversity in Africa."

"The area is a refuge for ancient species from a time when a great forest-covered all of tropical Africa. These forest remnants are precious and irreplaceable."

The discovery is not the first to be made in the region by Dr. Andy Marshall; other discoveries in the Eastern Arc Mountains include a new chameleon species and the Polyceratocarpus askhambryan-iringae tree, which was discovered by chance whilst Dr. Marshall was researching one of the world's rarest primates, the kipunji monkey.

"With such a small population, it is important that it does not become isolated from other forests in the region, due to increasing agriculture. Small forests need to be connected to others to ensure seed dispersal and species adaptation to climate change."



Agriculture minister Japhet Hasunga addresses Masengwa residents in Shinyanga rural during the campaign to sensitise the residents to join community health funds which will benefit their families. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter, Kigali

ITU urges African states to provide enough space for young innovators

THE International Telecommunication Union (ITU) yesterday called on African governments to ensure regulation is built to support young digital innovators and, ultimately, enable digital technology to address societal issues.

ITU regional director for Africa Andrew Rugege made the call here when speaking at the ongoing Mobile 360 Africa conference, organized by GSMA—a trade body that represents the interests of mobile network operators worldwide.

Rugege said despite positive projections for the continent illustrated by the GSMA in its latest Mobile

Economy Report, Africa would always lag some markets and must instead focus on addressing its specific issues rather than competing with global technology leaders.

“It’s not a question of a race, we will always be behind the United States and a lot of countries, but where are we in terms of using technology to resolve Africa’s glaring problems? I think Africa is in a good place,” he added.

“This is not because we have made a lot of progress in infrastructure

deployment or in apps development, but we are in a good place because we have a youth population that has woken up to be innovators.”

He noted Africa had the opportunity to create the next generation of digital innovators, but an investor-friendly environment was also needed.

“Our governments need to step up to the plate,” he added. “Invite investors to come to Africa, if you have good policies and regulators in place investors will come.”

When it came to working with external organisations, he urged more African executives to be involved in international forums.

“Decisions about digital transformation in Africa are being made without Africans sitting at the table,” Rugege said, revealing: “There are several of these discussions taking place, but you go there and there and you find a single African.”

He however said that ICTs are impacting every area of development in the continent.

PM challenges academic institutions to send their researches, innovations to world intellectual forums

By Correspondent James Kandoya

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has challenged higher learning institutions in the country to ensure that their research works bring changes and are recognized internationally.

Speaking yesterday in Dar es Salaam when opening the Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) exhibition at Mnazi Mmoja grounds, the Premier insisted that higher learning institutions and academia pursuing Phd have a big role to ensure their innovations bring changes.

He challenged them to submit their researches and innovations to the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).

He said that in the recent WIPO report released by the World Bank, Tanzania submitted only three while Kenya submitted 125, Algeria 147 and Namibia 918 innovation works.

“If Kenya and other neighbouring countries submitted more research at WIPO, then what is wrong with our local research?”, Questioned the PM.

WIPO has since 2011 been cooperating with the International Trade Center (ITC) in the deployment of projects aimed at introducing a strategic use of the intellectual property system coupled with product brand techniques for value addition in the export markets for agro-foods sectors in the United Republic of Tanzania.

Majaliwa advised higher learning institutions to continue conducting more research to create a strong national economy insisting researches should be conducted in regard to the country’s priorities.

He also directed TCU to empower privately owned higher learning institutions for the universities to enroll more students in the coming academic year 2019/2020, adding that its contribution is highly appreciated.

Majaliwa noted that only 25 percent of all the university graduates in Tanzania are from private higher learning institutions. He said the country will hardly attain desired development without the contribution of higher learning institutions.

Deputy Minister For Education, Science and Technology, William Ole Nasha reminded the higher learning institutions to deliver graduates with the right skills that can contribute to the nation development.

He said the government has made several efforts to ensure that school curriculums are improved and changed from knowledge to competent based.

Majaliwa added that the National Council for Technical Education (NACTED) had built capacity to the 216 institutions while TCU trained 40 higher learning institutions and lecturers.

Prof Charles Dominick Kihampa, TCU Executive Secretary said the exhibition had attracted fifteen higher learning institutions from within and outside Tanzania.

“If Kenya and other neighbouring countries submitted more research at WIPO, then what is wrong with our local research?”

Dodoma DC advocates for self-recognition among youth

By Polycarp Machira,

Dodoma

DODOMA District Commissioner (DC) Patrobas Katambi yesterday urged youths in the region and the nation at large to believe in themselves and adopt government and other stakeholders’ initiatives to improve their lives.

He argued that without self-recognition among youth, the biggest workforce and population in the country not much can be achieved in the national development endeavors.

Katambi also called the young people to have trust in government youth agendas, arguing that it is high time they stand steadfast in national development agenda steered by President John Magufuli.

Talking about his political moves, the DC said he had moved on different directions only to land back at the ruling party Chama cha Mapinduzi (CCM). “I moved left, right and centre, moved East, West and South but home is best” he said urging youth to be more patriotic in their moves.

Katambi who was officiating at the opening of a one-day national learning event organised by a local non-governmental organization - Restless Development added that youth have opportunities to participate in nation building activities.

Nevertheless, he also observed that there is a common notion that youth, since they are still growing make a lot of mistakes as part of the learning process. “Youth are in most wrongly judged with a belief that they are doing things in bad ways simply because they are young which to me is completely wrong” he stated.

He thanked Restless

Development for a programme aimed at empowering youth, ensuring they gain self-recognition and actively take part in development activities.

The NGO through its programme dubbed, ‘Kijana Wajibika’ which translates as ‘Youth Lets be Responsible’ managed to reach 1,377 youths, 758 being males and 619 females since inception two days ago.

The programme’s deputy coordinator, Denis Semi said the targeted a number of young people in the programme implemented in Kigamboni, Kinondoni, Morogoro and Dodoma districts was 1,254 but it surpassed the number.

He said through youth networks the organisation reached the young people, educating them on life skills, leadership, and responsibility of youth in the society, among others.

“The aim of the programme was to empower youths on various issues, instilling in them a sense of responsibility and self confidence,” he said, adding that the programme is phasing out this month.

He added that it also aimed at engaging 250 government officials through seminars, training meetings on matters of youth development but reached 201 of them.

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By Guardian Reporter

HOME Affairs Minister, Kangi Lugola has insisted that the police force will take necessary measures against any political party that will attempt to instigate chaos during the civic elections later this year.

The minister warned party leaders to avoid instigating any chaos during the October elections as the force is determined to ensure free and fair elections. He said the force will ensure a peaceful election process.

Minister Lugola made the statement when addressing a rally at Mwibara constituency in Bunda district, Mara region yesterday. He warned Tanzanians to refrain from chaos during and after election.

Tanzanians will vote in civic elections later in October this year, before the 2020 General Election when President Magufuli is

Minister Lugola cautions political parties against instigating chaos during elections

expected to seek re-election for his second and constitutionally last five-year term in office.

“The force is determined to ensure peaceful elections throughout the country.

“I want to emphasise on the importance of preparedness by the police force, especially during this time when our country is going into civic elections later this year, and to the national election next year.”

Any person or political party that will attempt to prompt Tanzanians to engage in kind of mayhem will be dealt with accordingly”, said the minister.

He however challenged police officers to conduct regular patrols in Lake Victoria following reports of crime incidences. He said the patrols will help ensure safety of people surrounding the lake as well as control the crimes.

The minister is in Mwibara constituency for official visit where he is also inspecting a number of development projects and listening to queries from wananchi through

rallies.

While in Geita region on Monday this week, President John Magufuli told the police force to begin earnest preparations as Tanzania heads into elections.

Magufuli said the police force should get prepared to exercise its duties during the elections.

The President said: “I want to emphasise on the importance of preparedness by the police force, especially during this time when our country is going into civic elections later this year, and to the national election next year.”

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THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY
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TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) is a quasi-independent Government body responsible for regulating the Communications in Tanzania. It was established under the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Act No.12 of 2003 to regulate the electronic communications, Postal services and Broadcasting (for Mainland Tanzania only) in the United Republic of Tanzania. The Authority became operational on 1st November 2003 and effectively took over the functions of the now defunct Tanzania Communications Commission (TCC) and Tanzania Broadcasting Commission (TBC) respectively.

For effective implementation of its duties and responsibilities, TCRA hereby invites applications from suitably qualified Tanzanians to fill the following vacancies in its establishment.

1.0 Job Position: SENIOR ICT OFFICER II- One Position

(a) Duties and Responsibilities

- Monitors and analyze country cyber security threats and prepare security advisories;
- Handles cyber and computer security incident reports and Digital Forensics examination;
- Detects and assesses cyber security incidents across the TZ-CERT constituencies' networks;
- Handles alerts from various security monitoring tools;
- Produces periodic reports on reported incidents and detected threats activities;
- Performs vulnerability assessment and Penetration Testing for TZ-CERT Constituency Members' networks;
- Deploys and manage Network Security Monitoring Systems;
- Develop security tools for public use;
- Carries out malware analysis and reverse engineering;
- Carries out studies on computer and cyber security;
- Administer and manage the authority's Information Systems and Network Infrastructure;
- Performs any other relevant duties as may be assigned by supervisor from time to time.

(b) Qualifications and Experience

Holder of at least Master Degree in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Information Technology, Information Systems, Data Science or equivalent qualifications from recognized institution with working experience of at least seven (7) years in related field.

2.0 Job Position: ICT OFFICER II- Seven Positions

(a) Duties and Responsibilities

- Coordinates, analyzes and responds to computer and cyber security incidents;
- Conducts digital forensic examination on a variety of media;
- Maintains technical proficiency in the use of variety of tools, techniques and countermeasures of security incidents;
- Observes proper procedures in handling evidence (chain of custody) and its documentation;
- Investigates network/ system intrusions and attacks;
- Carries out studies on computer and cyber security;
- Deploys and manage computer and cyber security Monitoring Systems;
- Develop network and systems security tools;
- Carries out malware analysis and reverse engineering;
- Assist in administering and managing the authority's Information Systems and Network Infrastructure;
- Performs any other relevant duties as may be assigned by supervisor from time to time.

(b) Qualifications and Experience

Holder of Bachelor Degree in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Information Technology, Information Systems, Data Science or equivalent qualifications from recognized institution.

3.0 OTHER APPLICABLE CONDITIONS

(a) Person Specifications

A: Essential Skills/Abilities

- Excellent analytical skills;
- Excellent command of English and Kiswahili languages;
- Demonstrated ability to work both independently and collaboratively as a team player with good interpersonal skills;
- Ability to plan, organize, prioritize and manage complex and delicate tasks;
- Results and Performance-Driven with commitment to realization of the Authority's Strategic objectives.

B: Desirable:

- A person with good communication skills, orally articulate, good written communication skills, good writer, good analyser, good listener and critical thinker;
- Ability to draw reasonable, logical conclusions or assumptions from limited information;
- Display a great deal of creativity and pays attention to details;

4.0 GENERAL CONDITIONS

- All applicants must be Citizens of Tanzania of not more than 45 years of age;
- Applicants must attach an up-to-date Curriculum Vitae (CV) having reliable contacts; postal address/post code, e-mail and telephone numbers;
- Applicants should apply on the strength of the information given in this advertisement;
- Applicants must attach their certified copies of the following certificates;
 - Postgraduate/Degree/Advanced Diploma/Diploma/Certificates;
 - Postgraduate/Degree/Advanced Diploma/Diploma transcripts;
 - Form IV and Form VI National Examination Certificates;
 - Birth certificate
- Applicants who will attach copies of the following certificates will not be considered;
 - Form IV and form VI results slips
 - Testimonials and all Partial transcripts
- Applicant who have retired from the Public Service for whatever reason should not apply;
- Applicants should indicate three reputable referees with their reliable contacts;
- Certificates from foreign examination bodies for Ordinary or Advanced level education should be certified by The National Examination Council of Tanzania (NECTA) and National Council for Technical Education (NACTE);
- Certificates from foreign Universities should be verified by The Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU);
- Applicants with special needs/case (disability) are supposed/advised to indicate;
- The post applied for; should be clearly marked on top of the envelope and addressed to:

**Director General,
Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority,
Mawasiliano Towers,
20 Sam Nujoma Road,
P.O. Box 474,
14414 DAR ES SALAAM
TANZANIA.**

- Deadline for application is **Friday 16th August 2019**;
- Only short listed candidates will be informed on a date for interview.
- Presentation of forged certificates and other information will be treated as criminal offence and legal action shall be taken.

Good Luck!

GSMA, Vodafone and GIFEC partner to deliver connectivity to rural communities

By Guardian Reporter, Kigali

THE GSMA yesterday announced a new partnership with Vodafone Ghana and the Ghana Investment Fund for Electronic Communications (GIFEC) to support the deployment of innovative mobile internet connectivity solutions for unconnected rural communities.

Speaking on the sidelines of the Mobile 360 Africa conference, head of sub-Saharan Africa, GSMA, Akinwale Goodluck said as part of the Connected Society Innovation Fund for Rural Connectivity, the project will run for eighteen months from July 2019 to late 2020.

He said the GSMA-led project will fund mobile network equipment vendors to deploy their innovative solutions to support mobile operator efforts in Ghana.

Goodluck revealed that Vodafone Ghana will be testing and deploying these innovations on their networks whilst GIFEC will provide land for site coverage. The fund will also enable tax and duty exemptions of up to thirty per cent for imported equipment to encourage reinvestment and enhance coverage extensions.

"This collaboration is a pioneering, first-of-its-kind project that aims to connect unconnected communities in rural locations and deliver a range of essential digital services," he said, adding:

"This collaboration is a pioneering, first-of-its-kind project that aims to connect unconnected communities in rural locations and deliver a range of essential digital services."

"It could not have been achieved without the support of both Vodafone Ghana and GIFEC, particularly on providing tax exemptions and the provision of land for grantees, and will provide a foundation for innovative African companies to support operator efforts to connect the unconnected."

According to him, in Ghana, two vendors and their partners were selected and are expected to be awarded up to £330,000 each for implementing turnkey solutions to suit challenging rural environments with low population density, difficult terrain or limited infrastructure.

Each project was judged on its ability to provide solutions that are innovative, scalable and commercially sustainable. Once the sites are fully commissioned they will be integrated into Vodafone's network as the project's primary partner.

"Connectivity for all remains an integral part of the way we operate as a business. In the spirit of leaving no one behind, we are excited to be partnering the GSMA and GIFEC to roll out this initiative. It is certainly an area of industry leadership that we are extremely proud of.

This is what we mean by enabling an exciting future for all our stakeholders," said Gayheart Mensah, External Affairs Director at Vodafone Ghana.

The project focuses on specific rural areas that currently lack connectivity but have economic potential. The selection was conducted with analysis from the GSMA using its coverage mapping tool.

Fund grantees will work in consortiums to deliver their solutions and provide mobile internet coverage and all mobile services from Vodafone Ghana. At the end of the project, the mobile operators will take over the maintenance and operation of the sites. The winners of the Innovation Fund will be announced this summer.



This collaboration is a pioneering, first-of-its-kind project that aims to connect unconnected communities in rural locations and deliver a range of essential digital services

World Bank launches the 12th Tanzania economic update report in Dar today

By Guardian Reporter

THE World Bank is today expected to launch the 12th Tanzania economic update: 'Human Capital: The Real Wealth of Nations' report in the country's commercial capital—Dar es Salaam.

The event will be hosted by Bella Bird, World Bank Country Director for Tanzania, Malawi, Somalia and Burundi.

A statement issued by WB office in Dar es Salaam said the event will be graced by Prof Joyce Ndalichako, Minister for Education, Science and Technology together with Umyy Mwalimu, Minister for Health and Community Development, and Gender, Elderly and Children.

The Tanzania Economic Update is the World Bank Group's flagship in-country report, published twice a year. It features two sections, the State of the economy, and a topic of strategic importance to the country.

The latest report underscores the urgency for Tanzania to invest in its human capital, reflecting on the country's low performance on the Human Capital Index (HCI).

The event will be attended by participants from relevant government agencies and ministries as well as key stakeholders from academia, civil society, private sector and development partners.

A panel discussion featuring eminent stakeholders in this area will discuss the various actions needed for Tanzania to improve its HCI and overall human development.



Higher Education Students' Loans Board communication director Omega Ngole (R) listens to students expecting to enrol in universities during the Universities Week exhibition held at Mnazi Mmoja grounds in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Selemani Mpochi

Kagera region collects 2.76 million coffee kilograms from three cooperative unions

By Guardian Correspondent, Bukoba

A total of 2.76 million kilogrammes of coffee have been collected by three main cooperative unions in Kagera region with the support from Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB).

The bank has provided 7bn/- to farmer's cooperative unions in Kagera region to enable them buy coffee from farmers.

Assistant Registrar of Cooperative Unions in the region, Robert Kitambo said in a recent interview with The Guardian. He said the beans have been collected within a month since the purchasing season for the 2019/2020 was announced.

He said that Kagera Cooperative Union (KCU) had collected 1.34 million tonnes, Malengo Cooperative Union, 12.6 million tonnes and Karagwe District Cooperative Union (KDCU) which had collected 1.6 million tonnes.

Kitambo said that farmers will be paid 1,100 per kilogramme of coffee. He said all the payments will be done through banks calling upon farmers validate their bank accounts.

He said the region had planned to collect a total of 52 million tonnes of coffee in the 2019/2020 season. He said the Tanzania Coffee Board (TCB) was expected to start collecting the beans last months, but there are delays due to some challenges.

Last week when addressing a public rally which brought together residents from Kyaka, Rwamisheny, Kemondo, Muleba, Nyakabango and Kyamyorwa villages in Kagera region, President John Magufuli assured coffee farmers of a reliable market insisting the government has injected money to capacitate cooperative unions to buy the beans at a competitive

price. The President wanted buyers to offer a competitive price of between 1,600/- and 2,000 per kilogram of coffee instead of the current 1,100/- per kg.

Farmers in Kagera region grow Robusta coffee while Arabica is grown in Kilimanjaro, Mbeya, Matengo highlands, Mbinga, Usambara Mountains, Iringa, Morogoro, Kigoma and Ngara regions.

Magufuli added that the government has taken a number of measures to protect coffee farmers which includes financial boost to farmer's cooperative unions as well as allowing private buyers

from within and outside the country.

He said: "We have opened doors from both local and foreign private coffee buyers. They only need to observe country laws. Funds to cooperative unions have been channeled through the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB)".

He said prior to government interventions, the price of coffee dropped to 300/- per kilogram.

The biggest buyers of Tanzania coffee are Japan (22 percent), Italy (19 percent) and USA (12 percent).

Coffee production in Tanzania has stagnated over

the years, despite the fact that new farms are being established, especially in some rural areas where farmers have opportunities for buying or change land use.

The current total number of coffee farmers is 225, 947 with 149,318,404 coffee trees and 123,295 hectares.

Data from Tanzania Coffee Board (TCB) indicates that the crop production for the year 2018/2019 was 60,000 tonnes up from 41,679 tonnes in 2017/2018.

According to TCB the national production for the year (2016/2017) stood at 43,272 tonnes of clean coffee a decline from 59,648 tonnes from the 2015/16 season. The

production for the 2014/15 marketing year was 41,486 tonnes.

Mobile phone operators challenged to explore new and emerging opportunities in Africa

By Guardian Reporter, Kigali

AFRICAN mobile phone operators have been challenged to explore new opportunities to empower customers and bring the continent's dream to life.

Safaricom chief corporate affairs officer, Stephen Chege threw the challenge here on Tuesday when speaking at the Mobile 360 Africa conference.

He suggested the need for telecom operators to turn their networks into platforms to enable the digital future, citing efforts made by the Kenyan market leader to expand its m-Pesa system and strike partnerships to move into new industries.

"We are on the cusp of something great," he said. "The rise of the digital citizen provides exciting opportunities to explore innovative opportunities and explore new revenue streams. Today the mobile phone is bridging gaps in financial services, education and healthcare."

However, he noted operators could not launch a wave of new services alone and should strike appropriate partnerships with other companies. This is in addition to having a strong dialogue with authorities to ensure regulators understand the wider benefits.

"We have an opportunity as mobile operators and leaders of business. The opportunity to bring the dream of Africa alive through our investment and the strategies we take," Chege said, adding: "Step forward and make this a reality."

At the same event, MTN Rwanda CEO Bart Hofker suggested the need to increase digital inclusion above de-

veloping 5G in terms of priorities for the operator, though insisted it would not dawdle regarding the latest generation technology.

"On 5G MTN will be testing," he said, adding: "We will be awake, we will not miss the boat, we will be in the front in Africa. But the focus is digital inclusion to get as many people as possible into the digital world."

Achieving the later aims involves MTN expanding existing coverage and pushing down the cost of basic data access. Another of the most pertinent barriers hampering inclusion in Africa's largest markets, Hofker said, is the continued high cost of 3G and 4G devices, which he highlighted as possibly the biggest single issue.

He added his unit had made progress towards MTN's so-called Chase strategy, which seeks to address issues it deems to stand in the way of financial inclusion: coverage; handsets; affordability; services; and education.

Hofker said the operator had made significant network investments to improve coverage, brought to market discount handsets, data-saving tariffs and apps, and helped in education programmes.

But, he added, to further increase efforts around this would require partnerships with authorities, suppliers and regulators in all of the aspects of the programme.

Hofker said he hoped to bring the benefits of a connected life to a greater number of citizens including access to the job market, e-learning platforms and social media, a platform he described as enabling social connectivity.

MAMLAKA YA DAWA NA VIFAA TIBA



TAARIFA KWA UMMA

17 Julai, 2019

UWEPU KWENYE SOKO WA TOLEO MOJA LA DAWA BANDIA YENYE JINA GENTRISONE CREAM 10G

- Mamlaka ya Dawa na Vifaa Tiba (TMDA) ni Wakala wa Serikali ulio chini ya Wizara ya Afya, Maendeleo ya Jamii, Jinsia, Wazee na Watoto ambao umeundwa tarehe 1 Julai 2019 baada ya mabadiliko ya Sheria ya Fedha ya mwaka 2019 iliyohamisha majukumu ya udhibiti wa chakula na vipodozi kutoka iliyokuwa Mamlaka ya Chakula na Dawa (TFDA) na kuyapeleka Shirika la Viwango Tanzania (TBS).
- TMDA sasa inadhiti ubora, usalama na ufanisi wa bidhaa za dawa, vifaa tiba na vitendanishi.
- TMDA inapenda kuutangazia umma kwamba imebaini uwepo katika soko wa dawa bandia yenye jina **Gentrisone 10g** cream inayoonesha kwenye lebo yake kwamba inatengenezwa na kiwanda chenye jina Shin Poong Pharm Co. Ltd kilichopo Jamhuri ya Korea na kusambazwa hapa nchini na kampuni yenye jina K&C Trading Co. Ltd ya Dar es Salaam.
- Dawa bandia iliyoko kwenye soko inaonesha kwenye lebo namba ya toleo (**GNTRO X030**) iliyotengenezwa tarehe **21. 04. 2019** na kuisha muda wa matumizi tarehe **20. 04. 2022** na namba ya usajili **TAN00. 368 D07C SHI** kama ilivyoainishwa hapa chini.
- Dawa hii bandia imefanana kwa kiasi kikubwa na dawa halisi ambapo utofauti wake ni kwenye namba ya toleo na mtengenezaji amethibitisha hajawahi kutengeneza toleo namba **GNTRO X030** lililoko kwenye soko la Tanzania.
- Uchunguzi uliofanyika kwenye Maabara ya TMDA umethibitisha kuwa dawa hii bandia haina viambato hai vyenye majina ya kitaalam **Betamethasone dipropionate 0.64mg, Clostrimazole 10mg na Gentamycin Sulfate 1mg** ambavyo kikawaida viko kwenye dawa halisi iliyosajiliwa na TMDA na vile vile haina harufu ya dawa.
- Kufuatia kubainika kwa dawa hii bandia, TMDA imechukua hatua mbalimbali ikiwa ni pamoja na kuondoa kwenye soko jumla ya tubes **4,188** kutoka mikoa ya Mwanza (tubes 1,814) Dar es Salaam (tubes 931), Dodoma (tubes 591), Tabora (tubes 29), Arusha (tubes 6) na Mtwara (tubes 817).
- Kwa kuwa zoezi la ukaguzi wa dawa husika lilifanyika kwa kushirikiana na Jeshi la Polisi, watuhumiwa mbalimbali wamekamatwa ikiwa ni pamoja na Mwendesha pikipiki

mmoja aliyehusika katika kusambaza dawa hii kwenye maduka binafsi ya reja reja ya dawa ambaye anaisaidia Polisi kufahamu mtandao mzima.

9. Kutokana na kuwepo kwa dawa tajwa na kwa mujibu wa taratibu, mtengenezaji na msambazaji wameelezwa kushirikiana na TMDA katika kuondoa matoleo yote kwenye soko ambayo ni bandia ili wananchi wasiendelee kununua.

10. Kwa taarifa hii wananchi wote ambao wamenunua dawa hii kutoka kwenye maduka ya dawa wanashauriwa kuangalia kwenye lebo na ikiwa wataona namba ya toleo (yaani **GNTRO X030**) kwenye box la dawa husika warudishe waliponunua.

11. Wauzaji wa jumla wote ambao wana dawa husika kwenye stoo au maghala yao wanaelezwa kama wanazo dawa hizi kwa toleo lililoainishwa kuacha kuzisambaza na wawasiliane na TMDA ili kupewa utaratibu wa wapi pa kuzipeleka.

12. Ifahamike kwamba ni toleo moja tu la dawa hii (yaani **GNTRO X030**) ndilo limethibitika kuwa ni bandia na sio matoleo mengine ambayo bado yako kwenye soko na hivyo wagonjwa wanaosumbuliwa na magonjwa ya ngozi kama vile kuwashwa, upele, kuungua na moto, kuvimba ngozi, fungu za miguuni na maeneo mengine ya mwili wanashauriwa kuendelea kutumia dawa hii kwa kuwa imesajiliwa na kuthibitika inatibu magonjwa haya.

13. TMDA inaendelea kudhibiti ubora, usalama na ufanisi wa dawa, vifaa tiba na vitendanishi vinavyotengenezwa au kuingizwa nchini ikiwa ni pamoja na kufanya kaguzi za mara kwa mara kwenye mipaka na kwenye soko ili kubaini bidhaa bandia na duni na kuchukua hatua stahiki kwa lengo la kulinda afya ya jamii.

14. TMDA inaendelea kuwaomba wananchi wote kuendelea kutoa taarifa ikiwa watabaini kampuni, kikundi, mitandao au mtu yeyote anayehusika na utengenezaji, usambazaji au uuzaji wa dawa bandia ili hatua ziwewe kuchukuliwa kumkamata haraka na kumfikisha kwenye vyombo vya sheria.

Imetolewa na:

Kaimu Mkurugenzi Mkuu, Mamlaka ya Dawa na Vifaa Tiba (TMDA), Mtaa wa Mwanza, Kitalu T, Kiwanja Na.6 S.L.P 1253, Dodoma Au S.L.P 77150, Dar es Salaam Simu: +255 22 2452108/2450512/2450751 Nukushi: +255 22 2450793 Simu bila Malipo: 0800110084

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG) is a national NGO whose mission is to conserve and restore the biodiversity of globally important forests in Tanzania for the benefit of the present and future generations. TFCG, in partnership with the Community Forestry Network of Tanzania (MJUMITA) and TATEDO is implementing Phase 2 of the 'Transforming Tanzania's Charcoal Sector Project'. The project is financed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. As part of this project, TFCG and MJUMITA are seeking applications from qualified Tanzanian women and men for the following positions:

Finance Officer, Dar es Salaam

Qualification and experience

- A CPA is a requirement
- At least 5 yrs experience of working on financial management in the context of donor-funded projects.

Responsibilities

- Contributing to the effective and efficient management of the TTCS project's finances; preparation of financial reports; and ensuring compliance with donor requirements.

How you can apply

Job descriptions are available at <http://www.tfcg.org/careers.html>. Qualified candidates should send applications including a detailed CV, covering letter, contact details (including an e-mail address and phone number) and contacts of three professional referees to: personnel@tfcg.or.tz

The deadline for applications is 10 a.m. 31st July 2019.

Short-listed candidates will be informed of the interview date by 12th August, 2019.

Applicants who have not received communication by this date should consider their application unsuccessful.

CMSA plans to introduce awareness programme for secondary schools

By Correspondent, Felix Andrew

AFTER a successful experience gained from students in higher learning institutions, the Capital Markets and Securities Authority (CMSA) is planning to introduce awareness programme in secondary schools and women groups to participate in capital markets.

According to CMSA Chief Executive Officer, Nicodemus Mkama, the authority mulls to establish awareness programme in secondary schools and to women groups as a way of preparing future leaders and investors on the opportunities and benefits of participating in the capital markets.

He said participation in crowd pulling events, exhibitions, preparation of television and radio programs targeting general public and organization of various seminars, workshops and office to office talks targeting specific user groups will remain among priority activities to enable CMSA attain the set target for increased capital markets inclusion under the national financial inclusion framework for 2018-2022.

Mkama said the regulatory functions which form part of instituting investor protection mechanism is enshrined on the level of awareness of the investors, market players and the general public at large.

"It is through this vein that educational and awareness programs for specific user groups and in particular the youth and women is a priority activity in the CMSA's new strategic plan 2018/19 - 2022/2023", he stated

As part of implementation of strategies for National Financial Inclusion Framework 2018 - 2022 for capital markets development in Tanzania, CMSA conducts a Capital Markets Universities and Higher Learning Institutions Challenge (CMUHLIC), a competition that is open to students in universities and other higher learning institutions in Tanzania.

Mkama said primary objective of the challenge is to increase financial inclusion and literacy for students in higher learning institutions by testing their knowledge and understanding on issues related to capital markets.

It also tests their ability to apply their knowledge of capital markets to real life situations. This initiative is

targeted to the youth as an important group of in the upper age bracket of the population which has been left out on issues related to investments.

He explained that the challenge has been gaining popularity since it was launched in 2014/2015 when it registered 2,000 students whereas in 2016/17 the number increased to more than 7,900 and in 2017/18 has increased to 15,004 students raising a big interest from the scholars to participate in the coming years.

The use of digital technology in particular mobile telephone short messages (SMS) and through web based platforms, facilitated immensely for the massive outreach.

Public awareness and educational campaigns have been identified as one of the key avenue of attaining the promotional and developmental goals of CMSA.

He noted that CMSA is launching the university challenge awareness programme for 2019 to inculcate financial and capital markets literacy amongst students in universities and other higher learning institutions, through quiz and essay competition.

The four months competition would involve a set of 100 multiple choice questions to be attempted from July 18th to October 6th 2019.

According to him, the experience from the past year's participation has registered increased interest and awareness of capital markets to the students of higher learning institutions.

Top winners of the competition have demonstrated notable competence in aspects of capital markets, self-confidence and exposure that has enabled them secure employment opportunities in different institutions including top consulting and advisory firms that are active stakeholders in the capital markets industry.

The challenge is open to undergraduate students in universities and other higher learning institutions in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar. He said its focus primarily on testing the knowledge and understanding of issues related to capital markets.

"We aim at encouraging a culture of savings and investments, to broaden the country's securities markets investor base by creating awareness among students and other potential investors", said Mkama.



Tigo corporate communications manager, Woinde Shisael, (R) addressing a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday to announce the five Tigo's SOKA LA AFRICA promotion winners to watch the AfCON finals in Egypt. Left is the firms' Value-Added Service specialist, Ikunda Ngowi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Acacia seeks stay of international arbitration, ordered to halt use of the North Mara TSF

By Guardian Reporter

ACACIA has announced that its local Tanzanian operating subsidiaries, Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Ltd and Pangea Minerals Ltd will immediately seek a stay of their international arbitration with the government.

If the government agrees to the stay, Acacia would expect the arbitration hearing to be postponed to provide time for the government to complete its settlement discussions with Barrick Gold Corporation.

Acacia will continue to support those discussions and remains ready and willing to engage directly with the government.

Acacia also announces that the Tanzanian National Environment

Management Council (NEMC) has issued its North Mara mine with a prohibition notice which orders the North Mara mine to stop use of its TSF by 6.00am local time on Saturday 20 July 2019.

NEMC cites the North Mara mine's failure to contain and prevent seepage from the TSF as grounds for its issuance of the Notice.

The Notice states that it shall remain effective until such time that NEMC is satisfied that the North Mara mine has taken measures to contain seepage from the TSF.

Acacia is immediately reaching out to NEMC and to the GoT to seek clarification on the Notice received yesterday, including to request copies of any investigation reports or data

upon which the Notice is based.

Acacia's North Mara mine was issued with an Environmental Protection Order (EPO) and fine in May 2019 for alleged deficiencies at the TSF. However, the North Mara mine has never received any supporting reports, findings or technical data in relation to these allegations.

As previously disclosed on 8 March 2019, the North Mara mine's technical team has been working constructively and collaboratively with the government in order to address the government concerns regarding alleged breaches of various environmental regulations and alleged discharges from the mine.

The North Mara mine undertook

to manage all seepage through the use of additional pumps and construction of other containment facilities to return any seepage to the TSF and ensure it is confined to the mine site.

All seepage is and will be contained on the site, does not flow into the surrounding environment or present a risk of contamination to any public water source.

In January 2019, the government issued a directive to the North Mara mine to construct a new TSF.

The mine commenced planning and design for a new TSF, and has been working with the government to progress the construction of a new TSF to support its future mine production plans.



Kinondoni municipal painter at work along Sam Nujoma road in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Selemeni Mpochi

S. African former President Zuma claims he received death threats

JOHANNESBURG

FORMER South African President Jacob Zuma told the state capture commission Tuesday which is probing corruption that he, his children and legal team had received death threats overnight.

Before resuming his second day of testimony, Zuma informed the commission's Chairperson, Deputy Chief Justice Raymond Zondo that his personal assistant received a

phone call on Monday night from an unidentified person who said "tell Zuma that we are going to kill him, his children."

Zuma said he was concerned about the death threats due to the previous attempted assassinations on his life.

"This commission must know that my life, my children and my lawyers are now under threat. I'm putting this on record because I've lost a child and I now know what happened," Zuma said.

He said that his senior counsel advocate MuziSikhakhane had received similar deaths last week.

Responding to Zuma, Zondo said threats against witnesses should not be tolerated.

"It's totally unacceptable for anybody in our society to want to use threats, intimidation and all kinds of illegal means against whom they are unhappy about, because our legal system is such that people can go to court and to the police if they have complaints against

other people," Zondo said people must take a stand against threats and intimidation.

Another witness who gave evidence at the commission last year also claimed that she was subjected to death threats.

The inquiry was established last year following a report on allegations of corruption and looting within state-owned companies.

This whole week has been set aside for Zuma's testimony.

Shinyanga RC calls upon residents to register with health insurance schemes

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

SHINYANGA Regional Commissioner, Zainabu Telack has called upon the residents to register with the health insurance schemes specifically the improved Community Health Fund (CHF) to receive free medical services from the health facilities.

The RC noted that Shinyanga has a total of 261,608 households, but the households that have joined health insurance services are 25,513 only. She said the CHF program is likely to end the burden of out-of-pocket payments.

She was speaking during the launch of campaign to sensitize the residents to join CHF which was sponsored by a non-governmental organization that deals with health matters-HPSS and the Switzerland government.

Telack elaborated that the costs to join the improved CHF is 30,000/- per six-member family. She said under CHF, family members will receive medical treatment from hospitals and health centers throughout the year.

"There are few people enrolled with health insurance schemes thus getting troubles in accessing medical treatment. May call upon stakeholders to continue educating the public on the importance of joining CHF", she said.

Speaking at the event, Agriculture Minister, Japhet Hasunga urged the residents to register with the health insurance services immediately after selling their crops in the coming farming season.

"The monies you get from cotton sales should be wisely spent by ensuring your families have medical covers. This will help reduce the costs

of medical treatment", said Hasunga. HPSS project manager in Shinyanga, Dr Harun Kasale said they decided to sensitize the public after realizing that most of them cannot afford to pay medical bills from their pockets.

Speaking in the national Assembly in June this year, Speaker Job Ndugai said that all preparations for the proposed law for universal health coverage are in place including learning tours by MPs to some African countries.

"MPs went to several countries including Uganda and Ghana to learn how the Universal Health Coverage model works," he said.

He said the universal health coverage will bring transformation in the country's healthcare system because no one will be left out as opposed to the current situation where many people cannot go to hospital because they have no money.

Ndugai said after preparations and studies of best practices, his office will do everything possible to ensure that the bill sails through and gets signed into law since the majority poor Tanzanians will benefit a lot from the legislation.

And as Tanzania strives to build an industrial economy and attain middle income country status by 2025, UHC is inevitable as it is also a pre-condition for attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), he stated.

UHC provides that all people and communities can use the promotional, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative health services they need and of sufficient quality while ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the user to financial hardships.

Invest in ICT infrastructures to achieve SDGs targets, African governments told

By Guardian Reporter, Kigali

AFRICAN countries should invest more in building infrastructures on Information and communication technologies (ICTs) for the continent to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), experts have suggested.

They were speaking in the Rwandan capital Kigali at the ongoing Mobile 360 Africa conference, which made possible by GSMA in collaboration with different stakeholders in ICT ecosystem, the conference brought on board different players in Africa's ICT sector and telecom landscape.

Rwandan Minister of ICT and Innovation, Paula Ingabire described smartphones as important ICT tools that can be used to access key digital services: education and information, healthcare, and financial services.

"Increasing digital inclusion in Rwanda will therefore go a long way in empowering our citizens and we are looking forward to a sustainable collaboration," she said, adding:

"It's high time for governments in the continent to ensure there are efficient and affordable ICT infrastructure and services that allow countries to participate in the digital economy and to increase their overall economic wellbeing and competitiveness."

Putting up key ICT infrastructures is important aspect for countries to move to the next level, when it comes to digital economy which is aimed at equipping citizens with necessary skills and create enabling environment, says Ingabire—the former head of the Kigali Innovation City initiative.

Rwanda has been implementing the 'Digital Ambassador Programme' a new initiative aimed at increasing the number of digitally literate citizens and to transform young job seekers, as well as helping them to deliver digital skills programs in their communities, she reveals.

"Due to its successes, this programme needs to be replicated in other African countries as it transforms lives of people by empowering them with necessary digital skills and adoption of e-services in order to bridge the ICT gap."

Ingabire called on African states to join forces to ease the way towards the continent's digital transformation and inclusion goals.

She also urged nations to deliberate invest more in research and developing and creating the necessary condition

for progress as well as championing industry development and innovation and building the necessary skills.

She added: "As we strive for unified digital economy with single digital market, ID, is going to require championing our respective national digital economy agendas, requires a harmonized and unified approach that is inclusive that lives no country behind."

"African financial sector has been the most disrupted using the mobile money platforms that has been contributed to banking many of the unbanked population that we have across the continent. The success of M-Pesa and other similar solutions is largely driven by the mobile phone technology.

"And then you have solutions that are responding to provide affordable access to energy solutions, but also you have digital government solutions that are designed to make sure that their citizen centric are part of the agenda," the Rwandan technology enthusiast says.

Mugo Kibati, chief executive officer of Telecom Kenya viewed mobile technology as key in scaling up Africa's socio-economic development. He encouraged African governments and private sector to team up and build better infrastructures to reach large population, particularly those in rural settings.

Akinwale Goodluck, Head of Sub-Saharan Africa, GSMA said: "Digital skills are a prerequisite for people to get online and enhance their lives through digital services.

According to him, 239-million people, or 23% of the region's population, use the mobile internet regularly.

Smartphones now account for 39% of mobile connections in Sub-Saharan Africa (as of 2018) and this is expected to increase to two thirds by 2025.

He added that 3G will overtake 2G as the leading mobile technology in Sub-Saharan Africa this year, while 4G will account for almost one in four connections by 2025.

Mobile operators are expected to spend \$60 billion on network infrastructure and services between 2018 and 2025 – with almost a fifth of this total being invested in new 5G networks. Sub-Saharan Africa's mobile ecosystem supports around 3.5 million jobs, and contributed \$15.6 billion last year through consumer and operator taxes, he said.



Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner Paul Makonda receives information on various types of jewellery stones shortly after inaugurating the mining market in the city yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

CHAVITA urged to conduct census for people with hearing impairment

THE government in Kilombero district, Morogoro region has directed the Tanzania Association of the Deaf (CHAVITA) to conduct census to know the exact number of people with hearing impairment so that they are included in the various development plans.

Kilombero District Commissioner, James Ihunyo said this yesterday when opening a two-day workshop organised by the Tanzania Association of the Deaf (CHAVITA) via Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) aiming at discussing the importance of sign language use at all public offices.

Ihunyo noted that the fifth phase government considers improving services to people with disabilities including those with hearing impairment. He insisted that knowing their number will make them easier

assisted at public offices as well as by law enforcers.

The District Commissioner insisted on CHAVITA to conduct similar trainings to the deaf since most of them are not competent in sign languages. He said enabling them to master sign language, will enable them to confidently seek services at both, private and public offices.

Earlier, some of the participants with hearing impairment appealed to the government in Kilombero district to consider employing them in the various industries that are currently being constructed.

They said since the government is moving towards making Tanzania an industrialized nation, the deaf should

also be considered in job opportunities arising from a number of investments.

CHAVITA training facilitator, Henry Mtasiwa said appealed to the government to financially support them to attend celebrations to mark the World Deaf Day which will be nationally held in Iringa region.

Last week, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Jacob Kingu called on all public offices in the country to adopt the use of sign language, saying people with hearing disabilities deserve equal treatment when seeking services at all levels.

He expressed concern that for a long time this group of people has found it difficult to access services in government and other public offices,

unless there are sign language experts.

The PS insisted the public on the use of sign language noting the public should be cautious on the needs of people with disabilities, especially the deaf.

He noted the deaf have the ability to contribute socially, politically and economically to nation building and should not be treated as less fortunate people. There is need to have an inclusive society where no Tanzanian feels sidelined, he declared.

"Law enforcers hardly understand that there are people with hearing disabilities among the public, thus resort to using force against them simply because they do not heed instructions", he pointed out.



Vodacom Tanzania director of M-Commerce Epimack Mbeteni shakes hands with Commissioner for permits Mary Palmer to mark the launch of 'Malipo ya Uhamiaji kwa M-Pesa' during a news conference at the Immigration headquarters, Kurasini in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Vodacom customers are now able to pay their passport fees to the immigration directly through M-Pesa menu and Vodacom App. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Rwanda to open embassy in Morocco

RABAT

RWANDA has decided to open its embassy in Morocco, said the Moroccan official news Agency MAP yesterday.

The Rwandan President Paul Kagame appointed Sheikh SalehHabimana as Rwanda's new ambassador to Rabat, it added.

The Moroccan Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita paid on July 5 a visit to Rwanda, during which he handed a message from King Mohammed VI to the Kagame.

Relations between the two countries witnessed a turning point after Kagame's visit to Morocco in June 2016 and the visit of Mohammed VI to Rwanda in October of the same year.

Rabat and Kigali signed 23 bilateral agreements of cooperation during the visits.

Last March, a series of bilateral agreements covering several areas were signed between Rabat and Kigali as part of the first session of the Joint Committee.

Meanwhile, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni and his Rwandan counterpart Paul Kagame have agreed to continue dialogue in a bid to find a

lasting solution to differences that exist between their countries.

A State House statement issued here on Saturday said the two leaders met on Friday during a regional quadripartite summit held in Luanda, Angola.

The summit, which discussed regional security among others, was also attended by Angolan President Joao Manuel Lourenco and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) leader Felix Tshisekedi.

"As far as relations between Rwanda and Uganda are concerned, the summit welcomed the willingness of the two parties to continue dialogue with a view to finding a solution to the existing problem," a communique issued at the end of the summit said, according to the State House statement.

The summit tasked Angola and DRC to facilitate the process.

Uganda and Rwanda have since late February had a border hitch with Rwanda accusing Uganda of harboring its dissidents and also incarcerating its citizens who visit the country. Rwanda urged its citizens not to cross the border into Uganda. Uganda has denied all the accusations made by Rwanda.

Don Bosco students access clean, safe water thanks to the Salesian Missions Clean Water Initiative

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

STUDENTS at the Don Bosco Kilimanjaro International Institute for Telecommunications, Electronics and Computers, in Arusha city have clean and safe water access thanks to the Salesian Missions Clean Water Initiative.

Trough the Salesian Missions Clean Water Initiative, donors have provided the funding to drill a borehole and test

water capacity, build a water tower and install a new water tank and supply and install a water purifying system.

The Don Bosco Kilimanjaro International Institute serves poor youth and young adults, many the from local tribes.

A sustainable source of clean water will enable students and staff to fight water-borne diseases, endure the dry season and cultivate the land for food.

"From safe drinking water and

healthy sanitation to agriculture, water is essential for life," said Father Mark Hyde, Director of Salesian Missions, the U.S. development arm of the Salesians of Don Bosco.

He added: "The water project in Tanzania, and others around the globe ensure Salesian centres have the water they need so staff and students can work and learn in a healthy environment".

Providing a source of technical

training for Tanzania's youth, the institute consists of a 15-acre campus that offers the most advanced training technologies in the region.

Its innovative education model is based on a hands-on and student-centered approach to learning with full access to modern learning equipment simulating real world practical experiences.

It is also registered and accredited by the National Council for Technical

Education and awards successful graduates with a three-year National Technical Award Level Six diploma.

Like many poor nations around the world, Tanzania struggles to provide clean, safe water to its citizens.

Nearly one-third of the country is arid to semi-arid and people not living near one of the three major lakes that border the country have difficulty accessing water.

Ground water is the primary water

supply throughout the country but wells are often few and far between. In many instances, wells are located near toxic drainage systems which leak into the fresh ground water and contaminate it.

According to UNICEF lack of access to safe, clean water for drinking, cooking and bathing, water-borne illnesses such as malaria and cholera account for close to half of the diseases affecting the population.

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We need a framework for establishing critical infrastructure resilience goals

INFRASTRUCTURE is the fundamental facilities and systems serving a country, city, or other area, including the services and facilities necessary for its economy to function. Infrastructure is composed of public and private physical improvements such as roads, bridges, tunnels, water supply, sewers, electrical grids, and telecommunications (including Internet connectivity and broadband speeds). In general, it has also been defined as "the physical components of interrelated systems providing commodities and services essential to enable, sustain, or enhance societal living conditions

There are two general types of ways to view infrastructure, hard or soft. Hard infrastructure refers to the physical networks necessary for the functioning of a modern industry. This includes roads, bridges and railways.

Soft infrastructure refers to all the institutions that maintain the economic, health, social, and cultural standards of a country. This includes educational programmes, official statistics, parks and recreational facilities, law enforcement agencies, and emergency services.

The word infrastructure has been used in French since 1875 and in English since 1887, originally meaning 'the installations that form the basis for any operation or system'. The word was imported from French, where it was already used for establishing a roadbed of substrate material, required before railroad tracks or constructed pavement could be laid on top of it.

The word is a combination of the Latin prefix 'infra', meaning 'below' and many of these constructions are underground, for example, tunnels, water and gas systems, and railways and the French word 'structure' (derived from the Latin word 'structura').

The World Bank released a report that highlights that the net benefits of investing in resilient infrastructure in

low- and middle-income countries. The report calls for infrastructure investors, the private sector, development banks and governments to focus infrastructure investments on resilient infrastructure, arguing that such investments can enable healthcare, education, jobs and prosperity, and transport and contribute to achieving the SDGs.

The report titled, 'Lifelines: The Resilient Infrastructure Opportunity,' presents a framework for understanding infrastructure resilience, or the ability of infrastructure systems "to function and meet users' needs during and after a natural hazard." The report focuses on four infrastructure systems: power; transport; telecommunications; and water and sanitation.

The report illustrates how making these systems more resilient can not only avoid expensive repairs but also minimize the consequences of natural disasters for livelihoods and human well-being.

As an illustration, disruptions or outages of power, transport or communications affect productivity of companies and the jobs and income they provide, resulting in an impact on people's quality of life. Similarly, water outages can result in households being unable to prepare meals and can contribute to the spread of water-borne diseases. In LMICs, such disruptions cost firms and households approximately USD 390 billion annually.

In Tanzania, for example, the report finds that firms incur losses of USD 669 million per year, an amount equivalent to 1.8 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), from power and water outages and transport disruptions, with flood-related transport disruptions costing Tanzania over USD 100 million annually. Resilient infrastructure is not just about bridges, power plants and roads but about unlocking economic opportunities for people.

Closer economic union in East Africa shall boost industrialisation

EFFORTS to move forward with East African integration have received a boost lately in joint remarks by President John Magufuli and his guest, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni who took out time in his daily activities to see the Tanzanian leader at his Chato residence over the weekend. Not only are personal rapport between the leaders of the sub-region's major economies in better shape at present than earlier, though limitations are rife on the western hemisphere of the sub-region but policy proximity is increasing. All seek to uplift business.

The visit came in the wake of another private visit by Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, in a sense occasioned by a disagreeable rant from a rather comic parliamentarian, but having potentially serious effects on the safety and wellbeing of other East Africans in Nairobi.

With memories still fresh of how immigrant traders from other African countries are regularly savaged in South Africa, taking clear positions on the rant was not beyond the call of duty. This position taking has also helped to cement the goodwill for residents of other countries, part of integration.

Given the fact that the countries have border communities with shared heritage, language and even clan commonality, chances of further integration apart from business endeavor to use opportunities across the region continue to rise. In addition, each country faces problems of this

or that nature in convincing foreign investors that all is well with what the country is doing, even if the pressures these countries face are unequal. Kenya has usually enjoyed a higher level of investor confidence but it has a more clogged business environment; many disembark elsewhere.

While the leadership in Tanzania ardently wishes for industrialization, it is hard to say if this wish has been checked, for purposes of implementation, with what foreign investors feel about the business climate in the country. The government took a number of structural remedies in a number of sectors over the past two years or so, and they did not create an inhospitable condition for foreign investors.

But there are regulatory worries especially about the rule of law, where as it is the case elsewhere, investors wish that supranational law is applied, so that it is fully neutral.

As everyone knows, state formation is always work in progress and even more so in Africa, hence investors can't sink a lot of money on unpredictable investment scenarios where any change in holders of power can mean gain or ruin on an investment. Not that without regional integration nothing shall work, but investors are more assured, relax at the prospects of court-based investment regulation, nor ministerial tribunals whose loyalties aren't far to seek. That is why supranational institutions are a minor blemish for sovereignty, but a boost for economy.



As water systems fail across the country, rural communities look to self-supply

By Inga Jacobs-Mata, Claudia Sadoff and Barbara van Koppen

ABOUT half of municipal wastewater and water treatment works across South Africa are in a poor or critical condition. Many need urgent rehabilitation, and 11% are dysfunctional. Over three million people still do not have access to a basic water supply service. Self-supply in partnership with government could be the answer.

In the lead-up to Mandela Day, we reflect on the many meanings of Thuma Mina. It's a presidential campaign to re-ignite the South African spirit of working together and working for the nation. It's a song of hope by Hugh Masakela. It's a traditional church chorus. It's the optimistic and disillusioned Ramaphoria that gripped many South Africans and that has seen a tapering out since elections. It's also a "joke phrase" used to anecdotally describe the trouble South Africa is really in. Whichever way you choose to look at it, it's a call (or a cry) to action.

Several national departments have begun to realise the importance of this call - one being the Ministry of (now Human Settlements) Water and Sanitation emphasizing the case for local water management and the need for partnerships to address the water service backlog, particularly in rural communities. The department has acknowledged some sobering facts. Around half of municipal wastewater and water treatment works across the country are in a poor or critical condition. Many need urgent rehabilitation, and 11% are completely dysfunctional. Over three million people still do not have access to a basic water supply service and over 14.1 million people do not have access to safe sanitation. Some 77% of rural households are indigent (entitled to free basic water), which places a significant strain on municipalities with a low revenue base. Added to this, most municipalities have not met water conservation targets set by the National Development Plan (NDP). At least a third of the 144 municipalities that are Water Services Authorities (WSAs) are regarded as dysfunctional and have very limited technical staff. Water services that have been provided since the advent of democracy are less and less reliable, with a third of households having no access to a reliable service. And the households that feel it most are those living in rural areas, informal settlements or backyard dwellings. They are at the epicentre of backlogs and service delivery protests.

More and more, the case is being made for "self-supply" of water services. So, Thuma Mina is the call that many communities have been realising for decades through supplying their own services. In addition to advocating for their right to water and better future services from municipal providers, communities are also leading their own approaches to planning, financing, construction, operation and maintenance of water infrastructure for multiple uses. Self-supply also helps communities to articulate their priorities and choose the technical designs that best suit their needs.

In contrast, conventional service delivery relies on feasibility studies, technical designs and construction led by consultants and contractors. Yes, they often employ better technology, but they are upward-accountable to their government clients, and not to communities. Much effort has been put into contractor-led investment in new construction, but there is now an acknowledgement that this has not always been sustainable. And it has not generally translated into local ownership of these developments.



Residents queue for water at a distribution point in the farming town of Senekal in the Free State

But with South Africa's developmental aspirations coming under strain, the government is waking up to the fact that when the going gets tough, the tough often get going... themselves. And often through innovative partnership models with government, civil society and the private sector.

More and more, the case is being made for "self-supply" of water services. So, Thuma Mina is the call that many communities have been realising for decades through supplying their own services. In addition to advocating for their right to water and better future services from municipal providers, communities are also leading their own approaches to planning, financing, construction, operation and maintenance of water infrastructure for multiple uses. Self-supply also helps communities to articulate their priorities and choose the technical designs that best suit their needs.

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An African Development Bank and African Water Facility-supported project, implemented by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and partners, found that in four of six villages in Limpopo Province, self-supply is the most important source of water for more

than half the households surveyed. Most respondents use two or more water sources at their homesteads (other than rainwater harvesting). In four villages, this appeared to be the case for 71% to 91% of the respondents. In the village with the lowest service level, three quarters still depended on hand-dug wells.

Self-supply has also enabled irrigated cultivation in more than 73% of the households in four villages - consistent with another IWMI study that found self-supplied sources irrigating over four times as much cultivation as public schemes in Limpopo Province.

These investments are growing alongside growth in water needs, populations and socio-economic development. Gravity is a cheap energy source. New technologies become available. Market opportunities open up. And the catalyst for this progress? It's often slow or inadequate public service delivery coupled with communities' innovativeness and the urgency to obtain dependable safe water.

However, this complementary service delivery and support model has been met with resistance, particularly by governments, sensitive to criticism of their limited ability to provide services. Others have raised sustainability concerns and highlighted the tendency for over-abstraction. There are also worries over public health because of the use of unregulated raw water. As well, there are concerns over the inequity of having poor rural communities self-finance, not to mention the exploitation and profiteering by a few. And self-supply water sources can be quite rudimentary, often hand-dug wells, manually-drilled wells, pipes,

reservoirs or rainwater harvesting systems supported through basic technologies.

Thus, self-supply does not mean that government has no role to play. On the contrary, governments should invest heavily in setting policies and standards, and monitoring the quality of installations and of water delivered. In this regard, the Draft Norms and Standards for Domestic Water Supply and Sanitation (2017) is a step in the right direction because it recognises the need to support self-supply. These standards propose that municipalities plan for higher levels of services for multiple uses. But key support needs remain, such as ensuring that those excluded from self-supply are also being served, supporting affordable technology supply chains, and training local male and female technicians. Perhaps the step change we hope to see is for communities to provide their own services, and for government to create an enabling environment for them to do so by financing community-led local procurement and construction through a partnership model that will also create jobs.

So the tide is indeed changing, with government realising that it can't go it alone and recognising the growth in community-led initiatives. With water crises escalating and services strained, it is about time government invests in communities as partners - and leaders - in water service provision. It's time for Thuma Mina to be seen as a call for everyone to work better, together, and for government to deliver on financing the services they have committed themselves to provide. Working with communities, this can be done in ways that are timely and targeted to community needs.

Growing African agriculture one byte at a time

BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe

ELLA Mazani is a mobile phone farmer.

"My mobile phone is part of my farming. It supports my farming and my family's welfare through the services I get via the phone," the smallholder maize farmer from Shurugwi in central Zimbabwe quips.

Mazani grows maize and finger millet and keeps livestock. As a farmer she often waits for the next visit by an agriculture extensionist to her village so she can access advice on farming and what the next cropping season would be like. Extension officers are intermediaries between research and farmers, often providing them with advice on new farming methods and providing update on climatic changes etc.

That has changed. Mazani now buys inputs, sells her produce and maintains a funeral policy for her family, all with a tap on her mobile phone.

She subscribes to the EcoFarmer, a mobile platform developed by Econet Wireless, the largest telecommunication services company in Zimbabwe. The EcoFarmer mobile platform provides innovative micro insurance for farmers to insure their inputs and crops against drought or excessive rain. They access these services via sms and voice-based messages on their mobile phones.

Econet Wireless have partnered with the Zimbabwe Farmers Union (ZFU) - which represents more than one million smallholder farmers - to offer the ZFU EcoFarmer Combo, a bundled information and financial service.

Members pay one dollar for a membership subscription. Through it they receive crop or livestock tips based on their farming area as well as weather-based indexed crop and funeral insurance.

"I used to struggle with marketing of my crop but through EcoFarmer Combo, I receive money after selling my produce through my phone," Mazani tells IPS.

"As a farmer I always want to receive money in cash so I can count it. I thought selling through the mobile phone would cheat me of my money but now I consider this gadget a helper. I dial *144 and get current information on the weather which allows me to plan my farming. I know when to apply



Ella Mazani a smallholder maize farmer from Shurugwi, central Zimbabwe, uses her mobile phone to buy inputs, sell produce and understand the climatic conditions for the next cropping season. Photo: IPS

fertiliser and when it will rain. I even get notifications of diseases like the fall army worm and [information on] how to treat it."

Falling yields and rising technologies As agriculture yields fall, digital services are providing smart solutions that are increasing smallholder farmers' productivity, profits and resilience to climate change—a threat to agriculture.

"Climate change has necessitated changes in how farmers cultivate their land to be able to provide food and secure incomes in a sustainable manner; and climate smart agriculture has proven solutions which have to be scaled out to farmers," Mariam Kadzamira, a climate change officer with Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), tells IPS on the sidelines of a recent meeting held in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The meeting reviewed a CTA regional project where farmers from Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe are receiving weather information via mobile phones.

The project, which aims to reach 200,000 smallholder farmers by end of 2019, is promoting the use of drought-tolerant seeds and weather-based index insurance to farmers as part of the climate smart agriculture interventions that are accessed by farmers through digital platforms.

Digitalisation doing it for farmers A new study titled The Digitalisation of African Agriculture Report 2018-2019, published in June, found that an untapped market worth more than two

billion dollars for digital services could support farmers improve their productivity and income.

The study tracked and analysed digital solutions such as farmer advisory services, which provided weather or planting information via SMS or smartphone applications, and financial services, including loans and insurance for farmers.

Nearly 400 different digital agriculture solutions with 33 million registered farmers across sub-Saharan Africa were identified in the study by Dalberg Advisors and the CTA. However, the current digitalisation for agriculture (D4Ag) market is a tip of the iceberg with just a six percent penetration, the report authors say.

In 2018, the digitalisation for agriculture market recorded an estimated turnover of 143 million dollars out of a total potential market worth over 2.6 billion dollars, the study said.

The study found an annual growth of more than 40 percent for the number of registered farmers and digital solutions, suggesting the D4Ag market in Africa is likely to reach the majority of the region's farmers by 2030.

"Digitalisation can be a game-changer in modernising and transforming Africa's agriculture, attracting young people to farming and allowing farmers to optimise production while also making them more resilient to climate change," said Michael Hailu, director of CTA, as he urged private sector investment in increasing the adoption of this model to help farmers increase yields.

By using digital solutions, farmers saw improvements in yields ranging from 23 to 73 percent, and increases of up to 37 percent in incomes, the report found.

Models that bundled more than one solution, combining digital market linkages, digital finance, and digital advisory services were associated with yet further improved yields of up to 168 percent.

Michael Tsan, partner at Dalberg Advisors and co-leader of the firm's global Digital and Data Practice, said digitalisation for agriculture has the potential to sustainably and inclusively support agricultural transformation for 250 million smallholder farmers and pastoralists in Africa.

"Sound digital infrastructure that provides basic connectivity and affordable internet is a prerequisite for smallholder farmers to fully harness the opportunities of digitalisation in agriculture," Debisi Araba, a member of the Malabo Montpellier Panel and Regional Director for Africa at the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), tells IPS via e-mail. "To bridge the digital divide, rural communities need to be better connected to electricity reliable telecommunications and internet connections households, schools and workplaces.

The Malabo Montpellier Panel is a group of 17 African and international experts in agriculture, ecology, nutrition and food security. The panel guides policy choices by African governments towards food security and improved nutrition on the African continent.

"Africa now has the opportunity to leapfrog and leverage the potential benefits of digital innovation in the food system, while using targeted regulation to avoid the risks that digitalisation can pose," Araba says.

A report launched by the Malabo Montpellier Panel at its annual forum in Rwanda last June highlights promising digital tools and technologies emerging in the agricultural value chain across Africa. The report, *Byte by Byte: Policy Innovation for Transforming Africa's Food System* with Digital Technologies analysed the experiences of Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda and Senegal who are at the forefront of applying digital technologies through policy and institutional innovation.

IPS



Flags of different countries and regions stand at a square of the CIE venue National Exhibition and Convention Center Shanghai. (File photo)

More foreign firms flock to Shanghai

By Zhang Hongpei

ATOTAL of 38 foreign-invested projects worth 49.2 billion yuan (\$7.12 billion) landed in Shanghai on May 30, a development that analysts said indicates the success of China's efforts to attract foreign capital and the latter's confidence in the world's second-largest economy.

Covering such sectors as financial services, food, vehicles and biomedicine, the projects were collectively signed at a hotel in Shanghai, according to a report of thepaper.cn on May 30.

Despite the ongoing China-US trade war, eight US companies showed up on the project list, including California-based OmniVision Technologies, which announced it would increase investment by \$20 million in its semiconductor program in its Shanghai facility, said the report.

Other US companies are engaged in the consumer goods, new material, auto components and medical care sectors.

With China's further opening-up in the financial sector progressing, more foreign companies can hold controlling stakes in their joint ventures in China. Both US-based JPMorgan Chase and German insurer Allianz have invested in Shanghai to gain a foothold.

JPMorgan Chase announced in March that it received approval from the China Securities Regulatory Commission to establish a new majority owned and controlled securities company in China - JPMorgan Securities (China) Co - the first securities company in the country controlled by foreign capital.

Separately, China granted Allianz permission last November to set up the first wholly foreign-owned insurance holding company.

"From a medium- and long-term view, the Chinese market's stability and huge potential are advantages based on its mature supply chain, manufacturing and marketing," Wang Jun, deputy director of the Department of Information at the China Center for International Economic Exchanges, told the Global Times on Thursday, May 30.

Wang noted that foreign companies are still voting with their feet to invest in China although the escalating China-US trade war might pose some concerns about their strategy.

Data from China's Ministry of Commerce showed earlier this month that newly foreign companies in China stood at 13,039 from January to April this year with investment of 305.24 billion yuan,

up 6.4 percent year-on-year. The US remains a major source of investment in the Chinese market, up 24.3 percent on a yearly basis. Actual use of foreign capital in the country's high-technology industries climbed 43.1 percent year-on-year, said the ministry.

Foreign investments that cater more to the nation's industrial policies in pursuing high-quality economic development are very attractive for China, according to Wang.

Li Xiaogang, director of the Foreign Investment Research Center at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, told the Global Times Thursday on May 30 moves by the US to block the supply chain for Chinese technology companies cannot dent the country's long-term direction in strengthening its fundamental technology research and realizing self-sufficiency.

"Since some Western countries have posed obstacles for Chinese companies in going global for technological partnerships or mergers, we can introduce more such high-tech related companies from around the globe," said Li.

China's door will be opened more widely because of US protectionism, he added.

Shanghai, the center of China's Yangtze River Delta region, "has the best business environment in the country to make foreign investors settle and stay," Li noted.

Data from the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce showed that the city attracted 2,051 additional foreign-invested projects in the January-April period this year, up 52.3 percent year-on-year. The total contract value recorded \$17.59 billion, an increase of 21.3 percent from the previous year.

"Foreign companies output accounts for about 27 percent in Shanghai and the figure is forecast to climb in the next few years," said Li, as he suggested establishment of an ecosystem for those companies to better pursue their interests in China.

Overall, China's business climate and protection of intellectual rights have improved in recent years, he said.

Tesla's Gigafactory in Shanghai is highly likely to bring in more electric vehicle suppliers from overseas, according to Li.

Tesla announced on May 29 that the long-awaited made-in-China Tesla Model 3 will be available for orders on May 31.

Global Times

Want to inspire more people to act on climate change? Broaden the framing

ILLINOIS, United States

"It has never happened before," is a sentence that is becoming excessively common in the news due to a changing climate where new extremes are becoming normal.

In Kansas and across the Mid-west, farmers and citizens are battling with record-breaking flooding events. France and Alaska, recently saw record-breaking warm temperatures. In Mexico, a never before witnessed event happened when a freak hailstorm trapped vehicles in up to three feet of ice.

Meanwhile, as all these firsts happen, countries across the world are divided on the issue of climate change. On one hand, we have those that acknowledge it is time to act with urgency. On the other hand, we have those still in denial. Emerging still, is a school of thought, which thinks that this generation has lost its fight on climate change and that it will only take an entire new generation.

I do acknowledge climate change is real and that humanity needs to act with a sense of urgency. However, to bring sustainable long-term change, we need everyone to act. How then can we be more convincing? What is the way forward?

There is no single answer as to the way forward, but instead, many approaches must be taken.

First, since the new normal of climate change has no boundaries, we need to frame the issue of climate change broadly to reach as many groups as possible, including Christians, farmers, youth, conservatives, liberals, rich and poor.

It means tailoring messages to specific



Downpours flood the streets of Dhaka, Bangladesh. Photo: IPS

ic groups using metaphors and examples that trigger new thinking about the personal relevance of climate change. For Christians, for example, we can frame the need to take climate change as a moral duty. For the youth, it can be framed as a human rights issue. Young people have a right to inherit a livable planet.

Second, it is important to show people how climate change will directly affect them. A recent survey revealed that half of Americans think climate change will not affect them personally in their lifetime hence; they choose not to worry about it.

However, there is evidence that people that have been impacted by

climate change related disasters are more likely to worry about it. A recent study reported that experiencing a severe weather event increased concern about climate change.

Third, we must encourage activists, including young activists such as Greta Thunberg. Convinced that climate change will have huge impacts on their generation, many young people of today are acting with a sense of urgency.

Importantly, rising activists should be included in all climate related high-level meetings and places of decision-making and their ideas be implemented. Doing so will prove to them that we care about their voice and that in the race to mitigate climate change, their

ideas and activism is valued.

Moreover, we need to ensure that all voices are nurtured - black, white, gay and lesbians. A current scan of the activists who are highlighted continues to be mostly white and straight. This must change. Reiterating the fact that climate change impacts have no boundaries, we must encourage and highlight activists from all the backgrounds and from all the continents including the African continent. Doing so will reinforce the message that everyone - black, white, poor, rich can stand up for climate change.

Fourth and powerful yet, is the need to encourage climate change believers to run for political offices. We have seen how Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez has consistently stood up for meaningful climate change mitigation policies to be implemented. We need a million more Ocasio-Cortez's in positions of power. Moreover, we need diversity in the politician voices.

Fifth, importantly, science must continue to take on a center role with scientists innovating new strategies to mitigate climate change. For instance, the focus must be channeled onto the major contributors of greenhouse gas emissions including power generation, transport, growing food, manufacturing and buildings and creating methods that are not as bad for the environment.

Clearly, we will continue to experience new, harsher realities partly brought about by the changing climate. We all must strive to continue reaching out to everyday citizens with the message that everyone - regardless of their stance on climate change - can proactively do something. Time is of essence.

IPS



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel shows an illustration as he describes his concerns over Iran's nuclear ambitions during his address to the 67th session of the United Nations General Assembly at UN headquarters. (File photo)

Netanyahu to become Israel's longest-serving leader

JERUSALEM

AS Benjamin Netanyahu becomes Israel's longest-serving prime minister, he is solidifying his place as the country's greatest political survivor and the most dominant force in Israeli politics in his generation.

He has persevered through scandals, crises and conflicts, winning election after election even as the country grows more bitterly polarized. His supporters credit him with keeping Israel safe and prosperous, maintaining its Jewish character and boosting its standing internationally.

His opponents, with equally visceral emotion, claim he has dashed hopes for peace with the Palestinians, torn society apart with vicious attacks on minority Arabs and left-wing opponents, and infused politics with a culture of corruption.

But as the longevity of his 13-year rule is set to surpass that of Israel's founding father David Ben-Gurion on July 20, all agree Netanyahu has left a permanent imprint on Israel.

"He thinks that he is the right guy in the right place. That he is the one who will save Israel and lead Israel to a safe haven," said Aviv Bushinsky, a former Netanyahu aide. Israelis think that "things are good, so why should we change a winning horse," he added.

Just as he is about to cross a milestone, Netanyahu faces perhaps his greatest political challenge yet. After failing to form a parliamentary majority following April elections, the country is holding a repeat vote on Sept 17.

The following month, he faces a hearing with Israel's attorney general, who has recommended indicting Netanyahu on corruption charges. If formal charges are filed, Netanyahu could be forced to step aside.

In contrast to his predecessors, the 69-year-old hasn't left his mark by winning a war or signing a peace accord. He has proudly resisted various peace initiatives and allowed West Bank settlements to flourish.

The signature achievements most associated with him, such as combatting Iran's nuclear program, covertly striking weapons shipments to Israel's enemies and building a border fence to stop the flow of African migrants, had begun taking shape before he assumed office.

"His rule has been characterized by conservatism and hesitancy," said opposition lawmaker Tamar Zandberg. "If he is going to be remembered for anything it's going to be his idleness."

Netanyahu has often said he would like to be remembered as the "protector of Israel." But admirers and critics alike say that what sets him apart is his unparalleled political acumen, a ruthless drive to win at all

costs and an uncanny ability to sell his shifting policies to the public.

"He so deeply believes in himself and what he is doing, and his marketing skills are so amazing that he can argue for one thing and then the opposite with the same conviction. It's an art form," said Bushinsky.

A gifted orator in both English and Hebrew, he was elected for a single term in the late 1990s on a platform of opposing the Oslo accords with the Palestinians. But once in office, he continued implementing them and even met with arch-enemy Yasser Arafat.

As finance minister in the early 2000s, he cut taxes and rolled back entitlements to the ultra-Orthodox Jewish community – only to reverse course once he returned to power to secure their political backing. He wrote counter-terrorism books in which he preached never to negotiate under threat, but as prime minister he released more than 1,000 prisoners in exchange for a single captive Israeli soldier in 2011.

Despite his tough talk, Netanyahu has shown relative moderation when it comes to using military force. Over the past year, he has resisted calls by hard-line constituents to strike harder against Gaza militants.

Even after so long in power, Netanyahu has maintained an outsider image, railing at perceived enemies in the media, judiciary and opposition. His tactics have mirrored those of his good friend, US President Donald Trump, as well as other right-wing populist leaders like Hungary's Viktor Orbán and Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro – both of whom he has welcomed to Israel.

The anti-establishment rhetoric, along with occasional incitement against the country's Arab minority and the political left, has played well among his base of traditional, working-class voters.

The son of a historian – and a keen student of history himself – Netanyahu already holds the record for being Israel's youngest elected prime minister and for serving the longest consecutive term.

Anshel Pfeffer, a columnist at the Haaretz daily and author of a Netanyahu biography, called the prime minister an "incredibly good political strategist" who has presided over a period of prosperity and relative quiet. Netanyahu often boasts of expanding ties with countries that once shunned Israel – including Arab states that share Israel's enmity toward Iran – while rejecting demands for a Palestinian state.

"If you want one ideological legacy it's that he has broken the paradigm that we need to end the occupation or else we will be isolated," said Pfeffer. "He has proven that is not true."

Palestinian official Saeb Erekat said Netanyahu will

How governments still allow violence against children

NEW YORK

DESPITE what you might have heard, things are getting better, every year. We are making amazing progress on fighting diseases, reducing the preventable deaths of children, and investing huge amounts to advance medicine and knowledge and to create better living conditions.

However, this progress is too slow for some of the world's most vulnerable children; those who have yet to experience the progress of the past 20 years. It's hard to believe, but governments still allow violence against children to continue.

Approximately 1.7 billion children still experience some form of violence every year. To understand the reasons why, World Vision has investigated the commitments by 20 governments to address violence against children and has found that, while there has been tremendous progress in prohibiting violence, there are still too many gaps in legislation.

Cracks in laws, data, coordination, accountability and funding are becoming big gaps that ruin children's lives and futures.

As a global community, we made exciting promises to end violence against all children 30 years ago when we adopted the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. In those 30 years, we've developed laws and policies, come to better understanding about the complexity of violence and its forms, discovered and agreed to evidence-based solutions, and created a movement that has shone a spotlight on the issue.

We renewed our commitment to ending violence against children by committing to the Sustainable Development Goals four years ago. Yet, the inconsistent stats we have and self-reported data show that violence against children is not reducing at the pace necessary to meet the important target of ending all forms of violence against children.

This means today's children, and their children, will live with violence's life-long consequences – pushing them to life at the margins of society: severe health problems, difficulties acquiring an education and a decent job, and relationship issues. The lack of decisive



action to end violence against children is simply not good enough.

Where legal bans exist, they do not yet cover all forms of violence. Ambitious declarations about National Plans of Action are not followed by the resources necessary to implement them. Fragmented initiatives are not enough to support victims, or more importantly, to ensure prevention.

There is some reporting on progress, but far too little new data to report on. And out of all the children experiencing violence, far too few have been con-

World Vision believes that it takes each and every one of us to end violence against children. File photo

sulted on the policies that affect their lives.

World Vision believes that it takes each and every one of us to end violence against children. A critical step in the right direction is for governments to make all forms of violence illegal and to put in place a comprehensive set of national laws and policies that provide for strong prevention and response measures.

The lack of commitment to zero tolerance is perhaps the most worrying. Government policies often turn a blind

eye to socially or traditionally acceptable corporal punishment in schools, beating at home, child marriage and more.

Millions of children are unnecessarily drawn into a cycle of violence because of the failure to prevent it. When a child survives such violence and doesn't get justice or appropriate support, the message they receive from authorities is that violence is permitted, or even condoned by those in power. This sends a powerful message that as society we have agreed to accept certain levels of violence.

Moreover, when families or communities experience crisis due to conflicts or natural disasters, the boundaries of what violence is considered acceptable tend to stretch. This makes it difficult to stop. Before we know it, violence can become a way of life. As a global community, we all must do more to plug the gaps that persist.

As governments at the High-Level Political Forum (July 16-19) present on progress so far and work on plans for the future, it is important that they address the seven cracks that have been identified in current efforts to end violence against children. This means they must commit to:

1. Prohibiting all forms of violence against children in all settings.
2. Investing in prevention programs and reporting mechanisms.
3. Being a global champion for the prevention of violence against children.
4. Increasing funding and transparency in budgets allocated to interventions to end violence against children.
5. Prioritising and investing in regular data collection.
6. Mandating, resourcing and planning for child consultations in policy development, reviews, monitoring and reporting.
7. Increasing government delivery of community education and awareness campaigns.

The 193 UN Member States have incredibly diverse energy, expertise and resources. We are calling for each and every one of them to join us and become champions for ending violence against children. It takes political leadership, and the time to drive action is now.

Agencies

UN's Islamic State probe unit kicks into gear

UNITED NATIONS

A United Nations-backed probe into atrocities committed by the so-called Islamic State (IS) group in Iraq has frequently been criticised for making slow progress during its first two years of operations. Lately, that could be changing.

The head of the team, Karim Asad Ahmad Khan, told the U.N. Security Council this week that his investigators are digging up mass graves in Iraq, speaking with witnesses and could be assisting in their first prosecution of an IS suspect within weeks.

U.N. spokesman Farhan Haq said the U.N. Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (UNITAD), was putting the "voices of survivors, witnesses and communities at the heart" its work.

"There is an urgent and clear call for individual members of Da'esh to be held accountable, and for their crimes to be recognised and prosecuted as offences under international law," Haq told reporters on Monday.

UNITAD was created by the U.N. Security Council in September 2017, but has struggled to make headway as world leaders grappled with the problem of detained IS jihadists, who come from Iraq and Syria and dozens of other countries.

Addressing the New York-based council on Monday, Khan said that his investigation team had expanded from 10 to 79 members this year and that they were making solid progress in securing justice for the victims of IS.

"Core staffing, facilities and evidence collection practices are now in place, and documentary, digital, testimonial and forensic material is now being collected in line with our investigative strategy," Khan told the 15-nation council.

Researchers are digging up mass



graves in Iraq and are focused on three probes – atrocities in Sinjar in August 2014, the massacre of Iraqi cadets in Tikrit in June 2014, and a pattern of atrocities in Mosul between 2014-2016, said Khan.

They are also gathering witness testimonies from Turkmen, Christians, Kaka'is, Shabaks, Sunnis, Yazidis, Shias and others who endured violence, rape and other horrors as IS launched a blitzkrieg assault through Iraq in 2014, he said.

The team has moved out of temporary lodgings and into offices in Iraq's capital, Baghdad. It has acquired DNA, forensics gear and computer systems for storing Terabytes of data, videos and ISIS documents, said Khan.

In the past two weeks, investigators have collected some 600,000 videos of IS crimes and more than 15,000 pages of internal IS documents that can be used as evidence in trials in Iraq and

Karim Asad Ahmad Khan, Special Adviser and Head of the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (UNITAD), briefs the Security Council meeting on threats to international peace and security. Photo Courtesy: UN

elsewhere, said Khan.

Within two months, Khan expected to have reached an "important milestone" by providing "tangible support" in a case against a detained IS suspect. He did not identify the defendant or where the trial was taking place.

"While significant progress has been made in the last six months, I would wish to underline that the ability of the team to deliver on its mandate remains dependent on the continued support of the council and the international community," said Khan.

At its peak, IS controlled a swathe of Syria and Iraq that was almost the size of Britain. In March, U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) declared the group's "total elimination" after its final desperate stand in the east Syrian hamlet of Baghuz.

Today, there are an estimated 55,000 captured IS fighters detained in Syria and Iraq, including many alleged for-

eign fighters from some 50 countries and 11,000 family members held at the al-Hol camp in northeastern Syria.

There is no international tribunal to prosecute the widespread atrocities committed under the self-declared IS caliphate. Several European countries have put citizens who joined militant groups in the Middle East on trial, but the approach has been piecemeal.

Prosecutions of IS suspects by the U.S.-backed SDF and by Iraqi authorities have come under criticism over fairness and other concerns. UNITAD was tasked with helping make trials in Iraq meet international standards.

The U.N. has called the massacre of the Yazidis by IS jihadists a possible genocide and investigators have detailed horrific tales of abuse against women and girls. Their cause has been championed by Nobel Peace Prize winner Nadia Murad and lawyer Amal Clooney.

Youth population to drive strong subscriber growth across Africa, GSMA new study finds

By Guardian Reporter, Kigali

SUB-Saharan Africa will remain the world's fastest-growing mobile region over the coming years as millions of young African consumers become mobile users for the first time, according to the latest GSMA study.

It reveals that more than 160 million new unique mobile subscribers will be added across the region by 2025, bringing the total to 623 million, representing around half of the region's population, up from 456 million (44 per cent) in 2018. Subscriber additions will be concentrated in high-growth markets such as Nigeria and Ethiopia, the report says.

"A new generation of youthful 'digital natives' across Sub-Saharan Africa are set to fuel customer growth and drive adoption of new mobile services that are empowering lives and transforming businesses," said Akinwale Goodluck, Head

of Sub-Saharan Africa, GSMA.

Goodluck unveiled the report when speaking in Kigali at the 'Mobile 360 - Africa' conference, which brought on board over 1,000 stakeholders from across the continent and Africa's Tech and Telecom landscape.

"With mobile technology at the heart of Sub-Saharan Africa's digital journey, it is essential for policymakers in the region to implement policies and best practices that ensure sustainable growth in the mobile industry, and enable the transition to next-generation mobile networks," he said.

The study calculates that the mobile ecosystem across Sub-Saharan Africa generated almost \$150 billion in economic value last year - equivalent to 8.6 per cent of the region's GDP. It is forecast to generate almost \$185 billion (9.1 per cent of GDP) by 2023.

The new report also reveals that around 239 million peo-

ple, equivalent to 23 per cent of the region's population, use the mobile internet on a regular basis. It also revealed that smartphones accounted for 39 per cent of mobile connections in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2018, forecast to increase to two thirds of connections by 2025 and 3G will overtake 2G to become the leading mobile technology in Sub-Saharan Africa this year.

According to the report, 4G will account for almost one in four connections by 2025. However, 4G uptakes is being dampened in some markets by the high cost of 4G devices and delays in assigning 4G spectrum.

It further said that the region's mobile operators are increasing investment in their networks and are expected to spend \$60 billion (capex) on network infrastructure and services between 2018 and 2025 - almost a fifth of this total being invested in new 5G networks.



City residents walking along Jamhuri Street which is wrongly marked 'Jamuhri' at the junction of Azikiwe Street at the New Post Office in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: John Badi

The report said that Sub-Saharan Africa's mobile ecosystem supports around 3.5 million jobs, directly and indirectly, and last year contributed almost \$15.6 billion to the funding of the public sector through consumer and operator taxes.

The GSMA represents the interests of mobile operators worldwide, uniting more than 750 operators and nearly 400 companies in the broader mobile ecosystem, including handset and device makers, software companies, equipment providers and internet com-

panies, as well as organisations in adjacent industry sectors.

The GSMA also produces the industry-leading MWC events held annually in Barcelona, Los Angeles and Shanghai, as well as the Mobile 360 Series of regional conferences.

Bank in new drive to meet demands of young, digitally savvy population

By Guardian Reporter

STANDARD Chartered yesterday announced yet another first banking feature in the Tanzanian market in its efforts to meet the rising demands of the country's young and digitally-savvy population.

The bank has launched the country's first social banking solution called SC Keyboard.

The feature, which is part of the bank's newly launched full digital bank on mobile, allows the bank's customer to access a variety of financial services from within any social or messaging platform without having to open the banking app.

Launched in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Ghana, the solution is a first for the bank in Africa and will be rolled out to Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Nigeria throughout the rest of the year.

The keyboard-based banking solution allows clients to transfer money in real-time, pay utility bills and instantly check balances from within any social or messaging platform.

The unique digital solution can be configured as the default keyboard on any smartphone, making banking quick and seamless for customers who no longer need to log into their SC Mobile app for basic banking services.

Speaking at a press conference

to launch the feature, Ajmair Riaz, the bank's head of retail banking, said: "The SC keyboard is an important milestone in our digital journey.

It was designed with our clients in mind, as users can now pay their bills, view their account balances and transfer money to their friends or family through any social or messaging platform, be it WhatsApp, Instagram, Facebook, Messenger or traditional SMS's.

"We want our interactions to be simple, intuitive and seamless and we will remain committed to leveraging the best technology to make banking more convenient thereby enhancing customer centricity and service delivery", said

Riaz.

The SC Keyboard seamlessly integrates into the keyboard of any smartphone, allowing users to access financial services without having to access (login to) the main App.

From within any popular chat application like WhatsApp, Messenger, Twitter, LinkedIn and even traditional SMS, users can check their balances, pay bills or send money to any mobile wallet, without having to exit their chat mode.

This feature makes financial transactions more accessible, hassle-free and convenient.

The bank's head of technology and operations, Christopher Vu-

hahula, said that the bank continues to leverage on its digital banking capabilities given the evolving of the banking landscape as more and more users adopt online and mobile banking into their daily financial activities.

"Our clients nowadays expect convenience, affordability, security and the aspect of lifestyle in the banking activities. They want to be able to open accounts wherever they are, and they want to do so speedily.

They also expect to be able to perform more than just banking transaction on their online platforms - they want to be able to pay bills, access information on banking and financial trends, and

much more.

"We will, therefore, continue to leverage on our aspiration of being the digital bank with a human touch", Vuhahula said.

Also present at the launch, was the bank's digital banking brand ambassador and Tanzania's multiple award-winning singer, Vanessa Mdee.

Mdee remarked that she was honoured to be part of the remarkable success of the digital bank and is already a proud user of SC Keyboard.

"As my fans know, I am a passionate user of chat and SC Keyboard allows me to do my banking without having to exit my chat. It has made my life easier"

Vanessa remarked.

Mdee continues to use her celebrity and platform to reach out to thousands of her followers and she recognises the powerful and transformative effect solutions like SC Keyboard can have on people.

Standard Chartered's digital bank on mobile serves as the bank's digital platform and anchor to SC Keyboard and other future capabilities.

It continues to give clients practical and attractive options such as a free debit card that is delivered to a location of a client's choosing; an account with no monthly ledger fees and no need to maintain a minimum balance.



Home Affairs Minister Kangi Lugola addresses residents at Mwibara constituency in Bunda district, Mara region yesterday. Photo: Ministry of Home Affairs

Zimbabwe summons British envoy following attack on foreign minister

HARARE

THE Zimbabwean Government, on Wednesday, summoned the British envoy over an assault on Foreign Minister, Sibusiso Busi Moyo, and his delegation in London, state-run media reported.

The Herald newspaper added that the government had also called for the attackers, who appeared to be predominantly Zimbabwean.

It added that the attackers be prosecuted after they splashed Moyo with bottled water while hurling insults at him at the Global Conference for Media Freedom.

Moyo was on a four-day visit to the United Kingdom as part of the Zimbabwean government's re-engagement thrust, under which he sought to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries and lure investors.

Acting Secretary for Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Paveyn Musaka, said the government was concerned about the incident.

A source told the paper that

inexplicable laxity by security services allowed the assailants to pounce, despite top-notch security having been provided prior to the incident.

"Our government, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has summoned the Charge d'Affaires of the United Kingdom, Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

"Giles Enticnap will register our protest against the assault on Minister Moyo and his Zimbabwe delegation to the Global Conference for Media Freedom co-ordinated by the government of the United Kingdom," Musaka said.

Musaka said the protesters' actions were a violation of laws of both the UK and international laws regarding the protection of persons of Moyo's stature.

"The ministry, therefore, calls for the government of UK to take all measures necessary to bring the perpetrators of the violence against the minister to book for their actions," she said.

Following the attack, Moyo tweeted to his followers, saying that he was unharmed.

Sudan military council, opposition sign political agreement

By Special Correspondent

THE first phase of a political agreement was signed by Sudan's Transitional Military Council and the Forces of Freedom and Change opposition alliance with the attendance of the African Union and Ethiopian envoys.

At a press conference on Wednesday, it was announced that the constitution draft will be discussed this Friday.

The deputy head of Sudan's Transitional Military Council, General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, said that the agreement is "a historic moment," and makes way for "a new era of co-operation."

The African Union envoy said the agreement marks a "new era" and "paves the way for the next stage."

For his part, the Ethiopian envoy said that the "people of Sudan deserve this great day."

The Forces of Freedom and Change opposition alliance said: "We must stay away from all that divides the Sudanese people."

Sovereignty council

A sovereignty council composed of 11 members - five of whom represent the Transitional Military Council, five from the Forces of Freedom and Change, and one a civilian - oversaw the writing of the agreement.

The agreement calls for the formation of a legislative council within three months of the formation of the sovereignty council.

According to the agreement, any person who holds any official position during the transitional period may not stand for election.

A Council of Ministers, which will be made up of 20 members, will also be nominated by the Forces of Freedom and Change.

The agreement also demands the removal of Sudan's name from the US State Department's list of state sponsors of terrorism and calls on the international community to support the transitional authorities.

It also stipulates that members of the sovereignty council representing the Transitional Military Council will get to choose the interior and defense ministers.

How Myanmar families resist armed groups recruiting children

Mandalay, Myanmar

SITTING in a monastery in Mandalay, a city in northern Myanmar, Ake Xi* watched his family scatter flowers on his freshly dug grave, via Skype.

On the other end of the call, his twin sister held the camera in focus so he could see the picture they had placed at the head of the grave.

It was one of his younger self, a child who spent his days picking tea with his parents in plantations above their hillside village.

"I felt so strange. I wanted to shout, 'I'm not dead!'" said Ake Xi, who is now 18.

A year has passed since his fake funeral, which was organised by his parents.

They wanted to have his name removed from their household because he was at risk of being recruited by an armed group in Shan State, an east-central region.

So far, the fake funeral has worked. Ake Xi is no longer linked to his home residence - he is out of reach of soldiers from the armed wing of the Restoration Council for Shan State, an armed group known as the Shan State Army-South (SSA-S), who patrol his parents' village in search of young recruits.

Myanmar's long-standing internal armed conflicts have been characterised by severe human rights violations and mass displacement, with forced recruitment tactics used by both the Myanmar army and non-state armed groups.

Young men are the primary target, but children are often also swept up in blanket enlistment practices.

The Myanmar military was first found guilty of using child soldiers in 2003, in a UN report on children in armed conflict.

The country remains on the list despite the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) reached in 2015, requiring the Myanmar military and signatory ethnic armed organisations to protect civilians, including by not engaging in forced conscription or the abduction of children.

The UN children's fund (UNICEF), which monitors the implementation of a 2012 action plan to end the use of child soldiers in Myanmar, says 924 minors have been discharged by the Myanmar military in the past seven years.



A 15-year-old rebel soldier of the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army loads the clip of his rifle near a military base in Kokang region March 11, 2015. File photo

But forced recruitment remains common in areas controlled by non-state armed groups.

The SSA-S is among seven ethnic armed groups in Myanmar listed by UNICEF as "persistent perpetrators" in the recruitment of child soldiers.

Last September, the UN Fact-Finding Mission to Myanmar published a report revealing the widespread forced recruitment of young people in northern Shan State villages.

Bordering China to the east, the mountainous region has seen fierce fighting since late 2015 when the SSA-S moved north into Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and Shan-State

Army-North strongholds.

The UN report found that "even if there is no policy of forced recruitment per se, there is no space to object to joining the ranks of certain armed groups" with abductions, torture and extortion used to coerce families into handing over their sons.

In June, these findings became a reality for Ake Xi.

His parents received an ultimatum from SSA-S soldiers: either they hand over their son or pay 10 million kyats, the equivalent of around \$7,000, for another to

serve on his behalf. If not, they would be taken hostage until he turned himself in.

"They locked my hand with three other men and blind-folded us as we drove out of the village," Ake Xi said.

He claimed he was tied to a tree and interrogated at the SSA-S base. "They wanted to know how many other families were hiding their sons," he said.

On the third day, soldiers accompanied him back to the town and waited while he cashed in his father's gold, the entirety of their

savings.

"We had no choice," he told Al Jazeera. "It feels like a bad dream."

Amnesty International documented 45 cases of abductions by the TNLA and SSA-S in Shan State between late 2015 and late 2016 as fighting intensified between the two warring parties.

The rights group says civilians are typically taken in groups of five to eight people. Some are forcibly removed from vehicles, others are taken from home and never seen again. Parents are also held captive until their children agree to conscript.

Lay Sai Nge's arms are still marked from the ropes that bound him for the four weeks he spent as a captive of the SSA-S.

The 43-year-old was the eldest of 10 men taken from Man Li village when fighting erupted in Hsipaw township in late February, snatched from his car on the way to rescue other villagers caught in the crossfire.

Photos of him beaten and bound were circulated by local media, which led to his eventual release.

Six men, including minors, are yet to return home but have been spotted in posts shared by SSA-S soldiers on Facebook. In the images, they are wearing uniforms and holding guns.

Three months on from his release, Lay Sai Nge has sent 60 school-aged children from his village to live in a monastery in Ayeeyarwady region in the country's southern delta.

Like many parents Al Jazeera spoke to in rural Shan State, he is confident that there is next to no risk of recruitment outside the areas controlled by ethnic armies. Humanitarian organisations say that since late 2016, there has been an exodus of rural youth and a spike in displacements linked to concerns about forced recruitment in northern Shan State.

Matthew Maguire, an aid worker, cited an increase in adolescents crossing to China as fighting intensified.

"Young people fled across the border to work as the risk of

forced recruitment [or] being picked up for belonging to an opposing ethnic group went through the roof," he said. "Their choices were limited: either move to an urban area or find work in China."

Maguire, who was working with local groups on a youth dialogue project in 50 villages in Kutkai township in early 2017, says that their endeavour could not proceed as there were simply no young people to work with.

"All had fled for fear of recruitment," he told Al Jazeera by email.

Mother of five, 43-year-old Yar San Taw* has made many sacrifices to keep her children out of harm's way, including living without them.

"He cried when we sent him to China to work after he finished his studies, but he didn't have a choice, I won't let him stay here," she told Al Jazeera from her home, holding up a photo of her 15-year-old son in the monastery where he was educated and raised from his ninth birthday.

"Even when he visited home, we worried that the army would take him," she says, looking anxiously out the window at the base occupied by young soldiers. "Nobody wants their children to join the rebels."

The US State Department said, in its latest country report on human rights practices in Myanmar, that the unlawful use of child soldiers and forced labour of adults and children by non-state armed groups "rarely result[ed] in investigations or prosecutions".

"I can forgive an animal that bites me that knows nothing about the law," said Lay Sai Nge, "but these soldiers have signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement."

For former abductees and parents grieving the forced conscription of their sons, the injustice they have faced is difficult to swallow.

"They tortured me and took away my freedom," said Lay Sai Nge, "I cannot forgive them."

Names marked with an asterisk* have been changed to protect identities

Africa on track towards information black hole

NAIROBI

IT is an image of resistance that went viral across the world. Alaa Salah, a young Sudanese student, dressed in a traditional white thobe standing atop a car with an enthralled crowd surrounding her as she and they boldly chanted Al-Thawra-Arabic for revolution.

It is what many remember of the peaceful ouster of Sudanese dictator Omar al-Bashir and one of Africa's most towering dictatorial regimes.

Sudan had finally broken away from an era characterised by media censorship and harassment, or so the story goes.

"At that very moment, we all believed that this was the beginning of Sudan's best of times. In 30 years, very few could testify to anyone so boldly challenging the system and living to tell the story," Ali Taban, an independent Sudanese journalist, tells IPS.

"For many days afterwards, we were in this magical moment and journalists were there to chronicle every step of it. Not anymore. We are now more afraid of being silenced with violence than ever before," says Taban.

As the Transitional Military Council (TMC) slowly tightens its grip on Sudan, eerily filling the gap left behind by al-Bashir, hope is quickly turning into a nightmare. In June, as troops violently broke up a week-long peaceful sit-in killing at least 100 protesters, the world remained silent in horror.

Even worse, to isolate Sudan and put a lid on a plethora of ongoing human rights violations, the TMC cut internet services for over a month. The Council's spokesman General Shams al-Din Kabashi went on record to justify the internet shutdown as a matter of safeguarding national security.

However, the internet was restored



Alaa Salah, a 22-year-old Sudanese student became the symbol of the peaceful ouster of dictator Omar al-Bashir. File photo

earlier this month through a court order, but the TMC is reportedly appealing the decision.

During the blackout, Sudanese pleaded with the world to be its voice as the country slid into an information black hole. They were not disappointed. The Twitter hashtag 'IAmTheSudanRevolution' became the most trending topic in Kenya, Canada and the United Kingdom.

Twitter Ads info and privacy Marwa Abdelrahim, a lecturer at Ahfad University for Women in Khartoum's twin city of Omdurman is still reeling from this turn of events. "[The] internet shut down should have never happened. It all reminds

us of a past that we would like to forget as we build a new Sudan," she tells IPS.

Sudan is ranked 175th out of 180 countries in the 2019 World Press Freedom Index conducted by Reporters Without Borders, an international media watchdog.

Unfortunately Sudan is in good company as press freedom and access to social media is under siege in an increasing number of African countries.

Neighbouring East Africa has, for instance, shown an alarming aversion towards independent media.

"The situation is most alarming in Tanzania. We have watched in shock as Tanzania

joins countries such as Central Africa Republic, Zimbabwe, Mauritania, Democratic Republic of Congo and Liberia as the countries with significant deterioration in press freedom," Mathias Chiza, a regional media expert based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, tells IPS.

Tanzania passed the Electronic and Postal Communications (Online Content) Regulations Act, commonly known as the internet law, in 2018. Media experts like Chiza say it is the most

punitive press and information sharing related law yet.

The Act requires payment of 900 dollars to register a blog or news website. It is no wonder that Tanzania dropped down 25 positions in just one year to rank 118th out of 180 countries in the 2019 World Press Freedom Index.

Similarly, punitive laws exist in Kenya and Nigeria in the form of cyber crimes acts. Kenya has the Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act and Nigeria the Cybercrime Act 2015. Both laws stipulate hefty fines and lengthy prison terms that are viewed as veiled threats to professional and citizen journalists.

"Cyber crimes acts generally give governments powers to arbitrary ban and sanction dissemination of newspaper articles or social media posts that are not pleasing to the leadership of the day," Chiza tells IPS.

"Africa has a predominant youthful generation. Young people have proved capable of mobilising through social media. Social media is the new battlefield in the fight for freedom across Africa," he expounds.

In 2018, the bloggers Association of Kenya sued the Attorney General and Director of Public Prosecution because of punitive provisions in the Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act.

This resulted in the suspension of certain provisions that seemed to infringe and threaten freedom of expression, media and person's rights.

Just three months after Uganda's social media tax took effect in July 2018, at least three million Ugandans abandoned the internet, according to the Uganda

Communications Commission.

The daily levy affects at least 60 online platforms such as Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter.

In northwest Africa, Mauritania now ranks 94th out of 180 countries after falling down 22 places in just one year. Since 2018, the death sentence for apostasy-related crimes such as blasphemous speech and sacrilegious acts has become compulsory in Mauritania even after the offender has repented.

This has all but guaranteed that journalists and bloggers stay clear of certain hot topics such as corruption, the military, Islam or slavery, which is still practiced there. Ranked 178th, Eritrea has the highest number of jailed journalists in Africa. Research by Reporters Without Borders also shows that it is among countries with the highest imprisoned journalists worldwide.

Overall, press freedom in 22 of Sub-Saharan Africa's 48 countries is classified as 'bad' or 'very bad'. But it is not darkness and despair everywhere. Ethiopia used to be near the bottom of press freedom index but reforms by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has pushed the country up 40 places since 2017, to rank 110th in the world.

Similarly, a change in leadership is steadily pulling Gambia and more modestly Angola from an information black hole. An admirable press revolution has Gambia jumping 30 places to rank 92nd.

Even more impressive, Namibia at position 23, Ghana at 27 and South Africa at 31 currently rank better in press freedom than Britain at 33 and the United States at 48th position out of 180 countries. **IPS**



Thursday 18 July 2019

StanChart debuts 'SC Keyboard' targeting tech savvy banking youth

By Beatrice Philemon

TARGETING tech savvy young people in the banking market, Standard Chartered Tanzania Limited has introduced 'SC Keyboard' social banking solution which allows people to access its services without downloading the bank's application.

In remarks before the launch, StanChart's Head of Retail Banking, Ajmair Riaz said the SC Keyboard is an important milestone as the global bank veers towards migrating to digital services.

Riaz said the platform was designed with clients tastes because it will allow users to pay bills, view account balances and transfer money to friends or family through any social or messaging platform, be it Whatsup, Instagram, Facebook, Messenger or traditional SMS's.

"Today Standard Chartered announces another first banking feature in the Tanzanian market. The feature, which is part of the bank's newly launched full digital bank on mobile, allows customers to access a variety of financial services from within any social or messaging platform without having to open the banking application," Riaz said.

He said the keyboard-based banking solution allows clients to transfer money in real-time, pay utility bills and instantly check balances from any social or messaging platform.

The StanChart Head of Retail Banking further noted that the unique digi-



StanChart's Digital Banking Brand Ambassador, Vanessa Mdee speaks during the launch of SC Keyboard in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Others are the bank officials. Photo: courtesy of StanChart.

tal solution can be configured as the default keyboard on any smartphone, making banking quick and seamless for customers who no longer need to log into their Standard Chartered Mobile App for basic banking services.

"We want our interactions to be simple, intuitive and seamless. We remain committed to leveraging the best technology to make banking more convenient thereby enhancing customer centricity and service delivery," he added.

"From within any popular chat applica-

tion like WhatsApp, Messenger, Twitter, LinkedIn and even traditional SMS, users can check their balances, pay bills or send money to any mobile wallet, without having to exit their chat mode," he noted.

This feature makes financial transactions more accessible, hassle-free and convenient, the StanChart Head of Retail explained.

Launched in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Ghana, the solution is a first for the bank in Africa and will be rolled out to Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Nigeria before end of the year.

On his part, the bank's Head of Technology and Operations, Christopher Vuhahula, said that StanChart continues to leverage on its digital banking capabilities given the evolution of the banking landscape as more and more users adopt online and mobile banking.

"Our clients nowadays expect convenience, affordability, security and the aspect of lifestyle in the banking activities and they want to be able to open accounts wherever they are, and they want to do so speedily," Vuhahula said.

He pointed out that clients also expect to

be able to perform more than just banking transaction on their on-line platforms hence the need for the new product which allows one to pay bills, access information on banking and financial trends.

"We will, therefore, continue to leverage on our aspiration of being the digital bank with a human touch," the StanChart Head of Technology and Operations added.

Also present at the launch, was the bank's Digital Banking Brand Ambassador and Tanzania's multiple award-winning singer, Vanessa Mdee. Mdee remarked that she was honoured to be part of the remarkable success of the digital bank and is already a proud user of SC Keyboard.

"As my fans know, I am a passionate user of chat-rooms and SC Keyboard allows me to do my banking without having to exit them," she noted.

Standard Chartered's Digital Bank on Mobile serves as the bank's digital platform and anchor to SC Keyboard and other future capabilities. It continues to give clients practical and attractive options such as a free debit card that is delivered to a location of a client's choosing; an account with no monthly ledger fees and no need to maintain a minimum balance.

Euromoney Awards GTBank Best Bank in Africa for 2019

LONDON

FOREMOST African financial institution Guaranty Trust Bank plc has been named the Best Bank in Africa 2019 by Euromoney at its annual Awards for Excellence, which held in London on Wednesday, July 10, 2019 at the London Hilton Hotel, Park Lane.

GTBank was also named the Best Bank in Nigeria for a record ninth time, reflecting the Bank's position as one of the best managed financial institutions in the country, with strong and focused leadership that keep the business in a constant state of re-invention and innovation.

Now in its 50th year, Euromoney is the leading publication for covering the growth of international finance. Euromoney's Awards for Excellence are the awards that matter to the banks and bankers who matter.

This year, Euromoney received almost 1,500 submissions from banks in an awards programme that covers 20 global awards, more than 50 regional awards, and best bank awards in close to 100 countries.

The Magazine's Awards for Excellence celebrates the best banks around the world by recognizing institutions that have demonstrated leadership, innovation, and momentum in the markets they operate.

In selecting its award recipients, Euromoney combines quantitative and qualitative data to honor institutions that have brought the highest levels of service, innovation and expertise to their customers. Key to the emergence of GTBank as the Best Bank in Africa and the Best Bank in Nigeria, is the Bank's digital drive and its clarity of vision in reimagining the future of banks and banking. The Euromoney awards also recognized GTBank's commitment to leading the



Chief Executive Officer of GTBank, Segun Agbaje.

future of banking as well as its consistent long-term strategy led by a senior management team that abhors complacency and keeps the business in a constant state of innovation.

Commenting on the Bank's Euromoney awards, the Chief Executive Officer of GTBank, Segun Agbaje, said, "We are delighted and proud to win the Euromoney Awards for Africa's Best Bank and Nigeria's Best Bank."

These awards reflect the progress we are making in delivering the best banking experience that captures what customers want in the world of today and tomorrow. They are also a testament to our leading role in driving world class corporate governance standards, excellent service quality and innovation in Africa's

banking industry.

He further stated that: "At GTBank, we are passionate about building the bank of the future by leveraging the best of technology to add real value to our customers' lives, and these awards illustrate the hard work and commitment of our staff, management and board towards achieving this goal."

GTBank has consistently played a leading role in Africa's banking industry. The GTBank brand is regarded by industry watchers as one of the best run financial institutions across its subsidiary countries and serves as a role model within the financial service industry due to its bias for world class corporate governance standards, excellent service quality and innovation.



A rendition of data platforms and Artificial Intelligence

How Standard Bank solved AI, data governance challenges

JOHANNESBURG

BBUSINESSES are trying to solve and governance challenges in isolation. However, the whole data eco-system needs to be part of the process.

This is the view of Ruan Vlok, head Data Exchange, Data Platforms & AI, at Standard Bank of South Africa, who will be presenting on 'Data governance for effective AI throughput', at ITWeb Artificial Intelligence 2019, to be held on 20 August, at The Forum in Bryanston.

He says his organisation is currently focusing on solving this problem on an enterprise level to ensure it matures as an organisation and not as individual teams. "A lot of focus is given to data engineering practices to ensure that the flow of data into business intelligence, management information and artificial intelligence (AI/BI/MI) processes are sound and re-usable."

In addition, he says Standard Bank has embedded data governance across the data provisioning flow to ensure it is something that happens naturally and not in a forced way.

"Another significant area of focus is data ownership," adds Vlok. "Without formal ownership, we cannot place the required accountability with the right owners. We have adopted the concept of co-ownership. Data is not a single individual's responsibility, and we have formally defined all personas involved in data ownership. Their roles and responsibilities have been defined and agreed across the Standard Bank Group"

According to him, once all these personas function in harmony, an organisation's data strategy and governance becomes part of everyday processes. Vlok says that defining data domains is also a critical component of effective data governance. "Not all data domains are equal. They are treated differently depending on sensitivity as well as security classification. Applying the right level of governance based on domain and security classification is crucial." Speaking of how data governance can boost AI benefits, Vlok says in building an effective data provisioning and governance pipeline, teams building AI components will spend less time in preparing and interpreting data, and more time on what really matters.

"Having the correct metadata explaining what the data means, will ensure that the correct input is used for AI processes. Accuracy of data is crucial, and using it from the wrong or contaminated source could render AI outputs useless."

During his presentation, Vlok will share the bank's approach to solving the data governance and data provisioning challenge. "Our enterprise data architecture was shaped over a couple of years and we are very effectively executing on our AI/BI/MI strategies. I will share the benefits we realised in dealing this on a group level and the importance of data co-ownership." Finally, Vlok will share his organisation's approach to data curation and how this benefits consumers of data.

CBK says bank boards to pay for cybercrimes

NAIROBI

THE Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) has issued new rules to payment service providers including commercial banks and technology companies warning the boards of directors that they face "ultimate" liability in case of criminal breaches.

In the guidelines aimed at stemming cybercrime, the CBK says boards will take responsibility for breaches of customer information.

"Payment Service Providers (PSPs) should carry out regular independent assessment and audit functions that shall be undertaken by the internal and external audit and risk functions... The board of directors is ultimately responsible for the cybersecurity of the PSP," said CBK.

PSPs including firms like Mastercard, Visa, Safaricom, Airtel and Telkom who have 90 days to comply with the requirements published this month. Firms working with

PSPs are also expected to treat customer information confidentially.

"Outsourcing agreements should be governed by a clearly written contract, the nature and detail of which should be appropriate to the materiality of the outsourced activity in relation to the ongoing business of the PSP," says the policy.

"Some of the key provisions of the contract include controls to ensure customer data confidentiality and service providers' liability in case

of breach..." Some financial institutions are required to collect detailed customer information for anti-money laundering, tax and accounting reasons.

Privacy experts around the world have recently expressed concerns about how personal data is collected and used by companies. In April, the government approved a tough policy on data protection, paving the way for it to be tabled in Parliament.

Dar among five high growth markets for mobile phone subscribers towards 2025

By The Banker Reporter

NEW 10 million mobile phone owners are expected to be registered by 2025 contributing to Sub Sahara Africa 170 million new subscribers driven by tech savvy youths. The number of subscribers will increase from the current 600 million to over 1.04 billion by 2025.

A GSM Intelligence report released this week indicated that Nigeria will lead the group with over 30 million new subscribers followed by Ethiopia with 18 million and DR Congo with 15 million and Kenya with nine million.

The report said youth will lead the way in driving the SSA figures. "Nearly 170 million new subscribers by 2025 with a half from five markets." The GSMA report further noted that across the wider SSA region, mobile data usage will grow four-fold by 2024 with smartphone

connections almost more than doubling during the same period.

"EAC will see the largest incremental growth, led by Rwanda and Tanzania," the report stated while noting that widespread use of mobile phones is also helping to implement Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

"KopaGas, founded in 2014, makes clean, efficient liquid petroleum gas (LPG) available and affordable to low-income households through its PAYG smart metering technology, in partnership with Tanzania's leading LPG importer," the GSMA report added pointing out that as of June 2018, the company had reached more than 500 households with its pay-as-you-cook model and its gas distribution

business, which accounts for 7 percent of LPG distributed in Tanzania. This implements SDG 9 on access to clean energy.

It further said in fulfilling SDG 16, Tanzania and Ghana have mobile-enabled digital birth registration which has seen more infants registered early or on time (within the first year), in some cases almost quadrupling registration rates (from 8.9 to 30.3 percent in Mbeya Tanzania).

"In some regions in Ghana, more than 90 percent of births are now registered digitally, all contributing to goal 16," said the report. Goal number 16 seeks to provide legal identity for all, including birth registration by 2023.

The country's was also mentioned as taking a lead

in the future growth of mobile money services in the region largely driven by interoperability of mobile money services saying an Account-to-account (A2A) interoperability gives users the ability to transfer between customer accounts held with different mobile money providers and other financial system players.

"Tanzania led the way in 2014, but several countries across the region, including Kenya, Rwanda, Nigeria and Ghana, have now launched interoperability projects and use cases. Mobile money providers' integration with banks is one particular use case that has significantly increased volumes moving between mobile money and banking systems," the GSMA report added.



Raising the JPMorgan's flag in Johannesburg where high growth market is forecast by the investment banker.

JPMorgan hiring in Africa as more firms seek London listings

JOHANNESBURG

JPMORGAN Chase & Co is hiring in sub-Saharan Africa as the New York-based bank works with companies to list their shares in London despite Brexit uncertainty.

"There are fast growing businesses in Africa, that's why we're able to get these IPOs underway," said Barry Meyers, managing director of JPMorgan's UK capital markets and sub-Saharan Africa business, declining to be specific on deals. "International investors are interested and more open to the African growth story than ever before."

More offerings are expected over the next 12 months as African businesses seek to tap deeper pools of capital, he said. The increased interest comes amid a \$3.5 billion share sale by Airtel Africa, London's third-largest IPO this year, and follows a roadshow by officials from the London Stock Exchange earlier this year to spur more issuance.

Interest is starting to spill over into

South Africa, where deal flow has been hindered by a contracting economy. Talks with foreign investors are becoming more frequent in an environment of greater political stability, Kevin Latter, the head of JPMorgan's South African operations, said in a separate interview in Johannesburg.

"There's a renewed interest in South African corporates because they are well run, well managed, cheap and have regional proximity to what's going to be the biggest consumer growth area in the next 20 years," he said. "Yes, growth is low but it's predictably low."

JPMorgan has grown consistently in the past few years and now has 180 regional staff, Latter said. It will continue to "invest in people as we look to grow our capabilities both in South Africa and more broadly in sub-Saharan Africa." "Our own strategy and how we are running our own business reinforces what we believe the landscape to be for other international and South African corporates," Latter said.

SIM connections

Excluding cellular IoT



774m 2018

CAGR 2018-25

74%

PENETRATION RATE (% of population)

84%

4.3%

1.04bn 2025

An infographic of the GSMA Intelligence connectivity report.

17 betting firm bosses deported in licence row

NAIROBI

THE Interior ministry on Tuesday issued deportation orders against 17 foreign directors of betting firms, days after withdrawing the operating licences of a number of companies.

Last night the Immigration department began flying some of the foreign nationals to their home countries, with sources saying they were detained for hours awaiting

the signing of their deportation orders by Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiangi shortly after 2pm.

The deportation orders were issued after the National Security Advisory Committee (NSAC), with the blessings of President Uhuru Kenyatta, decided there would be no backing down on the war against rogue betting companies.

The identities of the targeted directors or

that of their firms were not disclosed, but sources named some of their nationalities as Bulgaria, Italy, Russia and Poland.

"This is still an ongoing operation so we won't disclose their names for now because those being deported have to be arrested first," Interior Spokesperson Wangui Muchiri said yesterday.

Betting licences of 27 firms, including top firms SportPesa and Betin Kenya, were not renewed

from July 1, pending the outcome of an ongoing inquiry about their suitability to operate in the country.

And as the police hunted down the directors set for deportation, the Financial Reporting Centre (FRC) and the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) opened investigations on the bank accounts of the 27 betting companies. This is after the Betting Control and Licensing Board (BCLB) wrote to the FRC asking them to probe the bank accounts. Banks yesterday morning started to freeze the accounts which are thought to hold billions of shillings. The Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) on Monday night issued an alert to banks that the betting firms have no licences.

Online sports betting has grown rapidly in recent years, riding increased enthusiasm for sports to achieve a combined revenue of Sh204 billion.

The growth has sparked government concerns about the social impact of betting. In May, the country introduced new gambling regulations, including banning advertising outdoors and on social media. SportPesa, Betin and Betpawa moved to court seeking to reverse an earlier decision by the BCLB to block their pay bill numbers and short codes.



Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiangi.

South Sudan launches mobile money service

JUBA

SOUTH Sudan has launched its first mobile money service platform under the brand name M-Gurush. The service represents a partnership between mobile phone operator Zain Telecoms South Sudan and local tech firm Trinity Technologies.

It is licensed by the Bank of South Sudan and the National Communications Authority. Authorities are hoping the service will help foster financial inclusion in a country where a large number of the population remains unbanked.

South Sudan's Minister of Information, Communications Technology and Postal Services Michael Makuei Lueth said "the initiative will help create employment opportunities for the youth in rural and urban areas."

Deputy vice president of Trinity Technologies Joseph Alinaitwe said the service will enhance faster transactions in the country and help reduce the cost of moving funds between people, government and businesses.

The management of M-Gurush will actively pursue partnerships with the government to ensure ease of access to affordable financial services, he added. "The platform provides consumers with a robust offering of products that cuts across service payments, airtime purchases, cash in- and cash and money transfer services," Alinaitwe said.

A representative from Zain Telecoms Sudan, Victor Omonmudi said the mobile money service was not being introduced to replace banks, but rather assist in providing access to digital solutions for rural communities.

Stanlib-backed firm acquires stake in Dar cement bags manufacturer

NAIROBI

STANLIB-BACKED EXEO Capital has announced it has acquired a minority shareholding in PPHL, the Tanzanian maker of woven polymer-based cement bags vendor.

Following the investment, EXEO said it would seek additional opportunities for the Tanga-based firm that specialises in production of bags, sacks and tarpaulins for the agriculture and cement industries.

"As a long-term investment destination, Tanzania remains attractive for EXEO, it is just a matter of identifying the right investee companies to partner with," said Avril Stassen, a senior partner at EXEO Capital in a statement.

"PPHL's fully-owned Tanzanian subsidiary, PPTL, is a regional leader in the production of woven polymer-based extruded products and has already demonstrated a strong social impact, which the growth strategy will further enhance."

In Kenya, EXEO's portfolio includes Asilia, a 12-year old eco-tourism business operating in the high-end market segment and Kariki Ltd, a Kenyan summer flower producer. Stanlib, the pan-African asset manager with a presence in ten Sub-Saharan African countries including Kenya, joined EXEO Capital in 2015 as an equity partner.

"As a long-term investment destination, Tanzania remains attractive for EXEO, it is just a matter of identifying the right investee companies to partner with," said Mr Stassen.

Treasury leaps big from NMB, CRDB, TPB profits in a crowded banking market

By The Banker Reporter

COMMERCIAL banks have continued to impress in the market by maintaining growth and profitability for a second year running. Led by NMB Bank Plc which is the market's largest lender by profit margin, the trio which include CRDB bank Plc and TPB Bank Plc have paid Treasury over 18bn/- this year.

NMB which made a pre-tax profit of over 90bn/- in the last fiscal year, paid 10.48bn/- followed by CRDB which paid 6.7bn/- from its gross profit of over 60bn/- while TPB joined the ranks of profit making banks with payment of 1bn/- dividend from it over 17bn/- gross profit.

The three commercial banks which are also listed at Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange, also paid billions of shillings in dividend to Treasury following their impressive performance with NMB dominating the market with net profit of over 32bn/-.

In addition to other statutory payments such taxes, levies and fees paid to Treasury and other regulatory bodies, the three banks stood high above the ground to meet President John Pombe Magufuli's expectations for all companies with public shares to support the country's development projects.

"If a public company of institution is not performing well in the market, just close it up. My government will never bailout parastatals that fail to compete in the market," President Magufuli has often said while directing Finance Minister, Dr Philip Mpango to ensure that

institutions under his ministry, including Treasury Registrar implement his directive.

True to his words, President Magufuli's administration has already witnessed several banks get under, some such as Twiga Bancorp and Tanzania Women's Bank being taken over by TPB while Bank M was acquired by Azania Bank Limited.

"The government needs money to finance development projects and therefore all companies which have public shares should pay dividend," Dr Magufuli has reaffirmed while warning that his government has zero tolerance against non-performing entities.

In following up the head of state's directives, Treasury chief, Dr Mpango has remained focused on demanding his pay cheque from companies, including banks, which have some public stake in them. Speaking after receiving the NMB's pay cheque, Dr Mpango paid tribute to the board, management and staff for the impressive performance which has enabled him receive the handsome dividend payment. He called on other companies in which Treasury has a stake to emulate NMB by paying dividend annually.

"NMB is our success story when we talk about privatization, they have been doing so well, while others are complaining, NMB is capitalizing on opportunities we have in the country to do a sound business," he said.

"If we had other banks doing the same like NMB with such dividend, we could witness a huge improvement in the provision of social services and also contribute to major government projects like Stiegler's



TPB Bank Plc's Board Chairman, Dr Edmund Mndolwa (R) handing over a dummy cheque of 1bn/- to Finance Minister, Dr Philip Mpango as dividend to Treasury at a ceremony held in Dodoma earlier this week. Centre is the bank's CEO, Sabasaba Moshingi. File photo.

Gorge Hydroelectric Power, standard gauge construction and other major infrastructure projects currently in progress," Dr Mpango stated. In response, NMB's acting Managing Director, Albert Jonkerougou said the payment was a result of the bank's good performance when it posted a staggering 142bn/- profit before tax for the year ending December 31 2018 which was a 3 percent increase from 138bn/- recorded in 2017.

"We are a strong and reliable bank with a strong balance sheet," said Jonkerougou, adding that the country's business environment has enormous opportunities and with NMB's largest network, it is in an ideal position to support the business community's growth targets. Another bank that made Dr Mpango smile this fiscal year as stated above was CRDB Bank

which paid 6.7bn/- dividend from its 64bn/- gross profit, representing a whopping over 77 percent growth compared to 36bn/- made in 2017.

Last year, CRDB increased its pre-tax profit by 77 percent to over 64.1bn/- against 36.2bn/- made in 2017. The bank which since last year has been under Abdulmajid Nsekela as Group CEO and Managing Director following veteran banker, Dr Charles Kime's retirement, has thus continued to impress in performance.

Dr Mpango who addressed CRDB's shareholders during their annual general meeting held in Arusha this year, praised the bank's management and board for its sustained impressive performance which was partly a results of conductive macroeconomic fundamentals. "Due to a number of measures taken by the government

through Bank of Tanzania, interest rates have reduced by 0.62 percent to 16.38 percent by February this year while banks lending to the private sector grew by 7.3 percent during the same period," the Treasury ex-chequer noted.

He commended CRDB board, management and staff for doing very well in the market pointing out that during the first quarter of this year, the bank's profit grew by 216 percent to 30.7bn/- from 9.7bn/- during a similar period last year.

"Because of its good performance, the price of CRDB Bank's shares at Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange has increased by 4 percent from 125/- to 130/- each by April this year," he added while pointing out that the bank's profit this year is set to increase significantly hence benefiting both its shareholders and Treasury through dividend and tax

payments.

In response, Nsekela said the lender's operating profits rose 85 percent to reach 99.1bn/- compared to 53.1bn/- posted in 2017.

"We have focused on improving our revenues by optimising all our business units, investing in the right technologies and the people, while at the same time, improving our processes," Nsekela said while promising to maintain making windfall profits in several years to come.

Treasury's ex-chequer was also all smiles last week when TPB presented its 1bn/- dividend pay cheque, being the third bank to do so this fiscal year so far. In his remarks, Dr Mpango said, "Your performance as one of the best performing banks in the country has proved that public companies can compete with private firms in the market," he noted. Treasury owns over 50 percent of shares at TPB compared to NMB and CRDB where it has less than 40 percent in each case.

On his part, TPB CEO, Sabasaba Moshingi said paid tribute to Bank of Tanzania for continuing to his rapidly growing bank whenever need arises relating to regulatory issues. "The Central Bank's decision to hand us Twiga Bancorp and TWB gave us confidence to work hard and maintain profitability for our shareholders," the CEO stated.

He said apart from focusing on its core business of banking, TPB also invests in community projects as part of its corporate social responsibility. "The aim of our corporate investment in communities is to give back to the people who support our business," Moshingi noted while unveiling that in 2018, TPB allocated 200m/- for such projects.

Lagarde resigns as IMF chief, starting race for her successor

NEW YORK

INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde submitted her resignation from the global crisis lender on Tuesday, citing more clarity about her nomination to lead the European Central Bank as European legislators approved a new top bureaucrat.

Lagarde said in a statement her resignation was effective September 12, firing the starting gun for the IMF's search for her successor, which is likely to be another European. "With greater clarity now on the process for my nomination as ECB President and the time it will take, I have made this decision in the best interest of the Fund," Lagarde said in a statement.

She said her resignation would expedite the selection for the next head of the IMF. IMF succession is expected to be a major topic of discussion among G7 finance ministers and central bank governors meeting on Wednesday and Thursday in Chantilly, France, near Paris amid concerns that slowing global growth and trade conflicts will pressure vulnerable economies.

Lagarde's resignation, first reported by Reuters, came two weeks after her nomination on July 2 for the ECB's top job. She did not immediately quit the IMF because of uncertainty over whether the new European Parliament would support her and other new



Christine Lagarde says in a statement that her resignation is effective from September 12.

EU leadership positions, sources told Reuters. Her nomination was part of a package of top officials agreed by EU governments that included German Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen as European Commission president, who drew Green party opposition. Later on Tuesday, von der Leyen was approved by the European Parliament in a 383-327 vote.

The European parliament will hold a non-binding vote on Lagarde's appointment, which is expected to be finalized by EU leaders at a regular summit on October 17-18.

Vetting candidates

Since its creation at the end of World War Two, the IMF has been led by a European, while its sister institution, the World Bank, has been led by an American. Analysts say the "duopoly" is likely to continue after US President Donald Trump's nominee, David Malpass, was approved in April to lead the World Bank with European support.

BANKING & FINANCE

Finance leaders of Europe's four largest economies – Germany, France, Britain and Italy – will participate in the G7 finance meeting this week in Chantilly, along with other large IMF shareholders the United States, Japan and Canada, giving weight to discussions on IMF leadership.

On the sidelines of the G7 meeting, Bank of England Governor Mark Carney, considered a leading candidate to replace Lagarde, is slated to meet with US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, who wields strong influence over the IMF's leadership.

The United States holds an effective veto over major Fund decisions, with a 16.52% share of its voting power. While Carney, 54, is a Canadian economist, he holds Irish and British passports and has led Britain's central bank since 2013 and chaired the Financial Stability Board, an international body, for seven years.

Other names being floated include Bank of Finland Governor Olli Rehn, as well as ECB executive board member Benoit Coeure. Kristalina Georgieva, a Bulgarian national who is currently chief executive officer of the World Bank, has been seen as having an outside chance, according to some IMF sources.

Two IMF board sources said there was concern among some IMF member countries that the Fund's IMF leadership would be left in limbo due to the long ECB confirmation process, and it was better for her to resign to accelerate the succession process.

The IMF's acting managing director, David Lipton, said earlier on Tuesday that the fund would adapt to Lagarde's departure as it has other developments over 75 years.

Inclusive legacy

A former French finance minister, Lagarde was the first woman to head the IMF and was known among policymakers as a tough negotiator. She was a tireless advocate for the benefits of trade, global growth that aids the poor and middle classes, and the empowerment of women.

Her second five-year term as head of the IMF was not due to end until July 2021. Traditionally, the post has always been held by a European, while the head of the IMF's sister organization, the World Bank, has always been an American since the institutions were created at the end of World War Two.

Inflation gap a reminder to Nigeria that Egypt got it right

CAIRO

ONE of the clearest signs that Egypt is starting to reap the economic benefits of a currency float almost three years ago came last week. Nigeria, which took a different path when faced with similar problems, is still struggling.

Inflation in Egypt, Africa's third-biggest economy, slowed to single digits for the first time since the pound was floated in late 2016. It had rocketed as high as 33% soon after. President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi's administration said a devaluation was needed to ease severe shortages of foreign exchange and get a \$12 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund.

Though the decision was painful for

Egyptians, it turned the Arab nation into a darling of bond and carry traders. And it set Egypt apart from Nigeria. Africa's biggest oil producer was also suffering from a dollar squeeze, but opted instead to keep a tight grip on its currency via a system of multiple exchange rates and import restrictions. Foreign exchange is no longer scarce, though Nigeria's inflation rate was 11.2% in June – one of the highest levels on the continent – and has been above the central bank's target of 6% to 9% for four years.

Egypt is also looking the healthier of the two in terms of economic growth. Its output will expand 5.5% in 2019, more than twice as much as Nigeria's and the most among Middle Eastern

nations, according to Bloomberg surveys of analysts.

Portfolio flows into Egypt soared following the devaluation and the start of IMF-supported reforms, which included cutting subsidies that soaked up much of the budget. And it got more foreign direct investment last year than anywhere else in Africa, according to the United Nations.

Nigeria has attracted plenty of hot money by keeping bond yields high and pledging not to let the naira weaken, but FDI has plunged. The IMF says the Nigerian currency regime deters investors and hurts the economy, which is growing more slowly than the population. President Muhammadu Buhari argues it's needed to boost

local manufacturers and stop inflation accelerating.

Those hot-money flows and rising oil prices have caused Nigeria's local and external bonds to perform solidly in 2019.

But weak growth has turned investors off stocks.

The main equity index in Lagos has lost 10% in dollar terms this year, one of the worst performances globally. Egyptian stocks have fallen along with others in emerging markets since April, but they're still up 13% year-to-date. That's partly down to the pound appreciating 8% against the greenback, a performance bettered only by the Russian ruble.

Political and security risks remain

high in both countries,

according to Bloomberg Country Risk Scores.

Egypt's risk has climbed since El-Sisi came to power in 2014.

His administration is trying to quell an Islamic State-linked insurgency in the Sinai Peninsula and has jailed tens of thousands of political opponents. Lawmakers passed a constitutional change in April that allows for him to remain in office until 2030. In Nigeria, which is also battling Islamic State militants

and experiencing deadly clashes between farmers and herders, political risk is deemed higher.

Nigeria's reserves have risen almost 9% since late last year to \$45 billion.

That gives central bank Governor Godwin Emefiele plenty of firepower to defend the naira, which Renaissance Capital estimates is about 20% overvalued. Still, stresses on the currency are rising, according to Citigroup Inc.'s Early Warning Signal Indexes.

WORLD

Von der Leyen confirmed as new European Commission president

BRUSSELS

URSULA von der Leyen was confirmed as the European Commission president on Tuesday, becoming the first woman to hold one of the most prestigious positions in the European Union and who will be one of the most prominent faces from the bloc on the world stage.

The European Parliament voted 383-327 with 22 abstentions to approve von der Leyen's nomination. The confirmation required an absolute majority of 374 votes and the outgoing German defense minister scraped through with barely nine

votes to spare in a cliffhanger vote.

"A majority is a majority in politics," she said when questioned about her narrow escape.

Von der Leyen will replace Jean-Claude Juncker when his term expires at the end of October.

She was put forward as a last-minute candidate by EU leaders as part over an overall appointments package, sidestepping parliamentary wishes. Many legislators felt cold-shouldered and said they would oppose her out of principle, not over personal considerations.

"There was a great deal of resentment," she said.



German Ursula von der Leyen

Von der Leyen insisted the challenges facing the EU, from climate to migration and internal division, were such that there was no time to look back.

"My message to all of you is: let us work together constructively," she said.

Earlier in the day, Von der Leyen set out her political objectives on a greener, gender-equal Europe where the rule of law continues to hold sway.

Her approval was a key part in the package of top jobs that EU leaders agreed upon early this month. Under the deal, the free-market liberal Renew Europe group got Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel as European Council president and the Socialists won the top parliament job. France's Christine Lagarde was put forward as head of the European Central Bank.

Von der Leyen told lawmakers in Strasbourg that the gender element as embodied by herself and Lagarde will be an essential part of her job.

"I will ensure full gender equality" in her team

of 28 commissioners. "I want to see as many men as women around the college table," she said.

Pointing out that since its inception in 1958, less than 20% of commissioners had been women, she said: "We represent half of our population. We want our fair share."

The gender breakthrough was welcome across much of the plenary.

"It is a great day for Europe to have a woman elected to lead the European Commission," said Dacia Cioloș, leader of the liberal Renew Europe group.

The rest of the commission team, which prepares a wide range of legislation from climate change to farm subsidies and digital rules, will be proposed by the EU member states, which have the right to one each.

Von der Leyen insisted that, despite eurosceptic governments like Italy, Poland and Hungary, she would only work with pro-European politicians.

"I want a commission that is working to strengthen Europe to position Europe in this world in its appropriate role," she said.

"None of us on its own will be as successful in tackling the problems as we are together – 28 member states," she said.

Officials in the von der Leyen camp had long acknowledged that the vote would be a cliffhanger. She was set to get the majority of votes from her EPP Christian Democrats, the S&D socialists and the RE liberals. They were part of a grand coalition sharing out the top jobs.

Still, with dissent even within those groups, it long was too close to call.

During her address to the parliament, von der Leyen set out her political lines for the next few years and immediately addressed what she sees as the biggest challenge: climate change.

"I want Europe to become the first climate-neutral continent in the world by 2050," she said, adding she would work out "a green deal for Europe in the first 100 days" of her office. It would include rules to improve on the current goal of reducing emissions by 40% by 2030.

"It will need investment on a major scale," and funds would be available for nations, mainly in eastern Europe, still depending on polluting fossil fuels, she said.

Agencies

Washington needs to truly honour one-China principle

BEIJING

WASHINGTON'S recent approval of an arms sale to Taiwan will complicate the security situation across the Taiwan Strait and jeopardize one of the world's most important bilateral relationships.

The package of arms, which includes 250 Stinger missiles and 108 M1A2T Abrams tanks worth 2.2 billion U.S. dollars in total, is the fourth sale to Taiwan by the current U.S. administration in two years.

According to the 1982 joint communique, one of the three major political documents that underpin the China-U.S. relationship, Washington has pledged to gradually reduce the level of and eventually stop arms sales to Taiwan.

However, it seems that Washington is using arms sales as a card to maintain the so-called cross-strait military balance, and a leverage to contain China's efforts to unify the country.

China hawks in Washington are making a mistake by flirting with the chance that Beijing will not retaliate as they violate the one-China principle. They have underestimated Beijing's determination and strength to preserve its core interest on issues concerning its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Already, China has announced it will impose sanctions on U.S. companies involved in the arms sales to Taiwan in response to Washington's provocation.

As two major countries in the world, China and the United States share a wide range of common interests in various fields. The ups and downs of their bilateral relations bear special significance not only for the two sides, but also for global peace and tranquility.

They need to handle their relations with prudence, fix their problems through consultation, not provocation, and pursue win-win outcomes in their cooperation.

As for separatists in Taiwan, their efforts to bank on foreign forces to delay and obstruct national reunification will be in vain.

Beijing's will to unify the country is in no way negotiable. In his speech addressing a gathering to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the issuance of the Message to Compatriots in Taiwan, Chinese President Xi Jinping pledged "utmost sincerity and greatest efforts" for the prospect of peaceful reunification, but made no promise to renounce the use of force and reserved the option of taking all necessary means.

Taiwan separatists need to give up their fantasies to count on foreign intervention to keep China permanently divided. Their continued provocation would only narrow the chance of a peaceful unification of the mainland and the island.

Xinhua

Duterte says he won't be tried by international court

MANILA

PHILIPPINE President Rodrigo Duterte has declared he will never be tried by an international court for mass killings in his war on drugs, and vowed no let up in a crackdown that he said he was winning and would see through "to the very end".

In a television interview with a celebrity pastor, the firebrand leader said the Philippine justice system was working fine, so it would be "stupid" to imagine he would let an international court put him on trial.

"I will only face, be tried or face a trial, in a Philippine court. Presided

by a Filipino judge. Prosecuted by a Filipino ... I will not answer a Caucasian, asking questions, white man there. You must be stupid," he said late on Tuesday.

"I am a Filipino. We have our courts here... Shit. You have to bring me somewhere else? I would not like that. I have my country. It's working. I know it's working. Justice is working here."

His opponents argue otherwise and say police are killing with impunity, and that with an approval rating of about 80 percent, a supermajority in Congress and presidential appointees heading courts,



commissions and investigative bodies, there is little chance of Duterte being impeached or prosecuted at home.

Duterte, 74, has previously said he was so committed to his war on drugs that he was prepared to

be tried for crimes against humanity at the International Criminal Court (ICC) in the Hague, or rot in jail there.

However, within weeks of an ICC prosecutor announcing in February 2018 that a preliminary examination was being conducted into the killings, Duterte ordered police not to cooperate, and then unilaterally cancelled the Philippines' ICC membership. The ICC examination continues, despite his withdrawal.

His latest show of defiance comes days after the UN Human Rights Council approved a resolution to hold an investigation into the kill-

ings, responding to a call from 11 UN experts concerned about a "staggering" amount of deaths.

The Philippine government has rejected the resolution as meddling by biased Western states, and denies activists' allegations that police are executing thousands of drug users and peddlers.

Duterte said he was making gains in his anti-narcotics campaign, with less drugs on the streets.

He said suspects should choose to "drop the drugs or drop dead", but suggested that was merely an expression, not an instruction to kill.

Agencies

S. African deputy president pledges to put every HIV patient on treatment

CAPE TOWN

SOUTH African Deputy President David Mabuza has pledged to put every HIV patient in the country on treatment.

"As government, we wish to commit to a re-invigorated response to this epidemic by prioritizing primary prevention and ensuring that everyone who needs treatment is put on treatment," Mabuza (pictured) said on Tuesday at the launch of the UNAIDS Global Report 2019 in Eshowe, KwaZulu-Natal province.

Eshowe was chosen by UNAIDS to host the official launch of this report in view of its remarkable and outstanding efforts in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

"This community has



shown us what we can achieve if we work smart and work together," Mabuza said in his capacity as chairperson of the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC).

Assisted by Doctors' without Borders (MSF), Eshowe has reached the 90-94-95 targets: 90 percent of people living with HIV know their status, 94 percent of those are on antiretroviral treatment and 95 percent of those have a suppressed viral load.

This achievement was ahead of the 2020 global 90-90-90 targets set by the UN. According to the UNAIDS report, 770,000 people died of HIV/AIDS worldwide in 2018, only a 30,000 reduction from 2017, compared to 800,000 in 2017 and 840,000 in 2016.

The report noted that the international community is still far away from achieving the goal of cutting HIV/AIDS deaths by 50 percent by 2020, to less than 500,000 per year. This goal was endorsed by UN member states in 2016.

The report highly commends South Africa's success in reducing new HIV infections by more than 40 percent and AIDS-related deaths by around 40 percent since 2010. South Af-

rica, which has the highest HIV/AIDS prevalence in the world, intends to test and treat at least 6.2 million people with HIV by 2020.

The country currently puts more than 4.2 million people on antiretroviral treatment. According to Mabuza, stigma and discrimination have been shown to be the most potent factors in fuelling the spread of the epidemic and causing premature deaths for those infected in his country.

With its Human Rights Plan launched by the government in June this year, South Africa aims to eradicate the stigma and discrimination associated with HIV and tuberculosis (TB) and to call out the prejudice that has fuelled it, Mabuza said.

Xinhua

China's catering industry is flourishing

FROM January to April, the income of China's catering industry reached 1.4 trillion yuan with a 9.3 percent increase year-on-year. The catering income accounted for 10.8 percent of the total retail sales of consumer goods in the period.

The catering industry will grow in a reasonable scope, and it will be able to sustain this development, according to China Cuisine Association (CCA). They believe that the sector will continue playing an important role in pushing healthy economic development.

Multiple organizations predicted that China's 2019 catering income will reach 4.9 trillion yuan and the number will increase to 7 trillion yuan by 2023.

Takeaway services have

become a driving force of the thriving catering industry. In 2018, the online market volume increased 112.5 percent and the number of take-out orders 200 percent compared with the year before.

Thanks to booming online sales and cold-chain logistics technology, catering companies are expected to see new points of growth, the association added.

People's Daily



In 2018, the online market volume increased 112.5 percent

Sudanese military, protesters sign power-sharing document

CAIRO

SUDAN'S ruling military and the pro-democracy movement yesterday signed a political document that's part of a power-sharing deal meant to end the country's deadlock after weeks of stalled talks.

The two sides – representatives from the military council and the Forces for Declaration of Freedom and Change – signed a so-called political declaration, one of two documents that are part of the deal, at a ceremony in Khartoum.

The other document, a constitution-

al declaration, is likely to be signed within days, perhaps as early as Friday.

The signing is a key step in Sudan's transition after months of street protests that prompted the military to oust autocratic ruler Omar al-Bashir and take over the country in April. But the protesters, though initially cheering al-Bashir's ouster, remained on the streets for several weeks, demanding the military hand over power to a civilian authority.

The military and the pro-democracy movement, which represents the protesters, had agreed earlier this month on a joint sovereign council

that will rule Sudan for a little over three years while elections are organized.

The power-sharing deal, which also includes a Cabinet appointed by the pro-democracy movement, was meant to end weeks of deadlock between the two sides since a Khartoum protest sit-in was razed by security forces last month.

Protest organizers say security forces killed at least 128 people during that dispersal and subsequent crackdown. Authorities, however, put the death toll at 61, including three members of the security forces.

And on June 30, tens of thousands of demonstrators flooded the streets of Khartoum in the biggest show of numbers in the uprising. At least 11 people were killed in clashes with security forces, according to protest organizers.

The two sides subsequently resumed talks and also agreed on an independent Sudanese investigation into the deadly crackdown, though it is unclear if anyone will be held accountable.

"We are ushering in a new era," Ibrahim al-Amin, a negotiator for the protesters said at Wednesday's sign-

ing ceremony. "The upcoming government will be a government of all Sudanese, for all citizens ... we have suffered enough from the totalitarian dictatorial regime."

Gen Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, deputy head of the military council, hailed the signing as a "historic moment in Sudan" as representatives of both sides shook hands.

Wednesday's development came after intensive efforts and pressure from regional and international powers. The African Union and Ethiopia led the diplomatic mediation, following the deadly break-up of the Khartoum

protest camp in June.

Ethiopian mediator, Mohamoud Dirir, called it a "great moment for the people of Sudan" and lauded the "united front that represents the gallant army of the Sudan, the transitional military council, and of course the revolutionary youth, the intellectuals who have taken to the streets to stand for democracy."

AU envoy Mohammed el-Hassan Labat said the signing was "a decisive moment." Both Labat and Dirir, who attended the Khartoum ceremony, also shook hands and embraced.

Agencies



David Stilwell, center left, US Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, speaks to reporters after a meeting with the Republic of Korea (ROK)'s Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha (not in frame) at the foreign ministry in Seoul, ROK, yesterday. (AP)

Japan urges ROK to agree to arbitration

SEOUL

JAPAN is making a final call for the Republic of Korea (ROK) to agree to Japanese-requested arbitration over the Korean wartime labour dispute, while hinting at possible retaliation.

Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasutoshi Nishimura yesterday urged Seoul to nullify court orders for Japanese companies to compensate former ROK wartime labourers and settle by arbitration, AP reports. The deadline for a response is today.

Nishimura also said Japan will consider all options to protect Japanese companies, according to AP.

Colonial-era laborers from the ROK are seeking a court approval for the sales of local assets held by their wartime employer Mitsubishi Heavy Industry, which has ignored a court's compensation order.

Japan believes the issue of compensation for its wartime actions was settled under a 1965 treaty.

US diplomat vows to help resolve row Also on Wednesday, a senior US diplomat said the United States will "do what it can do" to help defuse worsening political and economic dispute between the ROK and Japan, as the ROK warned that the row would have global repercussions.

David Stilwell, the top US diplomat for East Asia policy, told reporters in Seoul that he took the situation seriously but did not elaborate on what steps Washington might be willing to

take and said fundamentally it was up to the ROK and Japan to resolve their differences.

"We hope that resolution will happen soon," he said.

"The United States, as a close friend and ally to both, will do what it can do to support their efforts to resolve it."

Washington has been hesitant to publicly wade into the feud between its allies, but the dispute, which threatens global supplies of memory chips and smartphones, has overshadowed Stilwell's visit, who arrived on Tuesday. Last week, Stilwell had told Japan's NHK broadcaster the United States would not intervene in the dispute, and instead encouraged dialogue between Washington's two biggest allies in Asia to settle it.

Simmering tension, particularly over a case for compensation of ROK people forced to work for Japanese occupiers during World War II, took a sharp turn for the worse this month, when Japan restricted exports of high-tech materials to the ROK.

Japan has denied that the dispute over compensation for laborers is behind the export curbs, even though one of its ministers cited broken trust with the ROK over the labor dispute in announcing the restrictions.

Instead, Japan has cited "inadequate management" of sensitive items exported to the ROK, with Japanese media reporting some items ended up in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). **Agencies**

'US countervailing measures on Chinese imports inconsistent with WTO rules'

GENEVA

The World Trade Organization (WTO) has announced in an Appellate Body report that the revised countervailing measures imposed by the United States on imports of certain products from China are inconsistent with WTO laws.

Upholding the findings of a WTO dispute panel announced in March 2018, the Appellate Body ruled on Tuesday that the U.S. acted inconsistently with provisions of the subsidies and countervailing measures (SCM) agreement, in 11 of its coun-

tervailing proceedings at issue.

In 2016, China requested consultations with the U.S. to challenge the full compliance of Washington with a 2014 WTO ruling against its countervailing measures on 22 products from China.

These had come about after China resorted to the WTO in 2012 to contest U.S. anti-subsidy tariffs on Chinese exports including several metal products, steel wheels, solar panels, wind towers, steel cylinders and aluminum extrusions.

China challenged various aspects of certain countervailing duty investigations and the preliminary and final

determinations that led to the imposition of countervailing duties.

Among the findings, the Appellate Body found that the U.S. Department of Commerce had failed to explain, in several of the countervailing proceedings, "how government intervention in the market resulted in domestic prices for the inputs at issue deviating from a market-determined price", underlining that "an investigator's determination of how prices in markets are in fact distorted as a result of government intervention must be based on positive evidence."

Xinhua

House condemns Trump 'racist' tweets in extraordinary rebuke

WASHINGTON

In a remarkable political repudiation, the Democratic-led US House voted Tuesday night to condemn President Donald Trump's "racist comments" against four congresswomen of color, despite protestations by Trump's Republican congressional allies and his own insistence he hasn't "a racist bone in my body."

Two days after Trump tweeted that four Democratic freshmen should "go back" to their home countries – though all are citizens and three were born in the USA – Democrats muscled the resolution through the chamber by 240-187 over near-solid GOP opposition.

The rebuke was an embarrassing one for Trump even though it carries no legal repercussions, but if anything his latest harangues should help him with his die-hard conservative base.

Despite a lobbying effort by Trump and party leaders for a unified GOP front, four Republicans voted to condemn his remarks: moderate Reps Brian Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania, Fred Upton of Michigan, Will Hurd of Texas and Susan Brooks of Indiana, who is retiring.

Also backing the measure was Michigan's independent Rep Justin Amash, who left the GOP this month after becoming the party's sole member of Congress to back a Trump impeachment inquiry.

Democrats saved one of the day's most passionate moments until near the end. "I know racism when I see it," said Rep John Lewis of Georgia, whose skull was fractured at the 1965 "Bloody Sunday" civil rights march in Selma, Alabama. "At the highest level of government, there's no room for racism."

Before the show-down roll call, Trump characteristically plunged forward with time-tested insults. He accused his four outspoken critics of "spewing some of the most vile, hateful and disgusting things ever said by a politician" and added, "If you hate our Country, or if you are not happy here, you can leave!" – echoing taunts long unleashed against political dissidents rather than opposing parties' lawmakers.

The president was joined by House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy of California and other top Republicans



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif, arrives for a closed-door session with her caucus before a vote on a resolution condemning what she called "racist comments" by President Donald Trump at the Capitol in Washington, on Tuesday. (AP)

in trying to redirect the focus from Trump's original tweets, which for three days have consumed Washington and drawn widespread condemnation.

Instead, they tried playing offense by accusing the four congresswomen – among the Democrats' most left-leaning members and ardent Trump critics – of socialism, an accusation that's already a central theme of the GOP's 2020 presidential and congressional campaigns.

Even after two-and-a-half years of Trump's turbulent governing style, the spectacle of a president futilely laboring to head off a House vote essentially proclaiming him to be a racist was extraordinary.

Underscoring the stakes, Republicans formally objected after Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California said during a floor speech that Trump's tweets were "racist." Led by Rep Doug Collins of Georgia, Republicans moved to have her words stricken from the record, a rare procedural rebuke.

After a delay exceeding 90 minutes, No 2 House Democrat Steny Hoyer of Maryland said Pelosi had indeed violated a House rule against characterizing an action as racist.

Hoyer was presiding after Rep Emanuel Cleaver of Missouri stormed away from the presiding officer's chair, lamenting, "We want to just fight," apparently aimed at Republicans. Even so, Democrats flexed their muscle and the House voted afterward by party line to leave Pelosi's words intact in the record.

Some rank-and-file GOP lawmakers

have agreed that Trump's words were racist, but on Tuesday party leaders insisted they were not and accused Democrats of using the resulting tumult to score political points.

Among the few voices of restraint, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Trump wasn't racist, but he also called on leaders "from the president to the speaker to the freshman members of the House" to attack ideas, not the people who espouse them.

"There's been a consensus that political rhetoric has gotten way, way heated across the political spectrum," said the Republican leader from Kentucky, breaking his own two days of silence on Trump's attacks.

Hours earlier, Trump tweeted, "Those Tweets were NOT Racist. I don't have a Racist bone in my body!" He wrote that House Republicans should "not show 'weakness'" by agreeing to a resolution he labeled "a Democrat con game." Rep Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, one of Trump's four targets, returned his fire.

"You're right, Mr President - you don't have a racist bone in your body. You have a racist mind in your head and a racist heart in your chest," she tweeted.

The four-page Democratic resolution said the House "strongly condemns President Donald Trump's racist comments that have legitimized and increased fear and hatred of new Americans and people of color." It said Trump's slights "do not belong in Congress or in the United States of America."

Agencies

Taliban close Afghan health facilities run by Swedish group

KABUL

THE Taliban forced a Swedish non-profit group to close 42 health facilities it runs in eastern Afghanistan, the organization said yesterday, the latest attempt by the insurgents to show strength amid negotiations to end the country's nearly 18-year war.

The Taliban currently control nearly half of Afghanistan and are more powerful than at any time since the October 2001 US-led invasion.

According to Parwiz Ahmad Faizi, communications manager at the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan, the facilities were closed after Afghan forces last week raided a clinic run by the NGO in Daimirdad district in Maidan Wardan province.

The Afghan troops, acting on intelligence, were allegedly looking for suspected Taliban fighters hiding in the clinic. Ahmad Khalid Fahim, program director for the Swedish group, told The Associated Press that two staff members, a guard and a lab worker, and two

other people were killed in the attack, while a fifth person has been missing.

Insurgents contacted the staff and ordered the NGO to shut down, Fahim added. Faizi said the closures will affect health services for around 6,000 patients, particularly women and children.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid confirmed the closure of the facilities.

The same Swedish-run facility in Daimirdad was hit in 2016, in a joint raid by Afghan and foreign forces, said Fahim. Three people were killed in that attack, after which the NGO demanded an investigation but no probe results were ever released.

"We request the Afghan government give us an immediate response as to why the health facility came under attack," Fahim said.

The Swedish organization, which has been in Afghanistan over 30 years, runs 77 health facilities in six out of nine districts of in Maidan Wardan. The closure of the 42 likely more than slashes its activities in half. **Agencies**

Strategic stability consultations between Russia, US kick off in Geneva

GENEVA

RUSSIAN-US consultations on strategic stability have kicked off in Geneva.

Russia's permanent mission to the United Nations Geneva Office is hosting the meeting. Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov is heading the Russian delegation, while the US delegation is led by Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan. The del-

egation also includes the State Department's Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security Andrea Thompson. Presidents Vladimir Putin of Russia and Donald Trump of the United States handed down instructions to resume full-fledged dialogue on the matter following their meeting on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Japan's Osaka in late June.

Ahead of the meeting, Mos-

cow pointed out that it views extension of the New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) as the most important issue on the agenda. Washington, however, assumed it was too early to discuss the matter, while there was a need to consider the possibility of reaching a trilateral agreement on nuclear arms reduction between the United States, Russia and China.

The INF Treaty, signed by the

Washington's non-compliance.

On February 1, 2019, US President Donald Trump and US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo announced the suspension of Washington's obligations under the INF starting February 2. Washington is determined to withdraw from the treaty in six months unless Russia returns to "real and verifiable" compliance. **Agencies**

Xinhua

Consumption power reflects China's resilience - experts

CHINESE brands saw sales surge on major e-commerce platforms on June 1, the opening day of the country's mid-year shopping festival.

The shopping spree comes from supporting measures to spur domestic consumption which shows the economy's resilience. Rising domestic sales may offset the impact of the prolonged China-US trade dispute according to experts.

Major e-commerce platforms made a good start of this year's "618 Shopping Festival" beginning on Saturday, June 1, ac-

ording to the Beijing Youth Daily Sunday.

More than 17 million items were sold on JD.com in the first hour of June 1, 83 percent up from last year.

By 11:23 am, Alibaba's e-commerce platform Tmall had exceeded the total business volume of last June 1.

More than 10 major brands on Suning.com had sold more than 100 million yuan (\$14.49 million) worth of goods in the first hour.

Amid the boom, Chinese consumers are showing great

interest in quality and innovative products, the report said. Air conditioners priced higher than 8,500 yuan are hot-selling home appliances on JD.com. In the first hour, sales of OLED TVs, which represent the future of TV technology, were up 270 percent compared with last year.

China has rolled out measures to boost domestic consumption. China's individual tax revenue in the first four months dropped 30.9 percent, while overall tax revenue increased 4.6 percent, according to official statistics released in May.

"We're not concerned about slowing Chinese exports affecting GDP growth because the Chinese economy is shifting from an export economy to a domestic consumption economy," said Alibaba Executive Vice Chairman Joseph Tsai on May 15 during a quarterly earnings conference call.

The largest e-commerce platform in China reported strong revenue growth of 51 percent in the last fiscal quarter.

Domestic consumption is \$5.5 trillion at present, and consumption from third-, fourth- and

fifth-tier cities will triple from \$2.3 trillion to nearly \$7 trillion in the next 10 years, Tsai said.

Major platforms are maintaining stable growth and those focusing on third- and fourth-tier cities are expanding faster. Cao Lei, head of China's E-Commerce Research Center, told the Global Times on June 2.

An expert also expressed his confidence over the country's consumption, which has been the biggest driving force of China's economy in the past five years, forecasting that consumption growth will remain in the

range of 7 to 9 percent this year.

As reforms release more consumption power, and more advanced products and services are produced and developed at home, the consumption growth could offset the impact from the ongoing trade dispute, Tian Yun, vice president of the Beijing Economic Operation Association, told the Global Times on Sunday, June 2.

Final consumption expenditure contributed 65.1 percent to China's economic growth in the first quarter, official data showed.

China's overseas spending remains at a high level, however, which indicates that domestic education, healthcare, cultural products and services are still lagging behind consumers' needs, Tian said.

The impact of the China-US trade dispute on China's economy is being overestimated, Tian added, and even its impact on China's exports is overestimated. Analysis should be based on the added value of exports, instead of the total value.

Global Times



Singers Jay-Z, left, and Beyoncé pose for photographers upon arrival at the 'Lion King' European premiere in central London, Sunday, July 14, 2019. (Agencies)

25 years later, 'The Lion King' roars again

LOS ANGELES

IT was just a few months ago that director Jon Favreau was sitting in a scoring session with composer Hans Zimmer for "The Lion King," his ambitious and technology-driven reimagining of the 1994 animated classic, and he and everyone else in the room were getting a little emotional.

It's no wonder: They were recording the music for the stampede (yes, THAT stampede).

"Working on it doesn't make it any less emotional," Favreau said in an interview earlier this year.

And don't even get him started on what it was like to listen to James Earl Jones record his lines as Mufasa.

"The Lion King" is three years in the making with some of the biggest names in entertainment, including Beyoncé, and the expectations couldn't be higher. None of the other major studios have even dared to go up against it in theaters this weekend. Early tracking suggest that it could make as much as \$150 million in its first weekend in North America, and it's already grossed over \$55 million in China.

It helps, of course, that the material is familiar to most of the world already. The animated film, which opened in June 1994 at the peak of the Disney animation renaissance, went on to become a critical hit, the highest grossing film of the year at the worldwide box office (it was second domestically to "Forrest Gump"), a two-time Oscar winner for Zimmer's score and the song "Can You Feel the Love Tonight," and a Broadway show – now the third-longest running and one of the most successful in history.

So it was only a matter of time before the Walt Disney Co., in this new era of live-action remakes of its animated library which this year included both "Dumbo" and "Aladdin," turned to one of its most beloved.

Favreau wasn't even finished with his version of "The Jungle Book" when he started inquiring about plans for "The Lion King." He'd learned so much about motion capture technology and had a team he knew how to collaborate with. He was ready to take it to the next level. So, he raised his hand for the big job.

"I kind of lobbied for it," Favreau said.

The studio waited until "The Jungle Book" was out to give him the official word, but the 2016 movie which scored with both critics and audiences, turned out to be a pretty good audition. And he set to work prepping this "live-action" Lion King, which, it should be said isn't live-action at all.

It's a combination of virtual reality and "keyframe animation," which means that the animals are all animated by hand, "just like all the old animated movies," Favreau explained. In other words, if you visited the set, you would not find some gargantuan soundstage and a bunch of actors running around acting like lions while covered in motion capture bodysuits and dots.

Rather, it was more of a "black box with people wearing headsets and VR goggles."

The VR was used to "drive the camera" and "instead of just one layout artist on a computer, we had a full crew operating virtual

cameras in a virtual reality environment," he said.

That includes esteemed cinematographer Caleb Deschanel, a six-time Oscar nominee. The resulting special effect is that "It should feel like a live-action movie," he said, even if it's technically animated.

For the cast, which includes Donald Glover as Simba, Beyoncé as Nala, Chiwetel Ejiofor as Scar, Seth Rogen as Pumbaa and Billy Eichner as Timon, the process was pretty similar to what they would have done for a traditionally animated movie, but Favreau also filmed the actors during their voice recording sessions to help the animators. He knew it would look to weird to try to translate human expressions onto the cats' faces so instead emotion is conveyed through body language (and a little mouth moving for the dialogue).

Anyone who's seen the marketing thus far has no doubt recognized some familiar touchstones from the 1994 film. So familiar, in fact, that many have wondered if it was going to be a shot-for-shot remake. Favreau said that isn't the case.

"It diverges quite a bit," he said. "It's much longer than the original film. And part of what we're doing here is to (give it more dimension) not just visually but both story wise and emotionally."

The main story points are the same, but like the stage musical, there will be differences too. Plus, he wanted to capitalize on the uniqueness of his actors.

With Beyoncé, for instance, he even changed the way he directed her and approached her animation after seeing her stage show and all the personas she channels for each song.

"Nala is a very powerful character who's a warrior and also has a big heart and encapsulates a lot of different archetypes," he said. "I wanted the way she was choreographed and with lions and the fight scenes to have a resonance with the power with which (Beyoncé) choreographs her stage show."

And of course there's the music, which is just as important as the images in conjuring up all the emotion and nostalgia associated with the original.

Zimmer has updated and built upon his own score from 25 years ago, which will also integrate music from the stage show and the 2D film.

"It's quite a lush version of the soundtrack and the score," Favreau said.

There will be some recognizable songs, including "Can You Feel the Love Tonight," "Hakuna Matata," "Be Prepared," "I Just Can't Wait to Be King" and "Circle of Life," plus some new ones too.

And the hope is that this version resonates not only with the generations that grew up with "The Lion King," but with a new batch of kids as well who may be experiencing it for the first time this way.

"It's about the life cycle and coming of age and saying goodbye and all the things that we all deal with," Favreau said. "It's not a story that's often told but it's a story that's probably the most universal story there is."

AP



Joycelyn Savage, second from left, and Azriel Clary, second from right, women who lived with R&B singer R. Kelly, walk into Dirksen Federal Courthouse for Kelly's hearing with attorney Gloria Schmidt, left, another attorney, Tuesday afternoon, July 16, 2019. (Agencies)

Judge orders R. Kelly held in jail without bond in sex case

CHICAGO

A FEDERAL judge on Tuesday ordered R. Kelly held in jail without bond after a prosecutor warned that the singer accused of having sex with minors and trying to cover up the crimes would pose an extreme danger to young girls if set free.

"If he was attracted to middle school girls in 1999 then he's still attracted to middle school girls," Assistant U.S. Attorney Angel Krull told U.S. District Judge Harry Leinenweber. "That's who the defendant is and that, your honor, makes him a danger today."

Leinenweber said that under federal law Kelly would have to prove that he was not a danger to the public and Kelly's attorney, Steve Greenberg, had failed to do so.

Kelly was arrested while walking his dog in Chicago last week and faces an array of sex-related charges in Chicago and New York. Appearing in court wearing an orange jumpsuit and shackled at the ankles, he said

only two words, "Yes, sir," when the judge asked him if he understood the charges. Two women who recently lived with Kelly, Azriel Clary and Joycelyn Savage, attended the court hearing Tuesday.

The ruling Tuesday means that Kelly, who pleaded not guilty to the charges contained in the Chicago indictment, will remain in custody to face a separate indictment in New York. He is charged there with racketeering, kidnapping, forced labor and the sexual exploitation of a child.

It was unclear when that hearing would be held and if he would have to be transported to New York for the hearing, or could appear via a video linkup from Chicago.

The decision to deny bond also raised the possibility that the 52-year-old Kelly could spend the rest of his life behind bars. Renato Mariotti, a former federal prosecutor in Chicago, said that "each of the federal indictments could take one to two years to go to trial." Depending on delays in the case, Mariotti said Kelly's stay in jail awaiting trial could go on a lot longer than that.

Krull portrayed Kelly as a predator who went to great lengths to find young girls and kept them under his control. She said that the evidence in the federal indictments against him is overwhelming. If convicted, the maximum sentence for the charges contained in the Illinois indictment is 195 years in prison and 80 years for the charges contained in the New York indictment.

Kelly, whose real name is Robert Sylvester Kelly, was first

arrested on sex-related charges in 2002 after a video of Kelly having sex with 14-year-old girl was sent to the Chicago Sun-Times. After extensive delays, a Chicago jury acquitted him in 2008 in part because the girl did not testify at the trial.

Krull said Kelly was acquitted only because he paid off the victim and her family. She said the alleged victim in that video has since testified before a federal grand jury and confirmed it was her.

"Electronic monitoring can't stop obstruction of justice, witness tampering..." Krull said. "He can entice victims to his own home."

Kelly's legal troubles mounted when he was arrested in February and charged with 10 counts in Illinois of sexually abusing three girls and a woman. He pleaded not guilty to those charges and was released on bail.

Then on May 30, Cook County prosecutors added 11 sex-related counts involving one of the women who accused him of sexually abusing her when she was underage. The federal charges filed last week are separate from the Illinois case. Greenberg said preparing for trial will be a long process made even more difficult because Kelly does not know how to read and therefore someone must visit him in jail to read him the reams of documents the case will generate.

He said Kelly is no longer rich and has filed for bankruptcy. "How could he flee?" Greenberg asked. "He has no money."

AP

'Game of Thrones' dominates and 'kick-ass' women break through at Emmys



LOS ANGELES

MEDIEVAL fantasy "Game of Thrones" scored a record 32 Emmy nominations on Tuesday, but the contenders for the highest honors in television were dominated by newcomers, many of them women, and shows about political and social justice.

The 2019 lineup for the Emmys represented the widest array of first-time nominees in eight years, the Television Academy said, with nine new shows contending for the top prizes of best drama and best comedy series.

They included female-driven BBC America thriller "Killing Eve," which also won nods for stars Jodie Comer and Sandra Oh; dark comedy "Fleabag," from Amazon.com's Amazon Studios, which got 11 nominations including for its

British creator and star, Phoebe Waller-Bridge; and surreal Netflix time-loop comedy "Russian Doll," written by its star, Natasha Lyonne.

Laura Linney, a best actress nominee for her role in Netflix drug smuggling drama "Ozark," said she was "thrilled that I somehow ended up in this group of kick-ass women, who all raise the bar over and over again."

In a crowded landscape of top-quality shows, A-list stars Julia Roberts and George Clooney were seen as the biggest snubs on Tuesday, failing to get nominations in their high-profile returns to the small screen in "Homecoming" and "Catch-22" respectively. "The Big Bang Theory," which ended its run in May as the most-watched comedy on U.S. television, was shut out of the major categories.

HBO got a leading 137 nominations, an Emmy record. The Emmy awards will be handed out at a ceremony in Los Angeles on Sept. 22.

'VEEP' TAKES ON 'MRS MAISEL'

HBO's haul included three-times best drama series winner "Game of Thrones,"

and recognition for actors Kit Harington, Emilia Clarke, Lena Headey, Peter Dinklage, Sophie Turner and Maisie Williams in the show's final season.

While the nods for "Game of Thrones" were expected, despite a fan uproar over the series finale in May, HBO also scored 19 nominations with its limited series "Chernobyl," a dramatization of the 1986 nuclear accident in Ukraine and Soviet efforts to cover it up.

"Word of mouth has probably been the most significant way in which this show has achieved this impact," Jared Harris, a best actor nominee for "Chernobyl," told Reuters.

The series has played in Russia and brought curious tourists to the Chernobyl exclusion zone.

Netflix scored 117 nominations, led by "When They See Us" which racked up 16 nods for director and writer Ava DuVernay's heart-wrenching dramatization of the wrongful imprisonment of five black teens for a rape in New York in 1989.

"Thank you @Netflix for believing in this story and letting me tell it the exact

way I wanted. Appreciate the faith and the fearlessness," DuVernay wrote on Twitter.

In the comedy category, returning Emmy champ "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" from Amazon Studios got 20 nominations, including for lead actress Rachel Brosnahan.

It will face off against HBO's political satire "Veep," which ended its seven-season run in May, and its six-time Emmy-winning star Julia Louis-Dreyfus as the foul-mouthed politician hell-bent on becoming U.S. president.

FX's groundbreaking LGBTQ series "Pose," about the drag ball culture in 1980s New York, will contend for best drama and won a first-time nomination for star Billy Porter.

"I'm so grateful to have lived long enough to see this day. 'Pose' speaks a truth that has the power to transform hearts and minds," Porter said in a statement.

Popular shows and past Emmy winners "Big Little Lies" and "The Handmaid's Tale" were not broadcast during this year's Emmy eligibility period.

REUTERS

Algeria's Mahrez, Senegal's Mane meet in Africa Cup of Nations final

CAIRO

A FASCINATING matchup between two Premier League stars will take place Friday as the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations comes to a conclusion. Riyad Mahrez and Algeria meet Sadio Mane and Senegal for a second time in the competition, this one for all the glory.

Senegal may be the favorite given their superior FIFA ranking, but the 22nd ranked nation in the world hasn't looked its best despite being one of the final two teams remaining in the competition.

They finished second to Algeria in Group C play thanks more to its organized defense than its highly-touted attack which has taken too long to get going too often.

Algeria, meanwhile, is considered a worthy opponent despite their FIFA ranking of 68. Riyad Mahrez has been electric in the knockout stages, and while his finishing up front has left a little to be desired, his creativity is providing his nation with the chances it needs to secure upsets.

Mahrez scored in the 3-0 win over

fellow surprise Benin in the quarter-finals, and again found the back of the net in dramatic fashion to beat Nigeria late in the semis.

Not only is Algeria in better form coming in, but they have the rub of the grain as well. Star Senegalese defender Kalidou Koulibaly will harshly miss the final due to a yellow card suspension, as the Africa Cup of Nations is one of the few tournaments that still does not wipe yellow card accumulation after the quarterfinal.

His third yellow of the tournament came in the semifinal when a vicious shot struck his elbow, awarding Tunisia a penalty which they subsequently missed.

While the goals haven't necessarily flowed for either side in this tournament, they both have significant attacking firepower when on. Behind Mahrez for Algeria is Napoli's Adam Ounas who also has three goals in the competition, one off the lead, while Leicester City frontman Islam Slimani patrols in the middle.

(Agencies)

Lively CAF congress expected amid corruption scandal

CAIRO

A CORRUPTION scandal and a decision to cede control of the body to FIFA are likely to provoke lively debate when the Confederation of African Football (CAF) holds its congress in Cairo on Thursday.

It is the first meeting of CAF's 54-member associations since allegations of fraud and sexual harassment were levelled against CAF president Ahmad Ahmad in April.

Ahmad, a former cabinet minister in his homeland Madagascar, was reported in March to FIFA's ethics committee by CAF general secretary Amr Fahmy, who was then fired.

Further allegations of fraud have recently been made against Ahmad, who was detained and questioned by French authorities in June as part of a corruption investigation.

Ahmad has denied wrongdoing in several media interviews but has not responded to repeated requests by Reuters for comment on the specific allegations against him.

FIFA took over the running of CAF in the wake of the corruption allegations following an unprecedented decision by the African body's executive committee to cede control.

That decision was seen by some of Ahmad's critics as a bid for him to try and stay in power, even if it

opens him up to further scrutiny when FIFA audits CAF's finances.

The handover of power has proven unpopular with some member associations.

They dislike the idea of African football being run by outsiders even though FIFA is sending its Senegalese secretary general Fatma Samoura on a ninth-month secondment from August to overhaul the organisation.

Traditionally CAF congresses are docile affairs where decisions sought by the president are then approved by members, but Thursday's meeting is expected to be a break from the norm.

"This week will define African football. All this nonsense must stop," one football association president, who did not want to be named, told Reuters.

Opposition to Ahmad remains largely tempered and from anonymous sources and there is no expectation of any challenge to his leadership.

Much attention will be on FIFA president Gianni Infantino, who is scheduled to attend.

FIFA has confirmed there is an ethics investigation into Ahmad, who is also, by virtue of his role at CAF, a FIFA vice president.

REUTERS

Cameroon sack Seedorf and Kluijert after Nations Cup failure

YAOUNDE

CAMEROON have sacked Dutch coach Clarence Seedorf after their disappointing performance at the Africa Cup of Nations, with his departure coming after the country's sports minister had demanded his exit.

Seedorf's assistant, former Netherlands striker Patrick Kluijert, has also been axed after the defending champions were dumped out in the last 16 after losing 3-2 to Nigeria earlier this month.

The Indomitible Lions won just one of their four matches at the tournament in Egypt, which led to calls from the country's sports minister, Narcisse Mouelle Kombi, for the pair to be released from their contracts.

He got his wish within hours on Tuesday as Cameroon's football fed-

eration announced it had terminated the four-year deal Seedorf had signed in August 2018.

The body said in a statement on that it had brought an end to the respective contracts of Seedorf and Kluijert "following the premature exit of Cameroon's men's flagship squad".

Former AC Milan and Netherlands midfielder Seedorf was in charge for 12 matches, but won only four against Malawi, Comoros Islands, Zambia and Guinea-Bissau.

The job was his first in international football after previous brief spells in charge of AC Milan and Deportivo La Coruna in Spain.

Cameroon will host the next Nations Cup finals in June 2021, but must take part in the 2022 World Cup qualifiers that are likely to start later this year.

REUTERS



Clarence Seedorf - Patrick Kluijert

Belmadi ends years of turbulence to lead Algeria in AFCON final

CAIRO

AFTER a turbulent period which saw Algeria employ seven coaches in three years, it has taken Djamel Belmadi less than one year to restore order and turn a dispirited squad into finalists at the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON).

Although he had only coached in Qatar before taking the job, Belmadi has lifted the "Desert Foxes" out of their rut and turned them into the most impressive side at the tournament with five wins and a draw, 12 goals scored and two conceded, on their way to tomorrow's final against Senegal.

Belmadi has managed to bring out the best in a talented squad and maintain a ruthless streak, although there are still occasional excesses such as Ramy Bensebaini's extraordinary self-slapping incident in the quarter-final against Ivory Coast.

Bensebaini grabbed the arm of Wilfried Zaha, then slapped himself in the face with the Ivorian's hand before falling theatrically to the ground, clutching his face in a failed attempt to get his opponent sent off.

Belmadi, 43, has also succeeded in lifting the pressure on their top player Riyad Mahrez, allowing him to be a pivotal figure but without expecting him to run the show.

"I do not like highlighting players. We need to put a little less focus on Mahrez if we want to make this a big tournament for us," he said at the start.

Belmadi himself was a gifted midfielder, who could unlock defences with his passing, in a playing career which took him to 10 clubs in France, England and Qatar, including Olympique Marseille and Manchester City.

He also played 20 times for Algeria, scoring five goals.

Algeria's troubles of recent years began after a quarter-final exit at the AFCON in 2015 which led to criticism of coach Christian Gourcuff. The Frenchman clung on for another year, eventually quitting following a 3-3 draw against Ethiopia.

Nabil Neghiz stepped in for one game as caretaker before the reigns were handed to Milovan Rajevac who lasted for two games, quitting after a 1-1 draw at



Djamel Belmadi

home to Cameroon in a World Cup qualifier.

WORLD CUP FAILURE

Belgian Georges Leekens was next and he lasted five matches, including a 3-1 loss to Nigeria in another World Cup qualifier.

Then came Spaniard Lucas Alvarez who resigned following home-and-away World Cup qualifying defeats to Zambia which meant Algeria missed out on Russia.

By this point, the team was in such disarray that Mahrez was allowed to skip the Zambia match to negotiate a transfer.

The federation then turned to Rabah

Madjer, a well-known former player, but he quit after a run of four successive friendly defeats. After considering Carlos Queiroz for the role, the Algeria federation turned to French-born Belmadi.

Nigeria coach Gernot Rohr, who faced the old Algeria during the World Cup qualifiers and Belmadi's new-look side in Sunday's semi-final, made an honest comparison.

"They were fragile (two years ago). There were lots of individual mistakes, they made it easy for us," he said.

"Now they are solid, they have a good balance between attack and defence, they

are still very physical and they have progressed a lot."

Algeria's only previous AFCON title was in 1990 on home soil and Belmadi has told his players they have a chance to do something that not even Lakhdar Belloumi and Salah Assad, who helped put Algerian football on the map in the 1980s, managed.

"Those players are great players, they made history for our football, but even those players didn't win it in 1990," he said. "This is our target, we want to write our history and the players want to write their history as well."

REUTERS

Is Man United target Harry Maguire really the world's best defender?

By Mark Ogden, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

HARRY Maguire has played in a World Cup semi-final and become one of the most highly rated defenders in the Premier League, but even his most ardent supporters would struggle to argue that he is the very best at his position.

Yet if Leicester get their way and force Manchester United to pay in excess of £80 million, the 26-year-old will become the most expensive defender in the world. That would eclipse the £75m that Liverpool paid for Virgil van Dijk -- not only the world's best defender but the favourite to win the Ballon d'Or this year.

All this for a player Leicester signed from relegated Hull City for an initial £12m just two years ago.

Sources have told ESPN FC that, while United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer is determined to sign Maguire as quickly as possible to reinforce his porous defence at Old Trafford, the two clubs are still some distance apart in terms of their valuation.

United, who initially offered £40m for Maguire last month, are now prepared to pay closer to £70m to get their man, but Leicester's starting point is £80m and some reports suggest they are even ready to hold out for £90m.

Yet for all of Maguire's ability as a commanding centre-back, a player with an aerial threat in both boxes and one who can play the long and short game, it would signal a new, eye-watering benchmark in an already over-heated transfer market.

Leicester are smart operators when it comes to selling players. They banked £60m when selling Riyad Mahrez to Manchester City 12 months ago and also forced Chelsea to hand over £35m for midfielder Danny Drinkwater in 2017.

The Foxes hierarchy know that United, having seemingly missed out on Ajax captain Matthijs de Ligt, are short on alternative options for a proven, commanding defender, so they are quite rightly putting the squeeze on the club's executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward.

Woodward, an investment banker with JP Morgan prior to working for United, knows all about market forces and it is unfortunate for him and his club that they are now on the wrong end of the spike in transfer fees.

But City were also forced to pay over the odds when they paid £50m to sign Kyle Walker from Tottenham two years ago, making him the world's most expensive full-back at the time, while Liverpool's wisdom was questioned when they paid £75m for Southampton's Van Dijk 18 months ago.

City and Liverpool would now both argue that they were justified in breaking transfer records to sign Walker and Van Dijk, and United must now decide whether Maguire is likely to prove as smart a long-term investment as those two, even if the costs seem alarmingly high.

United's history, certainly since Sir Alex Ferguson's time in charge, is littered with examples of expensive signings which ultimately proved to be sound investments.



Harry Maguire

Gary Pallister (£2.3m), Roy Keane (£3.75m), Ruud van Nistelrooy (£19m) and Rio Ferdinand (£30m) all became British record signings when they moved to United, while Wayne Rooney was the world's most expensive teenager when he completed a £27m move from Everton in 2004.

All of the above left Old Trafford having more than justified their huge transfer fees, with each of them proving that the initial outlay was excellent value in the long term.

However, United's sense of value has deserted them since Ferguson retired

in 2013, with those in charge too often knowing the price of something rather than the value.

Which is why they are now in a difficult position with Maguire. Is it another case of having to pay vastly over the odds for a player who will never live up to the price-tag? Or is Maguire a modern-day version of Pallister or Ferdinand, two defenders whose fees were questioned at the time, but who ultimately made the cost of the transfers look cheap?

One thing for certain is that Maguire is not the best defender in the world. True, Van Dijk wasn't either when he

traded Southampton for Liverpool, but the Dutchman now has few rivals for that title after a sensational 18 months at Anfield. His £75m fee now looks to be a bargain and Liverpool could double it right now if they were foolish enough to consider selling.

It would be naive for United to expect Maguire to follow the same path so quickly. But he is better than what they have and would improve United, so the price is the price and they have to accept that market forces have left them having to break the world-record transfer fee for a defender.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

**Belmadi ends years of turbulence
to lead Algeria in AFCON final**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) information officer Clifford Ndimbo

Taifa Stars' preps for CHAN qualifiers will not affect Premier League outfits-TFF

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadonga

TANZANIA Football Federation (TFF) has dismissed fears that the senior national team 'Taifa Stars' preparations for the Africa Nations Championship (CHAN) qualifiers will affect some of Mainland Premier League outfits' preparations for the coming season.

On Monday, Taifa Stars interim head coach Etienne Ndayiragije named 26 players who will enter camp on Saturday to prepare for the CHAN back to back games against Kenya.

The first leg game has been slated for July 28 at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam and the return leg will be played a week later in Kenya.

Of all the 26 players named by coach Ndayiragije, only youngster Kelvin John does not feature in a Mainland Premier League side.

Nearly all Premier League teams have started preparations for the 2019/2020 season which gets underway on August 23 with defending champions Simba SC facing JKT Tanzania in the league opener.

Simba that have contributed seven players in Taifa Stars squad started camp in South Africa yesterday.

Yanga are in Morogoro, Azam FC is in Rwanda competing at this year edition of Kagame Cup. Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC had also taken part in the Kagame Cup.

Simba are expected to be victims of the national team's drills for CHAN qualifiers as players Aishi Manula, Erasto Nyoni, Gadiel Michael, Ibrahim Ajibu, John Bocco, Jonas Mkude and Hassan Dilunga are to leave the South Africa camp which is usually paid in advance and join the national team camp.

In the national team, Azam have seven players while Yanga and KMC have five and three players respectively.

After the two CHAN duels, Simba players are expected to return to their camp in South Africa and it means many players will not be with their clubs for more than two weeks.

However, TFF information officer Clifford Ndimbo on Tuesday said there will be no problem for Simba and other teams as there are days before the national team camp starts.

"They will be no problem with any team, we know that teams are preparing for the coming season, but their players will only be with the national team for few days," he noted.

"After the national team assignment the players will return to their respective clubs, on the part of expense, I'm sure Simba SC booked go and return tickets so they will just change the dates."

However a coach who opted for anonymity said the development will affect the outfits' preparations.

He was of the opinion coaches whose outfits have contributed more than five players to the national team will not have enough time to prepare the players.

"Every coach has his plan for league preparations, pre-season is good as it helps the coaches plan and prepare well with all his players."

"But in this case the coaches have to come up with alternatives so as their plans are not disturbed."

Zambia name young squad for COSAFA Women Under-20 Championship

CAPE TOWN

ZAMBIA coach, Charles Haalubono, has named a preliminary squad of players for the COSAFA Women's Under-20 Championship to be staged in Nelson Mandela Bay from August 1-11.

The 29 players will be whittled down to the final 20 for the competition, which is the inaugural staging of the regional championship in this age-group.

Haalubono still has to give much thought to his selections and has at this stage included five goalkeepers as he seeks his best options.

It is a very young selection, with 22 players aged 17 or younger. The youngest player in the squad is Edah Lungu, one of five 15-year-olds selected by Haalubono.

It is clearly a tournament of learning and growth for the squad then, with the target perhaps a tilt at the next few Women's Under-20 World Cups.

The Young She-polopolo have yet to qualify for a FIFA World Cup in this age-group, though Zambia has had success in that regard before when the Under-17 side played at the 2014 global finals in Costa Rica.

Zambia did not enter the qualifiers for the last Under-20 World Cup but have been regular participants in the past.

They reached the quarterfinals of the African qualifying competition in 2002, but lost on aggregate to South Africa, and have not been past the second round since then.

Zambia have been drawn in Group B at the COSAFA Women's Under-20 Championship and will take on Eswatini in their opener on August 2.

After that they will face Botswana two days later, before rounding out their pool play against Tanzania on August 6. Only the two teams in each pool advance to the semifinals.

Zambia preliminary squad:

Goalkeepers: Anna Mukumbuta, Edith Nawakwi Zimba, Memory Namonje, Blessings Kazila, Yolanda Hankanga

Defenders: Thelma Phiri, Diana Banda, Constance Kamusu, Edah Lungu, Margaret Yambe, Mary Mulenga, Mapalo Kapindula, Rosemary Nyirongo, Florence Kasonde, Sarah Jere

Midfielders: Salome Phiri, Liba Musonda, Elizabeth Mupeso, Evarine Suzeni Katongo, Maweta Gloria Chilenga, Thandiwe Ndhlovu, Mary Mambwe, Elina Mwanza, Sthokozile Champa

Strikers: Loveness Malunga, Maylan Mulenga, Lydia Mubanga, Christine Kalange, Precious Nsama
In another development, Mozambique coach, Sara Simone, has named her preliminary selection for the 2019 COSAFA Women's Championship as she looks to plot a semi-final berth for the side in Nelson Mandela Bay.



Ismaili Community outfit's Jitender Gariya (R), receives a man of the match prize from a cricket enthusiast, Premji Pindoriya, shortly after Ismaili Community had locked horns with Sandy Super Strikers in this year's GP Gymkhana Shield competition in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NIKHIL PUJARA

Caravan cricketers clobber Surat Stars in GP Gymkhana Shield

By Guardian Reporter

THE GP Gymkhana Shield tournament's defending champions, Caravans, have got off to an impressive start, given they walloped Surat Stars by 50 runs at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club DGC oval last Sunday.

Cricket outfits from across the city are battling it out in the 20-over formatted event, which has been organized by the DGC Cricket Section.

With the squad boasting an array of well-drilled players, Caravans made no mistake when they got chance to bat first in the Group D match, posting 148 runs for the loss of eight wickets in 20 overs.

Surat Stars, in response, zealously chased Caravans' total but the former's efforts to get down to successful chase ended in vain, given they were skittled for 98 runs in 20overs.

This year's tournament, which started on July 6 and is set to climax on September 29, has General Petroleum and Premier Refineries as main sponsors.

ASAR Limited, SBC Tanzania, Mgen Insurance, AFRO Turk, Cartridge World, PS Limited, I & M Bank and Jaykey Trading are the event's co-sponsors.

Cartridge World and Mgen Insurance are, as disclosed DGC Cricket Section Captain Ashish Nagewadia, sponsoring the GP Gymkhana Shield for a third year in a row.

Ismaili Community team and Sandy Super Strikers complete the Group D of this year's tournament.

Caravans will have to step up their performance this season should the team harbour plans to go for successful title retention bid.

Ismaili Community that made short work of Sandy Super Strikers in the first match are also genuine contenders for silverware in this year's competition.

Caravans Club won the previous edition of the competition after thrashing Jain Sangh by six wickets in a pulsating final which took place at the DGC oval early in September last year.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



“

TFF information officer Clifford Ndimbo on Tuesday said there will be no problem for Simba and other teams as there are days before the national team camp starts

EATV TODAY @ 18:00

THURSDAY

11:00 DADAZ (live)
12:00 Mpya
15:00 FUNGUKA
16:00 Bonga Hits
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:30 MJADALA
21:00 Bonga Hits

eNewz is your one stop show for everything entertainment. It covers celebrity interviews, gossip, what's hot, what's not, trending online and offline and what happened in history.

eastafrica RADIO

05:00 EA Breakfast
09:00 Supamix
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bonga
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

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