



HOUSING



GOVT REITERATES STANCE ON HOUSE RENTS PAYMENT MODES PAGE 3

STANDARDS



DC COUNSELS MANUFACTURERS IN PRODUCTS CERTIFICATION PAGE 4

HEALTH



FRENCH ENVOY CALLS FOR PPP ON HEALTH SECTOR PAGE 7

SPORT



FIRM PLEDGES TO BACK TAIFA STARS PAGE 20



VP gives SADC ministers key levers for healthcare goals

MPs outline major demands for agro-sector stimulation

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

THE government has been challenged to invest more in infrastructure projects such as roads, railways and construction of inland container depots (ICDs) to facilitate cargo transportation and stimulate economic growth.

Contributing to the Second Five-Year National Development Plan (2016/17 - 2020/21) and national budget estimates for the 2020/2021 fiscal year yesterday, the lawmakers said completion of flagship projects including the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) will ensure smooth transportation of cargo.

Kigoma South MP (CCM) Hasna Mwilima (pictured) urged the government to fast-track construction of SGR and other viable projects such as the Mchuchuma coal project, Liganga iron ore project, Kurasini logistics centre and the Bagamoyo special economic zone.

"The SGR project will take too long with local funding. The government should secure loans to timely complete implementation of the remaining phases," she said.

Joseph Kashoku, Geita Rural (CCM) argued that construction of ICDs in Dodoma will,



The small projects will require little capital and hence stand to be timely completed

apart from facilitating cargo to neighbouring land locked countries, boost city revenues.

"With ICDs in Dodoma, transit goods from Dar es Salaam port transported through SGR will be kept and picked from there...this will stimulate the economy of Dodoma," he said.

Mafinga Urban legislator, Cosato Chumi (CCM) advised that in order to meet the country's sugar demand, the government should invest in small projects instead of implementing the mega Mkulazi project in Morogoro.

"The small projects will require little capital and hence stand to be timely completed," he said.

He remarked that construction of rural roads will stimulate economic growth through facilitating the movement of people, goods, crops and fertilizers, urging the government to allocate enough funds for the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA).

Ileje MP Janeth Mbene (CCM) said investing more in agriculture and the livestock sub-sector will boost economic growth.

The processing of agricultural products locally would enable farmers to fetch good prices, so the government requires at least Tn/- to constructing small processing

TURN TO PAGE 2



Mercy Mwanga - as found in her vanilla farm at Mamba in Hai District, Kilimanjaro Region, yesterday. She said the crop earns her anything between 80,000/- and 120,000/- per kg, "which has given me more power in family decision-making". Photo: Songa wa Songa

Women millionaires shaking home finance in parts of rural Kilimanjaro

By Songa wa Songa, Moshi

FARMERS who embraced vanilla way back when it was almost worthless, mostly women, have now emerged millionaires who call the shots in Kilimanjaro Region.

In a region where women do not own land traditionally though allowed to till it, women who farm vanilla now have more say not only about the produce but the land itself.

With one kilogramme of green vanilla selling at between 80,000/- and 120,000/-, a quarter acre of land is enough to turn one into a millionaire.

Loveene Uroki is one of the pioneer vanilla farmers in Kilimanjaro Region, and a millionaire for that matter.

The Guardian visited her one-and-half acres farm located at Mamba village, Machame-Uroki Ward in Hai District.

Her first venture into vanilla in early 2000s led to years of caring for "worthless weeds" since there was neither a buyer nor a processor.

Her husband—the land owner—was particularly bitter that the "weeds" occupied land that could have been used for other crops.

But when they were about to weed out vanilla from the farm in 2014, a representative from Natural Extracts Industries (NEI), a company that buys, processes and exports vanilla knocked on her door.

"He said they wanted to promote vanilla farming and

TURN TO PAGE 2

"We would specifically ensure that health services are offered in considering the quality and geographical balance, and put in place systems that would enable citizens afford costs of health services"

By Guardian Reporter

VICE President Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday called on Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states to prioritize and strengthen health infrastructure and curative systems in their respective countries for the region to fully achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by 2030.

She made the call in Dar es Salaam when speaking at the official opening of the joint meeting of SADC ministers of health and agencies responsible for HIV/Aids.

The meeting discussed and approved recommendations made by SADC senior officials in-charge of health and HIV who sat for two days in the country's commercial capital.

Suluhu tasked SADC member states to come up with better strategies that will help their nations achieve UHC—a multi-stakeholder platform to promote collaborative working in countries and globally on strengthening health systems.

She suggested the need for ministers responsible for health and HIV/Aids to deeply look at achievements made in the region and identify challenges facing the member states so that the countries could come up with strategies

that lead to achieving goals set in major health programmes, nationally and regionally.

She further informed the gathering that the Tanzanian government has prioritized the issue of strengthening health infrastructures and operational systems in working on its commitment towards executing UHC.

The VP said: "We would specifically ensure that health services are offered in considering the quality and geographical balance, and put in place systems that would enable citizens afford costs of health services."

Construction of health centres countrywide was part of what is being done in line with the UHC objective, the Vice President noted.

Since 2016 the government has built over 350 new health facilities at ward level in different parts of the country and 67 others at district level, she stated.

Budgetary allocation for the health sector from domestic revenues has increased from 30bn/- in 2015/2016 to 260bn/- in 2019/2020 financial year.

Through the Medical Stores Department, the government has set up pooled procurement systems for medicines and medical devices in a bid to improve efficiency and

TURN TO PAGE 2

Less than half of total SIM cards get NIDA numbers

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

LESS than half of SIM card holders in the country have so far registered their mobile phone lines electronically as per guidelines set by the Tanzania Communications and Regulatory Authority (TCRA) which require a national ID and holder's fingerprints.

TCRA directed that all SIM cards registration should be supported by the national ID and the holder's fingerprints with effect from May 1, 2019.

Atashasta Nditaye, the Deputy Minister for Works, Transport and Communication told the National Assembly yesterday that mobile phone companies have so far registered 12,783,000 Tanzanians out of the 44 million people owning SIM cards.

"Government data shows there are 44 million people with SIM cards, but we have registered over 12 million people only. Our target is to register all SIM card holders by end of December this year," he said, responding to a supplementary question by Special Seats MP Zainab Katimba.

In an additional question, the MP was concerned that most SIM card holders have failed to abide with electronic registration over lack of national IDs. She asked the government to look into a possible method to enable all

SIM card holders to register without national IDs.

The deputy minister admitted the presence of some challenges, insisting that SIM card holders are only required to have national ID numbers to be registered electronically.

"We are aware of the challenges in acquiring national IDs which are provided by the National Identification Authority (NIDA), but we only need the ID number since processing of the identities may take long due to various factors," said Nditaye.

In April this year, President John Magufuli ordered TCRA to extend the deadline for electronic SIM card registration since inadequate number of Tanzanians already possessed national IDs. He said there are 55 million Tanzanians, but only about 13 to 14 million have the IDs.

Nditaye said that over 90 per cent of Tanzanians enjoy phone services and that various initiatives are going on to ensure all the citizens have access to communication services.

The government has announced a tender for construction of mobile phone towers which will facilitate communication services to more than 200 villages across the country, he stated.

He said the villages include those in

TURN TO PAGE 2



9 770856 542009



Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein exchanges greetings with African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights president Judge Sylvain Ore, who led a delegation to the Zanzibar State House yesterday for talks. Photo: State House

Dr Shein calls on ZBC to have solid training plans

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein has called on the Zanzibar Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC) to have solid plans in providing training to their staff so that it performs proficiently.

Dr Shein said this yesterday when he was elaborating to ZBC Radio leaders and staff on various issues raised during the meeting held at the Rahaleo Information Department here.

He said it is important for ZBC leadership to have short and long term plans that would enable their staff to get training both from within and outside the country, to enable the corporation have competent human resource to develop it.

He also said the ZBC leadership and the Ministry of information should work together in finding solutions to various challenges that come up from time to time.

He also said there should be efforts in the acquisition of working tools including funds for emoluments and per diems for their staff in field assignments.

Dr Shein said the Ministry in collaboration with its institutions must give priority for their needs from all its various units and therefore solve the current budgetary challenges it faces.

He also called on to the Ministry and ZBC to allow without any hindrance staff and other workers who want to be transferred to other government institutions when there is an agreement for that between institutions.

In another development Dr Shein said ZBC is a new state corporation established for the aim improving broadcasting services to spur development.

He also revealed that the main reason for that government to merge radio and television services was to make the

workers and staff from both institutions to have close interactions in their duties.

He said ZBC is similar to other international news organizations such as DW, BBC, Aljazeera in so far as it aims are concerned the only difference is in the financial ability.

However, he said the government has incurred huge costs in establishing - more than 17b/- for purchase of machinery and equipment hence he stressed for the Board and the Ministry to work together to prove the corporation's worth.

Dr Shein said ZBC still depends on government subsidy in its day to day operations.

Touching on Zanzibar broadcasting history, Dr Shein there are a lot to be proud of especially on the fact that broadcasters from East Africa and other countries came to Zanzibar for training.

Earlier the Principal Secretary of the Zanzibar Revolutionary Council

Dr Abdulhamid Yahya Mzee, said the government is giving priority to disabled people when there are vacancies.

He called on the disabled to submit their complaints to the government whenever they see employment regulations are bent.

He said the president's Office (public service) has decided to have a special fund to develop professionally government servants as well as requiring other institutions to do so.

On the issue of workers' transfers Dr. Abdulhamid said what is needed is an agreement from two institutions and the Chief Secretary is the one to give final decision for the nation's interest.

On the issue of allowances and per diems he said the government has already set grades for each institution hence every worker is eligible for allowance as per grade in the institution he is working.

VP gives SADC ministers key levers for healthcare goals

FROM PAGE 1

reduce costs of buying drugs among SADC member states, she stated.

On her part, SADC executive secretary Dr Stergomena Tax called on member states to strengthen internal funding to finance health services, reducing donor-dependency as an aspect of the Abuja Declaration that tasks countries to allocate at least 15 percent of their annual budgets to improve the health sector. She also urged donor countries to scale up support.

For many years SADC countries have been relying on donors in implementing health projects, which the SADC administrator noted was not sustainable.

"For us to surmount challenges facing the health sector and HIV/Aids in particular, we need to reinforce our internal sources of funding as donors' funds are becoming smaller and it will reach a point they will come to an end."

She also lauded SADC Heads of State and Governments for adopting the global Political Declaration on Universal Health Coverage during the recent UN High-Level meeting on UHC.

The political declaration has been described by UN Secretary General António Guterres as "the most comprehensive agreement ever reached on global health." Last

September SADC Head of States signed a political declaration during the UN General Assembly.

Dr Tax further said: "It is, therefore, incumbent upon us to make sure that the Declaration is implemented for the benefit of the people in SADC countries."

Realising universal health coverage required that SADC member states ensure that they provide quality health services, but the burden of high spending on health care is also minimised.

"Without this crucial consideration, there is a risk that high costs in accessing health care could potentially drive an increasing number of our people into poverty by exorbitant out-of-pocket health care costs. This will further hamper the attainment of the SADC We Want, where economic well-being, improved standards of living and quality of life are guaranteed," she stated.

Dr Rebecca Moeti, Regional Director of the WHO Regional Office for Africa (AFRO) said that this commitment should be translated into actions.

"I commend SADC member states for making several strides in addressing health-related challenges due to the political will that they have shown," she enthused.

Less than half of total SIM cards get NIDA numbers

FROM PAGE 1

small islands in both Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar, where the government in collaboration with the Universal Communications Service Access Fund (UCSAF) is working to ensure reliable communication services to residents of Tumbatu Island in Zanzibar.

The ministry through UCSAF plans to conduct an evaluation of Tumbatu Island to find out actual number of residents and those with SIM cards

before allocating funds for investment on communication equipment.

Implementation of projects in Tumbatu Island will depend on the number of UCSAF projects approved for implementation in the 2019/2020 financial year, he cautioned.

In his basic question, Tumbatu MP Juma Othman Hija asked when the government will invest to end communication problems in small islands including Tumbatu in Zanzibar.

Women millionaires shaking home finance in parts of rural Kilimanjaro

FROM PAGE 1

requested if I could sell them cuttings from my farm to be distributed to other farmers to plant," she said.

The request turned Uroki's worthless weeds into serious money.

"At the blink of an eye, I had 5m/- cash from selling cuttings to other farmers as I waited to sell the beans," she narrated.

It was after receiving this money when her husband, Ombeni Uroki who had since abandoned the farm a year or two back, started cleaning and protecting it against invaders, humans and pests as well.

With the harvests that followed, Uroki built a modern 5-bedroom house, educated her three children to tertiary level (now all independent), bought a minibus, bought dairy cows, and the list goes on.

Her house is truly modern with conveniences such as running water, electricity and satellite television to catch up with what goes on around the world.

She said from her farm, she harvests at least 200kg of green beans which she sells to NEI at between 80,000/- and 120,000/ per kg, earning her not less than 10m/- per harvest season.

"The next harvest in September next year, I will fence my compound and fit the entire place, including the farm, with CCTV cameras to beef up security," she said.

In 2016, Uroki was selected as farmer champion and travelled to Dar es Salaam as part of Shared Value Prize (SVP)-an initiative of Nestlé which NEI won that year.

"It was my first time to board a plane and stay in a top rated hotel," she said. Uroki said she now has more say on both the money and the farm than before.

At the time of this interview, her husband was clearing the farm. "I was frustrated back then because we waited from 2002 to 2014," he said. "This crop has changed our lives; no one who farms it is still poor."

The 50-year-old Uroki is one of 2,000 registered vanilla farmers in Kilimanjaro Region. She has since inspired hundreds of farmers to venture into vanilla.

One of them is her neighbor, Mercy Mwanga (42) who went into vanilla in 2015 after witnessing the changes in the Uroki family.

"I planted vanilla on my quarter acre farm but because it takes up to three years to the first harvest, my husband started to complain," she said.

She had worked on the farm for two years. Children needed uniforms and upkeep but she had no single coin. Her husband was on her neck.

But when things were about to fall apart in her family, good news arrived: new farmers were in need of cuttings. She got a quick 1m/- which sorted out the pupils as she waited to harvest.

Since she started harvesting, she has renovated her house, educates her children without stress and has bought dairy cows.

"I have already planted another one acre of vanilla," she said.

But most importantly, she said the husband no longer raises complaints. "He thanks me for venturing into vanilla and we discuss and decide together about the farms and finances."

But what is unique about vanilla farmers is that the majority of them in Kilimanjaro are women.

Fulgence Ndowno, an agronomist with NEI explained that it is partly due to the fact that women are quicker to try new ideas than men.

But most importantly, women are better in pollination of vanilla than men, as it is done carefully by hand using tooth-pick size sticks, the expert noted.

"Since 2016 when we won Nestlé's Shared Value Prize, we have increased the number of farmers in Kilimanjaro Region from 1,000 to 2,000 planters," he said.

Tanzania produces less than 10 metric tonnes of vanilla per year but has the potential to produce 100 metric tonnes, according to NEI.

Madagascar is the world's leading producer with 2,926 tonnes per year followed by Indonesia (2,304), China (885) and Mexico (513).

The spice is used in food, beverages and fragrances.

The field visit to farmers marked the last day of the World Vanilla Conference which took place here at midweek.



Works, Transport and Communications minister Isack Kamwelwe (L) and his Malawian counterpart, Ralph Joama, pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday exchanging bilateral cooperation agreement documents involving Dar es Salaam Port, roads and Air Tanzania Company Limited. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

MPs outline major demands for agro-sector stimulation

FROM PAGE 1

industries for agro-products, she asserted.

"Let us make use of the private sector to stimulate agriculture. The government should take measures

to protect local products," she emphasized, underlining that this is done all over the world.

Joram Hongoli, Lupembe MP (CCM) said: "There is need for more investment in agriculture, processing and marketing of agro-based goods.

More emphasize should be put on strategic cash crops such as tea and coffee."

Since there is a challenge of infrastructure, the government should construct roads to ease transportation of crops, he said, noting that delays in

transportation make crops lose quality and thus fetch low prices.

Special Seats MP, Martha Umbula (CCM) said despite that the agriculture sector contributes 28 percent to the national economy, it is growing by just 3.3 percent per annum.



Dar es Salaam Water and Sewerage Authority (Dawasa) CEO Cyprian Luhemeja has an audience with the agency's technicians in Dar es Salaam yesterday on ways to improve efficiency, chiefly by serving clients. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt reiterates stance on house rent payment modes

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

THE government yesterday reiterated its stance that tenants should be allowed to pay rent on monthly basis instead of the current system which forces them to pay for either three months, six months or annually.

"We insist that house rents should be paid monthly. Some land lords force tenants to pay for three, six months or annually, this is unacceptable", Lands Housing and Human Settlements Minister William Lukuvi, told the National Assembly yesterday.

Lukuvi's explanation came in response to a supplementary question by Mtama legislator, Nape Nnauye who claimed that most of the landlords have been demanding annual rent payments which is difficult for some new employees and low income earners.

Nnauye said: "It is high time the government considers coming up with a law that will control landlords from charging rents for more than a month. Forcing Tanzanians to pay rent annually may result into some public servants engaging in bribes to accumulate the required sum".

The minister admitted that payment of annual rents bothers a number of Tanzanians and that the Lands ministry has already banned the annual rent payment system since it is against country laws.

"Landlords are forcing people to pay annual rent, it is unacceptable. The bad thing is that, the system is also applied to students in hostels and new employees," said the minister.

Lukuvi said the government plans to introduce a special regulatory authority that will be responsible for supervision of renting services.

He however insisted that the authority will not intervene in the amount of rents agreed between landlords and tenants. "The regulatory authority will be responsible for ensuring the rights of tenants. We are waiting for the law to be brought in the parliament before we put in place strict regulations to control landlords," asserted Lukuvi.

In her basic question, Special Seats MP, Aida Khenan wanted to know when the government will construct low cost houses to enable low income earners town decent residential houses.

Responding, Lands Housing and Human Settlements Deputy Minister, Angelina Mabula said the National Housing Cooperation (NHC) through its 10 years strategic plan-2015/16-2024/25 is constructing low cost houses in different regions.

She said the houses are sold at affordable prices citing those in Muheza, Tanga are sold at 24.6m/- compared to those in Katavi which are sold at 30.6m/-.

In Kigoma the houses are sold at 34.2m/- while those in Mtanda and Lindi are sold at 33.6m/-.

Mabula urged regional and district authorities to allocate special land areas to enable NHC implement the low-cost house projects. She said, while in Mtwara in 2017, President Magufuli directed all the districts and regions to allocate land plots for NHC's low-cost houses project.

She said plans are afoot to construct more houses in several regions that will be specifically for renting. NHC will soon embark on construction of the houses in Chamwino, Dodoma following the increased demand mainly for public servants.

By Guardian correspondent

ZANZIBAR government and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) have expressed continued commitment to strengthen their partnership in extending social protection of the forest dependent communities (FDCs) in the Indian Ocean Archipelago.

Zanzibar's Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources, Livestock and Fisheries (MANRLF), Makame Ali Ussi said this when speaking in Zanzibar yesterday during a validation workshop of finding of a study titled: 'A Diagnostic on Social Protection Needs and Opportunities for Forest Dependent Communities in Zanzibar'.

Ussi appreciated FAO's financial support to the study, saying: "My sincere appreciation goes to FAO leadership for its decision to work with our Ministry and also provide funding that made the study, that was conducted in both Unguja and Pemba, possible."

He added: "The gathering here today is a testimony of how the Govt, development partners and the communities can join hands and work together in ensuring proper forest resources use and management to create opportunities and help in poverty alleviation."

Deputy Minister Ussi said that the views on the findings to be collected from all the key stakeholders present at the validation workshop would be useful in providing a roadmap of what is to be done in order to address the presented challenges and therefore contribute to the overall objective of reducing poverty.

For his part, the FAO Representative to Tanzania, Fred Kafeero, appreciated the continued long-term partnership with the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania. "We highly acknowledge the collaboration

FAO, Zanzibar to embrace social protection for FDCs

and enabling working environment which facilitates effective establishment and implementation of initiatives aiming at jointly achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs) including the call upon countries to expand social protection and achieve substantial coverage of the poor and vulnerable by year 2030," he said.

Kafeero said that FAO is working to support governments to extend coverage of social protection to rural populations while enhancing coherence between social protection, agriculture and natural resource management; nutrition sensitive social protection and social protection in fragile and humanitarian contexts.

Social protection is increasingly being adopted as a strategy for reducing poverty and food insecurity and reducing vulnerability to shocks in developing countries. Social protection aims to mitigate these shocks and the related risks and also to build the resilience of vulnerable populations.," he disclosed

According to him, the importance of forests cannot be overstated since all life on earth depends on them. "Forests provide livelihoods for humans, provide essential ecosystem services that support agriculture by regulating water flows, stabilizes soils, maintains soil fertility, regulates climate, provides habitat for wild pollinators and predators of agricultural pests," he mentioned.

The study advised the Government to speed up the process of revising the existing policies to address vulnerability issues affecting forest dependent communities (FDCs) in Zanzibar. It was conducted

with financial support of FAO and called for development of a clear roadmap for improvement of social protection aiming at improved livelihood of the FDCs. Presenting the findings and recommendations during the validation workshop in Zanzibar, on behalf of Dr. Iddi Hussein Hassan who led a team of six experts responsible for the study, researcher Aziza Yunus Nchimbi said that the driving factors were the limited understanding on the magnitude and impact of vulnerability for FDCs and its implication on livelihoods around forest protected areas of Zanzibar.

"The study aimed to generate and increase understanding and insight into both poverty and vulnerability of the FDCs, generated by socio-economic transition, environmental and natural disasters, in Zanzibar," she said.

Assessing the vulnerabilities for FDCs is an important factor that could help to determine the strengths, weakness and opportunities of forestry policy and other established programs with regard to Social Protection for FDCs around Forest Protected Areas (FPAs), Ms. Nchimbi added.

According to her, the study explored the magnitude and depth of social protection vulnerability of FDCs living around four forest protected areas of Zanzibar - Jozani National Park, Ngezi-Vumawimbi Nature Forest Reserve, Kiwengwa-Pongwe Forest Reserve and Msitu Mkuu Forest Reserve.

Although, the presence of social protection schemes and institutional support varied with Shehia and districts, about half and eighteen percent of the respondents agreed that the schemes were effective

(Strong foundation)
to deliver you globally-trusted solutions



Market capitalisation of **US\$9.7 billion** and a balance sheet of **US\$91 billion** in assets makes us a leading African banking group.

Visit absa.africa

Absa Group, serving Tanzania as Barclays.



As at 30 June 2019

Absa Group Limited Reg No 1396/000334/06. Absa Group Limited uses Barclays trademarks under license from Barclays Bank Plc.

Kapunga Rice Farm land dispute erupts yet again

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbarali

THE land dispute between investor of Kapunga Rice Farm and the local people in Mbarali District, Mbeya Region has erupted anew following the placing of a new border line around the farm that has encompassed more than 150 houses belonging to the local people including Iyalla B Primary school which are required to be demolished to let the area thereof be part of the farm.

Speaking to reporters on Wednesday at the village, the wananchi said the step of drawing new demarcation lines unearths the conflict under the Fifth-Phase government which its predecessor had solved since 2015.

One of the wananchi - Emily Edward said the new demarcation line has enveloped village settlements including the primary school that was built by the wananchi, that shows how the investor is oblivious to the wananchi efforts in their own development.

Edward said: "We have witnessed the new demarcation line placed by using graders and it has encompassed 150 houses, and we fail to understand the investor's motive."

Manyanya Matabhe, another resident, said the demarcation line has been placed secretly as when they woke up they found their houses were inside the investor's farm.

The former Village Chairman of Kapunga village Ramadhani Nyoni said when the Fifth-Phase government came into power it worked on the then ongoing conflict during which the Minister for Lands and Human Settlement Development William Lukuvi ordered some 1,800 hectares removed from the investor's area and returned to the villagers.

He said this came after it was realised that the area was erroneously included inside investor's farm due to errors in his title deed.

He said when the farm was handed

to the investor it had 5,500 hectares but when the documents were finally made it was 7,370 hectares resulting to the wananchi's humiliation by the investor including their forceful removal.

Nyoni said the government decided to compensate the investor over his Kihansi area which was taken by the government but some Mbarali District government officials wanted to compensate the investor with wananchi's areas - for their own benefits.

Another villager Mohamed Mtupeni questioned where is the 1,800 hectares of land that the government ordered to be returned to the wananchi, because he said, instead of returning land, the investor increases the size of his farm area.

When approached for comment the leadership of Kapunga Rice Farm did not want to say anything on the issue instead they said the man who is in better position to comment on the issue is the Mbarali district Commissioner Reuben Mfuno.

When this paper looked for the DC for comment he said after the government ordered the return of 1,800 hectares to the wananchi, it was then decided to place new demarcation lines to identify the new borders.

He said when land experts went to verify the demarcation lines of the rice farm they discovered that the legal demarcation line includes the area in dispute and that wananchi were dwelling in it without knowing adding that before placing new demarcation lines he went to talk to wananchi to inform them that the area they were in was not theirs, but investor's.

He said the demarcation line is not new, it was there all the time, what was done was to revive it.

Mfuno said after realising that there are human settlements inside the investor's area he will go to talk to them within five days from now.



Arusha regional commissioner Mrisho Gambo (L) exchanges greetings with a Mrisho Gambo Secondary School student moments before receiving desks worth 10m/- donated by NMB Bank Plc and meant for the school. To the RC's left is the bank's northern zone Manager, Aikansia Muro. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Malawi, Tanzania sign agreement on trade cooperation

By Guardian Reporter

THE governments of Tanzania and Malawi have signed a cooperation agreement to increase trade, social relations and infrastructure particularly on ports, roads and aviation.

The agreement also aims to introduce a new law for an enabling environment on trade between the two countries.

This was revealed yesterday in Dar es Salaam by the Minister for works, Transport and Communications Eng Isack Kamwelwe following revision of earlier agreements between the two countries signed in 1987 and explained how the Fifth-Phase government has prepared to open the country to the neighbouring countries via good road infrastructures.

"Tanzania and Malawi have been cooperating for a very long time in areas social relations and transport hence

the new agreement signed is to see how best we can cooperate especially in trade taking into consideration the infrastructure," explained Kamwelwe.

Explaining on our own infrastructure development, Kamwelwe said the government continues in the construction of 50.3 km Mpemba - Isongole road that connects our country to the Malawian border through Chitipa District which when completed will help in the movement of goods and people.

He further said at Kasumulu border post which connects the two countries the government has begun the construction of One Stop Border Post (OSBP) which will ease trade between Tanzania and Malawi.

Eng Kamwelwe said the improvement to Dar es Salaam port including the increase of the depth and its berths - from number 1 to number 7 will enable the port

to serve big ships with 5,000 container capacity at a time.

He said currently Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) is in the process of installing modern flow meters at Dar es Salaam, Tanga and Mtwara ports to ease offloading of bulk oil from ships.

The Malawi Minister for Works and Transport Ralph Jhooma said the contract of agreement that has been signed will be implemented for the benefit of the two countries.

He also said Malawi will fully cooperate with Dar es Salaam Port to be port for traders for strengthening the economy of the two countries.

The agreement has been signed by the ministers from the two countries - the Tanzania Minister for works, Transport and Communications Eng Isack Kamwelwe and his Malawian counterpart Ralph Jhooma.

DC's advice to manufactures: TBS is meant for your good

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

KIBONDO District Commissioner Luis Bura has urged producers, processors and traders to use opportunities provided by the government certification agency particularly in education that would enable them to conduct their activities without problems.

Speaking at the opening of a training seminar organised by Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) for producers and traders in Kibondo district, he said the education would improve their business.

Bura said such trainings would enable them to produce and sell goods which meet quality requirements.

He said production of different goods is crucial for private sector because it help to increase national income, employment creation and poverty alleviation.

The government intention is to be an industrialised nation by 2025. He said the district authorities believe that such trainings are the right way to improve productivity and bring economic development of the country, particularly in industries. Kasulu District Commissioner Simon Anage said most of entrepreneurs form groups without having clear targets, hence do not benefit.

He said the training which involved officials from health department, community development and Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) and other business officers has come at a right time where the government has decided to develop industrial sector.

Anage asked entrepreneurs who are dealing with processing goods to be in groups, invest in land and do their job according to standards requirements.

He said improvement of infrastructures such as roads, rail and aviation would bring more visitors, asking Kasulu residents to use the opportunity. He also insisted on need for entrepreneurs to be innovative by producing different types of goods.

The DC said production of safe and high quality goods would easier penetration in any market being local, zonal or international.

"War against poverty is our issue, the government need your participation in the efforts, including all private institutions in making sure that Tanzania become and industrialised country," he emphasized.

Earlier, TBS Acting director of Quality Assurance, Gervas Kaisi, said the organization understand that the local market has a lot of uncertified products.

He said all products falls under compulsory requirement to be certified by TBS before sent to the market, and going contrary to it contravenes the Standard Act No 2 of the year 2009.

The seminars which were held in Kasulu and Kibondo districts respectively, are part of trainings provided by officials of the Standard Watchdog to entrepreneurs countrywide to impart them with various issues related to standards, registration of premises, processing technology, business registration and education of packaging materials.

Such trainings also enlighten entrepreneurs on food production premises such as hotels, cafes and other areas. A total of 167 participants took part during the seminars, whereas 73 were from Kasulu district and 94 from Kibondo district, both in Kigoma region.



ADVERTISEMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

TENDER TITLE: CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE DESIGN AND SUPERVISION OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF KIGALI WHOLESALE MARKET FOR FRESH PRODUCE

TENDER NUMBER: PRQ20190299

The National Agricultural Export Board (NAEB) Rwanda, with support from TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) is seeking proposals from qualified consultancy firms/consortiums to provide Consultancy Services for Design and Supervision of the Construction of Kigali Wholesale Market for Fresh Produce.

Terms of reference for this consultancy and the tender document can be obtained at <https://www.trademarkea.com/procurement/>. All queries quoting the above Tender Title and Number should be emailed to procurement@trademarkea.com. The closing date for submissions is 17 December 2019.

You are further advised that only applications from firms/consortiums shall be accepted. Interested and qualified consultancy firms/consortiums should submit bids in line with the bidding instructions in the tender document.

TMEA cannot answer any query relating to this tender ten days or less prior to the submission deadline.



Growing Prosperity Through Trade

Distributed via iippmedia

World Vision

World Vision is a Christian Development, Relief and Advocacy Non-Government Organization dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. World Vision is committed to the protection of children and does not employ people whose background is not suitable for working with children. All employment is conditioned upon successful completion of all applicable background checks, including criminal record.

"Our vision for every child, Life in all its fullness; Our prayer for every Heart, the will to make it so".

World Vision Tanzania is seeking to get in touch with its former Sponsored Children who are now in the following areas:

Business, Law, Agriculture, Education, Health, Engineering, Environmental Protection, Communication and Public Relations, Economic Development, Church Leadership (Pastors), Police, Army and Members of Parliament

If you fall within this category kindly contact us through this email: tanzania@wvi.org

French ambassador calls for public-private partnership in health sector

By Getrude Mbago

FRENCH Ambassador to Tanzania, Frederic Clavier has underscored the need for increased public-private partnerships to fight the growing impacts of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in the country.

The World Health Organisation estimates that deaths from NCDs in the African region will increase by 27 percent by the year 2030, which amounts for 28 million additional

deaths.

In Tanzania, at least 31 percent of all deaths have been associated to NCDs, with the main killers identified as Cardiovascular Diseases at nine percent and Cancers at five percent.

Speaking during the launch of the first "French Health Care Day" in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday the envoy called for more investments which include implementing a sustainable development strategy in the area to combat the diseases and hence reduce

mortality rates.

Organised by the embassy in close collaboration with Sanofi and Biomerieux, the event brought together health experts from over 50 French companies to identify key solutions to improve healthcare system and facilitating its access.

Ambassador Clavier noted that heart diseases, cancer, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases and TB are also on the rise and the numbers are expected to increase in the next decade.

"The impact of NCDs is highly growing; cardio-vascular infections and cancers could increase to up to 50 percent by 2030. So we should ensure that we invest in regular screening, experts, equipment and public awareness programmes for early detection and treatment," he said.

He added that, "by choosing to support the health sector among others, France shows its confidence in Tanzania in the key field of development. It is also a pride to work

in close partnership and trust with the Aga Khan Development Network to help improve health care delivery in the country."

Meanwhile, Aga Khan Health Service, East Africa Regional Chief Executive Officer, Sulaiman Shahabuddin pointed out that investment in early diagnosis is key in fighting mortality rates.

He said that researches have shown that half of the health problems can be solved and early diagnosis of diseases like cancer can be done by primary

care practitioners.

Dr Siana Nkya from Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (Muhas) stressed on the need to invest in newborn screening for sickle cell disease and linking those detected with the disease to comprehensive care for better health development.

She said that a number of deaths attributed to sickle cell disease can be significantly reduced if more investment is put in screening newborn babies.



Dealer Ambrose Mally (L) picks a ticket at the first draw of the Kilimanjaro Water promotion held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Awards for winners include motorbikes, TV sets and cartons of the popular brand of bottled water. Photo: Selemani Mpochi

By Guardian Correspondent, Kisarawe

Kisarawe DC calls on residents to cooperate with Tanesco workers

KISARAWA District Commissioner Jokate Mwegelo yesterday called on residents to give workers of the Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (Tanesco) the cooperation they need.

The DC's call came at the time when Tanesco prepares to link Gumba area through Christon Boys Secondary in the district, to national grid and open up the area for small and medium industrial investments.

DC Mwegelo told residents while on a tour of the area and Christon Boys Secondary School, that the government's ambition to encourage financiers of agro-industries to invest in Gumba area and the district as a whole would depend on the enthusiasm and cooperation the residents offered to Tanesco workers who, she said, were working hard to link the area and the secondary school to the national grid.

The DC was thankful to the national power utility firm's workers who in turn pledged to execute the project

with renewed vigour.

"Electricity is an important means in multiplying investment opportunities and lifting people's socio-economic status and raising academic performance. Power from the national grid is cheaper and reliable. I appeal to every one of you to give maximum cooperation to Tanesco workers as they work hard to link this area to the national grid," the DC said.

She reminded that taking electricity to the people was one of the strategic priorities of the government led by President John Magufuli, and that it would be welcome if the project was completed before the end of the fourth year of the Magufuli administration.

Implementation of the Gumba project starts on Monday (November 11, this year). The school's headmaster, August Minja thanked the government and Tanesco for the keen interest in the

project.

"This project opens up our area for varied investments. As for our school, grid power will save us from the big costs we have been incurring on buying fuel to run diesel generators," he said.

A form three student, Juma Maulidi, said students would benefit immensely from reliable grid power because, he said, power from generators was unreliable and cumbersome.

"Reliable power will be another academic incentive to us," he said.

Kisarawe District, part of the Coast Region, has annual population growth rate of 2.2 percent -- 0.6 percent rural and 6.6 percent urban. It is the third largest district, out of the region's six districts. It borders Kibaha district which is the region's industrial corner stone to the north.

The region's average literacy rate is 73.6 per cent.

Hundreds attending biometric registration awareness campaign in Mafia, says TCRA

By Guardian Correspondent, Mafia

HUNDREDS of residents in the Indian Ocean Mafia Island yesterday came out in large numbers to the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) campaign, which is aimed at enhancing public knowledge and awareness on the ongoing biometric registration.

In the campaign dubbed 'auction to auction', TCRA is working in collaboration with mobile phone operators, police through cybercrime department, the National Identification Authority (NIDA) and immigration department.

Speaking at Kilindoni grounds in the district, Head of TCRA in Eastern Zone, Eng Lawi Odiero said that since its commencement, the campaign has reached 17 regions in the country thus enabling people to recognise the importance of the biometric registration.

He urged Mafia residents to utilize the opportunity by ensuring that they come out to register their sim cards for smooth communications ahead of the deadline in December 31, this year.

He said that the authority is well prepared to ensure that it reaches all owners of sim cards while capacitating them with essential communication education and addressing various challenges facing consumers. "Apart from normal communication education, the authority in collaboration with mobile phone operators and police through cybercrime department, educates the public on safe use of communication and cybercrime issues," he added.

Meanwhile, TCRA senior communication officer Mabel Masasi said: "Our target is to reach as many people as possible. We're encouraged with the number of people who turned up in the campaign."

In May, this year, the government through Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority (TCRA) directed all Subscriber Identification Module (Sim) cards users to biometrically register their lines by the end of the year.

In March, TCRA launched a pilot project to register Sim cards using the technology in Zanzibar and Dodoma, Dar es Salaam, Coast Region, Singida, Tanga and Iringa regions.

According to the regulator, the move was meant to get rid of dishonest Sim card users and registration agents who harboured malicious intentions, including committing crimes. Subscribers will have to register their Sim cards through biometric technology, using Nida IDs or at least a Nida registration number by December 31.



Jhpiego is an international non-profit health organization affiliated with the Johns Hopkins University. For more than 45 years now, Jhpiego has empowered front-line health workers by designing and implementing effective, low-cost, hands-on solutions to strengthen the delivery of health care services for women and their families. By putting evidence-based health innovations into everyday practice, Jhpiego works to break down barriers to high-quality health care for the world's most vulnerable populations. Jhpiego, implementing a number of projects in Tanzania, wishes to recruit a Communications Specialist.

Communications Specialist—Africa Region [One position. To be based either in Tanzania or at any Jhpiego country office in the East, Central, or Southern Africa region]

Summary Scope of Work:

Reporting to the Communications Manager—Africa Region, the Communications Specialist—Africa Region will work collaboratively with the Global Engagement and Communications (GECO) Office to promote Jhpiego to external audiences with a focus on positioning the organization in the continent, its programs, innovations and successful interventions as technical leaders in maternal and newborn health. The Africa region Specialist will assist the Africa Communications Manager in executing the GECO's communications plan for Africa. This will include building capacity of local staff to meet communication standards, working with stakeholders and the media across the region, documenting impact with stories and photography and supporting in-country communications efforts. The Communications Specialist will work to ensure Jhpiego staff across departments are familiar with organizational communications policies, standards, guidelines, key messages and their responsibilities as ambassadors in promoting the organization and its achievements.

Responsibilities:

- Support the Communications Manager—Africa Region in the execution of Jhpiego strategic communications plan and the integration of communications across the organization as stated in the organization's Strategic Plan
- Work with country teams to identify and document audience-specific impact stories and communication materials
- Strengthen the capacity and skills of Jhpiego country communications staff or liaisons throughout Africa on best practices for identifying, documenting and developing compelling communication deliverables (success stories, photography, infographics, social media posts, events and media outreach)
- Write and/or pitch to local and international media stories about the work of Jhpiego
- Work closely with staff in Baltimore and globally to develop accurate, creative story ideas for marketing materials
- Work with Global Programs Office, the Technical Leadership and Innovations Office and all Jhpiego departments to integrate communications messaging and processes throughout the organization
- Find new and innovative avenues to communicate Jhpiego key messages
- Provide technical support for communications to field staff

Required Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in communications, public relations, marketing, journalism, or related field
- Strong non-technical writing skills
- 5+ years writing and communication experience, preferably in the health or development field
- Strong organizational, analytical and assessment skills
- Understanding of communications channels, including electronic and print media in Africa and globally
- Ability to develop communications plans to synchronize with organizational goals in fundraising and development, government and corporate relations
- Ability to develop and maintain relationships with audiences important to Jhpiego, including news media, legislators, donors and prospective donors, and corporate leaders
- Ability to represent Jhpiego effectively to external audiences including corporate and foundation executives, business and government organizations and other cooperating agencies
- Knowledge of social network and media communications
- Ability to meet deadlines under extreme pressure
- Ability to build consensus and work with diverse groups of people
- Experience and ability to travel to developing countries
- Fluency in English. Knowledge of French is an added advantage

Jhpiego offers a competitive package to selected candidates in line with academic qualifications and relevant experience.

To apply please indicate the position title on the subject line of your e-mail, i.e. **Application for Communications Specialist**. All applications should include an up-to-date CV with three contactable professional references, a cover letter and your salary history.

The address to send your application: HRTZ@jhpiego.org

Please note we will contact shortlisted candidates only. The closing date for applications is two weeks after the first appearance of this advert.

Caution to the applicants:

There have been some bogus adverts online that require candidates to apply through some email addresses of public domains e.g. Yahoo, Gmail, Hotmail, etc. Kindly note: HRTZ@jhpiego.org is the address to use for this application. Please ignore any of those adverts. We also do not charge any application fee nor entertain any meetings or unofficial telephone calls. If shortlisted, you will receive an official call from our office and informed of required steps to follow. If you suspect any wrong – doing, kindly write to the Director of Human Resource, through inquiries.tz@jhpiego.org

Your mobile line will be disconnected if you don't re-register your line with biometric before December 31st.

Visit any of operator agents with your NIDA number to re-register your line. It's easy and fast.

Issued by:

In collaboration with:

Petrobena donate bags of cement to improve school infrastructure in Tabora

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

PETROBENA East Africa Company Limited, a local fertiliser supplier, has donated 100 bags of cement that will be distributed to needy Tabora District schools for classrooms and other infrastructural improvements.

It has also donated unspecified amount of fertiliser – Oresha brand – for tender trees being planted in a bid to increase selected plants and flora in Tabora municipality.

Receiving the donations, Tabora District Commissioner Komanya Kitwala thanked the company for the donations saying: Petrobena was showing the way in corporate generosity to the public. “We thank you for the big-heartedness and your concern for the development of our district.

The most important thing is to ensure the donations are used well and profitably,” he said.

Kitwala said Petrobena's donations was a good example that Tanzanians cannot depend solely on their government for everything, and called on other companies to support public social projects.

Petrobena Managing Director Peter Kumalilwa said the company's social corporate responsibility policy

emphasises on promotion of public social projects and protection of environment. “We cannot separate the growth of this company from pressing needs of society and protection of environment and this explains our contributions. We shall continue to plough back into society the little we can afford,” he pledged.

Kumalilwa said their company will continue to support the government's initiatives in creating a favourable environment for socio-economic growth of Tanzanians, adding that their company supports government's plans to make Tanzania a middle-income industrial nation.

The company is a key supplier of fertilisers, other farm inputs and extension services to Tabora tobacco growers.

Tabora is one of Tanzania's districts that need public support in increasing classrooms in order to implement universal primary education.



The most important thing is to ensure the donations are used well and profitably



Petrobena East African Limited managing director Peter Kumalilwa (2nd-R) joins farmers' representatives and Yara Tanzania officials in symbolically lifting bags of fertiliser presented to farmers in Tabora Region yesterday. The firm, which deals in the distribution of agricultural inputs, also handed over 100 bags of cement for use in the construction of classrooms in the region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter, Moshi

TANZANIA can significantly reduce deforestation and at the same time earn billions of shilling annually by introducing vanilla cultivation within its forests, it was said here yesterday.

In his presentation on tropical forest restoration with vanilla during the world vanilla conference taking place here, researcher Nicholas Scott from Reading University in the UK said the practice has shown positive results in Madagascar which has lost 60 per cent of its forests since 1950.

Go for vanilla cultivation in forests to curb deforestation, earn money, Tanzania urged

He claimed that this kind of vanilla cultivation works well by establishing Forest Management Units (FMU) to secure land tenure.

Also, it creates employment and income for communities surrounding the forests who automatically become protectors of the woodlands.

“This turns informal economy to formal and taxable,” he said.

Scott said Tanzania which has signed various international commitments to save its dwindling forest cover can now use vanilla cultivation within forests to discourage illegal logging, create sustainable income for local communities

and earn revenue.

It takes three years from planting to the first harvest. However, vanilla being a perennial crop, harvesting continues for up to 15 years, making it not just part of the forest but a lucrative source of income

“Tanzania, Uganda, Madagascar

and the Democratic Republic of Congo all have the same potential to benefit immensely from vanilla forest,” he said.

One kilo of the dried vanilla beans currently go for between 80,000/- to 120,000/-

But the crop that is friendly to tropi-

cal climate does not thrive just anywhere.

In Tanzania, the spice crop grows in Kilimanjaro, Kagera, Morogoro, Tanga and Mbeya regions as well as Zanzibar.

Environmentalists warn that more than 370,000 hectares (915,000 acres) of forests are being cut in Tanzania every year, mostly for fuel. This is the stark reality at a time when recent statistics show that 2.3 million tonnes of charcoal are consumed in the country each year with roughly half of it in Dar es Salaam alone and demand expected to double by 2030.

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA MINISTRY OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS TANZANIA PORTS AUTHORITY



1. TENDER No. AE/016/2017-18/CTB/CG/11 LOT B FOR SUPPLY AND COMMISSIONING OF ONE UNIT OF HYDROGRAPHIC BOAT FOR DAR ES SALAAM.
2. TENDER No. AE/016/2018-19/CTB/CG/10 LOT 2 FOR SUPPLY AND COMMISSIONING OF ONE UNIT SECURITY DINGHY BOAT FOR DAR ES SALAAM.

Wednesday 6th November, 2019

Section I: Tender Invitation

1. This invitation for Bids follows the **General Procurement Notice** for the year 2018/19 which appeared in the **Guardian** of 27th August, 2018.
2. Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) has set aside funds in its 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 financial year budget to cover procurement of:
 - (i) TENDER No. AE/016/2017-18/CTB/CG/11 LOT B FOR SUPPLY AND COMMISSIONING OF ONE UNIT OF HYDROGRAPHIC BOAT FOR DAR ES SALAAM.
 - (ii) TENDER No. AE/016/2018-19/CTB/CG/10 LOT 2 FOR SUPPLY AND COMMISSIONING OF ONE UNIT SECURITY DINGHY BOAT FOR DAR ES SALAAM.
3. TPA now invites sealed tenders under **International Competitive Bidding (ICB)** procedures specified in the **Public Procurement Act No 7 of 2011 (Goods, Works, Non-Consultancy Service and Disposal of Public Assets by Tender) Regulations, 2013 – Government Notice No. 446.**
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding Documents at the office of the **Director of Procurement and Contracts, TPA – One Stop Center Building, 26th floor, located at Sokoine Drive, Near TRA Long Room Building P. O. Box 9184, Dar es Salaam** from 09.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on Mondays to Fridays inclusive except on public holidays.
5. A complete set of the tendering document and additional sets may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address given under paragraph 4 above upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **TZS 100,000.00**. Payment should be either by banker's cheque or cash payable to the Director General. **Control Number for purchase of the tender should be obtained at Cashier Office located at Bandari Tower, One Stop Centre Building 31st Floor.**
6. All tenders must be accompanied by a **Bid Securing Declaration** in the format provided in **Section IX** of this tender Document. Insurance Bonds will not be accepted. Tenders not accompanied by a tender **Securing Declaration** will be rejected.
7. All Tenders dully completed in **one original plus one copy** should be submitted in plain sealed envelopes clearly marked **“TENDER No. AE/016/2018-19/CTB/CG/12 LOT 1 FOR SUPPLY, INSTALLATION OF NORTHERN FENDER FOR KOJ and addressed to Secretary, Central Tender Board, TPA Tower One Stop Center Building, Sokoine Drive P.O. Box 9184, Dar es Salaam** or deposited in the Tender Box which is in **TPA One Stop Center Building, 26th floor, located at Sokoine Drive, Near TRA Long Room Building**, before the deadline for submission of bids.
8. Pre bid meeting will be held on **Friday 15th November, 2019** at TPA – One Stop Center Building, 26th floor, Conference Room located at Sokoine Drive at **10.00 a.m.**
9. The deadline for submission of tenders shall be **Friday 29th November, 2019** at 10.00 a.m. local time; thereafter all tenders will be opened publicly in TPA – One Stop Center Building, 26th floor, Conference Room. Bidders and/or their Representatives who wish to witness the opening are welcome to attend.
10. Late Tenders, Portion of Tenders, Electronic Tenders, Tenders not received, Tenders not opened and read out in public at the tender opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.
11. Note that Tanzania Ports Authority is not obliged to accept the lowest or any Bid.

Director General,
Tanzania Ports Authority,
P.O. Box 9184,
DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA
Tel No: +255 022 2111 315
Fax No: +255 022 2112 678,
E-mail: dg@ports.go.tz

215507501



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR Consultant - Gender Assessment

BACKGROUND

FAO's Policy on Gender Equality established the preparation of a Country Gender Assessment as a minimum requirement for country level planning and programming in particular for the formulation of the Country Programming Framework (CPF). The rationale behind this requirement is that it is fundamental for FAO to have up-to-date objective information at hand to be able to plan evidence-based country level support towards gender equality and women's empowerment.

The Assessment focuses on agriculture and the rural sector. Therefore, the objective of the CGA is to carry out a specific analysis of the gender dimensions of the agriculture and rural development sectors. Specifically, it should explore existing gender inequalities in various subsectors of agriculture, their causes and their impact on the economic and social development of rural areas and on food security and nutrition. The aim of the assessment is to explore the situation of rural women compared to men's and to understand the extent to which rural women are able to realize their rights and potential in those areas where FAO is mandated to assist its Member Countries.

The Country Gender Assessment of the Agriculture and Rural Sector (CGA-ARS) has the objective of revealing gender disparities in access to critical resources, knowledge, opportunities and markets, which have been shown to contribute to low agricultural productivity and food and nutrition insecurity.

OBJECTIVES OF THE MTR

The objectives of the CGA-ARS are to:

- Inform FAO country level planning and programming in line with national development priorities and FAO's mandate and strategic framework;
- Facilitate FAO's contribution to the UN Country Team CEDAW Report with up-to-date and objective information on the situation of rural women in the country.
- Support the FAO country office with updated information on the situation of gender in agriculture and the rural sector to facilitate plans for gender mainstreaming in various projects and programmes

Tasks and responsibilities

Under the general supervision of the FAO Representative and the technical supervision of the Gender Focal Point, and with technical advice from the Social Protection Division (ESP)'s gender team in FAO Regional office and Headquarters, s/he will:

- Carry out a comprehensive **Country Gender Assessment of the Agriculture and Rural Sector (CGA-ARS)** (20 days).
- desk review of available secondary information on the gender equality situation of the country
- identify gaps in the information needed to complete the assessment if need be i.e. a primary data collection needs to be carried out to complement the desk review

- Analyse, organize and report collected data, highlighting the main sources of gender inequalities in the country pertaining to the agricultural sub-sectors and rural development.
- Include a stakeholder's analysis to help FRURT identify potential partners in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women in agriculture and the rural sector in the country.

Required Competencies (Qualifications and experience):

- Advanced university degree in Sociology, Social Sciences, Economics, Development Economics, or other related disciplines

Technical Competencies and Experience Requirements

- Excellent oral and written English language skills
- Excellent knowledge of the key gender equality, social equity and women's empowerment issues in the United Republic of Tanzania and/or the East African region in the context of agriculture and rural development,
- Demonstrated ability (through publications in English language) to produce written analysis of socio-economic and gender issues,
- Significant experience in analysing and integrating the perspective of gender equality in programme formulation in the context of agriculture and rural development and experience in socio-economic and gender analysis
- Familiarity with key factors affecting Gender, Agriculture and Rural Development
- Significant knowledge of the UN System, its working and programming mechanism, knowledge of FAO would be an asset
- At least 10 years of working experience.

Duration: 30 days

Remuneration: Based on UN Local Consultants rate for Tanzania

How to Apply

Candidates should complete the FAO Personal Profile Form (PPF) accessible at: <http://www.fao.org/employment/irecruitment/en/>.

Please note the application is not online however, the PPF is to be done online and downloaded.

Applications should include the dully filled PPF, cover letter, detailed CV and a one page Concept Note on the understanding of the assignment and methodology by COB 15th November, 2019. All applications should be sent to the email address **FAO-TZ@fao.org**

Applications should be addressed to:

FAO Representative
SIDA H, Ada Estate
Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road
P. O. Box 2 Dar es Salaam
TANZANIA

215507401



Hyundai East Africa Ltd director general Mehboob Karmali (R) has a quick word with Fair Competition Commission director general Dr John Mduma in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly after the opening of the three-day 22nd East Africa International Trade Exhibition. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Drugs for TB, malaria could hold the key to winning war against African swine fever, scientists from China report

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

DRUGS developed to fight tuberculosis or malaria could help fight African swine fever, according to China's top viral research agencies.

There is currently no cure for swine fever, which has devastated China's domestic herds and caused a 70 per cent rise in pork prices due to the resulting shortages.

Since the first reported detection of the virus last summer, more than 1 million pigs have been culled, according to the Chinese government's statistics.

Now the pandemic has spread to farms in every province and region, while 50 other countries have reported outbreaks, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation.

But the latest research suggests that the African swine fever virus has a critical structure that is similar to the microorganisms that cause malaria and TB in humans.

Drugs targeting these structures have already been developed for those diseases and they may hold the key to fighting African swine fever as well, according to a paper published in the journal mBio last week.

The new study, led by virology professor Gao Fu from the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention in Beijing, examines an enzyme that protects the DNA of the virus.

The EI65R enzyme is a protein that can prevent and correct mistakes in the copying of genetic information - so if a drug can be developed to disable it, the virus will perish.

The problem is that similar enzymes can be found in many live forms and no one knew its exact structure in the viral strain of African swine fever.

Gao's team painstakingly separated the protein from the virus. They then crystallised it with a special mixture of chemicals to make its three-dimensional structure sharper.

Using a high-definition electron mi-

croscope, they were able to study in detail the enzyme's "active site", where critical activities such as chemical reactions and molecular binding take place.

Crucially, they discovered that its structure is almost identical to those that have been found in the bacteria or parasites that cause tuberculosis and malaria.

The chemicals that had been designed to inhibit the two human diseases "may also be effective for inhibiting EI65R ... activity or could serve as lead compounds for designing novel anti-(swine fever) drugs", Gao's team reported.

The study is not the only swine fever breakthrough made by Chinese scientists in recent months.

A separate team from the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Harbin Veterinary Research Institute published results in Science magazine last month revealing the overall structure of the virus in unprecedented detail, which has helped to develop a vaccine that remains to be tested.

Drugs developed to fight tuberculosis or malaria could help fight African swine fever, according to China's top viral research agencies. There is currently no cure for swine fever, which has devastated China's domestic herds and caused a 70 per cent rise in pork prices due to the resulting shortages.

Since the first reported detection of the virus last summer, more than 1 million pigs have been culled, according to the Chinese government's statistics.

Now the pandemic has spread to farms in every province and region, while 50 other countries have reported outbreaks, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation.

But the latest research suggests that the African swine fever virus has a critical structure that is similar to the microorganisms that cause malaria and TB in humans.

Youth missing out on skills needed at workplaces today

NAIROBI

THERE is a widened gap between the skills youth possess upon entering the workforce and the current and emerging needs in Kenya's job market today.

This is according to the 'Job Entry-Level Skills: Seizing the Moment, Securing the Future' report by Aga Khan University's East Africa Institute.

The study was conducted in 24 counties in Kenya and involved the interviewing of over 9,000 employers and employees. It found that the service sector was growing fast - far outpacing manufacturing and agriculture, which have in the past been perceived to be offering most of the level entry opportunities to the country's youth.

It showed that youth leaving tertiary institutions and universities may have technical skills, but they lack the soft skills that are critical to the operations of the service sector, causing a mis-

match between education and the job market.

"Given the distribution of jobs and the skills that employers and youth need, our study confirms that Kenya's economy is predominantly driven by the service industry, where skills of a technical nature are less demanded," said Dr Alex Awiti, Aga Khan University Vice Provost East Africa.

"However, youth interviewed said they were unable to acquire employment owing to corruption, lack of required experience by employers and lack of capital to start their own businesses," he noted.

In Nairobi, Mombasa, Kiambu, Nakuru and Uasin Gishu counties, four out of five of the youth surveyed were employed in the service sector - which includes retail, wholesale, accommodation, transport, finance, education and food services.

Speaking at launch of the report, Nai-

robi Senator Johnson Sakaja made a commitment to rallying support within the government to ensure that the recommendations of the survey were implemented.

"The soft skills are what employers are looking for but can't find. For instance, our system has put down creativity. We, therefore, need to focus on how we build these skills and grow our service sector more," he said.

"We also see indicators showing that the economy is growing, but at the same time jobs are shrinking, making security one of the biggest threats to this country, as a result of disillusioned and disengaged youth," he added.

Julius Korir, Principal Secretary for the State Department of Public Service, commended Aga Khan University for the survey and said the ministry would use the current data and insights in the report to inform policy interventions aimed at addressing youth unemploy-

ment in the country.

The study highlights the dire need for collaboration and coordination between employers and training institutions. According to employers, most of the youth hired at entry-level lack the skills and competencies needed for the workplace - among them communication, marketing and sales, numeracy and entrepreneurship.

Youth interviewed in the study cited low pay (30 per cent), lack of experience (47 per cent) and corruption (50 per cent) as barriers to finding entry-level jobs.

The report recommends the need to build human capital for future economy fuelled by Vision 2030, meaning a newly industrialising middle-income country and what will define the future of work - the 4th Industrial Revolution, where robotics, Artificial Intelligence and Virtual Reality are transforming businesses, leisure and work.



www.camfed.org
tanzania@camfed.org
+255 22 276 1065 / 1066
Ursino Estate South, Plot No 44, Uporoto Street,
(PO Box 33835), Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

TENDER FOR PURCHASE OF USED MOTOR VEHICLE

Interested bidders are invited to bid for the purchase of used MOTOR VEHICLE as shown below:

Lot #	Description	Year of purchase	Registration	Condition	Description
Lot # 1.	Toyota Land Cruiser GX Standard	2006	T 931 ARD	Running	White color, passenger 9 Above 2501CC, Diesel

Interested bidders will be allowed to verify /check the Vehicles during working hours from 9:30am to 4:30pm at CAMFED Tanzania premises located at Uporoto Street, plot # 44; behind Tan House Building, Victoria, Dar es Salaam.

Special condition:

- A successful bidder is required to pay 25% of the price, and finalize the rest by 2 months' otherwise the next highest bidder will be given the opportunity.
- All bids in its original letter and enclosed in plain sealed envelope must be delivered and put in the tender box located at the front desk of CAMFED reception Dar es Salaam respectively at local time from 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. on Mondays to Fridays except on public holidays.
- Indicate clearly your daily contacts in your application letter, Full name, mobile number, email etc.
- A payment of a non-refundable fee of TZS 50,000.00. Payment should be deposited to CRDB Bank, Account name: CAMFED Tanzania Limited; Account number 0150030370800, Dar es Salaam. Deposit slip must be attached in your letter.
- Vehicle shall be bought "as is where basis is."
- Bids will be opened on Tuesday, 19th November 2019 at 11.00 am at CAMFED Conference Room in public and in the presence of bidders / bidder's representative who choose to attend in the opening ceremony.
- The envelope should be properly sealed and marked Tender for "Purchase of Used Motor vehicle with registration number T931 ARD. Specify vehicle registration number."
- Late bids, electronic bids and bids not received in time will not be opened and read in public during the bid opening ceremony and shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.
- CAMFED Tanzania is not bound to accept the highest bid which have not reached the Market value.
- Tender in plain sealed envelope clearly marked "TENDER FOR PURCHASE OF USED MOTOR VEHICLE" should be addressed to:

Chair Procurement Committee,
CAMFED Tanzania
P. O. Box 33835
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

215506201



Embassy of the United States of America

U.S. MISSION DAR ES SALAAM VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The U.S. Mission in Dar es Salaam is seeking eligible and qualified applicants for the position below.

Position Title: Administrative Assistant - OSC

Vacancy Number: DaresSalaam-2019-041

A copy of the complete position description listing all duties, responsibilities and qualifications required is available at:

<https://tz.usembassy.gov/embassy/jobs/>

HOW TO APPLY:

Applicants MUST follow instructions in the notice on the website:

Failure to do so will result in an incomplete application.

Previous applicants do not need to reapply.

Only Shortlisted candidates will be contacted only via email.

CLOSING DATE: November 30, 2019

215506202

FRIDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2019

**Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995**

Direct links with world-renowned dealers good for tanzanite pricing

A DELEGATION of senior officials of two US dealers in pricey gemstones including tanzanite were in Arusha early this week, visiting the Mirerani source of the gemstone, with information from the meeting ascertaining that more than 80 per cent of the gemstones usually ends up in the US market.

It is this important such links are created and consolidated, so as to end the substantial erosion of tanzanite pricing on account of taking into account earnings of middlemen. They may still be there but only as final agents.

This is at least what can be expected from the visit, coming in the wake of reports that tanzanite prices were depressing somewhat, which first appeared as a shock, then a routine worry and finally even as something to be comprehended.

There is a worldwide diminution of prices of materials owing to reduced demand, where even a temporary stoppage of flow of crude and refined oil from Saudi Arabia only marginally affected prices.

And when it was assured that the flow would resume in a matter of weeks, whatever price gains that had been registered were soon corrected, as bunkers were reassured of its flow.

The delegation from US firms Tanzanite International and Diamond International and the sort of agency accords that can be struck with producers, where the firms buy more or less directly or via an accredited agent rather than independent middlemen, is a good start.

The point is that, if there are other minerals or crops with major buyers rather than disjointed and unpredictable market outlets, the same arrangement can be sought after.

It would significantly contribute

to enhance price stability, and cut on likely middlemen cartels that can momentarily bring down prices, and at times it remains so for years.

Direct purchasing is good business not only for producers but also the buyers as middlemen aren't just a pain in the neck for producers but also importers or brand owning cutting firms, selling finished products.

The difference is that the cutters and brand owners can far more easily absorb price variations as it is more significant at the Mirerani spot sale or earlier, in often informal auction centres in Nairobi, etc than producers can afford such variations.

Thus, direct purchasing is useful for brand owners and absolutely essential for producers, as it now appears it is likely to be the case with the delegation visiting Mirerani.

We have witnessed a huge difference since President John Magufuli moved to direct Medical Stores Department to purchase drugs directly from manufacturers, as well as ordering other equipment instead of having a list of tendering firms for various drugs or supplies.

This shift has been pivotal in realising, as closely as possible, universal availability of essential drugs in dispensaries and health centres, apart from general hospitals. It can also be applied with mineral dealings, exports.

Just how the visit by this delegation was conceived by the two companies wasn't altogether evident in the press reports, but it is conceivable that economic diplomacy had to do with it.

Even if the main initiative was from the two firms, we can still take it up as an example to apply to our other areas of need. It is a model that can't just be put aside, letting middlemen thrive while their time is up, like other deal titans.

It's high time conflicts pitting farmers against herders ended

LAND-RELATED disputes, most pitting farmers against herders, are still relatively common in various parts of Tanzania.

It is difficult to explain why they refuse to go away, despite years of efforts by the government and other agencies to end them once and for all.

Some of the disputes keep resurfacing, after apparently having been solved, examples including the one reported in today's issue of this paper - between villagers and a rice farm investor in Mbarali District, Mbeya Region.

We all agree as to the intricacy and sensitivity of the issue, which is why we ought to agree that the post of the Lands minister is not the one to yearn for.

A few years ago, land disputes between farmers and herders cost the job of a regional commissioner. Many other lesser officials also 'fell' in similar fashion elsewhere.

Sadly, some of these conflicts have spurred physical, with lives having been lost and property damaged or destroyed in the wake of misunderstandings between pastoralists and farmers.

Immediate past President Jakaya Kikwete once demanded an end to the conflicts between farmers and pastoralists and urged the protagonists to adopt a scientific approach towards a lasting solving.

He directed ministries overseeing the land, agriculture and livestock dockets to have well laid-out strategies on land ownership, management and use able to rein in the wrangles that kept recurring between the two groups.

However, it is clear that this was not done - and, if it was, then probably it was not with deserving seriousness - and so the sad situation continues to date.

As a saying goes, traditions die hard: pastoralists' lives have not changed much since independence over 50

years ago.

And despite concerted efforts by the government and other groups including the civil society to embark on modern livestock keeping by reducing the sizes of their herds, there is not much improvement.

Pastoralists have been literally roaming part of the country with big herds of livestock, mainly cattle, in search of pasture and water.

It might be an exaggeration suggesting that the pastoralists are out to impose their migrant lifestyle and to farmers, but why this endless stand-off?

Meanwhile, some grassroots authorities are associated with ineffectiveness and corrupt practices translating into the undermining or manipulating the parties to the wrangles through the shady granting of land use leases, and therefore further fuelling discord between the said parties.

Additionally, lack of community safety nets and a specific land policy respective to pastoralism and migration of livestock has led to disproportionate loss of forest cover over a bigger part of our land.

In less than a generation, much land has been reduced to waste from Shinyanga Region right to Morogoro Region's Kilombero plains and on to Tabora, Mbeya, Rukwa and Iringa, creating havoc to farmers and wildlife alike.

Some ten years ago, pastoralists started trickling into Lindi and Coast regions - in the Rufiji Delta - as a prelude to the making of Mtwaru the country's designated exporting port for livestock.

We call on the government to review this ecological and environmental disaster before the whole of our country degenerates into desert.

Both pastoralists and farmers also need to appreciate the fact that their lifestyles ought to support the furtherance of the country's economic impetus - for their own very existence.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

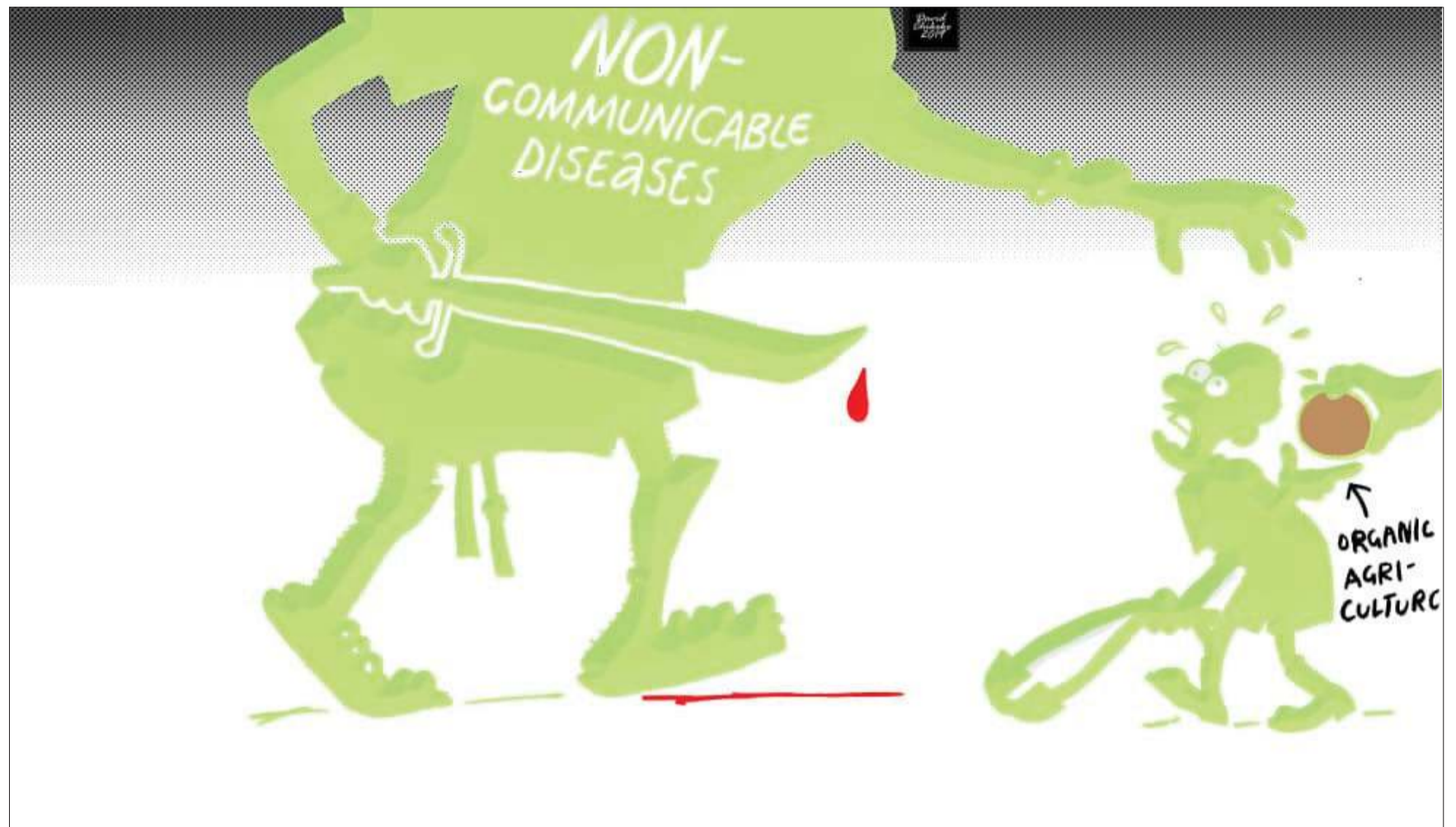
Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757154767
General line: 0745700710
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Manager Sales and Marketing: KAUTHAR DSOUZA
0767223311
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: www.ippmedia.com
epaper.ippmedia.com



Nigeria's Obasanjo flies the flag for a strong oil and gas future

CAPE TOWN

NIGERIA is the second biggest oil-rich country in Africa, after Libya, and the commercialisation of resources has been in the hands of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), the agency established in 1977 as a merger of the Nigerian National Oil Corporation and the country's Mines and Steel federal ministry.

A man that was pivotal to Nigeria's oil activities as well as setting the nation on the path to democracy was Olusegun Obasanjo. He was president of Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, from 1999 to 2007 - overseeing his country's first democratic handover of power and administrative reforms that accelerated economic growth.

General Obasanjo is credited for his pivotal role in the regeneration and repositioning of the African Union, including helping to establish the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), designed to promote democracy and good governance.

Despite being out of office for 12 years, Obasanjo is still a very influential and popular figure in the continent and at this year's Africa Oil Week he was on hand to give his view on a sector that he helped to shape. "Over the 26 years that it has been in existence, I think the fortune of the African oil and gas sector has been up and down," he says.

He elaborates: "I will not dwell too

much on the past, except to let the past enlighten our present, and our future. Not too long ago somebody looked at me and said to me, you will drink your oil. I thought he was angry because the price of oil was high, and I said to him, we will use our oil, will you join with me in using our oil? I was of course coming from an oil producing and exporting country."

Facing up to challenging times

Despite his optimism, Obasanjo admits that the sector faces some challenges on the continent over the coming decades. "The challenges that we face in Africa are adequate investment in oil and gas, challenges of infrastructure, challenges of security, challenges of local content, challenges of regulation and challenges of predictability and stability," he explains, adding: "These are then same in the oil producing countries, the oil market and in the industry in general."

"These challenges are not challenges that only one country can deal with on its own. They are national challenges, they are regional challenges that they are also, what I would call oil and gas industry challenges, which we must handle together."

According to Obasanjo: "Whatever the challenges we are facing as an industry must be able to disaggregate and find the best instrument, the best institution or the best organisation to deal with the challenges."

The rising of renewables

When it comes to the sustainability

of the sector and the rising tide of renewable energy, he believes that despite the need to reduce carbon emissions the oil and gas sector still has an important role to play and a bright future in Africa.

"The present challenges particularly include renewable resources growing into the areas where oil and gas has been predominant... I believe this should not really worry us too much, says Obasanjo.

He adds: "For me, I believe for the foreseeable future there will be no renewable energy that will be as portable as oil and gas. That is something that we can take as the advantage of to ensure oil and gas will still be there for the foreseeable future."

But Obasanjo believes that technology will pave the way to extending the life of oil and gas, saying: "With technology we have to make the production of oil and gas cheaper and if production of oil and gas is cheaper, we will be able to get oil and gas going on for much longer than some people have predicted."

A future driven by technology

"I believe that this is the area where the oil countries should really work together and take advantage of new technology that is part of the digitalisation transformation such as artificial Intelligence," says Obasanjo.

He notes further: "All the technology that are here now that were not available to us 15 years ago. They are there for use everywhere but are very important in the oil and gas industry."

China's IP Protection move sees historic legal judgment

SHANGHAI

THE Shanghai Intellectual Property Court has awarded Swedish skintech brand FOREO 3 million RMB (around USD450,000) in damages, thought to be the largest counterfeit-related payout for design infringement in the court's history.

The ruling sided with the Swedish beauty tech company FOREO following a 24-month IP court proceeding and a trial of 12 months, finding defendant guilty of infringing FOREO's LUNA design patent with its own KD308 product.

The court ruled in favour of FOREO and made history as it awarded the compensation payout for economic losses and reasonable expenses.

The defendant, Kingdom Zhuhai Company, was thought to have made in excess of 35 million RMB from online e-commerce sales mainly on Alibaba and Tianmao platforms.

The court had to distinguish whether the defendant's KD308 product was infringing the design patent of the LUNA range as well as how to calculate the damages.

On both points, the defendant was ordered to pay the compensation and immediately stop infringing FOREO's design patent after concluding that KD308 had some deliberate changes, such as an extra bulge and wavy lines, but it was still considered to be in infringement of the LUNA design patent.

Talking of the proceedings, FOREO global legal director Kelsay Tang said: "The court issued a warrant which enabled us to get relatively object figures from Tianmao and Alibaba platforms. With network platform technologies, we found that 358,074 pieces of KD308 had been sold, and the sales volume was RMB 35,262,990."

"Taking the retail price, reasonable profit and design patent contribution of our LUNA into consideration, the court concluded that our claim of RMB 3,000,000 was solid," noted Tang, adding: "Given that IP protection is a relatively new concept in China, not to be confused with patent law which was created in 1984, we are seeing major progress on IP protection over the past years and this case bucks the trend."

"Within FOREO, we have many cases in China where counterfeiters making fake FOREO products have been incarcerated, a feat we could not achieve without the support of the domestic China legal framework," noted the director.

According to the 2018 Global Brand Counterfeiting Report, the worldwide losses incurred following counterfeiting amounted to more than 320 billion in 2017, with 80 per cent of the world's counterfeiting coming from China.

This New Year's Day, China's new e-commerce law came into operation and could have been the first signs of change for counterfeiting in China.

The new law applies to three types of operators: e-commerce platform operators like Taobao, third-party merchants who sell goods and services on the e-commerce platform of others, and online vendors operating their own websites or which do business via other network channels - such as social media sites.

The new law brought with it increased pressure to online retailers to encourage a fight against the sale of counterfeiting and copycat merchandise on their sites.

A post by Hong Kong-based law

adding: "Of we bring this into the industry I believe that the industry and the fear that we have now will all be a thing of the past. The next ten to 15 years may not be the way some people think."

As for the foreseeable future, Obasanjo points to collaboration as the key to sustainability for the sector: "I see collaborations at the national level, at the regional level, and at the industrial level, and of course, collaborating, at the global level."

He elaborates: "Collaboration and taking advantage of technology. That would make the life of the oil industry much longer than reduce the fear that some people have that renewable energy resources will make oil and gas a thing of the past."

"If we can surmount this challenge, then the future of oil and gas cannot be dictated by anybody except by us; the producers and the investors. This will maintain oil and gas as an active resource for humanity," he notes.

Africa Oil Week is the leading oil and gas event for the continent, with over 1,800 key executives attending from around the world to broker new deals.

The global E&P (exploration & production) community - which includes governments, national oil companies, international oil companies, independents, investors and service providers - is brought together in Cape Town each November.

This unique event is a hub for deal-making and building networks with senior decision-makers.

• **Agencies**

firm Deacons says as well as covering the requirement for registration and licensing of e-commerce operators, taxation, electronic payment and e-commerce dispute resolution, the new law gives protection of intellectual property.

The new law affects China's e-commerce players by making all e-commerce platform operators jointly liable with the merchants for selling any counterfeit or copycat merchandise goods on their website. Previously, individual merchants were solely liable when caught selling fake or knock-off goods, and now e-commerce players can be fined up to 2 million RMB.

FOREO founder Filip Sedec says that fighting counterfeiters on the ground in China is becoming far more efficient than in the US and Europe, which is somewhat opposite to Western belief, with this current case being testament to that.

"While this judgment is a great victory for FOREO, the important fact remains that Chinese courts are waging war on counterfeiting in its own backyard and it is working," says Sedec.

• **Agencies**

OSHA: Spearheading workplace health, safety regulations

By Bahati Hoza

TANZANIA'S industrial sector has been cited as easily the leader in terms of the number of workplace accidents, incidents causing the government heavy losses in terms of payment of compensation to workers killed or injured.

Mostly, workplace accidents causing injuries and even deaths are a result of failure to observe safety measures, including ensuring the use of personal protective equipment (PPEs).

These eye-opening hints are from none other than Occupational Safety and Health Authority (OSHA) health manager Jerome Materu in remarks at a recent capacity building seminar for journalists held in Dar es Salaam.

He said the production sector has usually topped the list in causing losses to the government in terms of compensations paid to victims of work-related accidents, adding: "The country's GDP is diminished by up to four per cent owing to compensation related to workplace accidents only."

A major part of OSHA's primary mandate is to ensure that workplaces are free from hazards that may cause death, injuries or illness.

The Occupational Health and Safety Act of 2003 stipulates, in part, that any company or individual owning or occupying a factory or any other workplace



OSHA acting CEO Khadija Mwenda addresses media practitioners at a recent one-day sensitisation seminar held in Dar es Salaam. File photo

in Tanzania needs to obtain a Certificate of Compliance from the OSHA Chief Inspector before going into business.

This particular piece of legislation mandates OSHA to oversee and improve occupational health and safety practices for the well being of workers at factories and other workplaces in order to reduce accidents and occupational diseases.

It is noteworthy that the law covers workers in ALL sectors, notably agro-processing, the civil service, the industrial sector and the service sub-sector.

OSHA acting CEO Khadija Mwenda told the seminar

participants that they are a government agency authorised to advise, supervise and maintain a conducive working environment for everyone in both formal and informal sectors of production.

She said the seminar was intended to raise awareness among media practitioners across the country and add to the knowledge and skills they have in the reporting of accidents.

The idea was also to identify the mileage OSHA has made in offering services across the country and its effectiveness in implementing safety and health en-

hancement procedures so as to minimise the impact of diseases and accidents, thus increasing productivity at workplaces.

Mwenda underlined the importance of conducting 'fitness to work' examination before, during and after employment, primarily as related to hazards pertaining to each particular work unit.

"The health and safety of workers in any country is a key factor for their well-being and necessary for improving productivity," she said.

She elaborated: "It is therefore the responsibility of the government, employ-

ers and workers to ensure that all workspaces are safe and in a healthy state. To ensure that this happens, the government has put in place regulations to ensure that workers are protected from work hazards."

The CEO reported that there were once concerns from stakeholders in the private sector regarding the duplicative and distortive charges imposed by different regulatory agencies with similar or overlapping roles.

She said that was the situation particularly before Dr John Magufuli assumed the country's Presidency, adding: "The government has since that all charges and levies unnecessarily impeding the growth and development of the private sector be abolished forthwith - and this has been done."

The government is emphatic that all the respective hurdles must be addressed by bringing clarity in the regulatory regime in order to ensure that the entire private sector - be it micro, small or medium-scale entrepreneurs or large-scale producers - operates in a more friendly, transparent and predictable business environment.

It firmly believed that unless there is strategic reform in the current regulatory framework, the private sector will continue to face chal-

lenges including delays and general red-tape bureaucracy associated with having needlessly long business licensing/permit processes often serving as grounds for the thriving of corruption.

In order to effectively engage the private sector in transforming the economy through industrialisation, an enabling environment must be holistically and strategically reviewed, particularly as relates to the regulatory framework.

This calls for a root-to-root review of policy and reforming regulatory agencies, streamlining and rationalising taxes and levies to ensure inclusive participation of the private sector, including smallholder farmers, SMEs and large businesses.

In line with the government's blueprint, which is a framework for legal reforms chiefly meant to create a more friendly business environment, OSHA has scrapped five charges and fees to ease the conduct of business in the country.

The fees include workplace registration of up to 1.8m/- and registration fee of 2,000/-, the others being compliance fee of 200,000/- per year, health consultancy charges of 450/- per hour per expert plus penalty amounting to 500,000/-.

The OSHA Act of 2003 stresses the need for em-

ployers to put in place safe and healthy work conditions to guarantee the well-being of all workers as well as to maintain health of all those already affected - until they good enough health again to resume duties.

It is further stressed that it is every employer's obligation to maintain a feasible system of conducting business without compromising the health of his or her employees.

CEO Mwenda also reported that, thanks to government funding, they have conducted a number of training sessions for women entrepreneurs working in the previously popular but now "rather fading" batik fabrics business. The idea is to sensitise them on the health and other hazards relating their activities so that they make take appropriate measures to improve their working conditions.

Mwenda said OSHA is faced with a number of challenges, among the major ones being low awareness among the public on the authority's mandate and employers' unwillingness to comply with regulations and procedures. But she was upbeat that "with support from the media, there will gradually be a let-up in this challenging situation" in the days, weeks, months and years ahead.

Wefarm announces having got funding for smallholder agricultural ecosystem

Distributed via ippm

LONDON

Wefarm, the digital network for global small-scale agriculture, on Wednesday announced having raised US\$13 million in a financing round led by Silicon Valley venture capital firm True Ventures alongside the likes of AgFunder and June Fund.

This is expected to help Wefarm further scale its network of 1.9 million farmers and its newly created Marketplace to connect farmers in Africa, even those without internet access, to the information, products and services they need to be more successful.

Founded in 2015, Wefarm is on a mission to create a global eco-system for small-scale agriculture. With more than 1 billion people directly involved in small-scale farming, it is the biggest industry in the world.

Wefarm Marketplace meanwhile allows farmers to easily access quality products and services such as seeds, fertilisers and a range of other non-agricultural items from trusted retailers and brands.

In line with Wefarm's bottom-up model, all products, services and retailers on the platform have been recommended by Wefarm users and can even be purchased through SMS.

Disproportionally, smallholder farmers lose too much time and money owing to fake or faulty agricultural products. Farm yields in many parts of Africa are just one-fifth of farm yield in the US or Europe.

Poor-quality seeds and fertilisers also limit growth in plants and animals. Given that smallholder farmers grow roughly 70 per cent of the world's food, Wefarm intends to use its technology



to help close this yield gap.

The company's funding announcement coincides with another notable growth milestone of reaching \$1 million in total sales from the Wefarm Marketplace in just eight months since its launch - which is faster growth than was the case with both Amazon and eBay in their early stages.

With Marketplace sales growing at more than 40 per cent month on month, the business is on a rapid growth path. Over the next 12 months it seeks to diversify into supporting farmers with both financing and delivery as well as enabling them to trade the commodities and crops they grow, with the goal of becoming a key part of the global supply chain on behalf of the farmer.

Wefarm CEO and founder Kenny Ewan believes that the platform's Marketplace will grow into an expansive ecosystem for smallholder farmers.

"If we can inspire 100 million farmers to work together on one platform, we can fundamentally shift global agriculture and trade in their favour - and this round of funding will take us even closer to bringing this vision for improved farm yields into fruition," said Ewan.

"It's about harnessing AI (Artificial Intelligence) to champion human intelligence. Our network of trust empowers farmers to find solutions to problems by knowledge sharing," he said, adding: "In

tandem, the marketplace will give them access to first-rate products that help to deliver better produce. The combination of the two has limitless potential to influence and fight the major agricultural crisis we face."

"We are enormously inspired by how Kenny and the Wefarm team have empowered the world's farmers, and we see great potential for their future," said True Ventures co-founder Jon Callaghan.

"Not only is the company impact-driven but also the impressive growth of the Wefarm Marketplace demonstrates exciting commercial opportunities that will connect those farmers to more of what they need to the benefit of all, across the food supply chain. This is a big, global business," added Callaghan.

Wefarm, the world's largest farmer-to-farmer digital network, uses modern machine learning technology and lets small-scale farmers connect with one another to solve problems, share experience and innovation as well as participate in global trade.

For True Ventures, for its part, is a 14-year-old Silicon Valley-based venture capital firm that invests in early stage technology startups. So far, it has helped more than 250 companies launch and scale their businesses, creating over 10,000 jobs worldwide.

Agencies

Ways the AfDB can support a more secure Africa

ABUJA

Free movement of people and goods across Africa increases the risk of transmission of infectious diseases. The continent must realise that it is no longer a question of if disease outbreaks will occur, but instead, of when, and how fast.

The U.S. Centres for Disease Control says that within 36 hours, a disease outbreak can spread from a remote village to major urban cities of the world.

According to preventepidemics.org, a website which ranks countries' levels of epidemic preparedness, no country in Africa is ready for the next epidemic. The African Union must act now to increase the capacity of member countries to detect, respond and manage disease outbreaks. Managing disease outbreaks is not cheap but it is cost-effective.

There cannot be global health security if there are still poor underserved communities where people do not have access to healthcare or are unable to pay for the healthcare they need.

The current Ebola and measles outbreaks in DRC have killed 2185 and more than 3,000 respectively. In Nigeria, recent weekly epidemiological reports by the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control show there are suspected cases of Lassa fever, cerebrospinal meningitis and yellow fever. In Zimbabwe, there is fear of another cholera outbreak. The 2018 cholera outbreak killed 26 people.

In this context, the recent increase in the capital base of the African Development Bank by \$125 billion to \$208 billion, should be commended as it could support improved health security across the continent.

It is also timely with the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement going into effect this year as



An eight-month-old boy is examined by a doctor in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. File photo

AfCFTA requires a coordinated effort to put a stop to the frequent outbreaks of infectious diseases on the continent. Funds from the Bank can help.

Specifically, with its increased capital base, these are four ways the African Development Bank can support a more secure Africa.

First, provide grants to the Africa Centre for Disease Control and national public health institutes to increase laboratory diagnostic capacities. The first step to detecting any outbreak is knowing the cause as fast as possible, but laboratory equipment is expensive.

So, the Bank should give grants to national public health institutes to procure diagnostic equipment and upgrade laboratories. A way to achieve this is to partner with laboratory equipment manufacturers to reduce cost and work out favorable payment plans.

For instance, during the 2014-2015 Ebola outbreak across West Africa, an Ebola screening machine, which reduced specimen turnaround times in Sierra Leone, was brought from Nigeria. However, it was donated by the European Union. Africa must begin to take leadership in such areas, without depending on international

donors for support.

Second, work in partnership with the African Union to train the local health workforce and increase local African capacity to prevent, detect, respond to and manage disease outbreaks.

The African Union's deployment of more than 800 African volunteers to support the 2014-2015 Ebola intervention in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone was instrumental in managing that outbreak and restoring health systems across the region.

I was a co-lead of the EpiAFRIC team which evaluated the African Union's intervention. Traveling with my colleagues across the three countries and interviewing community members, volunteers, international partners and national ministries of health, it was apparent that it needed local expertise to stem the outbreak.

Third, improve infection infectious disease detection between borders. All African counties have ratified AfCFTA. When fully implemented, it would come with increased movement of Africans across borders.

The continent must be ready to prevent cross-border spread of infections. The ease with which Mr. Patrick Sawyer, the Liberian who

brought Ebola from Liberia to Nigeria, threatened the health security of the continent, led to deaths of 8 health workers and Nigeria's loss of \$186 million in GDP.

To achieve this, the Bank should work with national public health institutes and ministries of health to ramp up epidemic preparedness at land, sea and air international borders.

Fourth, work with national governments and support their efforts for universal health coverage. Too many Africans pay out-of-pocket for healthcare.

This is not equitable and sustainable. According to the Director-General of the World Health Organization, universal health coverage and health security are two sides of the same coin.

Ultimately, there cannot be global health security if there are still poor underserved communities where people do not have access to healthcare or are unable to pay for the healthcare they need.

Needs are infinite and resources are limited. So, the African Development Bank should prioritize the health security of Africa, because a healthy continent would be more prosperous and then attractive to investors.

IPS

By Sifa Msehli

The backpack: Orphan's dreams dashed following return to Libya

OVER 8,200 migrants making the dangerous journey to Europe have been returned instead to Libya, where they are reported to be languishing in detention centres.

"My parents were both killed years ago. My brother can barely provide for his children. I am a man now, and I have to fight for my survival," said 18-year-old Abdessamad.

Abdessamad left Somalia carrying a backpack, a reminder of home, and the dream of reaching Europe in search of a better future. I met him one May afternoon at a disembarkation point in the Libyan capital, Tripoli, one of 112 migrants who had failed in their journey and were returned to shore by the coast guard.

The coast guard cutter docked, and the air filled with fumes of despair and disappointment as the migrants lined up waiting for their turns to disembark.

Abdessamad arrived in Libya five months earlier and spent his days locked up in a crowded warehouse with hundreds of other people chasing the same, largely hollow, dream.

"I came to Libya through the desert. I want to describe the journey, but I have no words for it," he said.

He added: "For days during the trip, there was nothing but desert. Its



immensity was frightening, but I did not regret making this decision. When there is nothing and no one for you to go back to, risking your life does not seem so tragic."

He was calm, amid a sea of worried mothers and fathers whose hopes evaporated the moment the gun-metal grey cutter approached their rubber dinghy.

For those returned to Libyan shores, only detention awaits. Detention centres here are a space where time ceases to matter, where each day blurs into the next.

Hundreds of people are confined to often-overcrowded hangars with barely any access to water, food and sanitation. They remain caged; life is reduced to merely existing.

The months of waiting ended. Abdessamad and dozens of others were told that their boat was waiting. His dreams seemed within reach. He packed what little he had into a backpack and climbed into a waiting smuggler's pickup truck.

The group arrived at the shores of Zwartkops at dawn. As he took his last few steps on solid ground, Abdessamad was told to leave his backpack behind.

"My backpack had all my belongings. It did not have much, but it was mine," he said, visibly dejected. It was the only thing that connected him to Somalia, and it was now lost.

I saw a young man who

had nothing but pride and the clothes on his back. Abdessamad looked away for a few minutes and walked on.

He narrated: "My neighbours collected money at the mosque to pay for my journey. How can I go back and face them? The smugglers took our money and put us on an old rubber boat as if setting us up to fail. I failed, and I can't go back home a failure."

He reached for my hand, placed it on his chest and said: "There is fire burning inside my heart, and I do not know how to put it out. I do not know what to expect at sea or in Europe, but I know what awaits me at home - and I do not want to go back."

Abdessamad was led off to a detention centre, another anonymous face in a growing list of people travelling to Libya with dreams and hopes and backpacks from home only to crash like waves on the beach.

I saw him a few months later behind the bars of a detention centre - a shell, a broken young man. His eyes sparkled no more. We never spoke; words are meaningless when faced with that much suffering.

We helped in the ways we could and left. I never saw Abdessamad again.

An International Organisation for Migration dispatch.

SADC's anti-sanctions call shows disregard for Zimbabweans' needs

Distributed via Ippmedia

BY RINGISAI CHIKOHOMERO

What was meant to be an overwhelming show of national solidarity by the citizens of Zimbabwe on 25 October ended up being an embarrassing flop. President Emmerson Mnangagwa's government had spared no expenses for the anti-sanctions rally on a day it had declared a public holiday.

The Southern African Development Community's 39th summit had designated the date for member states to collectively express their disapproval against sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe by the European Union (EU) and the United States (US) nearly two decades ago.

Mnangagwa's government had offered citizens free transport from all over the country, and food and music to entertain the anti-sanctions marchers. The finance ministry reportedly availed Zim\$4 million (US\$257 000) for the march.

In a country where doctors have been on two-month-long industrial action, and where health facilities are without medicine and teachers have pleaded incapacitation, the contradictions are not lost on the ordinary citizen. Long fuel queues, prolonged power blackouts (up to 15 hours a day) and the ever-increasing costs of basic commodities are a daily reality for Zimbabweans. Civil servants' salaries have been eroded by inflation - they can barely afford transport to work.

The anti-sanctions jamboree didn't live up to its hype. Scenes of the president addressing an empty stadium in Harare filled both mainstream and social media. Private media houses reported that only 7 000 people found their way to the stadium with a carrying capacity of 60 000. A bus from one ward in



Rather than grandstanding, SADC should back a re-engagement process to negotiate a solution to sanctions. File photo

Manicaland sent to ferry the marchers had only one passenger - the ward councillor.

The flop has been explained in different ways. What is clear though is that the 'Mugabe magic' is gone. The new dispensation is struggling to galvanise the population around anything.

Zimbabweans would seem to have a different reading of their present predicament. Instead of sabotaging the anti-sanctions march, they simply stayed away from the whole charade. In the face of obvious government failures and missed opportunities, the ordinary person doesn't see the link between their suffering and targeted sanctions.

At the dawn of the 'new' dispensation, Mnangagwa didn't believe in blaming the

country's economic malaise entirely on western-imposed sanctions. The whole state machinery fell in line, and former president Robert Mugabe's 'sanctions must go' notion became a chant of the past.

For a brief moment the blame was put squarely where it belonged - on government's unbridled appetite to spend, rampant corruption and politically expediency over sound economic policies. The Mnangagwa administration boasted about the success of command agriculture, increasing investment into the country, mega deals, and new mines and factories opening.

But sanctions have found their way back into mainstream government narrative as the propaganda on

successful deals and investment comes undone. The harsh reality of economic collapse, the erosion of salaries and the increase in the cost of living contradicts all claims of an administration that delivers. The government has failed to deliver, and the citizens have had enough.

In 2018 the government created hype about the success of 'command agriculture' - an approach intended to ensure food security for the country. Barely two months into 2019, Zimbabwe was importing close to a million metric tons of maize. The price of maize, as with all basic commodities, has been on an upward trajectory beyond the reach of many.

Over the past two years the public have had more access

than ever to information on the rot within the state and the cartels. The mismanagement of the currency crisis and the government's refusal to own up to its glaring shortcomings are there for all to see.

This is happening in the context of the increased militarisation of the state, heavy-handedness by the police in dealing with civil unrest, reports of abductions and a runaway inflation rate. Citizens cannot reconcile their daily experiences with the sanctions. Government's lack of political will to institute key reforms that are within their means, makes sanctions a red herring.

SADC would do well to be more in line with citizens' needs and aspirations. The regional body needs to be

more realistic regarding Zimbabwe's challenges and the population's calls for a responsible and accountable government.

Attempts to draw region-wide reactions to the sanctions without unpacking the underlying causes of Zimbabwe's economic failures is disingenuous on the part of SADC. It gives credence to accusations that the SADC summit is merely a collection of heads of state bent on supporting the status quo and brotherhood rather than improving citizens' well-being.

As if in direct response to the anti-sanctions march, the US has added State Security Minister Owen Ncube to the sanctions list, pouring scorn over the regional efforts. This comes barely two months after Major General

Anselem Nhamo Sanyatwe was slapped with travel restrictions for his role in the 1 August 2018 killings.

Negotiations, and not grandstanding, would be a better solution to the sanctions issue. SADC should act as a guarantor of a re-engagement process. This should include a clear sanctions removal roadmap with milestones and thresholds where the US and EU can begin incrementally lifting the sanctions.

To ask for the complete removal of sanctions in the face of a continued clampdown of civil liberties would be more like rewarding and incentivising impunity.

Ringisai Chikohomero, Researcher, Peace Operations and Peace Building Programme, Pretoria

Bank starts empowering local engineers through collateral-free loans

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

ONE of the country's leading financial institutions, the CRDB Bank has just launched special collateral free loans for indigenous engineers especially those aspiring to be more active in the construction industry but constrained by lack of capitals.

The CRDB Small and Medium clients' Executive Director, Boma Rubala pointed out here that, many local

engineers despite being very capable and competitive in the construction sector, have been unable to win floated tenders, due to lack of enough capitals to involve fully in the industry.

"And even when they try to apply for loans in other banks, they usually fall short of requirements because, most financial institutions demand collaterals that are beyond local engineers' reach especially those that are just launching into the trade,"

added Rubala.

But according to the CRDB official, all the local engineers need to do now is simply take their projects and work contracts to the bank and secure loans to aid the undertakings; "I insist there will be no collateral demands from our side," stated Rubala.

For his part, Eng Samwel Rwanda, the Director of Western Engineers Limited, admitted that, many of them have been winning tenders for small

projects due to limited range of their respective capitals.

"And that is why almost all big civil engineering projects remained in the exclusiveness of foreign firms who can afford the required heavy investments," said Eng Rwanda, adding that alien engineers are usually supported by their respective governments in consolidating large capitals to win tenders in developing countries.

Previously, when opening the official

gathering of CRDB officials with local engineers in Arusha, the Regional Commissioner, Mrisho Gambo also expressed concern why all major civil engineering projects should be taken by foreign firms while there are better qualified Tanzanians to undertake the works.

"From my recent observations, most of the engineering projects handed to local companies crawled slower than foreign held ones, but I have now

understood that our people are being crippled with insufficient capitals," he said. According to Gambo, the government cannot undertake all the required projects without involving the private sector and used the occasion to thank CRDB management for empowering local engineers towards future development when locals will be in a better position to build the country roads, bridges and other heavy engineering projects.

African plant breeders association launched to improve food security on the continent

By Nana Yaw Reuben

THE African Plant Breeders Association [APBA] has been launched in Ghana to help improve upon food security on the continent.

The launch also saw the maiden international conference of the association.

The occasion at the University of Ghana hosted by the West Africa Center for Crop Improvement (WACCI) brought together over 400 scientists, researchers, national agriculture policy makers, students, professionals, private and public sector actors, from 30 different countries.

President of APBA and Director of WACCI, Prof. Eric Y. Danquah, said the formation of the association "will open doors for collaborations so urgently needed to birth the ideas needed for the development of innovative solutions for agricultural development in sub-Saharan Africa in our lifetime."

He noted the absence of a common platform for African plant breeders to network and discuss pertinent issues had militated against progress in plant breeding in Africa over the years. Prof. Danquah expressed confidence this will change going forward, noting, "the APBA will be a platform for Africa to showcase innovations that will bring a step change in our agriculture."

Representatives of about 10 international institutions including the Alliance for Green Revolution Africa (AGRA), MARS Inc., International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), AfricaRice, International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), and International Potato Center (CIP) pledged their support for the activities of the APBA.

Deputy Minister for Food and Agriculture Dr. Sagri Bambang who represented his minister lauded the APBA as a great initiative which will be bringing together plant breeders from Africa and other parts of the world to begin conversations on securing the food future of Africa through plant breeding.

He observed plant breeding is widely

recognized as one of the most important tools that exist to tackle problems of global food production, food security, new pests and diseases and climate change.

The Member of Parliament for Walewale noted that through the introduction of new varieties, plant breeders are able to deliver benefits to farmers, primary processors and other food value chain actors, as well as consumers.

He advised the APBA to use their platform to inform political debate on the importance of genetic crop improvement for environmental and socio-economic objectives through unbiased quantitative and qualitative data.

Dr. Sagri Bambang added that such science-based information should be made widely available and be a starting point for a discussion on plant breeding in Africa.

Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana, Prof. Ebenezer Oduro Owusu told the participants the creation of the APBA provides a common platform for networking and collective action to advocate for investment in research for development of the staple crops in Africa.

He called on African governments, the Africa Union, sub-regional organizations and development partners to support the APBA in its drive to ensure the food and nutrition security agenda of the continent and to meet the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2.

Prof. Owusu said he was hopeful that the APBA would evolve core values that will allow it to grow and "impact strongly on the socio-economic development in Africa in order to reach our goal, that is the Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want."

In a business meeting on the final day of the conference, the constitution of the APBA was approved and the interim executives unanimously elected and sworn in to run affairs until the next conference at Makerere University in Uganda from October 25 - 29, 2021. The University of Ghana has since commended Prof. Eric Danquah on his election as president of the APBA.



KNCU to collect 200m/- in unpaid rent accumulation

By Correspondent James Lanka,

Moshi

THE Kilimanjaro Native Co-operative Union (KNCU) is set to collect 200m/- in the ongoing special operation aimed at collecting land and housing rents from its customers.

Acting General Manager of KNCU, Kokozi Ibrahim said in an interview that KNCU is expecting to collect the amount as an accu-

mulation of unpaid rents for long time. "This operation is for customers who haven't paid rents for long time and a grace period which was given has been expired," he said, adding that some of the KNCU customers haven't paid a single cent for the past 30 years.

In the operation, the oldest farmers' union is working closely with the Arusha-based Mangwembe Auction Mart and Company Limited. Ibrahim said the operation will go on for up to six months.

Among other issues, the collect amount will be used to refurbish some of cooperative union's buildings and facilities.

Meanwhile, the Managing director for Mangwembe Auction Mart, John Mshana, said: "We have entered a six-month agreement with KNCU to collect the overwhelmed debts from their customers amounting to 200m/-."

Located in Moshi, KNCU is a cooperative federation in Tanzania and the oldest cooperative in Africa

founded in 1930 by Charles Dundas. It is owned by the farmers of the 90 primary cooperative societies which buy coffee from farmers in Kilimanjaro. KNCU flourished in the 1950s and 1960s and drove much of the development of the Kilimanjaro region. In 1977 it was nationalised by the government. This act was reversed in 1984 and KNCU became independent again, although subject to government control of their buying and marketing. Since then, the primary

co-operatives and their union have gradually won back their independence. The liberalisation of the coffee industry in the early 1990s saw private companies competing with the cooperatives to buy coffee from their members. Many cooperatives in Tanzania died. KNCU initially lost 80% of its market and struggled for four years. Since 1998, it has steadily won back market share and is now the largest buyer of Kilimanjaro smallholder coffee.

African states tasked to build climate resilient agric systems

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

ERADICATING hunger in Africa by 2025 will require governments to build agricultural systems that are resilient to climate change, activists have said, arguing that this would ensure sustainable food production.

The civil society organisations made the call on Tuesday during a regional dialogue on food and nutrition security held in Kigali, Rwanda.

They observed that climate change is an increasingly growing threat to food and nutrition security on the continent and more so to economies that are heavily reliant on agriculture.

Prof Sidi Osho, chairperson of the board of governors for the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN), said that most African countries are suffering from poverty and low productivity in agriculture, with serious human nutrition challenges.

"We are having a problem of climate change across Africa...it has affected the smallholder farmers' crops and livelihoods," she said, expressing the need for irrigation technologies and increased budget allocation to agriculture.

She said that availability and accessibility to nutritious food and research as well as innovation is critical to tackling stunting.

"The UNICEF study says that one out of every five children is severely malnourished," she said.

African heads of state through their Malabo Declaration of June 2014, recommitted achieving ending hunger by 2025 and reduce stunting among the continent's children to 10 per cent.



The declaration also affirmed their commitment to enhancing investment in Agriculture and uphold the 10 per cent public spending target to the sector.

Focusing on inputs, irrigation and agriculture mechanisation, they argued, would at least double productivity.

However, hunger remains a daunting challenge globally.

Current evidence shows a rise in world hunger, FANRPAN says.

Today, 821 million people are

undernourished in the world, an increase of 36.4 million from 2015, FANRPAN adds.

Of these hungry people, 257 million are in Africa.

The current situation implies that if the trend is not reversed, Africa and the world at large, will fail to meet the Sustainable Development (SDG) Goal of ensuring access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food for all and eliminating all forms of malnutrition by 2030.

While irrigation is a potential solution

to this challenge, currently, only around 6 percent of the region's cultivated land is irrigated.

Venuste Muhamyankaka, Executive Director, of Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Alliance - an umbrella of civil society organisations in Rwanda aimed at promoting sensitive and specific nutrition actions - said that their 2015 study indicated that only 17 percent of children in Rwanda get appropriate breast milk supplement after six months of exclusive breastfeeding.

He pointed out that a70 per cent of stunted children are attributed to the lack of such nutritional support.

With about 38 per cent of children suffering from stunting in Rwanda, Muhamyankaka said that there was a need to increase efforts including funding to address the problem.

"Increasing investment in tackling malnutrition should be effectively integrated in national development policies, and be given priority" he said adding that also scaling up nutritional education among parents is needed so that they provide their children with healthy diets.

Jean Claude Musabyimana, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources said that 81.3 percent of the population is food secure, quoting statistics from the 2018 Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis.

He reaffirmed that the country is resolved to attain food and nutrition security for all its citizens.

"We are encouraging Rwandans engaged in agriculture to carry out professional farming with objective to increasing productivity through improved seeds, using fertilisers, and mechanisms to withstand climate change," he said.

BY AKINOLA OLOJO AND MARTIN EWI

Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, former leader of the world's deadliest terror group Daesh - also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria - died during a recent United States-led operation in north-western Syria.

Despite his death and the territorial losses of Daesh since 2015, the group's franchises in Africa remain active and are a cause for concern. Affiliates of Daesh have adapted to the local dynamics on the continent and continue to challenge states in the Sahara, Sahel, Lake Chad Basin, Central and Eastern parts of Africa.

The continent is likely to remain a strong focus of the new Daesh leadership, given its strategic value to the group's goal of 'remaining and expanding'. This may signal an increase in activities in Africa, and expansion of influence and attacks.

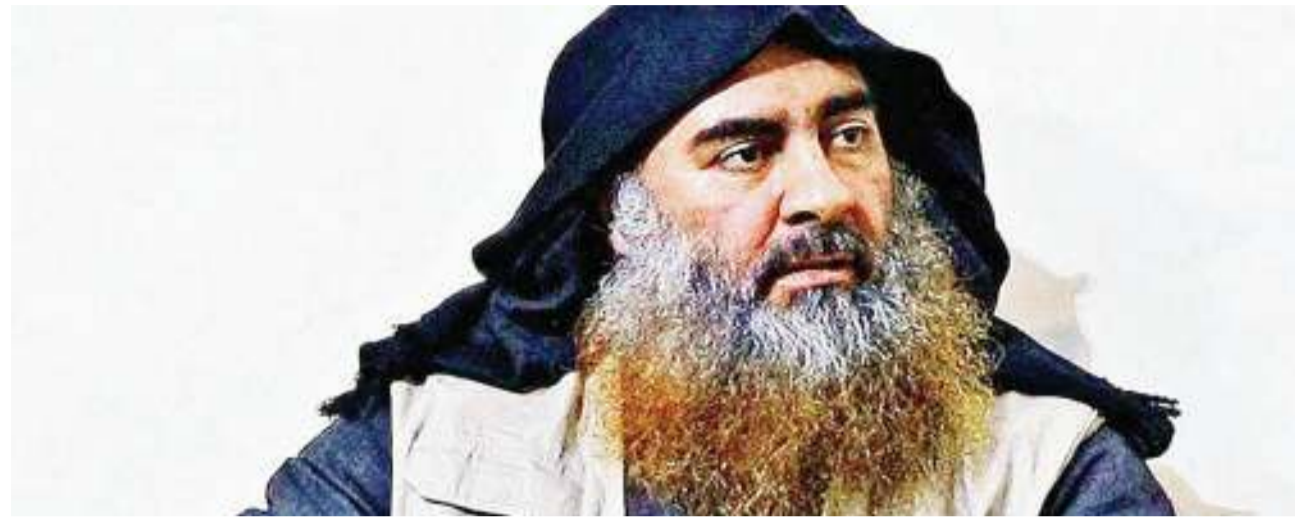
Based on past trends, the rivalry between Daesh and al-Qaeda could also play out across the continent. This would be especially so if al-Qaeda could portray al-Baghdadi's death as a victory for its side and re-attract individuals who left due to the Daesh caliphate's temporary appeal.

Eliminating their leaders sets terror groups back, but isn't a measure of success in the struggle against terrorism. Targeted killings of leaders should not outweigh the more important task of addressing root causes and enhancing counter-terrorism responses in affected countries.

Al-Baghdadi committed suicide when he reached the dead end of a tunnel while being chased by members of an elite group of US soldiers. The US welcomed the development as a milestone and US President Donald Trump declared that 'the world is now a much safer place.'

Daesh may have suffered a blow but there is still a long way to go on the road towards more effective counter-terrorism. The suggestion of a safer world was unsurprisingly accompanied by doubts from US allies such as the United Kingdom, France and Japan. In the words of a former Daesh fighter interviewed in an Iraqi prison, 'al-Baghdadi's death makes no difference and the world is more dangerous than before.'

In Africa, Daesh affiliates abound with sympathisers from North Africa to the Sahel and from the Lake Chad Basin to the Horn. Daesh has lauded attacks in the north-eastern parts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo



Terror groups have remained resilient despite their leaders' deaths, and Daesh is unlikely to be any different. File photo

and in Mozambique.

Notably in the Lake Chad Basin, Daesh propaganda has covered many attacks by the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP). In March 2015, al-Baghdadi personally approved ISWAP's pledge of allegiance and then recognised a leadership change when ISWAP split from Boko Haram. In late 2018 al-Baghdadi authorised ISWAP to execute one of the group's leading figures, Mamman Nur. Daesh also recognised the pledge made by members of the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara in October 2016.

Before al-Baghdadi's death, Africa was already of high strategic importance and became a platform for Daesh's expansion and rebuilding after its demise in Iraq and Syria. The continent's significance was further demonstrated in the number of foreign terrorist fighters who travelled to Iraq and Syria - an estimated 10 000 from North Africa alone.

Africa has been a battleground for the rivalry between al-Qaeda and Daesh as each competes for spheres of influence. Al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri may see

an opportunity in the exit of al-Baghdadi, with whom he fundamentally disagreed over the approach to jihad and the realisation of a caliphate.

The question of a successor was settled days after al-Baghdadi's death when Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurashi was announced leader. Little is known about him but an audio message that followed the announcement reiterated that Daesh was now at the forefront of Europe and West Africa. This indicates the focus of the new leadership.

The targeted killings of key

leaders are often accompanied by the idea that terror groups will diminish in capacity. But this strategy doesn't prevent day-to-day operations and assaults by affiliates in Africa, nor will it address terrorism's root causes. Meanwhile, in the short term, attacks persist. On 2 November, at least 53 soldiers and one civilian were killed in the Menaka region of Mali. Daesh claimed responsibility.

Terror groups have remained resilient despite the deaths of their leaders. In north-east Nigeria, when Boko Haram's first leader Mohammed Yusuf was killed in 2009, it was thought that this could signal the end of the group. But his followers regrouped under the leadership of Abubakar Shekau.

Osama bin Laden's assassination in 2011 didn't prevent the progression of the al-Qaeda franchise globally. In fact the following year, al-Shabaab pledged allegiance to the group. Similarly, the drone strike that killed former al-Shabaab leader Ahmed Godane in 2014 didn't reduce the group's influence or its ability to inspire more devastating attacks in the Horn of Africa.

Al-Baghdadi had a cult of personality. His followers are still heeding his call made in a video released in April to sustain the vi-

olent campaign of violence in various countries. The physical caliphate no longer exists, but there is a virtual one defined by an ideology that transcends time and geographical space. Foreign fighters who joined al-Baghdadi's caliphate have already been flowing back to countries in Africa, with Tunisia accounting for the highest number.

In the wake of al-Baghdadi's death, African states need to cooperate with the Global Coalition Against Daesh to neutralise the threat posed by the group's affiliates on the continent. Regional and global cooperation should be firmed up and intelligence strengthened. Criminal justice frameworks that address terror cases and ensure human rights must be improved.

Law enforcement agencies need the technological tools to detect, intercept and disrupt planned terror operations in a timely manner, and in compliance with international law. Last but not least, the socio-economic deprivation and governance challenges affecting communities must be remedied.

Akinola Olojo, Senior Researcher, Transnational Threats and International Crime, ISS and Martin Ewi, Regional Observatory Coordinator, ENACT, ISS

Climate change triggers rural exodus in Burkina Faso

OUAGADOUGOU

Ibrahim Harouna and his neighbours sit under a tree at his uncle's house, playing chess and chatting amid the simmering heat of Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso.

This is how he has been spending most of his time in the year and a half since he lost his job. Harouna worked as farm labourer. But the seasonal small-scale farmer he worked for in northern Burkina Faso let him and two other workers go because their services were no longer needed amid dwindling harvests.

Production had begun failing as desertification and drought took their toll on the land - which had become severely degraded, with half of the farmland soil turning to sand.

The economy in this Sahelian nation of 20.5 million people, located in the hinterland and within the confines of the Sahara, depends heavily on agriculture, forestry and livestock farming.

The sector is dominated by small-scale farms of less than five hectares and its main products are sorghum, millet and maize (the most produced in terms of volume), according to the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Cotton exports are still dominant and represent about 60 percent of total agricultural exports, according to the World Bank.

In "Dégradation des sols en agriculture minière au Burkina Faso", S.B. Taonda, R. Bertrand, J. Dickey, J.L. Morel and K. Sanon explained that after five to 10 years of cultivation, the soil is no longer able to ensure the mineral and water supply of the main food crop (sorghum), leading to yields collapse.

A visibly stressed Harouna seems to agree, telling IPS: "We have been working on that land for nine years, doing the same thing year in and year out."

Despite the country's

Sahelian zone in the north receiving less than 600mm average annual rainfall, Harouna says that the previous had been productive: sales were good, money was coming in, and wages were regularly paid.

But nothing lasts forever. Desertification became more prevalent and the honeymoon came to an abrupt end. He recounts: "As time went by, we noticed that temperatures kept unusually rising and the sun became harsher and the rain disappeared. The crops became stunted while others dried out, as the land started to turn into something like sand."

Confines of the Sahara Land degradation poses a serious threat to the sustainable development of Burkina Faso. One-third of its national territory, over nine million hectares of productive land, is degraded. This is estimated to expand at an average of 360,000 hectares per year, according to the FAO.

The Sahel is experiencing an overall decrease in rainfall, but also a depletion of soils due to agricultural overexploitation and progressive deforestation of the original savannahs by cutting firewood, bush fires and stray animals, the NGO SOS Enfants explains.

"Climate changes are evident throughout Burkina Faso. The eastern and southwestern parts of the country, which generally have more favourable weather, are increasingly hit by high temperatures and pockets of drought," the U.N. Development Programme says on Adaptation-undp.org.

From employing 90 percent of the country's almost 7-million strong workforce in 2012, as per FAO figures, the agriculture sector now provides 80 percent of all jobs, still accounting for a third of the country's GDP. However, more than 3.5 million people are food insecure, according to a USAID report.

Farmers in Burkina Faso, and especially those



A zone of Baobab reforestation in Burkina Faso. The Sahel is experiencing an overall decrease in rainfall, but also a depletion of soils due to agricultural overexploitation and progressive deforestation of the original savannahs. File photo

living in the Sahelian areas of this country, are now facing a serious problem of food security and growing impoverishment, SOS Enfants has pointed out. Conflicts over land use and massive migrations are persistent.

Conflict lingers Armed conflict and terrorism have exacerbated food insecurity, with regular attacks being perpetrated against security forces and civilians by unknown gunmen. Nearly 600 civilians have been killed, and scores wounded in recent years, according to independent figures.

Nearly half a million people were forced from their homes as increased insecurity resulted in a deepening and unprecedented humanitarian situation.

With an urbanisation rate of 5.29 percent - according to Index Mundi figures - Burkina Faso seems to be experiencing one of the highest urbanisation rates in Africa and in the world,

as women, children and elderly people flock to the cities, fleeing from climate change challenges, lingering poverty and armed conflict.

"In Burkina, the problem is not the functioning of the democratic system. The crisis is the spread of jihadist violence. [Former President Blaise] Compaoré used to come to understandings with armed groups in Mali, and in return, they left Burkina alone. That did not help Mali, of course," Paul Melly, Chatham House Africa consultant, tells IPS. The U.N. has stated that some 300,000 people have fled jihadist violence that spilled over from Mali.

"But the present Burkina administration does not cut these sorts of deals, and this leaves the country more exposed," he points out.

"Moreover," he says, "Burkina's security systems used to be strongly oriented towards loyalty towards Compaoré, so his departure left these structures weakened and the current government now had to

rebuild them in a way that is compatible with the democratic system. That is a slow and difficult process."

Climate migrants After Harouna and his colleagues lost their job, they headed to Ouaga (short for Ouagadougou) to stay with their respective families. With nothing much to do, they believe their only option is to leave the country, adding their names to a growing list of people pushed out of their homes by the devastating impacts of climate change.

"My former colleagues have already left the country, one is in Morocco as we speak, looking for a way to cross over to Spain and the other one is in Benin, where he intends to take the boat to get either to Equatorial Guinea or Gabon," Harouna says.

More than 143 million people are set to become climate migrants by 2050 in Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Latin America, escaping crop failure, water scarcity, and sea-level rise,

according to the World Bank projections.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the main U.N. authority on climate science, has reiterated that the changes brought on by the climate crisis will influence migration patterns.

"As for me, God-willing next week I'm heading to Niger to try to reach Algeria where my friends live and work in the construction sector," says Harouna.

Future degradation of land used for agriculture and farming, the disruption of fragile ecosystems and the depletion of precious natural resources like fresh water will directly impact people's lives and homes, according to Dina Ionesco, head of Migration, Environment and Climate Change Division at the U.N. International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Former FAO Director General José Graziano da Silva said back in February 2018 that the rehabilitation of degraded land was a

priority for Burkina Faso.

The U.N. agency and other partners have been tasked to implement the Action Against Desertification (AAD), a programme meant to bring land restoration to scale.

AAD supports local communities, governments and civil society in six African countries - Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Gambia, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal - as well as in Fiji and Haiti, to sustainably manage and restore their drylands and fragile ecosystems affected by desertification, land degradation and drought.

This initiative contributes to the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel (GGW), to U.N. Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) national action plans, and promotes south-south cooperation in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific countries.

In Burkina Faso, AAD supports land restoration in the provinces of Soum and Séno in Sahel region, using the specialised Delfino plough for land preparation in a view to bring restoration to scale.

But all of these interventions have come just a little too late for young men like Harouna.

"Put yourself in these young men's shoes," Harouna's uncle, who asked not to be named, contributes to the conversation for the first time since the interview started. "What would you do if something like this happens to you? There are no jobs in this country, no peace, no opportunity for the youth and not even good politicians."

"Just look around us now, the climate is challenging our land, the only source of our livelihoods. Terrorists are ruining our lives and our children's future, and the only way out of this mess is to go elsewhere to look for a better life," the uncle, who is sponsoring Harouna's irregular migration to Algeria, tells IPS.

Agencies

WORLD BANK-FUNDED BRT FEMALE DRIVERS GRADUATE FROM NIT

BY Property Watch Reporter

A World Bank funded Bus Rapid Transit female bus drivers training program is an important milestone towards advancing gender equality in the development of the country.

Communication, Works and Transport Minister, Isack Kamwelwe said in Dar es Salaam this week while launching the new training program at National Institute of Transport that the move is aligned with state objectives to equitable distribution of job opportunities.

"The National Institute of Transport has designed a very unique bus driver training course for women which, as government we thank the World Bank for supporting the institute to achieve its goals," Engineer Kamwelwe said.

He said the Fifth Phase Government under President John Magufuli has invested heavily in improving and expanding

transport infrastructure, among other things, including the eight-lane road highway currently under construction between Kimara in Dar es Salaam and Kibaha in Coast region but also construction of the Ubungo interchange as well as Morocco to Mwenge and Mbagala to Gerezani BRT projects.

"These massive transport projects require highly qualified and experienced drivers to ensure safety of passengers and property," he added while commending NIT's management for its innovative thinking in devising the unique female drivers training course to empower women technically.

"It should be noted that various studies have shown that women drivers are more careful on the wheel than their male peers which is good for public transport. This training is very important in enhancing road safety for the sustainable development of our country," the Minister noted.



BRT buses will soon have female drivers thanks to NIT's tailor made course targeting women. File

On his part, NIT Rector Professor Zacharia Mganilwa said the female drivers' courses that was

launched, was historical because it is the first time for NIT to organise such an affirmative course which

seeks to empower women. "The beginning of this female drivers' training course for BRT is a result

of government's efforts through the Ministry of Transport, the World Bank, Land Transport Regulatory

Authority and various stakeholders' efforts," Prof Mganilwa said. He further noted that the BTR female drivers' training course will be offered to 102 candidates from 230 women who submitted applications seeking enrolment.

"The training will last for seven (7) weeks and upon graduating, the new drivers will be eligible to acquire a Class C drivers' license that allows them to drive public passenger vehicles including the BRT buses," he said.

Apart from World Bank funding, NIT also received US\$2.1million from African Development Bank (AfDB) aimed at introducing a regional centre for excellence in road safety that trains professional drivers and auxiliary staff.

He said construction work of the centre which will start this year, will also train vehicle inspectors, commercial drivers to professional level as well as driving examiners.

"We don't want to see continuing road accidents taking a toll on our roads

any more in future because we need skilled workforce in growing our economy," the NIT Rector stressed.

Speaking on the sidelines of main event, NIT's Governing Board Chairman, Professor Blasius Nyichomba thanked the government for approving various projects proposed by his leadership aimed at expanding the institute's transport disciplines.

"The launching of today's training for female drivers who will be operating BRT buses, is part of NIT's efforts to contribute towards stimulating economic development in the country as outlined in the National Development Vision of 2025," Prof Nyichomba said.

Mary Kumalija who is one of the candidates for the course said it was her dream come true. "We thank the government under President John Magufuli for giving us this opportunity to prove our abilities," Kumalija said while also extending her appreciation to the World Bank, NIT and AfDB for the support.

Minister calls upon small traders to invest CRDB loans wisely and graduate into industry owners

Distributed via ipmedia

By Property Watch Reporter

PETTY traders popularly known as 'Machingas' have been challenged to invest wisely CRDB Bank's interest free loans to grow their businesses and later graduate into owners of industries.

Speaking in Kigamboni this week, Deputy Minister in the President's Office responsible for Regional Administrations and Local Governments, Josephat Kandege said many big manufacturing companies dominating the market currently started as small businesses.

Kandege said President Magufuli's government deliberately issued the Machingas identity cards so that they should become formal business entity with access to credit facilities while also contributing to state revenue.

"It is important that CRDB and Kigamboni District authorities make sure that this exercise is sustained with graduates moving up to the next level while more enter the formal group," the Minister said when officially kick-starting the CRDB SimAccount digital loan facility backed by 10bn/- of 'Jiwezeshes' loan scheme.

He pointed out that since the government started the ID issuing exercise to petty traders, over 1.8m have been dishied out while many more keep applying for the cards. "As government, we are encouraging this exercise because it is also a vehicle for self employment by youth in a market where jobs are not easy to come by," the Deputy



CRDB Bank's headquarters in Dar es Salaam.

Minister added.

Backing Kandege's observation, Bank of Tanzania Deputy Governor, Dr Bernard Kibese urged CRDB to ensure that the number of its SimAccount digital loans recipients increase from the current 3,000 to at least 10,000 next year.

"CRDB has shown that it is possible to lend to petty street vendors which tallies well with its image as a truly public bank," said Dr Kibese who further noted that millions of hawkers countrywide are waiting for a slice of CRDB 'Jiwezeshes' concessional loans

hence the need to increase the 10bn/- budget.

Speaking at the same ceremony, CRDB's Managing Director, Abdulmajid Nsekela said 'Jiwezeshes' SimAccount loans will be issued digitally without requiring borrowers to physically visit the bank's branches for endorsement.

"These loans will be issued through the borrowers' mobile phones without any hassles," Nsekela said pointing out that loan amounts range between 10,000/- and 500,000/- with no interest rate charged but an ad-

ministrative fee of between 500/- and 2,000/- upon repayment.

He said all that the Machingas need is to register themselves on CRDB's SimAccount with particulars indicated on their 'Vitambulisho vya Magufuli' cards.

Kigamboni District Commissioner, Sara Msafiri mobilised her district's petty traders to seize the CRDB opportunity and use the cash to build factories and big companies. "Let's make use of this loan facility to develop our district's economy," Msafiri urged.

ENGIE Africa consortium begins operation of Egypt's first largest wind farm

CAIRO

ENGIE Africa has announced that the construction and commissioning of the 262.5 MW Ras Ghareb wind farm in Egypt is complete 45 days ahead of schedule. The wind farm is now fully connected to the grid and is ready for commercial operation at maximum capacity.

The project company, Ras Ghareb Wind Energy SAE is owned by ENGIE (40 percent) and its consortium partners Toyota Tsusho Corporation/Eurus Energy Holdings Corporation (40 percent) and Orascom Construction (20 percent).

The wind farm is located near Ras Ghareb on the Gulf of Suez, an optimal site with about 60 percent of gross capacity factor. The energy is sold under a 20-year power purchase agreement (PPA) to the Egyptian Electricity Transmission Company (EETC). The total investment cost of the project is approximately \$380 million.

Ras Ghareb Wind Energy is the first wind farm tendered on a build-own-operate (BOO) scheme and is part of the Egyptian government's drive to increase the share of renewables in the energy mix with a target wind generation capacity of 7 GW by 2022.

Yoven Moorrooven, CEO of ENGIE Africa commented, "There is a huge potential for low-cost renewable energy in Africa. We are honoured that the Egyptian authorities have selected the ENGIE consortium to be part of their strategic energy plan. ENGIE's clean energy solutions are based on competi-

tiveness, reliability and safety.

Ras Ghareb Wind Energy has been developed with a continuous focus on Health and Safety and is completely in line with ENGIE's ambition in the zero-carbon transition. We are committed to apply the same standards with the same success for the adjacent 500 MW wind farm that is being developed by this consortium."

The consortium arranged non-recourse project financing from the Japan Bank for International Corporation (JBIC) in coordination with Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation and Société Générale under a Nippon Export and Investment Insurance (NEXI) cover. Commercial International Bank (CIB) Egypt is acting as working capital bank and Attijariwafa Bank provided an equity bridge loan for Orascom Construction.

With its global references in areas such as facility management, gas distribution, cold networks or green mobility, ENGIE is also keen to develop its service activities and energy solutions for smart cities in Egypt.

ENGIE's ambition is to become a world leader in a competitive "as a service" zero-carbon transition and the Group is focusing on renewables to accelerate the energy transition. With 93 percent of its businesses low-carbon, ENGIE has set a target of developing 9 GW of additional renewable capacity by 2021, and intends to invest approximately €2.5 billion in the sector.

Total aiming for two additional LNG trains in Mozambique LNG

CAPE TOWN

French energy major Total aims to expand its Mozambique liquefied natural gas (LNG) project with two additional trains, or plants, where the gas is super-chilled for easier transport, a company executive said on Tuesday.

"We're starting to look at studies for train 3 and train 4, because the

resources are clearly there to develop," Mike Sangster, head of Total Exploration and Production for Nigeria, told an oil conference in Cape Town, South Africa.

Total concluded the acquisition of Anadarko's 26.5% interest in the Mozambique LNG project for \$ 3.9 billion in September as part of its takeover of Anadarko's Africa assets that included projects in Ghana

and Algeria. Sangster added that the company expected to close its acquisition of Anadarko assets in Ghana and Algeria early next year once regulatory approvals were cleared.

The firm said in September the Mozambique project included the construction of a two-train liquefaction plant with a capacity of 12.9 million tonnes per year. Sangster said costs for Mozambique were "very

competitive" with good terms.

The firm has said 90% of Mozambique LNG was already sold under long-term contracts largely indexed to the oil price. Jean-Pierre Sbraire, Total's Chief Financial Officer, said in a call with analysts during the company's third quarter results that "Mozambique LNG was a jewel" the its acquisition of Anadarko's Africa assets.



Ras Ghareb Wind Energy is the first wind farm tendered on BOO scheme and is part of the Egyptian government's drive to increase the share of renewables in the energy mix with a target wind generation capacity of 7 GW by 2022.

INDUSTRY MINISTRY'S PS DARES KAHAMA DISTRICT TO SET ASIDE LAND-BANK FOR INDUSTRIES

By Property Watch Reporter

DISTRICT officials in the country have been challenged to emulate Kahama district of Shinyanga region in setting aside a land bank for industrial investment to attract the private sector.

Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Industry and Trade, Professor Joseph Buchweishaija however commended Kahama district authorities for putting in place an enabling environment for industrialization through special economic zones and export processing zones.

"Kahama District Council in Shinyanga Region has become a good example in implementing the government's industrialisation quest through establishment of these economic zones," Prof Buchweishaija said in a speech to open a two-day training for delegates from Shinyanga region hosted by Export Processing Zones Authority in Dar es Salaam earlier this week.

He said the government has already directed district councils across the country to put in place enabling environment to attract industrial investments that are crucial in enhancing rapid economic growth required for the country to graduate to middle income status by 2015.

The Industry and Trade PS acknowledged that due to budget constraints, paying land compensations by EPZA for industrial parks in the country is impossible hence officials should emulate Kahama District which has overcome the challenge by providing free land to investors.

Briefing the Prof Buchweishaija, Shinyanga Regional Commissioner, Zainab Telack said Kahama District



President John Magufuli cutting a tape to officially open Kahama Oil Mill in Shinyanga in 2018.

has set aside 500 acres of land for industrial development through SEZs and EPZs.

"I must thank Ministry of Industry and Trade Ministry as well as EPZA for your readiness to support our ambition to industrialise through establishment of special economic zones," Telack said adding that serious investors will only have to pay for a title deed.

She added that through the two-

day training, officials from Kahama were expected to learn and acquire knowledge in EPZ and SEZ investment vehicles hence use the same to lure more investors to establish industries.

Speaking at the same forum, EPZA Director General, Joseph Simbakalia said Kahama District Council is ready to industrialise and that other councils across the country should borrow a leaf from the gold rich district.

"Having a land bank is an important component in attracting investors that most of the councils have failed to implement but Kahama has gone a step ahead on this successfully," Simbakalia said while commending Kahama authorities as being exemplary in implementing the government's industrialisation agenda.

Kahama District Executive Director, Anderson Msumba said Kahama Oil Mill Group of companies have already set up eight industries within the 500 acres, with some already operating and others at advanced stage of development.

"We also have five other investors licensed by Tanzania Investment Centre who are putting up industries within the land bank," Msumba said while stressing that the area for industrial, investment has almost all necessary infrastructure in place.

Cruise ship terminal to be launched next month

NAIROBI

Kenya's new Sh350 million world-class cruise ship terminal will be commissioned next month during the tourist arrivals peak season when luxury ships are expected to dock at Mombasa port.

The terminal is expected to create 300 jobs directly, boosting local industries such as the transport sector, hotels, food providers and curio sellers. In an interview last week, Tourism and Wildlife Secretary Najib Balala, said the completion of the terminal—which is being constructed using a Sh250 million funding from the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) and another Sh100 million from Trade Mark East Africa (TMEA)—will give a much-needed lift to the sector's fortunes.

Industry players are now gearing up for the cruise ship peak season which is set to bring good tidings to the country as the construction of the cruise terminal at the port currently stands at 95 percent complete. On Sunday, the Port of Mombasa received MS Albatros, the first cruise vessel for the season carrying 446 passengers and 346 crew members. It was sailing from Zanzibar.

While in Mombasa, the tourists toured the city, Maasai Mara, Tsavo National Park and Shimba hills. The new terminal includes duty-free shops, restaurants, conference facilities and offices for key stakeholders in the industry. The practical handover expected to take place in the next two weeks. The completion comes in time for the cruise tourism during the festive December period.

"We are pleased to have this call from Ms Albatros; it is the first passenger cruise ship of 2019 docking at the port of Mombasa's new world class cruise ship terminal. All tourism stakeholders should collaborate on revamping the sector for more luxury ships to call at our port," said Inchcape Shipping Services, Operations Manager, Mr Bwanaheri Omar Lali.

According to the expert, the modern facility would, position Kenya as a passenger destination through the sea tourism and boost the sector. The port of Mombasa is one of the busiest ports along the East African coastline providing direct connectivity to over 80 ports worldwide.

"This makes economic logic to have the terminal given that it is a critical node in increasing tourism in the region. The new terminal has modern high-roofed structures whose primary source of energy is solar. Meeting rooms and eateries increase the utility of the terminal. A bio digester that will recycle water for re-use," a statement from the port stated.

The design of the facility has factored facilities for differently abled people to include special lifts, escalators, conveyor belts, scanners, air conditioning system and washrooms. KPA Managing Director Daniel Manduku said completion of the terminal will boost tourism in the country.

"The KPA has prioritised cruise ships calling at the port of Mombasa due to the high impact created in the coast region by the arrival of such ships through the facility. The KPA has committed its resources to modernise cruise terminal to meet the international standards," Mr Manduku said.

Cairo hotels reach highest occupancy in over a decade, JLL says

CAIRO

Hotels in Cairo reached their top performance in over a decade as more visitors flock to the Egyptian capital and a limited supply of new hotel projects boosted occupancy amid a wider economic recovery.

Cairo's hotels recorded a 3 per cent jump in occupancy levels to 73 per cent in the year to August compared to the same period last year, making it the highest level since 2008, according to property consultancy JLL's Cairo Real Estate Market report.

"As the economic situation in Cairo is recovering and the Egyptian pound is strong, we are witnessing healthy demand levels across all the sectors of the market," Ayman Sami, country head of JLL Egypt, said. "We expect to see an even more healthy economy in the months to come as government initiatives and large-scale tourism projects continue to boost demand and drive investment in the market."

Egypt's tourism sector, a crucial pillar of its economy, is forecast to see double-digit growth this year after rebounding in 2018 as the North African economy forges ahead with investments in transport and aviation. Its travel and tourism sector grew at 16.5 per cent in 2018, ahead of the global average of 3.9 per cent. It was the second-fastest growing market in North Africa after Ethiopia, according to World Travel & Tourism Council.



Pupils from a public primary school in Mbeya region sampling NMB donated desks earlier this year. File photo.

Construction materials, desks, medical kits choke bulk of 900m/- bank budget

By Property Watch Reporter

THE bulk of 900m/- which has been spent by NMB Bank Plc's on community support projects has gone to construction materials, desks, laboratory and medical equipment for public facilities this year so far.

NMB which allocated 1bn/- for community investments this year, has donated iron sheets, timber, steel bars for construction and renovation of schools, health centers and laboratories across the country since January this year.

"For many years, NMB has been investing heavily in community projects such as education and health as part of our pay back to the public policy to share profits made

from our business activities," said the bank's Southern Highlands Zone Manager, Straton Chilongola.

Chilongola said in Mufindi district of Njombe region earlier this week after donating 100 desks to Maduma and Uhabila Primary Schools in the district that NMB management appreciates support being given by the public to its business activities.

"As part of our appreciation we have been setting aside one percent of our next profit to finance community projects through our corporate social responsibility program," he noted.

He said apart from supporting education and health, the bank's CSR budget also supports disaster relief through donations to victims of various calamities which face the

community.

"We also back these areas to complement government efforts to improve quality and availability of education and health services to the public," the NMB Zone Manager added.

Speaking after receiving the materials, Mufindi District Commissioner, Jamhuri William paid tribute to NMB management and staff for the support saying the 100 desks will help improve the learning environment in the two public schools.

"We only hope that NMB's management will continue with this generosity to support our public schools which are facing shortage of many teaching materials and facilities," said William in a speech delivering on his behalf by Malangali

Divisional Secretary, Andrew Chunga.

Meanwhile Arusha Regional Commissioner, Mrisho Gambo also commended the bank for donating chairs and tables worth 10m/- to public schools in Arusha Rural District.

NMB Northern Zone Manager, Aikansia Muro said after handing over the donation that the bank's leadership appreciates efforts to nurture an educated generation for future growth.

In Rorya District of Mara Region, District Commissioner, Simon Chacha also received 125 desks donated to various public schools from NMB's acting Lake Zone Manager, Amos Mubusi during the week.

CONSTRUCTION

BRITAIN'S BARCLAY BROTHERS SHAKE UP THEIR OPAQUE EMPIRE

LONDON

After six decades spent buying up assets spanning retail, media and real estate, one of Britain's most discreet billionaire clans is weighing a retreat.

The investments by the families of David and Frederick Barclay have put them among the top ranks of the country's rich and powerful. The twins have forged reputations as stealthy buyers who rarely turn to public markets or investment bankers to finance deals for their closely guarded business empire.

In a surprise twist, the Barclays are now considering offloading some of their most prominent holdings. Those include the Telegraph newspaper titles and Mayfair's five-star Ritz hotel, where guests dine below chandeliers and can see the sights of the English capital in a custom Rolls-Royce.

The Barclays have hired lawyer Marco Compagnoni of Weil Gotshal & Manges, whom they've worked with before, to advise on the review, according to people with knowledge of the decision, who

asked not to be identified because the matter is private. Compagnoni declined to comment, as did a representative for the Barclays. The Times of London was first to report the plans, which come as some of their holdings are under pressure.

Over the past two years, the brothers have injected more than £300 million (Dh1.4 billion) into businesses such as online retailer Shop Direct and delivery service Yodel. Last week, Shop Direct said it was exploring financing options after disclosing it's seeking £150m in extra funding to cover a spike in claims tied to Britain's insurance mis-selling scandal. The shortfall creates a "material uncertainty", the company's auditor, Deloitte, said on Monday.

The Telegraph group could attract a number of bidders. Although no formal process has started, Daily Mail & General Trust could be interested, according to a source, as declining newspapers merge to maximise their audience while minimising operational costs. A representative for DMGT declined to comment.

The Barclays may struggle to recoup the £665m they spent to buy the pa-



The Ritz hotel in Piccadilly, London, is owned by twin brothers David and Frederick Barclay.

per in 2004. Circulation and earnings have plummeted, there have been repeated rounds of job cuts and operating profit was just £700,000 for the most recent financial year. Still, the paper remains influential in the UK. It's been a leading voice for Brexit and employed Boris Johnson as a columnist until he became Prime Minister in July.

With Middle East money backing many of London's luxury hotels these days, the brothers may look further afield to sell the Ritz.

Four years ago, they sold their stake in three other London hotels – Claridges, the Berkeley and the Connaught – to GCC investors.

It's already been a busy year for the Barclays, who turned 85 on Sunday. David lost a libel case he filed against a little-known French playwright who satirised the lives of him and his brother in July, and his lawyer said at the time that he would probably appeal. This month, it emerged that Frederick is embroiled in a divorce court row with his estranged wife. A judge who oversaw the preliminary hearing placed limits on what can be reported, but the case may eventually shed light on the Barclay family's finances if it reaches a public decision.

"For someone concerned about their privacy and public profile, that is a pretty horrible thing to contemplate," said James Ferguson, a partner at London law firm Boodle Hatfield who specialises in family matters including divorces. "It's going to incentivise him to want to

settle the case."

David is the older sibling by 10 minutes. Born to Scottish parents, they spent their early days in a west London household so close to a railroad that trains rumbling by would rattle the windows. After leaving school at 16, David and Frederick started their careers in the accounts department of General Electric, according to The Twin Enigma, a 2010 book by Vivienne Lewin. They teamed up in the 1960s to turn old boarding houses into hotels and moved into

breweries and casinos, marking the beginning of their business empire.

When a Middle East oil embargo sparked a collapse in UK stocks and real estate during the 1970s, the twins defaulted on loans owed to a British government agency that had expanded into corporate lending. The brothers almost lost everything, but were spared from absorbing the full losses.

The twins have since bought companies that others often reject or overlook, developing real estate and selling off pieces for quick profits. That strategy has allowed the Barclays to own more than 50 firms in the UK, Japan and Sweden and gain stakes in at least a dozen more.

These include Sears, which once had businesses ranging from women's wear to mail-order shopping. With financing from Bank of Scotland and Bank of Boston, the Barclays joined with fellow billionaire Philip Green two decades ago to buy the clothing retailer for £548m. Mr Green and the Barclays recouped the purchase price within 12 months by selling some of Sears's real estate and its three retailing units.

The Barclays also paid

£2.3m in 1993 for the English Channel island of Brecqhou off the UK's southern coast for a family compound. They erected a mock-Gothic castle, complete with almost 100 rooms, gilded turrets and a helipad. A visitor from the neighbouring island of Sark said framed pictures of the brothers with Nelson Mandela, Margaret Thatcher and Charles de Gaulle adorned a palatial living room. The twins would finish each other's sentences, the visitor said.

Even as their holdings grew, the business has remained a family affair, with David's sons Aidan and Howard increasingly running matters.

"Our business is large, but it is a family business," Frederick Barclay said in a 2012 witness statement as part of a UK court case about their attempts to buy a number of luxury hotels in London. "My brother and I retain a strong interest in the affairs of the business and regularly discuss matters with Aidan and Howard and other advisers." But even as the family's holdings evolve and the younger generation exerts more sway, one tenet remains constant: Discretion is paramount.

China's Huazhu Hotels buys German hospitality group for \$802m

BEIJING

In a sign of how life may be changing for global plutocrats, the next World Economic Forum in Davos may be held at a Chinese budget hotel. Or at least at a property owned and managed by China's Huazhu Hotels Group, the country's biggest owner of cheap hostels.

Huazhu, which has grown from a single Hanting hotel in 2005 into the world's fifth largest hotel group by market capitalization, announced on Monday that a subsidiary of the company has agreed to buy one of Germany's best-known luxury hotel chains for around \$802 million.

The purchase of Frankfurt-based Deutsche Hospitality, which through its Steigenberger Hotels and Resorts brand operates the Grand Belvedere in Davos, Switzerland which traditionally serves as the main venue for the annual World Economic Forum, was revealed one month after NASDAQ-listed Huazhu opened its first overseas hotel in Singapore.

Huazhu, which now owns or manages more than 5,151 hotels, said in a statement that it is buying Deutsche Hospitality from Egyptian travel and tourism company Travco Group to further accelerate the pace of its overseas expansion, while also



Deutsche Hospitality's Grand Belvedere in Davos, Switzerland is the site of the World Economic Forum.

eyeing opportunities to bring Deutsche's brands to China.

"This acquisition is an important milestone in our global growth strategy," Huazhu founder and executive chairman Ji Qi said in a statement. "Deutsche Hospitality is a perfect strategic fit and we expect competitive advantages for both companies. The brands of Deutsche Hospitality will enhance the offering of Huazhu and its operating capabilities in the high-end European hotel market."

The 90-year-old German hospitality group operates 118 hotels in 19 countries and has 36 hotels under development, with a focus in Germany, Denmark, Austria, Spain, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates.

Deutsche Hospitality said it has plans

to increase the number of hotels in its portfolio to 250 by 2024. Huazhu, which in May teamed up with investment giant China Everbright's real estate investment arm to launch a hotel and residential focused private equity investment fund, said it will help Deutsche Hospitality expand into the Asia market, including China.

Huazhu's acquisition values Deutsche Hospitality, whose brands include MAXX by Steigenberger, Jaz in the City, IntercityHotels and Zleep at 17-18 times its 2019 expected earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization or at less than 10 times expected 2022 core earnings. The acquisition is subject to regulatory approvals and will likely close at the start of 2020, according to the statement.

Founded in 2005, Huazhu is known for its network of economy hotel chains in China including HanTing, Joya, Starway and Orange Hotel, as well as its set of Ibis hotels which is operated under an agreement with France's Accor.

Bringing Deutsche Hospitality's international hotel brands into the Chinese market will further enrich Huazhu's high-end product line, said Huazhu's Ji told China's local media. A former executive and co-founder of China online travel pioneer Ctrip, Ji's hotel group currently ranks fifth in the world by market capitalisation behind Marriott, Hilton, Accor and InterContinental Hotels Group and currently operates in over 400 cities, with another 1,736 hotels in its pipeline, according to the company.

In its announcement, Huazhu did

not disclose how it plans to fund the acquisition of Deutsche Hospitality. As of 30 June, Huazhu had RMB 4.1 billion (\$590 million) of cash on hand and RMB 9.2 billion of outstanding debt, according to its mid-year financial report. The hotel operator also had RMB 3.2 billion of funding available through an untapped credit facility, according to Chinese business website Caixin.

After making its overseas debut in Singapore last month, Huazhu, which was previously known as China Lodging Group, plans to keep going international by opening four hotels in New York next year. In announcing the Deutsche acquisition Huazhu said it will continue to accelerate the pace of its overseas expansion, and will consider opportunities in the middle and high-end hotel segments that meet its strategic requirements.

Fifty-three year old Ji holds a 37 percent stake in Huazhu to rank as the company's single largest shareholder. French hospitality giant Accor owns a 10.5 percent interest in the firm, with Huazhu owns 4.9 percent stake in the French group. Ctrip-backed online travel agency Trip.com also holds a 7.8 percent interest in Huazhu.

Hong Kong construction whistleblower launches campaign to scrutinise major projects

HONG KONG

The whistleblower who exposed standard construction work on a Hong Kong metro station has launched a crowdfunding campaign to raise money for a group that would inspect construction projects and launch legal challenges against the government.

Jason Poon Chuk-hung, managing director of construction firm China Technology Corporation, announced this week that he aimed to raise more than US\$600,000 to assemble a panel of lawyers, engineers and other professionals to raise public awareness of construction issues that had been "swept under the carpet."

He told newspaper South China Morning Post: "Our campaign will consist of four steps, including two judicial reviews, an investigative report and long-term monitoring of Hong Kong's construction sector." The campaign, launched on the GoGetFunding platform, has so far raised HK\$117,726 (about US\$15,000).

According to the newspaper, the panel includes University of Hong Kong civil engineering associate professor Albert Yeung Tak-chung. Poon came to prominence after he exposed the cover-up of defective work at Hung Hom MTR station, part of the \$12.6bn Sha Tin-Central link.

The accusations concerned steel bars being cut short rather than being screwed into couplers at the diaphragm wall and platform slab. Concrete was then poured even though the bars were not connected to the couplers.

The government set up an independent commission of inquiry into his allegations in July last year. The terms of the commission, chaired by retired judge Michael Hartman, were later expanded to cover unauthorised design changes on the north and south approach tunnels and defective stitch joints and non-compliant shunt necks in the north approach tunnel. The commission issued an interim report in May finding that there were no structural safety issues on the new platforms, and therefore no need to rebuild or reinforce some sections.

In October 2018, authorities suspended Leighton Contractors (Asia), the main contractor on the Hung Hom project, from bidding for government contracts for a year. Poon said he hoped to launch a judicial review against the commission's recent instructions, and possibly against its final report, which is due in March next year.

Emirates Reit grows property income but revaluations hit bottom line

DUBAI

Equitativa (Dubai), the fund manager that runs the Nasdaq Dubai-listed Emirates Reit, said it will continue to focus on operational improvements and reducing costs as it filed a 4 per cent increase in the total income generated from its property portfolio.

Property income rose 4 per cent year-on-year to \$54.1 million (Dh198.5m) in the nine months to

September 30, but a fall in the value of its portfolio meant net profit dropped 81 per cent to \$5.9m. The company reported a \$1.3m revaluation loss, compared to a \$19.5m gain in the same period last year. It said the lower valuation was "influenced by market conditions".

"However, the profit as at Q3 2019 does mark an improvement compared to H1 this year, when Emirates REIT reported a drop in profits to \$1.1m driven by revaluation losses.

The current lower revaluation losses are an indication of potential market recovery," Equitativa said.

At the end of the quarter, the value of the company's portfolio stood at \$1 billion, and its net asset per share stood at \$1.67, although its shares continue to trade at a substantial discount. Its shares closed slightly higher at \$0.66 per share on Wednesday. The company pointed to increases in occupancy at Index Tower, where it owns a number of

floors, and the opening of Index mall on lower floors as signs of progress, although its overall occupancy rate fell slightly to 74 per cent, from 75 per cent at the half-year period.

Both of the listed real estate investment trusts in the UAE have been trading below market value for some time as a result of negative sentiment surrounding the property market, but managers have taken different approaches to rectify this. ENBD Reit's manager, Emirates NBD

Asset Management, cancelled a tranche of shares late last year and used some of the proceeds to initiate share buybacks.

Emirates Reit, on the other hand, has borrowed more heavily with a view to making acquisitions in a market where pricing remains soft. In August, Equitativa chief executive Sylvain Vieujoit told The National that the Reit intends to spend Dh200m on property by early next year.

WORLD

In Donald Trump's shadow, Republican suburban slide shows little sign of slowing

WASHINGTON

THE last time Democrats controlled the government in Delaware County, a suburb of Philadelphia, the U.S. Civil War had just ended.

But on Tuesday, Democrats ended a century and a half of Republican dominance. In two other Philadelphia-area suburbs, they captured Chester County's board of commissioners for the first time in history and seized control of Bucks County's board of commissioners for the first time since the 1980s.

The Democratic gains in Pennsylvania, a state crucial to U.S. President Donald Trump's election in 2016, suggest Republicans have yet to staunch the bleeding in the suburbs, where voters have increasingly revolted against Trump's heated rhetoric.

The results should "scare" Republicans ahead of the November 2020 election, said Douglas Heye, a strategist who previously worked for the Republican National Committee.

"More and more data suggests we're seeing a flight away from Republicans in suburban areas," Heye said.

There were warning signs in other historically Republican strongholds as well.

In Kentucky, where Trump this week held a campaign rally to bolster Republican Governor Matt Bevin's reelection

bid, a Democratic challenger scored an upset win driven in part by a strong performance in suburbs of northern Kentucky outside Cincinnati, Ohio.

In Virginia, Democrats captured total control of state government for the first time in a generation, flipping both chambers of the legislature on the strength of wins in the rapidly growing and diversifying suburbs of northern Virginia and the capital of Richmond.

Many vulnerable Virginia Republicans sought to keep the campaign focused on local issues. Trump notably did not campaign in the state down the stretch, even as he sought to flex his political muscle in Kentucky and Mississippi.

The election results underscore the challenge Republicans in swing areas face when Trump seeks re-election in 2020, including U.S. senators Cory Gardner of Colorado, Susan Collins of Maine, Thom Tillis of North Carolina and Martha McSally of Arizona: embrace Trump and risk alienating suburban voters, especially women, or keep your distance and risk losing Trump diehards.

"That's the question every Republican up for reelection is asking themselves: how do you overperform Trump in suburban areas without hurting yourself with the base voters you absolutely need?" said Alex Conant, a Republican strategist who worked on Senator Mar-



President Donald Trump

co Rubio's presidential campaign.

Collins dismissed reading too much into the local elections, noting Republicans did well in other Kentucky races, including wresting the attorney general office from Democrats.

"I think this was an example of a very unpopular incumbent governor," she said in an interview in Washington on Wednesday.

LESSONS FOR DEMOCRATS

Democrats may have their own lessons from Tuesday's elections. In Kentucky, Democratic Attorney General Andy Beshear emphasized so-called "kitchen table issues" such as healthcare and education instead of Trump during the campaign.

That playbook was successfully employed by dozens of Democratic congressional candidates in swing districts last year, when the party seized control of the U.S. House of Representatives.

In the 2020 presidential race, Democrats are grappling with whether a moderate such as former Vice President Joe Biden or a liberal such as U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren would be best suited to defeat Trump.

"One of the reasons Democrats have overperformed in swing districts in the last two years is that they've nominated a lot of moderates," Conant said, adding that Republicans would likely claw

back some suburban losses if Warren were at the top of the Democratic ticket in 2020.

It remains difficult to determine how the House impeachment inquiry is affecting voter choices. Bevin, the Kentucky governor, sought to capitalize on Republican anger over the issue, using impeachment in his advertising and defending Trump. It was not enough to win.

Republicans noted that Bevin was deeply unpopular after battling schoolteachers and unions.

Bevin, who trails by just over 5,000 votes, refused to concede the race, citing reports of unspecified "irregularities." On Wednesday he filed for a recount, which is a review of vote totals from each county to ensure the correct figures were transmitted to the state elections board.

Tuesday's outcomes also did little to suggest that Democrats have arrested their own slide during the Trump era in rural areas and small towns, according to Kyle Kondik, an elections analyst at the University of Virginia. Republicans made gains in local races in western Pennsylvania and in southern New Jersey.

"There are countervailing trends that may cancel each other out," Kondik said. "I think the suburban problems for Republicans are very real, but I think the small city and rural problems for Democrats are also real."

Britain's general election campaign officially starts

LONDON

BRITAIN'S general election campaign officially started Wednesday after Prime Minister Boris Johnson had an audience with Queen Elizabeth II to formally ask her permission to dissolve parliament.

The Houses of Parliament closed its doors at midnight and will not re-open until after the Dec. 12 election. The dissolution essentially fires the starting-gun on campaigns by the political parties in the run-up to polling day when up to 46 million people will cast their

votes. It will be Britain's third general election in five years, following polls in 2015 and 2017.

As Johnson is leader of a minority government and Britain's future with the European Union (EU) likely to be the major issue for voters in a country divided by Brexit, the result of the election will determine what happens to Johnson's Brexit deal with the EU during the Brexit delay till Jan. 31, 2020.

Johnson will head to the Midlands region of England Wednesday night to officially launch the Conservative Party's



election campaign. Writing in the Daily Telegraph Wednesday, Johnson said: "For the last three-and-a-half years

this country has been trapped by Brexit... We have been paralyzed by a broken parliament."

"It is only by getting Brexit done in the next few weeks that we can focus on all the priorities of the British people," he wrote.

The minority Liberal Democrats want Brexit to be scrapped altogether with Britain remaining a member of the bloc while the main opposition Labour Party says it will seek a new agreement with Brussels if it wins and put it to a new referendum.

Xinhua

UN First Committee almost unanimously supports Russian-backed arms control resolution

UNITED NATIONS

THE UN General Assembly's First Committee in charge of disarmament issues has almost unanimously supported a Russia-initiated draft resolution on strengthening the international system of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation treaties.

A total of 174 delegations, including the United States, voted in favor of the document, co-authored by Russia and nine other countries. No one voted against. Five

nations - Ukraine, Georgia, Sudan, Palau and Colombia abstained, a TASS correspondent reported.

Russia identified the adoption of the document, drafted after the termination of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF), as one of its priorities for the 74th UN General Assembly session. The document suggests examining the negative consequences of undermining the treaties and accords on arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation.

The resolution welcomes the UN role in assisting negotiations

on this issue. It also requests the UN Secretary General to continue his assistance, which may be necessary for protecting the integrity of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation treaties and for reinforcing the system of such treaties.

The resolution, approved by the First Committee, will be brought before the UN General Assembly during a plenary session in December.

Vladimir Yermakov, the director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's non-proliferation and arms con-

trol department, earlier described the document as "a very serious instrument that will help resolve real problems."

According to the Russian diplomat, the document has no specifics as to the types of weapons to be reduced, because "it is a subject of a separate discussion."

"United Nations resolutions cannot be that specific," he said, adding that "any specifics are a subject of legally binding agreements between concrete states."

"They (resolutions - TASS) have political nature and are geared to

create favorable atmosphere in the area of arms control," Yermakov added.



United Nations resolutions cannot be that specific," he said, adding that "any specifics are a subject of legally binding agreements

US diplomats to star in public impeachment hearings next week

WASHINGTON

THREE U.S. diplomats who expressed alarm about President Donald Trump's dealings with Ukraine will serve as star witnesses when Democrats bring their impeachment case against



Trump directly to the public with televised congressional hearings next week, lawmakers said on Wednesday.

In a preview of what is to come, lawmakers leading the probe released testimony that showed the top U.S. diplomat in Ukraine, William Taylor, believed a White House-led effort to pressure Kiev to investigate Ukrainian energy company Burisma was motivated by a desire to help Trump win re-election next year.

Hunter Biden (pictured), the son of former Vice President Joe Biden, served on Burisma's board of directors. Joe Biden is a leading Democratic contender to face Trump in the 2020 presidential election.

"I understood the reason for investigating Burisma was to cast Vice President Biden in a bad light," Taylor said, according to a transcript of last month's closed-door testimony.

Taylor and George Kent, another career diplomat with experience in Ukraine, will testify before the House of Representatives Intelligence Committee on Nov. 13. Marie Yovanovitch, who was abruptly pulled from her post as U.S. ambassador to Ukraine in May, will testify on Nov. 15. All three have already testified behind closed doors.

Televised public hearings featuring U.S. officials testifying in Congress about alleged wrongdoing by Trump could crowd out other issues like the economy and immigration as voters turn their minds to the November 2020 election.

The hearings would be a likely prelude to articles of impeachment - formal charges - against Trump being brought to a vote in the House.

Democrats said they had enough material to move forward with public impeachment hearings even though some Trump administration officials have refused to cooperate.

"We are getting an increasing appreciation for just what took place during the course of the last year and the degree to which the president enlisted whole departments of government in the illicit aim of trying to get Ukraine to dig up dirt on a political opponent as well as further a conspiracy theory about the 2016 election that he believed would be beneficial to his re-election campaign," Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff told reporters.

Schiff's committee said later in the day that it had dropped an effort to force the cooperation of Charles Kupperman, a former White House deputy national security adviser who has refused to testify, saying it would take too long to resolve the issue in court.

Trump has blasted the House inquiry as a witch hunt and accused Democrats of unfairly targeting him in hope of reversing his surprise victory in the 2016 presidential election. In a tweet on Wednesday, Trump called the probe a "phony scam."

Taylor has provided some of the most damaging testimony to date, telling lawmakers on Oct. 22 that Trump made the release of nearly \$400 million in security aid to Ukraine contingent on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy publicly declaring Kiev would carry out politically motivated investigations demanded by Trump.

"That was my clear understanding, security assistance money would not come until the president (Zelenskyy) committed to pursue the investigation," Taylor said.

Taylor said he was told by Gordon Sondland, the U.S. envoy to the European Union, that Trump "was adamant" that Zelenskyy personally announce the investigations of Burisma and pursue a debunked conspiracy theory about the 2016 election.

'THE RUSSIANS LOVING IT'

Taylor said he was worried that Zelenskyy would still be denied the security aid after announcing the investigations, damaging his credibility in Ukraine and the United States.

"That was the nightmare," Taylor said. "The Russians loving it. The Russians are paying attention."

If the Democratic-controlled House votes to impeach Trump, the Republican-controlled Senate would then hold a trial on whether to remove Trump from office.

Senate Republicans have so far shown little appetite for ousting the president.

Trump's White House is expected to bolster its communications team, bringing on former Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi and former Treasury Department spokesman Tony Sayegh to help make its case in the weeks to come, according to a senior administration official.

Trump's defenders say there is no evidence of him and the Ukrainian president engaging in a "quid pro quo" - or exchanging a favor for a favor - because the aid to Ukraine was released and Zelenskyy never explicitly promised to investigate Burisma, the Bidens, or any involvement in the 2016 election.

Institutional strengths enable China to realise great accomplishments - British professor

CHINA'S unique institutional strengths enable it to realize great accomplishments one after another, said Ralph Martin, a professor of Cardiff University in the UK, stressing that work efficiency of Chinese people is amazing, as they have been constantly setting new records.

The institutional advantages make the country able to mobilize resources for major undertakings, focus resources on resolving the most urgent problems, and implement plans through feasible and effective mechanisms, noted Martin, adding that the institution of China has also won the support of the people.

Chinese people's capabilities and resolve to achieve goals always impress him, stressed Martin while referring to the high-speed railway network cover-

ing the whole country, the projects undertaken by Chinese companies under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and the Beijing Daxing International Airport which opened to traffic this September.

It was a great honor and precious glory to have been invited to the celebration marking the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, said Martin excitedly as he recalled the day when he watched the grand celebration at Tian'anmen Square on Oct.1 in Beijing.

Inviting foreign experts to watch the military parade during the celebration marking the anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, which was of extraordinary commemorative significance, has fully manifested Chinese government's respect

for talents and shown the open and inclusive mindset of the country, noted the professor.

In the 1990s, Martin came to China to give lessons to Chinese students for the first time. Although the students then weren't able to communicate with him in good English, their spirit and thirst for knowledge impressed Martin deeply.

Chinese people attach great importance to education, and Chinese students are diligent, studious, and eager to learn, said Martin, adding that what gratifies him the most is that Chinese students still carry forward the good tradition of respecting teachers and attaching great importance to education.

As he got to know Chinese students more, Martin found out that the students were getting more and more

active in thinking, and showed good creativity and courage to face up to difficulties.

In 2001, Martin came to Tsinghua University and conducted cooperative research with the Department of Computer Science and Technology of the university. In 2007, Martin was officially hired as a guest professor of Tsinghua University.

Traveling frequently between China and the UK, Martin has witnessed China's journey of development over the past two decades.

China has made so many development achievements, said Martin, adding that in his opinion, one of the most important achievements of the country is that it has improved people's living standards and helped everyone live a better life.

China's rapid development has helped boost the progress of the world, noted Martin, explaining that as a major manufacturing power in the world, China provides products with high quality and competitive price for people around the world.

Today, with China's scientific research capability being constantly improved, the country is becoming a land for important global scientific and technological advancements.

The Department of Computer Science and Technology of Tsinghua University is a world-class institute, according to Martin, saying that the rise in Tsinghua University's international prestige is the evidence of the fact that China is increasingly moving closer to the center stage of the world and China's educational level is winning

global recognition. Martin loves traveling in his spare time, and has travelled all over China, which, according to the professor, should be attributed to the convenient and efficient high-speed trains in China.

The first time he took the high-speed train in China is his most unforgettable experiences in the country, said Martin, noting that China's high-speed trains have combined perfectly high speed with high-level comfort, which makes travel not only something people need to do, but a pleasure.

Martin has visited such Chinese provinces as northwest China's Qinghai province and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. What amazed him in these places was not only magnificent natural landscape, but also the wind turbines. **People's Daily**

World leaders laud China's higher-level opening up at import expo

SHANGHAI

WORLD leaders and international organizations like the World Trade Organization (WTO) have hailed China's commitment to higher-level opening up.

The foreign leaders' remarks were made here on Tuesday at the opening ceremony of the second China International Import Expo (CIIE), after Chinese President Xi Jinping pledged in his speech that China will promote higher-level opening up.

French President Emmanuel Macron hailed China's promise of higher-level opening up, saying that China's reform and opening up policy has been "a turning point" in the history of the world and a great advantage of China.

China's success attributes to its own efforts and also to globalization, as China has benefited from and shaped the process of globalization after joining the World Trade Organization (WTO), Macron said.

The French president calls for upholding the multilateral trading system to address the current common problems including imbalance, adding that countries should work in the

spirit of cooperation and openness. Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness said that the CIIE, embodying an inclusive vision, is "a clear demonstration of China's commitment to strengthen cooperation in global trade and investment." "Jamaica believes in a multilateral rules based system as necessary for our economic development," Holness said, adding that his country share China's aspirations for "a more open, inclusive, balanced, and win-win economic globalization for the common development and prosperity of all countries."

The prime minister said he believes that the second CIIE will open new doors for increased partnerships in international trade and investment, while calling for a collaborative approach in the use of technology and innovation in business engagements among countries.

Noting that world economy and global trade are at a historic crossroads, Serbian Prime Minister Ana Brnabic said that just as China does, the Eastern European country has been pursuing a policy of openness and cooperation instead of barriers and closed-door policy.

Trade protectionism, tariff barriers



Chinese President Xi Jinping

ers or even trade wars will only make problems worse and deteriorate our societies, Brnabic said, noting that China's economic development is the best example to show to the world that the 21st century international economy can be best promoted through openness.

The prime minister said that China's higher-level opening up will not only benefit itself, but also offer opportunities to the whole world.

The second CIIE demonstrates enormous benefits of international trade and exchange opportunities, Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio

said, hailing China's commitment to higher-level opening up.

China has been an important contributor to the development of effective economic multilateralism, the minister said.

Director-General of the WTO Roberto Azevedo said that the second CIIE demonstrates China's intent to make import promotion an ongoing process, creating opportunities for businesses, as well as consumers in China and around the world.

"Our economies have become closely intertwined," Azevedo said.

"The optimal way forward is for countries to work together. By doing so, they can set out a credible path towards a more stable, more predictable trading system and international economy with more integration." A total of 155 countries and regions as well as 26 international organizations are attending the second CIIE, which is held in Shanghai from Nov. 5 to Nov. 10.

The exhibition area covers around 360,000 square meters. Sixty-four countries will host country exhibitions and 3,893 companies are attending the business exhibitions.

Xinhua

Attacker stabs 8 at popular Jordanian tourist site

KIGALI

AMMAN, Jordan – A lone attacker on Wednesday stabbed eight people, including four foreign tourists and their tour guide, at a popular archaeological site in northern Jordan, official state-run media said.

The incident occurred at Jerash, one of the country's top tourist destinations. The reports quoted an unnamed security official as saying the wounded included three Mexican tourists and a Swiss woman. Along with the tour guide, three other Jordanians, including a policeman, were also hurt before the attacker was subdued and arrested, reports said.

Details on their conditions were not immediately known, though the official Petra news site said the most seriously wounded were airlifted to a hospital by helicopter.

Amateur video showed a bloody scene next to the Jerash archaeological site, an ancient city whose ruins include a Roman amphitheater and a colonnade.

In one video, a woman can be heard screaming in Spanish. "It's a dagger, it's a dagger, there is a knife. Please, help him now!"

One woman is seen lying on the ground, with much blood around her, as someone presses a towel to her back. Another man sits nearby with an apparent leg wound.

There were no immediate details on the identity of the attacker or his motives.

Jordan's economy relies heavily on tourism, and Islamic militant groups have in the past targeted tourist sites. A 2016 attack by the Islamic State group killed 14 people, including a Canadian tourist.

UN study: US consumers bear brunt of tariffs against China

GENEVA

CONSUMERS in the United States are bearing the brunt of the US additional tariffs against China since mid-2018, according to a study by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). In a paper titled

"Trade and trade diversion effects of United States tariffs on China" released on Tuesday, the UNCTAD warns that additional tariffs imposed by the United States on China, especially in July and September 2018, are economically hurting both countries.

"The ongoing US-

China trade war has resulted in a sharp decline in bilateral trade, higher prices for consumers and trade diversion effects," according to the paper.

The study found that consumers in the United States bear the heaviest blow of the US tariffs on China, as the "associated

costs have largely been passed down" to American consumers and importing firms in the form of higher prices.

It also found that Chinese firms have recently started absorbing part of the costs of the tariffs by reducing the prices of their exports.

It warned that the es-

calation of tariffs in the summer of 2019 is likely to have added to the existing losses.

"The results of the study serve as a global warning. A lose-lose trade war is not only harming the main contenders, it also compromises the stability of the global economy and fu-

ture growth," cautioned Pamela Coke Hamilton, the UNCTAD's director of international trade and commodities.

"We hope a potential trade agreement between the US and China can de-escalate trade tensions," she said.

Xinhua

The ongoing US-China trade war has resulted in a sharp decline in bilateral trade, higher prices for consumers

EU leader Tusk won't run for presidency in native Poland

WARSAW

EUROPEAN Union leader Donald Tusk announced Tuesday that he won't run to be the president of his native Poland, saying he carries too much "baggage" from his time as prime minister.

Tusk, who was prime minister of Poland from 2007 to 2014, was seen as a politician who could block the right-wing populist drift of the country, which has raised concerns about rule of law.

Incumbent Andrzej Duda, who supports the ruling Law and Justice party and has only rarely vetoed the party's laws, faces reelection in the spring of 2020.

Tusk's term at the helm of the European Council ends at the end of this month, which would have given him time to start campaigning.

But Tusk, speaking from Brussels, told Polish TV stations on Tuesday that "I will not be a candidate in the next presidential elections," citing the "baggage that I carry from the time that I was prime minister."

The decision leaves opposition forces in Poland without a clear candidate to run against Duda. Tusk is the former leader of the



Osman Saleh, Eritrean Foreign Affairs Minister

centrist and pro-EU party Civic Platform.

As Polish prime minister, Tusk oversaw steady economic growth and helped raise the country's profile internationally – something exemplified by the election of Tusk himself as EU leader.

But his time at the helm also

included some unpopular moves, like increasing the retirement age, which the current government has since reversed. There were also some scandals involving members of his government.

The current ruling party, Law and Justice, is a harsh critic of Tusk's, and state TV under that

party's control has given him negative coverage.

On Monday, the Onet news portal reported that Tusk had carried out private opinion polling to assess his chances of success in the election and found the results disappointing.

Agencies

IMF cuts euro zone growth forecasts

BRUSSELS

EURO zone economic growth is set to slow more than expected as the bloc's manufacturing crisis could spill over to the larger services sector under protracted global trade tensions, the International Monetary Fund said on Wednesday.

The IMF said the 19-country euro zone would grow by 1.2% this year, revising down its earlier estimates from April of 1.3% growth for the bloc. That is a significant slowdown compared to last year's 1.9% expansion.

The bloc's economy would grow by 1.4% in 2020 and 2021, the IMF said, cutting its previous estimate of 1.5% growth in both years.

The slowdown is mostly due to anaemic growth in Germany, the euro zone's largest economy, and stagnation in Italy, the third-biggest, the fund said, revising down its earlier forecasts for both countries.

Germany is now expected to grow by only 0.5% this year, slower than the 0.8% the IMF had predicted in April. That would be one-third of 2018



growth.

The IMF also cut its growth forecast for France, the bloc's second-largest economy, despite better-than-expected output estimates for the third quarter released last week. The country is now expected to grow by 1.2% this year, instead of the 1.3% previously forecast.

To counter the slowdown, the fund reiterated its call for a "synchronised fiscal response" by euro zone governments, in a clear message to Berlin to invest more.

It said the slowdown, so far mostly caused by the impact

of global trade tensions on the bloc's export-driven industry, could spill over to services, the largest economic sector in the euro zone.

Britain's process to leave the European Union was also a cause of concern, with a no-deal Brexit causing vast negative effects on both Britain and the EU.

In the event of an orderly Brexit, which could occur by the end of January, the IMF confirmed its earlier estimates that Britain's economy would grow by 1.2% this year and 1.4% next. Growth was 1.4% in 2018.

China seeks to share development opportunities with the world through CIIE

THE second China International Import Expo (CIIE), a major initiative that China takes to expand imports and open its market to the world, manifests the country's resolve to support economic globalization and lift the level of trade liberalization and facilitation.

The expo carries the expectations of the world towards the Chinese market, global exhibitors, government officials, representatives of international organizations, experts and scholars told People's Daily.

"As a guest of honor country, Greece looks forward to this expo very much. We expect to display our huge investment potential at the expo, Kostas Fragogiannis, Greek Deputy Minister for Economic Diplomacy and Openness told People's Daily.

China plays an important role in propelling global economic

growth through advancing joint construction of the Belt and Road, said the Greek deputy minister.

In recent two years, the two countries eyed frequent economic and trade exchanges, and Greek exports to China increased fast and steadily. In 2018, the trade volume between China and Greece reached \$7.064 billion, growing by 36.3 percent year on year.

Veronika Nikishina, member of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission, said the CIIE has become a representative platform for countries to strengthen economic and trade relations, and it conveys a clear signal to the world that the Chinese government is supportive of open and balanced international trade relations.

The second CIIE and the second Hongqiao International Economic Forum serve

as a valuable opportunity for governments and enterprises of various countries at a time when trade protectionism is on the rise, Nikishina said, adding that the vigorous manufacturing industry of China is an indicator of a healthy and steady Chinese economy.

New Zealand dairy brand Theland is a beneficiary of the spillover effects of the first CIIE. At the first CIIE, the company released a milk brand and it became a hit even after the event. Now, the monthly sales volume of the milk has grown by 35 times.

"At the first CIIE, we established strategic cooperative relations with well-known Chinese enterprises and extended our sales channels to small cities and towns, bringing our business onto a fast track of development in China, said Sheng Wenhao, chairman of the board



of Theland New Cloud, who expressed that Theland hopes to cooperate with more Chinese companies at the second CIIE.

Gary Clyde Hufbauer, a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, believes that the second CIIE will cement economic and trade relations between China and countries around the world and

boost global trade.

The Chinese government has mulled measures to expand opening-up in such areas as intellectual property rights (IPR) protection, technology transfer, and attracting foreign investment, he said.

These measures indicate that China is vigorously pushing

forward multilateralism, trade facilitation and investment liberalization. As the country pushes ahead with reform and opening-up, it is bound to embrace a bright economic prospect, Hufbauer said.

Arnaud Ribadeau Dumas, President of Greater China and Instruments Global Division of Essilor, a French-based international ophthalmic optics company, said the Essilor booth received nearly 10,000 visitors during the first CIIE, and provided visual screenings to 3,000 people.

"The CIIE is a platform where China shares its development opportunities with the world. The country has provided a broad space for foreign-invested companies to develop, he said, pointing out that the CIIE showcases China's resolve to build a more inclusive, open and friendly market for all

transnational corporations.

Thomas Delabriere, general manager of Greater China and North Asia of KIND, a strategic cooperative brand of global manufacturer of confectionery Mars Inc, said the CIIE is a great opportunity that China creates for countries around the world to carry out reciprocal cooperation with each other.

The CIIE plays a significant role in fostering a more open trade and investment environment, introducing new products, enhancing technological and cultural exchanges, and promoting sustainable development, he added.

Beate Trankmann, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in China, said that the CIIE is an important platform to strengthen economic cooperation and boost global trade. **People's Daily**

The
Guardian

SPORT



George Michael

Late pop idol George Michael now returns with new song

LONDON

A NEW track recorded by George Michael in his last studio sessions before his 2016 death was released on Wednesday, in which the late British pop idol sings about social ills. "This Is How (We Want You To Get High)", his first original material since 2012, will play at the end of upcoming festive film "Last Christmas", itself inspired by Michael's solo tunes and hits from his Wham! days.

One of the best-selling artists of all time, Michael, who rose to fame in the 1980s as part of duo Wham!, died at his home on Christmas Day 2016, aged 53. A coroner said he died of natural causes.

"The previously unreleased track, which was recorded during George's final studio sessions, is his first original material to be shared for seven years," a press release said.

"The lyrics, written exclusively by George, see the star addressing society's ills with his trademark blend of self-deprecation and wry humor."

Against a catchy melody, Michael's distinctive vocals belt out lines like "Your daddy was a drinker", "My daddy was a toker", "I will always try to get my life together" and "This is how we want you to get by on your sorry lives".

An accompanying lyric video features animation of Michael over the years.

The Grammy Award-winner, who had

several drug-related run-ins with the law, began working on the song in 2012. It was finalised in the studio in 2015.

Born Georgios Kyriacos Panayiotou to Greek Cypriot immigrant parents, Michael was known for Wham! and solo hits like "Last Christmas", "Careless Whisper" and "Faith".

The "Last Christmas" film, starring Emilia Clarke and Henry Golding about a woman working as an elf in a Christmas shop, takes its name from the 1986 Wham! festive tune.

The soundtrack for the romantic comedy, co-written by Oscar winner Emma Thompson, features 12 Michael solo songs and three Wham! tunes.

"Emma had a meeting with him and he was intrigued because ... the intention was never to make his story, it was to make a story inspired by a song," David Livingstone, a producer on the film, told Reuters, referring to a meeting Thompson had with Michael to discuss a screenplay.

Thompson heard the new tune and three other unreleased Michael songs last year when working on the soundtrack.

"It's not like a song that's been dug out of the vaults, that's been sitting there unused because it wasn't good enough. It was a song that he intended to do something with and this is its new home," Livingstone said.

"(It) does feel like it's tailor-made."

REUTERS

James Harden scores 36 points, Rockets rout Warriors 129-112

HOUSTON

DESPITE an entirely different lineup of Golden State Warriors, James Harden was still out for blood Wednesday night.

Harden had 36 points and 13 assists and the Houston Rockets routed Golden State 129-112, sending the short-handed Warriors to their sixth loss in eight games this season.

Less than six months ago, a vastly different roster of Warriors ended another Houston playoff run for the third time in four seasons.

"That's a part of the league," Harden said about the changing faces. "It's a part of the NBA. There's been a lot of different faces since I've been here. It was bound to happen at some point and it is what it is."

Harden again appeared to be moving past his early shooting woes, going 6 of 16 from 3-point range. Since going 17 of 79 on 3s in his first six games, Harden has made 13 of 32 the last two.

Harden's 292 points through the first eight games (36.5 points per game) mark the highest point total through eight games since Michael

Jordan had 303 in 1988-89.

Russell Westbrook had 18 points, eight rebounds and six assists. P.J. Tucker had 22 points and 11 rebounds, Clint Capela added 19 points and 16 rebounds, and Austin Rivers was 4 for 4 from 3 with 12 points.

Alec Burks led Golden State with 28 points. Eric Paschall had 19 points, and Glenn Robinson III added 15 points and 11 rebounds.

The rookie Paschall was challenged with guarding Harden for much of the game.

"It's just hard because he's so dynamic and he's a great passer," Paschall said. "And during his (isolation plays), you can't really touch him because he's so smart on how he draws the fouls. As a team, we did a good job in the first half, but then he got hot and started hitting 3s."

Already reeling from injuries to Splash Brothers Stephen Curry (broken hand) and Klay Thompson (knee surgery) and the loss of Kevin Durant, the Warriors were without D'Angelo Russell (sprained right ankle) and Draymond

Green (torn ligament in left index finger) for a third straight game. Russell, who sat on the Golden State bench, could return Friday, Warriors coach Steve Kerr said.

Golden State fell to 2-6 for the first time in eight years.

Both teams struggled with their shooting for spurts of the first half, but late in the second quarter, Harden drilled a deep 3-pointer where he was also fouled. That shot fired up both Harden and the Toyota Center crowd, including rapper Travis Scott, who was sitting courtside.

Houston led 63-52 at the half, thanks in large part to Harden's 24 first-half points, but also Golden State's 38.8% shooting from the field.

There were seven lead changes in the first half before Houston started to pull away.

To open up the second half, the Rockets held the Warriors to just three field goals in the first seven minutes of the third quarter and built a lead as large as 23 points. They entered the fourth quarter leading 98-83.

"I didn't like our shot selection as a team tonight,"

Kerr said. "I didn't think we played for each other. I thought we were driving to try to score instead of driving to try to score instead of driving to try to move the ball to someone on the team who can make the next play."

Meanwhile, in Los Angeles, the numbers are adding up quickly for Giannis Antetokounmpo.

The reigning NBA MVP had 38 points and 16 rebounds to help the Milwaukee Bucks beat the Los Angeles Clippers 129-124 on Wednesday night for their fourth victory in a row.

It's what he's done to start the season that really stands out.

Antetokounmpo became the first player in league history with 200 points, 100 rebounds and 50 assists in the first eight games of a season.

"He played the whole fourth quarter and was fabulous," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said.

Antetokounmpo had 13 points in 12 minutes during the fourth as Milwaukee repelled several threats by the Clippers, who kept getting within four only to come up short.

"Guys were physical with me but at the end of the day you've just got to keep doing what you're doing," Antetokounmpo said. "I was trying to make plays, try to stay aggressive. That's what my teammates wanted me to do."

Antetokounmpo just missed a triple-double with nine assists. He's posted at least 10 rebounds and five assists in each of the first eight games this season, the first player to do that since at least 1972-73.

"He's a beast," Clippers coach Doc Rivers said.

George Hill scored 24 points off the bench and hit six of the Bucks' 18 3-pointers.

The Clippers were without Kawhi Leonard, who rested for the first half of a home back-to-back. He'll play against Portland on Thursday night.

"When he sits out we've just got to step up," said Lou Williams, who had 34 points and 11 assists.

Montrezl Harrell had a career-high 34 points and 13 rebounds in his first start of the season. "It don't mean nothing," he said in a low voice. "We lost."

Talking points from Taifa Stars squad for AFCON 2021 qualifiers

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL MWEPE

A 27-man squad for Tanzania's national soccer side, Taifa Stars, has been announced ahead of the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifier against Equatorial Guinea and Libya.

Here, we take a look at the main talking points ahead of next week's crucial matches.

No place for Aishi Manula

There is no place for Aishi Manula who has kept five clean sheet in his nine appearances for Simba SC this season. Manula has played for Taifa Stars since Etienne Ndayiragije appointment.

The Burundi tactician has opted for Juma Kaseja, a goalkeeper he knows very well, and has since kept faith in him despite Manula's form in the league.

Manula has kept five clean sheet in his nine appearances for Simba SC this season, while Kaseja has looked vulnerable during KMC FC's own turbulent start to the new Vodacom Premier League season.

Maguri and Mpepo conundrum

Forward Eliuter Mpepo, who turns out for Buildcon in Zambia Premier Soccer League, has been selected while compatriot, Elias Maguri, who also features in the league, has been overlooked.

Maguri, who plays for Nakambala Leopards, has been in fine form since he crossed over to Zambia. He has scored three goals in five matches for Nakambala Leopards so far. Many thoughts his recent form would earn him a recall in the senior national team having last played for the squad in 2017 when he scored an equalizer against Benin.

The former Simba, Stand United and KMC FC striker will, on the one hand, understandably feel he has done as much as he can to earn a recall though Ndayiragije has a final say on the matter.

Distributed via [Ibomedia](#)



National soccer team, Taifa Stars.

Mpepo, who is yet to make his national team debut, has, on the other hand, not had a good season with Buildcon so far. He is in not a guaranteed starter and has yet to find the back of the net in his five appearances for Buildcon this season.

Midfield headache

The midfield and wide areas have been another hot and cold department for Taifa Stars. Ndayiragije has called up Jonas Mkude, Mzimiru Yassin (Simba SC), Abdul-aziz Makame, Feisal Salum (Yanga), Abubakar Salum and Frank Domayo (Azam FC).

There is no denying the talent of these midfielders, but most of them struggle for consistency and substance in their style of play giving Ndayiragije headache on which pair to select.

Simba dominance

Simba, Azam FC and Yanga have generally provided the bulk of the names in the Tanzania squad. Ndayiragije's latest selection of 27 players has seven players from Simba. Were it not for injury, John Bocco would have been the eighth player from Simba.

There are those who firmly believe if the nucleus of a team comes from a dominant club or couple of clubs, the approach can be helpful, whereas others believe this is not a good thing for a country that is divided into two camps - Simba and Yanga.

Who will join Samatta and Msuva upfront?

If there are any certainties in this squad, then two names - Mbwana Samatta and Simon Msuva - are the first names in Taifa Stars' starting lineup.

The two key strikers are settled and confirmed then the manager has to decide on his third choice but, judging on current form, that choice is not a very straightforward one.

Ditram Nchimbi was thrown into limelight after his winning goal in the Africa Nations Championship (CHAN) 2020 qualifier against Sudan. Though not technically blessed, he is a powerful forward who offers options for Ndayiragije.

Shaban Chilunda is taking more time to regain his match fitness but he is the most gifted options though his lack of confidence is a matter of concern. Eliuter Mpepo's inclusion has raised eyebrows though he is down in the pecking order.



Houston Rockets' Clint Capela (15) dunks the ball as Golden State Warriors' Jordan Poole (3), Willie Cauley-Stein (2), Glenn Robinson III (22) and Ky Bowman (12) watch during the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2019, in Houston. (AP Photo)

seven straight points to keep the Bucks ahead 115-103.

"I just know he's always around the rim," former Clippers guard Eric Bledsoe said of Antetokounmpo. "Even though it's a bad play or whatnot, he's going to be under the rim, so I just find a way to get it to him."

Bledsoe added 20 points, and Brook Lopez had 11 points and 12 rebounds for the Bucks.

The Clippers erased an 11-point deficit in the third. They forced three ties, but each time Antetokounmpo answered for the Bucks. He dunked, hit a 3-pointer and made two free throws.

Milwaukee outscored the Clippers 15-6 to take a 98-89 lead into the fourth.

The Bucks opened the second on a 30-11 run, hitting five 3-pointers, for their largest lead of 17 points. Hill scored 14 to help the Bucks lead 70-59 at halftime. They closed with three consecutive 3s, two by Hill and the last by Korver, who beat the buzzer.

The Clippers closed within four early in the fourth, but Antetokounmpo reeled off

AP

Liverpool sense chance to leave City in their wake

LONDON

LIVERPOOL have a gilt-edged chance to inflict a hammer blow on Manchester City's hopes of a third successive Premier League crown in a seismic clash at Anfield on Sunday but failure to do so could revive bitter memories.

Rewind to the third day of the year at the Etihad Stadium and Liverpool were in a similar position of strength.

Victory then would have shot them 10 points clear. They lost a frenetic clash 2-1, however, and City relentlessly reeled them in to win an epic title race with 98 points to Liverpool's 97.

This time Liverpool are at home, and victory would put them nine points clear. It feels like a chance they cannot afford to pass up as they seek a first league title since 1990.

"With a deficit like that – even in mid-November – Pep Guardiola knows he would have a mountain to climb to win the Premier League," former England striker and BBC pundit Alan Shearer said this week.

Third-placed Leicester City welcome fifth-placed Arsenal on Saturday after fourth-placed Chelsea take on Crystal Palace but all eyes will be focussed on the showdown on Merseyside.

Rarely does a fixture, especially one played as early in the season, justify the hype but such is the quality and reliability of Liverpool and City, the consequences of the result are difficult to play down.

Liverpool have seemingly forgotten how to lose. They are unbeaten in 28 league matches since losing to City and at Anfield they have not lost in the league since April 2017.

Yet neither side have been quite at their best of late, relying on the never-say-die attitude that has become as important a weapon as their fearsome forward lines.

Both clawed back 1-0 deficits with late goals to claim 2-1 victories last weekend. City trailed Southampton before Sergio Aguero and Kyle Walker turned it around.

Liverpool cut it even finer. They trailed Aston Villa until the 87th minute before goals from Andy Robertson and Sadio Mane clinched a victory which means they have a little more margin for error this weekend.

"What Liverpool have is an incredible quality to fight right until the end," Guardiola said ahead of his side's Champions League clash away to Atalanta on Wednesday – 24 hours after Liverpool beat Genk 2-1 at Anfield.

"Good teams keep going. They wear you down, they have that belief," Shearer said this week. "It happened to Man United under Alex Ferguson all those years ago, it's not a coincidence they scored all those late goals."

Guardiola spiced it up this week with comments claiming Liverpool's Mane was prone to diving. Klopp retaliated saying City had perfected "tactical fouling". **REUTERS**

'Wenger set for Bayern Munich talks'

LONDON

ARSENE Wenger is set to speak to Bayern Munich about a return to management, sources have told ESPN FC.

Wenger was not the first choice but he is now the leading candidate and will speak with Bayern CEO Karl-Heinz Rummenigge later this week to discuss the position.

However, Bayern, who have seen Ralf Rangnick, Erik ten Hag and Thomas Tuchel all rule themselves out of the running, could extend Hansi Flick's tenure as caretaker manager in order to buy them time.

When asked about Wenger ahead of the club's Champions League game against Olympiakos on Tuesday, Bayern sporting director Hasan Salihamidzic said: "I won't talk about any names."

Wenger himself addressed the rumours on Wednesday, telling BeIN Sports that: "I'd never refuse to talk to Bayern Munich, because I know the people who have led the club for 30 years and I was nearly going to Bayern a long, long time ago. That's all I can say."

"I just want to do what I like now. I have not decided yet if I will go back on the pitch or not," Wenger continued. "I'm quite happy what I am doing but I miss the pitch as well, so it's a difficult decision for me at the moment."

Wenger, who has been out of

work since ending his 22-year reign at Arsenal in 2018, said "of course" when asked about his interest in replacing Niko Kovac at the Bundesliga champions and is keen on a return to management.

The 70-year-old has been ready to take over at Bayern for months and was prepared to step in last season when Kovac was under pressure.

Sources have told ESPN FC that Wenger, who could start work immediately and is fluent in German, is confident he can make the team better, improve the results and the style of play.

Meanwhile, Rangnick has followed Ajax boss Ten Hag and PSG coach Tuchel in distancing himself from the position.

"No. Ralf Rangnick is not available," his agent Marc Kosicke told Bild on Wednesday. "We don't believe Rangnick has what Bayern are currently looking for. And that's why it does not make sense to hold concrete talks."

Former RB Leipzig head coach and sporting director Rangnick took on a new role within the Red Bull system as the Head of Sport and Development in the summer.

Speaking on Tuesday, ahead of PSG's Champions League game against Club Brugge, Tuchel said: "It doesn't interest me because I'm PSG coach."

(Agencies)

PSG sporting director Leonardo hits out at Zidane for Mbappe comments

PARIS

PARIS Saint-Germain sporting director Leonardo has hit out at Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane for suggesting that Kylian Mbappe's dream was to play for the Spanish club.

"Honestly, it's a bit irritating, it's annoying," the Brazilian said following PSG's 1-0 win over Club Brugge in the Champions League on Wednesday, adding that "it's not the first time this has happened".

Zidane was asked about a possible move for the 20-year-old World Cup-winning star in a press conference in Madrid on Tuesday.

"We will see in the future. He has always said it was his dream to play for Real Madrid," Zidane replied.

A clearly irked Leonardo, who returned to Paris for a second spell in the role of sporting director earlier this year, said the comments were an attempt to unsettle the striker.

"I think that now is not the time

to talk about this. He is a player who has two and a half years left on his contract with us, so to talk about what he wants, his 'dream', every time... If we can just stop this, pause this talk," he said.

"Kylian is a very important player for us. Now is not the time to destabilise him."

Mbappe started as PSG beat Club Brugge 1-0 with a Mauro Icardi goal before the end of the first half of the Champions League.

They travel to Madrid to face Zidane's Real in their next Group A game later this month.

Meanwhile, Leonardo said PSG would not rush into offering new contracts to veteran duo Thiago Silva and Edinson Cavani, both of whom will be free agents at the end of the current campaign.

"We will see what happens as the season goes on. We are not putting a time limit on it, we will decide together, one thing or another. A year is an eternity," he said. **AFP**

Juventus, Bayern and PSG seal last-16 berths, Man City made to wait

PARIS

DOUGLAS Costa scored a dramatic injury-time winner to send Juventus into the Champions League knockout stages after a 2-1 win at Lokomotiv Moscow on Wednesday, while Paris Saint-Germain and Bayern Munich joined the Italian champions in the last 16.

Mauro Icardi's first-half goal was enough for PSG to edge past Club Brugge 1-0 at the Parc des Princes, as Bayern laboured to a 2-0 victory over Olympiakos.

Manchester City missed the chance to progress from Group C after a dramatic 1-1 draw at Atalanta which saw right-back Kyle Walker end the game in goal.

Juventus knew three points in Russia would be enough to secure their passage to the knockout rounds, and took a fourth-minute lead through Aaron Ramsey.

Cristiano Ronaldo's free-kick bounced in front of Lokomotiv goalkeeper Guilherme, who inexplicably allowed the ball to squirm through his legs, with Ramsey prodding in from on the goalline.

Aleksei Miranchuk quickly levelled for the hosts by tapping in the rebound after his own header had struck the post, with Maurizio Sarri's Juve then struggling to break their hosts down.

But Brazilian winger Costa came off the bench and netted a magnificent 93rd-minute winner, slipping the ball through the hapless Guilherme's legs after a mazy run.

"He (Costa) is returning to top condition after an injury but he has enough quality to play anywhere on the pitch," said Juve coach Sarri.

- Icardi fires PSG through - PSG reached the last 16 for the

Distributed via [ippmedia](#)

Kyle Walker was brought on in goal for the final 10 minutes for Manchester City on Wednesday. And City did well to keep the ball as far away from their goal as possible while Walker was playing. (Agencies)

eighth straight season, but a nervy display against Brugge will not have boosted hopes of the French champions making the semis for the first time since 1995.

Icardi swept Thomas Tuchel's men into the lead midway through the first half with his eighth goal since joining on loan from Inter Milan.

But Belgian outfit Brugge should have grabbed a late equaliser, only for Mbaye Diagne to see his penalty saved by PSG 'keeper Keylor Navas.

"It is logical we are annoyed after a game where I think we deserved something but you still end up empty-handed," said Brugge goalkeeper Simon Mignolet.

Managerless Bayern Munich had earlier become the first side to go through, as late goals from Robert Lewandowski and Ivan Perisic ended Olympiakos' resistance at the Allianz Arena.

"I'm very happy with the performance, we're into the last 16 and that's what counts," said Hansi Flick, who took over as interim coach after Niko Kovac was sacked on Sunday.

Bayern lead Tottenham at the top of Group B by five points, after last season's runners-up thrashed Red Star Belgrade 4-0 in Serbia.

Son Heung-min scored twice just three days after being left devastated by his tackle which caused a horrific injury for Everton's Andre Gomes, with Giovanni Lo Celso and Christian Eriksen also finding the net.

- Goalkeeper Walker helps City to point -

Premier League champions Man City were made to wait after Atalanta's second-half fightback at the San Siro.

Raheem Sterling, who scored a hat-trick in City's 5-1 victory in the

reverse fixture two weeks ago, put Pep Guardiola's men in front after only six minutes, but Gabriel Jesus dragged a dreadful penalty well wide shortly before half-time.

City goalkeeper Ederson was replaced by Claudio Bravo at the break as a precaution ahead of their crucial Sunday clash at Premier League leaders Liverpool.

Chilean Bravo saw Mario Pasalic's header fly past him in the 49th minute, but worse was to come when he was sent off with nine minutes remaining for hacking down Josip Ilicic.

Walker was brought on to play as 'keeper, and despite almost fumbling Ruslan Malinovsky's effort from the resulting free-kick into his own net, helped City secure a point.

"I say again, thank you Kyle because it is not easy to take this responsibility to go on and be a goalkeeper and save the free-kick," said City full-back Benjamin Mendy.

Atletico Madrid also missed out on booking a last-16 place as they slumped to a 2-1 defeat at Bayer Leverkusen.

A bizarre Thomas Partey own goal and Kevin Volland's second-half strike kept the Germans in contention to finish second behind Juventus in Group D despite Alvaro Morata's late consolation.

Shakhtar Donetsk snatched a thrilling 3-3 draw at Dinamo Zagreb thanks to two injury-time goals, including a 98th-minute penalty from Tete.

Those two teams remain level on five points in Group C behind Man City, but Shakhtar are second due to having scored more away goals in their head-to-head matches.

AFP

Barca need fixing fast as patience with Valverde wears thin

BARCELONA

ERNESTO Valverde tried to put the criticism down to high demands and snap reactions but Barcelona's malaise, underlined by a goalless draw at home to Slavia Prague on Tuesday, will be laid at the feet of their coach.

After losing 3-1 at Levante in La Liga on Saturday, Barca produced a performance that offered few assurances and even less encouragement this will be the year they, and Lionel Messi, win the Champions League again.

Messi hit the crossbar but was unable to deliver the goal at a restless Camp Nou that might have papered over the cracks and, at least, quietened the whistles at the finish.

Gerard Pique and Valverde both pointed to the tables in the team's defence, with Barcelona sitting top of La Liga and first in Group F, still more than likely to go through, although with first place now up for grabs.

If they fail to win at home to Borussia Dortmund later this month, it could well be that Barca, Dortmund and Inter Milan are all within three points of each other going into the final round, when Valverde's side are away at the San Siro.

And in the league, they lead, but not with conviction. Level on points with Real Madrid, Barcelona are only one ahead of Sevilla in fifth, albeit having played a game less due to last month's postponed Clasico.

"In football today, and in a team like ours, it's all about winning," said Valverde. "And if it can be emphatic, even better. It is never enough."

"At the start of the season, it's not about winning one title, it's about winning three or four. So the frustration when you don't win a game is high."

When Valverde arrived in 2017, he took over a team in crisis, stunned by the departure of Neymar and stung by consecutive defeats to Real Madrid in the Super Cup.

He brought stability and calm, and the team, steadied by his belief in discipline and hard work, won the league. A year later, they did it again, this time by 11 points.

But while initially some of the aesthetics, and players, remained, Barcelona's sense of identity fizzled. The



Ernesto Valverde

reliance on Messi has grown heavier while success in Spain no longer excuses failure in Europe, particularly the kind seen against Roma and Liverpool.

"Barcelona have a history of fantastic collective play and then on top of that Messi made the difference,"

Arsene Wenger told beinSports on Tuesday night.

"Today it looks like they wait for Messi to do something and the strength of the team-play has gone. It looks like they have lost their charisma."

Without the likes of Xavi and An-

dres Iniesta, Valverde may not be able to replicate the style of Pep Guardiola but he has Messi, Antoine Griezmann, Ousmane Dembele and Frenkie de Jong. The feeling is the style should be better than this.

"I would ask for patience," said Pique. "We are not playing at the level we expect. The results are not bad, but they could be better. We have to improve."

But without a sense of direction, supporters are also less eager to wait.

"Pique asks for patience and we have it," wrote Mundo Deportivo on Wednesday. "But that doesn't mean continuing while wearing a blindfold."

Valverde's contract ends next summer and although it contains an option to extend for another year, there might be an opportunity for an amicable conclusion.

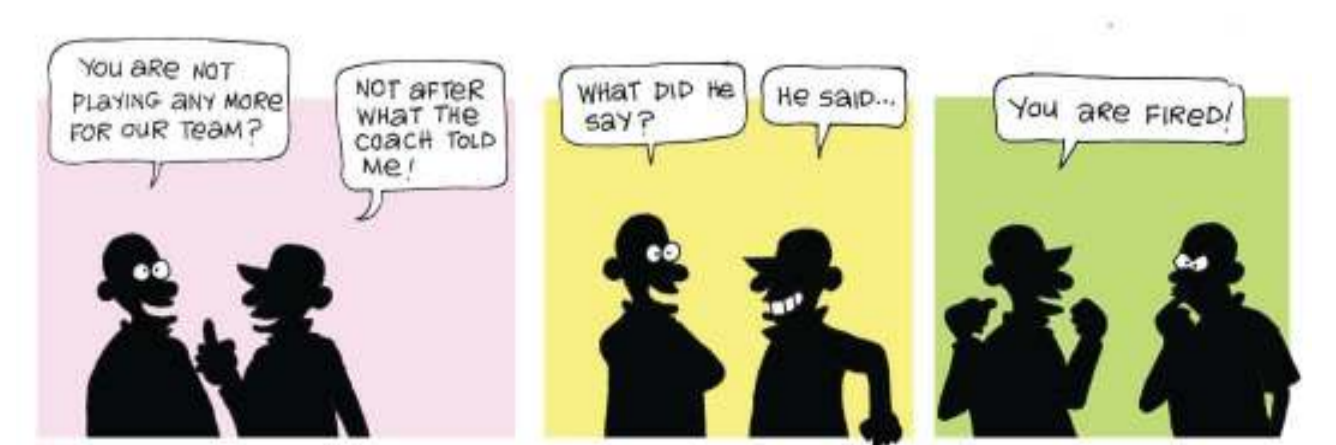
Erik ten Hag, Xavi and Ronald Koeman could be possible successors.

To stay longer, Valverde will likely have to win the Champions League but crash out early or fall away in La Liga, and he could go sooner too.

"Three days ago we were enjoying a winning streak and now everything has unravelled in a flash," said Valverde. "If you can fall into a hole in three days, in three days you can also climb out of it."

But the whistles on Tuesday suggest the dip goes deeper. Barcelona need fixing and Valverde knows time is running out.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Juventus, Bayern and PSG seal last-16 berths, Man City made to wait

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

EATV

TONIGHT @ 21:00

FRIDAY

10:59 Jikoni Na Jane
11:00 DADAZ (live)
13:30 Kati Za Wana
14:00 Radio:PlanetBongo Live
15:00 FUNDUKA
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 #SELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 #Newz
18:30 Skanga
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:30 MJADALA
21:00 Friday Night Live

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE (FNL) is where EATV and East Africa Radio combine to bring you an explosion of Friday Night entertainment. The base gets louder, the fun gets addictive and the guest list is exclusive! It's a party on TV.

east africa RADIO

05:00 EA Breakfast
09:00 Supamix
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Aces hammer St. Gobain in Caravans T20 competition

By Guardian Reporter

ACES cricketers have picked their first victory in this year's DRCC Caravans T20 tournament, cruising to six-wicket drubbing of St. Gobain in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

Caravans Cricket Club has hosted the tournament under the supervision of Dar es Salaam Regional Cricket Committee (DRCC), targeting to develop the sport domestically.

St. Gobain won the toss in the Group B clash, opted to bat but failed to make the most of the opportunity given they were bowled out for 92 runs in 18.1 overs.

They experienced a wobble right from the start, as the top order batsmen were dismissed in quick succession.

Ashish Kamania attempted to stead the ship in which he nailed 35 runs, which included four sixes.

Zaheer Patel chipped in with 12 runs. The team's efforts to reach the target ended in vain given the batting order, later on, collapsed dramatically.

Aces' medium pacer, Salum Jumble, had a field day with the ball, posting an impressive figure of four wickets for 12 runs in four overs.

Pacer Ally Mpeka was also impressive with the ball, given he took three wickets for 16 runs in 3.1 overs.

Ankit Baghel piled misery on St. Gobain's batting line up, finishing his spell with two wickets and leaking 11 runs in four overs.

With an achievable target in their sight, Aces got down to smooth chase, reaching the target for the loss of four wickets in 16.5 overs.

Raza Baloch, batting at number three, confidently led the chase with his 35 runs, which consisted of a boundary and two sixes.

Baloch saw to it his side's ability to reach the target was hardly in doubt, with Ejaz Aziz and skipper, Bhavesh Govind, chipping in with 23 runs and 15 runs not out respectively.

Jumble was presented with the man of the match prize, thanks to his stellar performance with the ball, which changed the balance of the match.

Aces have, in the process, continued maintaining their dominance over St. in recent club competitions held in the city.

This year's DRCC Caravans T20 tournament's sponsors include Petrofuel, Alliance Insurance, Grand Restaurant, Colourflex, RAS Logistics and SBC through Pepsi brand.

The competition has brought together 10 teams that have been placed in two groups.

Group A has been made up of Union, Caravans, Gymkhana, Aga Khan SC and Team 10. Group B outfits include Aces, Shree Kutchi Leva, GP, Estim and Saint Gobain.

Company pledges to continue backing Taifa Stars



By Guardian Reporter

SERENGETI Breweries Limited (SBL) Company, which sponsors the senior national soccer team, Taifa Stars, has pledged its continued support to the squad, as well as cooperating with domestic soccer lovers in seeing to it the squad performs well in its assignments.

Taifa Stars are set to come up against Equatorial Guinea in the first match of the Group J of the qualifiers for the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) finals, at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam next week.

Anitha Msangi, SBL Marketing Manager, told reporters in the city yesterday that her firm, via the Serengeti Premium Lager brand, will keep on supporting the squad and

fully cooperate with domestic soccer followers.

Anitha disclosed SBL will set up big screens in various parts of the city with a view to seeing to it soccer fans watch the next week's clash free of charge, whilst enjoying Serengeti Premium Lager.

"SBL, via Serengeti Premium

Lager, will continue entertaining soccer followers by seeing to it Taifa Stars perform well," Anitha noted.

"We will also see to it the soccer lovers enjoy the match and the beer."

"Fans should come out in big number to cheer the squad whilst getting a taste of the

Serengeti Premium Lager." Wilfred Kidao, Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) secretary general, pointed out the senior national team will soon enter camp to shape up for the match.

Kidao disclosed the squad will later take on Libya in the second match of the continental

event at the latter's venue on November 19.

"We urge Tanzanians to cooperate with us in supporting the senior national team, we should turn up in big number in the clash and cheer the team with a view to motivating to perform well," Clifford Ndimbo, TFF information officer, noted.

Distributed via ippmedia



Ten-time NBA legend Jim Clemons conducts a basketball clinic with Arusha's Orkeswa Secondary School students in Monduli district on Wednesday. The legend is in Tanzania on a Sports Diplomacy program arranged by the US Embassy. He is lined up to conduct a similar clinic at the Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Park in Dar es Salaam on Monday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF US EMBASSY

Monteiro set to lead Mozambique at COSAFA U-20 championship

MAPUTO

MOZAMBIQUE are set to be led by former international striker Dario Monteiro at the COSAFA men's Under-20 Championship to be staged in Lusaka, Zambia from December 4-14.

Monteiro has recently taken over at Desportivo de Maputo in the Mozambican league but is still expected to lead the Under-20 side on their quest for regional glory.

The 42-year-old enjoyed an illustrious career in Portugal and South Africa and made almost 90 senior international appearances for the Mambas over a 15-year international career.

Mozambique are still searching for their first-ever COSAFA Under-20 Championships title having been beaten finalists in 2008.

They lost to then hosts South Africa on that occasion but will be hoping to go one better this time round after disappointingly

losing out in the first round of the event in the last seven instalments.

They did narrowly miss out on the semifinals in Botswana in 2011, the hosts just pip them on goal-difference in a three-team pool that also included Swaziland.

And in 2016 they finished their three-team pool with two draws and so lost out to DR Congo for a place in the knockout stages.

In 2017 they returned home early with a single win and two defeats, though they were in a tough pool with eventual champions South Africa and North African guest nation Egypt.

And last year they were unbeaten after a win over Central African guest nation DR Congo was followed by draws against Malawi and Zambia, which both ended 1-1.

They will wait to find out their opponents in 2019 when the draw is held in Lusaka on November 15.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

