



ELECTRICITY



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Govt silent on Chinese venture in gold smelting, refinery plant

JPM donation to Morogoro residents could change lives

By Guardian Reporter

RESIDENTS of Kisaki commercial centre in Morogoro Region will take a long time to forget President John Magufuli's brief stop-over there yesterday on his way to launch the Rufiji hydropower project, as he left them with a donation that may soon change their lives for the better.

The president who travelled by the Tanzania Zambia Railway (TAZARA) stopped at the famous station and pledged a donation of 400mn/- for the construction of a hospital and led an impromptu fundraising event for a police post.

"I will donate at least Sh400 million for the construction of the hospital, especially taking into consideration that we are implementing a huge project, the Stieglers Gorge around the area," he said.

Following the start of the project, there was need to accelerate social facilities including



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a good hospital and if possible a hotel to accommodate visitors touring the area, he stated.

Dr Magufuli said he decided to come by train in order to observe the area in a clear eyed manner and so far he was of the view that there was need to develop the area by bringing in social services vital for the community.

He also led a fundraising effort for the construction of a police post at the area, where a number of government officials and residents of the area contributed to the tune of Sh39 million.

With the construction of a police post pastoralists who have been allowing their cattle to feed on farm crops in the area will be punished according to the law, the president declared.

He said that it has come to the government's attention that pastoralists allow their animals

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It's 'business as always' for these residents of Udindivu village in Bagamoyo District, Coast Region, as they go about preparing for sale a local - apparently honey-based - brew known as wanzuki. When The Guardian caught up with them at the weekend, they said that they found the business the best option through which they could fend for their families and fight poverty. But they complained that, while access to loans would have helped them operate in much more hygienic conditions and make a bigger profit margin, credit facilities were hard to come by given the tough eligibility conditions. They gave the going price as 200/- per bottle. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

UNIDO ready to help Tanzania in SADC meeting, boost industrialisation drive

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) has said it is ready to support Tanzania in hosting the 4th Southern African Development Community (SADC) industrialisation week next month.

Speaking here yesterday, UNIDO Representative to Tanzania, Mauritius and East Africa Stephen Kargbo said the organisation is ready to offer any kind of support for the event as well as Tanzania's own industrialization aspirations.

"The government of Tanzania is on the right track as far as industrialization and development is concerned, thus UNIDO is ready to work with all stakeholders to achieve these aspirations," he said, noting that it rallies behind the government in hosting the



As the industrial arm of the United Nations, UNIDO promotes inclusive and sustainable industrial development as captured in the Sustainable Development Goal number nine and in several other documents

regional meeting.

Tanzania through the Ministry of Industry and Trade will on 5-9 August host the 4th SADC Industrialisation Week under the theme "A Conducive Business Environment for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development."

The SADC Council of Ministers endorsed the convening of the annual SADC Industrialization Week to intensify engagement with various partners, including the private sector in order to accelerate the implementation of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063.

The SADC Industrialisation Week is a public-private engagement platform that helps to foster new opportunities for intra-African trade and investment in the region. Last year,

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PM touts Ruvuma as next investment hub

By Aisia Rweyemamu

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa (pictured) yesterday declared that Ruvuma region has massive untapped investment potentials that if unlocked, they can lift the region to become among the richest areas countrywide.

Speaking at the launch of the Ruvuma Investment Guide and Ruvuma Investment Forum at the Maji Maji grounds in Songea town, the premier named listed some of the opportunities that make Ruvuma stand out. The climate of the region is conducive and



its rains are predictable, so there are large irrigated areas and their water sources are still alive, he stated.

Another factor that makes the region unique for investment is fertile land, where the region is among the top seven regions in food production, he said.

The region is currently having enough electricity and its price is low, providing investors with good opportunities to invest and enhance production without problems.

Majaliwa told the forum that the

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"Gold worth 136.7bn/- (USD 60 million) has been traded through the new mineral centres and the government has collected 7.7bn/- in royalty and clearance fees"

By Guardian Reporter

MINERALS minister Dotto Biteko yesterday declined to divulge information on Chinese companies the government has awarded licences for the construction of a mineral smelter and two gold refineries.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday at a ceremony where a Kenyan delegation handed over 35kg of gold and cash seized by authorities in Nairobi to President John Magufuli, the minister said two mining licences would soon be awarded to the companies, required to put up an investment worth USD100 million.

But contacted by The Guardian yesterday to shed light on the companies by giving their names and general profiles, the minister said he could not discuss the matter because there was no prior consultation with the companies.

"I do not know if they will be comfortable if I do so without their consent," he said.

Unveiling the move that two companies have been awarded such licences at the State House, Biteko did not name the firms nor give details about their current operations.



African countries have not been benefiting from natural resource wealth, including minerals. Our minerals have been stolen through smuggling or through exploitative mining contracts

He said however that the licences have been awarded to the firms as part of government efforts to generate more revenues from the mining industry.

President Magufuli banned the export of mineral sand in March 2017, a massive concentrate that contains silver, copper, gold and other minerals, a key component in a USD190 billion tax dispute with Acacia Mining, the country's leading gold mining firm.

The government then invited bids from mining firms to build smelters and refineries and according to the minister, 37 Chinese companies had expressed interest.

"After carefully assessing the financial capability and profiles of those companies, we have issued licences for the construction of two gold refineries and a smelter," he said.

The government has set up 28 mineral trading centres since March to improve revenue collection from small-scale miners.

"Gold worth 136.7bn/- (USD 60 million) has been traded through the new mineral centres and the government has collected 7.7bn/- in royalty and clearance fees," the minister said.

Small-scale miners produce around 20 tonnes of gold a year but 90 per cent is illegally exported, a parliamentary report said earlier.

President Magufuli said revenue collection from mining had increased over the past two

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George Simbabwe (2nd-L), who was appointed Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) at the weekend, shares a light moment with his deputy minister Mussa Sima (R) when they visited the National Environment Management Council offices in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Looking on is NEMC director general Dr Samuel Gwamaka Mafwanga. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

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the SADC Industrialisation Week was held in Windhoek under the theme: Promoting Infrastructure Development and Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development.

The event is being co-organised by the SADC Secretariat, the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the SADC Business Council through its interim secretariat, the NEPAD Business

UNIDO ready to help Tanzania in SADC meeting, boost industrialisation drive

Foundation.

Sectors earmarked to participate in the 2019 Industrialization Week include mineral beneficiation, agro processing, pharmaceuticals, fast moving consumer goods, infrastructure and logistics to support trade and

investment, light manufacturing, as well as the automotive and financial sectors.

Kargbo reiterated UNIDO's commitment to help Tanzania achieve development aspirations under the leadership of the relevant government

authorities.

"As the industrial arm of the United Nations, UNIDO promotes inclusive and sustainable industrial development as captured in the Sustainable Development Goal number nine and in several other documents," he added.

JPM donation to Morogoro residents could change lives

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to feed on farm crops and get away with it when the cases are handled by village government officials due to corruption. With the new police post their actions would no longer be tolerated, the

president asserted.

"I urge you pastoralists and farmers to live in harmony because you depend on one another. I believe that farmers need meat, milk and other animal products while pastoralists also need food," he added.

Kalemani orders Tanesco, REA to provide power to more people in Mufindi District

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Mufindi

ENERGY minister Dr Medard Kalemani has instructed the Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (Tanesco) and Rural Energy Agency (REA) to ensure availability of electricity poles and connect to the national grid all the customers who have paid for the service.

Minister Kalemani issued the directive on Wednesday when he visited a local firm—Sheda General Supplies in Mafinga which have been contracted to manufacture and supply the electricity poles. Dr Kalemani inspected the ongoing rural electrification projects in Mufindi district, Iringa region.

He noted that the government had resolved to contract a local firm to manufacture and supply the poles to ensure reliable availability of the equipment as well as reduce cost. He said the company is expected to produce a good number of poles to meet the demand. "It is disappointing that customers who have paid for the service are not connected. Tanesco and REA should make sure they have quality poles and connect all the customers", said Dr Kalemani.

The Minister asserted that Tanzania has the capacity to produce 2000 electricity poles but the demand is 1,450,000 poles per year. He said the decision to ban importation of poles was meant to protect local manufacturers as well as job creation. He said currently the local industry has expanded providing 38,000 direct and indirect jobs.

Previously, the company was employing 2,000 people only, he said.

Meanwhile, the Minister switched on electricity at Ikweha primary school, Mtambula and Mgalo secondary schools and surrounding villages. He called upon other residents who have yet paid for connections to do so now since power services are available at their areas.

Sheda General Supplies Managing Director said the company produces enough poles for domestic consumption and exports. He said Tanesco should not blame the company on the shortage of poles since they manufacture enough poles that are also sold to Kenya.

The director informed Minister Kalemani that the factory can now produce 50,000 poles per year.



Mzee Mkongea Ali (bending), the Uhuru Torch Race leader for this year, checks a water source at Kulungu in Mkruranga District, Coast Region, from where the Dar es Salaam Water and Sewage Authority taps water for supplying to customers in the district. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

ACCRA

New leadership panel pledges push on equality

A PANEL of eminent persons from Africa and around the globe has pledged to champion key policy issues critical to Africa's future, particularly gender equality, youth and leadership as drivers of economic transformation, with a focus on constructing a gender and transformation index.

Inaugurated on 16 July in Accra, the Transformation Leadership Panel (TLP) will work with regional bodies such as the African Union and the African Development Bank, as well as with global development organisations.

The TLP is an initiative of the African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET), whose founder, K.Y. Amoako, is a former executive secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa. H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former Liberian

President, is Chair of the panel.

Ghana's Finance Minister, Hon. Ken Ofori-Atta, attended the meeting and emphasised the importance of jobs, particularly for Africa's youth.

The TLP has been established to advocate on critical challenges facing the continent, notably climate change, demographics, innovation and regional integration. These are seen as areas where Africa's leaders must take bold action to either avoid negative impacts, for example on climate change or the demographic bulge in many countries. Likewise, action on innovation and regional integration can take advantage of opportunities for transformative change.

Members of the TLP were selected based on their significant expertise

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transportation and communication infrastructure in the region is in good shape as the communication network is adequate in practically every location.

The region has enough raw materials and labour force at various educational levels, he further noted.

The regional investment guide launched is meant to cater for the needs for sorts of productive activities in the region, broadening information on the region to local investors and potential investors from abroad, he pointed out.

Individuals and companies

within and outside the country need to effectively exploit existing opportunities by making decisions to invest in the region.

Similarly, the premier used that opportunity to raise the matter of participation in local government elections slated for October.

Equally vital is registering on the Permanent Voters Register for the youth who have turned 18 after October 2015 and up to October next year.

They should come out in large numbers to register to ensure that at the time of the polls they be able to use their right of voting, the premier underlined.

Govt silent on Chinese venture in gold smelting, refinery plant

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years after the government tightened controls.

The government collected 301bn/- in mining revenue in the 2017/2018 fiscal year, rising to 310bn/- in 2018/2019 and expected to reach 470bn/- in fiscal 2019/2020.

"African countries have not been benefiting from natural resource wealth, including minerals. Our minerals have been stolen through smuggling or through exploitative

mining contracts," the president noted. Gold exports are a key source of foreign exchange for Tanzania, which exported gold worth \$1.549 billion last year, up from \$1.541 billion in 2017, central bank data shows.

The gold that was seized at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in February 2018 was handed over by Foreign Affairs Cabinet Secretary minister Monica Juma alongside 170mn/-, Ksh176, 100, USD77, 000, which was stolen at NBC Mwanga branch in 2004.

branch in 2004.



Singida regional commissioner Dr Rehema Nchimbi (L) pictured yesterday swearing in former Dodoma district administrative secretary Edward Mpogolo, recently appointed by President John Magufuli as Ikungi district commissioner. Ikungi is one of the districts in the region. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Your support is vital for us, Simbachawene tells NEMC

By Guardian Reporter

MINISTER of State in the Vice-President's Office (Union and Environment), George Simbachawene, said here yesterday that he was happy with glaring teamwork he had seen while touring operations of the National Environmental Management Council (NEMC) and called for that cooperation to be extended to their ministry.

"My expectations and trust in this council are quite high because of this plain teamwork. There is observable willingness of workers to discharge their duties in order to ensure our country remains safe environmentally. This explains my optimism," he told reporters at the NEMC headquarters in the city after at the end of his familiarization tour accompanied by Deputy Minister Mussa Sima.

The minister said he was new in the ministry and needed to learn from NEMC workers so that he could learn quickly how the council discharges its responsibilities. With such cooperation,

he explained, the council and ministry would work smoothly together. He also called for identification of operational problems hindering the work of NEMC so that they can be solved.

Simbachawene said he has long leadership experience but the ministry he had been entrusted to lead had challenges emanating from increasing human activities. That situation, he added, further complicated the task of preserving environment for the present and future generations.

The minister reminded that Tanzania was fighting to become an industrialized country by next year and become a middle-income nation by 2025. Many investors have complained on issuance of environmental impact assessment (EIA) certificates, he said, calling on NEMC to submit its recommendations on the complaints so that the ministry can use them to solve challenges and enable more investors to invest in Tanzania.

Preservation and protection of environment is the task of every person in Tanzania, he said, explaining

that it was important for the council to constantly educate the public on ways and need to safeguard environment, adding that that kind of strategy would in the long run reduce the work of the NEMC in protecting and conserving of environment.

The NEMC Director General, Dr Samuel Gwamaka, thanked the minister for his familiarization tour, pledging that the council will give the ministry the cooperation the minister asked for. He told the minister that the council faced a critical shortage of staff.

"Shortage of workers is one of the big challenges the council faces. One worker is entrusted with many projects and is expected to complete that work in the shortest time possible. Naturally this is impossible. I believe this is the source of complaints from investors to us," he explained.

He said the council plans to send workers to projects and industries countrywide in order to make on-the-spot appraisals, solve problems and make regulatory registrations in order to increase the council's revenue.

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

TRA launches taxpayers' centre in Arusha to improve service delivery

THE Tanzania Revenue Authority has finally been compelled to open a special taxpayer centre in the Ngaramtoni township of Arumeru District, with the aim of extending services to grassroots locations.

"People of Ngaramtoni, used to be forced to travel all the way to Usa-River area to undertake their tax and revenue requirements," said the executive officer at the TRA centre of Ngaramtoni, Amour Kishoka, adding that the authority decided to take services closer, at least thrice a week.

He said the Township of Ngaramtoni serves seven wards of Arumeru West, and these used to travel nearly 40 kilometres to Usa-River area where the District office for TRA are located.

Apparently there are no direct buses connecting the two locations, therefore people of Ngaramtoni without personal means of transport, were

compelled to first travel to Arusha City, then catch a bus from there, in order to get to Usa-River for their tax services.

When it comes to boosting national coffers, Arumeru collects an average of 23 billion/- in revenues per year. This, is according to the District Manager of TRA, Severini Wilbert who pointed out that the figure is higher than what other regions (not districts) collect.

"Arumeru is just a district but we do beat full regions like Simiyu, Geita, Songwe, Lindi, Singida and Manyara in tax collections," he stated.

Now with the new Tax Officer in Ngaramtoni, the TRA officers will now be able to even make follow-ups in the area easily from there instead of previous arrangements where they also had to start journeys from their headquarters in Arusha.

Businesses in Arusha are scattered, unlike in other urban centres, where there are central business districts (CBDs), therefore monitoring of revenues, would be tricky at times.

Speaking during the centre's launch, the Deputy Commissioner for the Tanzania Revenue Authority, Msafiri Mbibo said the TRA will ensure that, the Ngaramtoni center at the moment operates three days in a week.

"But we are looking to dispatch here special members of staff who are to be posted here permanently so that the center can operate throughout the week," assured Msafiri.

The TRA Ngaramtoni centre's launch was a climax event which topped the special meeting which the Tanzania Revenue Authority had organized in Arusha.

It was a one-day familiarization meeting between the Deputy Commissioner of TRA and local business persons, traders, farmers and Non-Government organizations and institutions of Arusha.

The session was specifically meant to collect views from local residents, especially business entities so as to assist the TRA in making drastic 'changes for the better,' in its various operations.

The Chairman of local Mineral Brokers in Arusha Jeremiah said there are brokers who cannot be issued with Taxpayer Identity Number (TIN) because the TRA demands National Identities documents that most people do not possess.

Other traders lamented that, when they go to apply for licences in starting business, the TRA demands 'tax clearance' even though there have not yet conducted any business.

RESPONSIBLE PARENTING AND FAMILY CARE PROJECT

BBC Media Action herein announces a new partnership with UNICEF and the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children in Tanzania on the multimedia component of the 'Responsible Parenting and Family Care' project. The budget for this component is TZS 1,084,203,874 for one year starting 15th July 2019. The project will have national and sub-national media partners and aims to reach one million male and female parents and primary caregivers across Tanzania. 115342201



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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

TENDER TITLE: CONSULTANCY TO MEASURE THE IMPACT OF NON-TARIFF BARRIERS IN THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY AND ALSO DEVELOP THE FOLLOWING: A TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR THE NATIONAL MONITORING COMMITTEES; AN INTEGRATED EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY WIDE NTB SMS/ONLINE REPORTING SYSTEM; AND A NON-TARIFF BARRIER TOOLKIT AND FACTBOOK.

TENDER NUMBER: PRQ20181142

TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) is an organisation funded by a range of development agencies to promote regional trade and economic integration in East Africa.

East African Community (EAC) with the support of TMEA is seeking proposals from qualified firms/consortium for the Consultancy to Measure the impact of Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) in the EAC and develop a training programme for NMCs; an integrated EAC Wide NTB SMS/Online reporting system; and an NTB toolkit and factbook.

Terms of reference for this consultancy and the Request for Proposals (RFP) document can be obtained at <http://www.trademarkea.com/get-involved/procurement/>. All queries quoting the above Tender Title and Number should be emailed to procurement@trademarkea.com. The closing date for submissions is **Monday, 19th August 2019 at 11.00 am (Kenyan Time)**.

Applications are only open to firms/consortium. Interested and qualified consultancy firms/consortium must submit their application via TMEA procurement mailbox at the address procurement@trademarkea.com. All attachments must be 5 MBs or less.

TMEA cannot answer any query relating to this tender seven (7) days or less prior to the submission deadline.



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EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI)

TENDER TITLE: CONSULTANCY SERVICES OF A CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT ADVISOR AT THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY SECRETARIAT

TENDER NUMBER: PRQ20181062

The East African Community (EAC) is a regional organization mandated by the governments of Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan to spearhead the East African economic, social and political integration agenda. In support of the on-going integration process, and in line with its objectives to support the EAC Secretariat, TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) has undertaken to support the financing of Consultancy Services of a Corridor Development Advisor at the EAC Secretariat.

Expressions of Interest (EOI) document for this assignment can be obtained at <https://www.trademarkea.com/get-involved/procurement/>. All queries quoting the above Tender Title and Number should be emailed to procurement@trademarkea.com.

Interested bidders MUST submit their application via TMEA procurement mailbox at the address procurement@trademarkea.com quoting the tender title and number.

The closing date for application is 16 August 2019.

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





Optician Mahija Matola of Dar es Salaam's International Eye Hospital examines Malvin Dallas, a pupil the city's East Africa International Schools, at a free eye camp the hospital organised yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Global transport stakeholders 'gauge' sector's sustainability

By Guardian Reporter

STAKEHOLDERS and experts from various countries across the globe are meeting in Dar es Salaam to discuss on better use of technology to transform transport industry for sustainable development.

The two-day conference dubbed 'Smart Transport Infrastructures' involves 100 participants from United States (US), France, South Africa, Uganda and Tanzania among others.

Speaking during the event in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the National Institute for Transportation (NIT) Rector, Dr Zacharia Mganilwa urged the participants to discuss, share knowledge and then come up with implementable recommendations that would take forward the Tanzania's transport sector.

Prof Mganilwa who represented the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication said that both the

Five-Year Development Plan and the National Transport Policy emphasise on extensive and efficient transport infrastructure as critical in ensuring effective functioning of the country's economy.

"It is in this context that the government of Tanzania aims to strongly focus on transport infrastructure development as an enabling sector of the economy," he said.

According to him, to fulfil the goal, there is a need to invest heavily in qualified transport experts to serve the country's rising demand.

The government has been constantly improving transport sector for improving social-economic growth. "To be economically and financially well, the country should have the cost-effective transport sector," Prof Mganilwa noted.

Dr George Makuke, the President of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT), Tanzania Chapter

said that Tanzania needed well trained transport and logistics professionals as well as a professional board to govern their activities like it is in other professions such as legal, accountancy and engineering.

"Mega infrastructures like roads, airports, expansion of ports of Dar es Salaam, Mtwara and Tanga and purchase of new ships to ply in Lakes Victoria, Nyasa and Tanganyika and revamping of the Air Tanzania means the logistics and transportation sector is growing and therefore needs special professional governance and coordination so that it can be part of economic uplifting to attain the middle income status," he insisted.

For his part, head of B&F Global Co. Ltd, Bruno Kinyaga, who are the organisers of the summit said the conference also aimed to bring together experts and stakeholders to share expertise on how to use technology to solve various challenges facing transport sector.

TRCS launches Phase II of programme meant to extend direct assistance to victims of disasters

By Aisia Rweyemamu

THE Tanzania Red Cross Society (TRCS) yesterday launched the phase two of cash transfer response, which is to be used in humanitarian crises in order to help people who suffer disasters and meet their direct need.

Speaking at the launch held in Dar es Salaam, the TRCS secretary General Julius Kejo described the cash transfer response as the pilot programme being implemented in Kigogo and Tandale in the city.

"We decided to pilot on flood affected in Dar es Salaam and we are collaborating with Belgium Red Cross", the Secretary General said.

He added, we have decided to give them cash assistant as a way of protecting their dignity and to give them freedom to decide what they want to purchase instead of giving them things they do not need.

Kejo explained that the pilot programme targets 464 household and total cash to be received by victim is 36.8m/-, of which the first phase spent 35.7m/-. According to TRCS each household will receive 150,000/-.

The Secretary General noted that the society provide humanitarian services in a cash transfer to reduce the impact of disasters and enable communities to meet their most important needs.

Speaking at the event, a Country Representative of Belgium Red Cross, An Vanderheyden said giving cash assistant is a way of accepting someone choice, respecting their freedom.

"One of the benefits of giving cash is avoiding dumping of properties or selling it at cheap price because sometimes we give people things they don't need," Vanderheyden explained.

She said they visit house by house and conduct a good evaluation to identify houses with had conditions.

On her part, the Second Secretary International Cooperation of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium in Tanzania, Jasmien De Winne, said "cash transfer in emergencies is a journey we have started and will continue".

Through this programme beneficiaries can have cash in their hand and decide what to buy instead of buying for them.

AfDB approves \$300m to boost trade, economic development in COMESA

ABIDJAN

THE African Development Bank on Wednesday re-affirmed its intention to boost economic and regional development on the African continent when it approved a \$300 million support facility for the Eastern and Southern African Trade & Development Bank (TDB).

The COMESA regional trade and project finance package consists of a composite funded trade and project finance facility and an unfunded trade finance risk participation agreement (RPA).

This comes on the heels of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement, which came into force earlier this month, and the bank's partnership framework featuring African DFIs. This includes the TDB, which committed to working together to scale up, speed up and synergise African development.

The facility's trade finance component will enhance TDB's confirmation capacity, support its rapidly expanding forfaiture business, and help it become a globally acceptable confirming bank.

The project finance component will meanwhile facilitate the delivery of export-oriented infrastructure, which will promote regional trade within the COMESA (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa) region.

The facility further demonstrates AfDB's longstanding and growing partnership with TDB as a regional development financial institution in pursuit of shared development goals.

In presenting the project to the board of directors, AfDB financial sector development director Stefan Nalletamby said that the RPA would enable the bank and TDB to share confirmation risk on African issuing banks.

GENERAL CHARGES			
Bankers Cheque	TZS 50,000.00	\$25.00	N/A

DISHONORED/UNPAID CHEQUE			
Fund related	TZS 120,000.00	\$50.00	N/A
Technical	TZS 30,000.00	\$50.00	N/A

Cheque book Processing fee:			
25 leaves	TZS 1 5,000.00	\$15.00	€15.00
50 leaves	TZS 25,000.00	\$20.00	€20.00
100 leaves	TZS 50,000.00	\$35.00	€35.00
Uncollected cheque book after 3 months	TZS 15,000.00	\$15.00	€15.00
3rd party encashment (with 3rd party indemnity)	TZS 25,000.00	% Per Cheque-\$20	% Per Cheque+€20
Stop Payment Charges	TZS 30,000.00	\$25.00	€25.00

TRANSACTIONAL SERVICE FEES			
With banks via - Standing Orders			
Standing Order - internal same customer (set up fee - once off)	Free	Free	Free
Standing Order - internal other customers (per transaction)	Free	Free	Free
Standing Order - Other local bank	TZS 20,000.00	\$10.00	€10.00
Amendment	Free	Free	Free

DEPOSIT/WITHDRAWAL TRANSACTIONS:			
Cash Deposit at Branch	Free	Free	Free
Cash Deposit at Branch small denominations less than \$50/\$12.5, 10, 20/- and above \$500	0.3% Min 1,000	3% On Small denominations	N/A
Cash Deposit at Branch small denominations (2,000 and below) above 1,000,000	0.3% Min 1,000	3% On Small denominations	N/A
Cash Deposit at Branch coins above 100,000	0.3% Min 1,000	N/A	N/A
With Account Transfers Internal	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cheque deposit	Free	Free	Free
Cash withdrawal Personal Banking (over the counter) up to 2m	TZS 3,500.00	% Min 5	% min 5
Cash withdrawal Personal Banking (over the counter) b/n 2m to 20m	TZS 4,000.00	% Min 5	% min 5
Cash withdrawal Personal Banking (over the counter) above 20m	0.15% MAX 50,000	% Min 5	% min 5
Cash withdrawal SME (over the counter) Max 50m	0.15% Min 3,000 Max 20,000	% Min 5	% min 5
Cash withdrawal Corporate Banking	0.15% Min 3,000 Max 100,000	% Min 10	% min 10
Deposit charges - Financial Institution	Free	Free	Free
Deposit charges - Financial Institution - small denominations	Free	3% On small denominations above \$500	3% On small denominations above €500
Account Closure	TZS 10,000.00	\$10.00	€10.00
Dormant Account Reactivation	Free	Free	Free
Dormant Account monthly fee	TZS 10,000.00	\$10.00	€10.00
Premature/cancellation fixed deposit fee	50% Accrued Interest is Forfeited. Breaking 1st month all interest forfeited	50% Accrued Interest is Forfeited. Breaking 1st month all interest forfeited	50% Accrued Interest is Forfeited. Breaking 1st month all interest forfeited

	Free	Free	Free
Monthly statements	Free	Free	Free
Interim Statements (per page)	TZS 2,000.00	\$100	€100
Search fee (documents after 3 months)	TZS 80,000.00	\$40.00	€40.00
Audit confirmation	TZS 75,000.00	\$50.00	€50.00
Balance Certificate	TZS 50,000.00	\$30.00	€30.00
Reference Letter	TZS 50,000.00	\$30.00	€30.00
Inter Account Transfers	Free	Free	Free
TT Outward local - TISS	TZS 10,000.00	\$10.00	N/A
TT Outward local - EFT	TZS 3,000.00	N/A	N/A
TT Inward local TISS	Free	Free	N/A
Salary processing (per entry)	TZS 1,000.00	\$100	€100
International Outward TT	N/A	Comm 0.25% Min 50 Max 100	comm 0.25% min 100+Other overseas bank charges (€=15)
International Inward TT	N/A	Free	Free
Travellers Chq. Deposit	N/A	N/A	N/A
Foreign Bank Drafts	N/A	\$50.00	€30.00
Outward Cheque for Collection	N/A	N/A	N/A
Outward Bills for collection	N/A	0.25% min 50 + \$ 50 (courier charge)	0.25% min 50 + \$ 50 (courier charge)
Inward Bills for Collection	N/A	0.25% MIN 50	0.25% MIN 50
Advising fee (Inward Bill & LCs)	N/A	\$200.00	€200.00

Transfer Type	NA	SA	EA
Letters of Credit	N/A	% per 100 + \$ 50 (set up fee)	% per 100 + \$ 50 (set up fee)
Bank Guarantees	% per 100 \$ 200	% per 100 \$ 200	% per 100 \$ 200

Mobile Banking Prices	Bank/Agent	Transaction Type	As per TZS
Mobile Payments	Bank/Agent	Mobile Payments	Free
Mobile Transfers	Bank/Agent	Mobile Transfers	Free
Mobile Loans	Bank/Agent	Mobile Loans	Free

Transfer Type	NA	SA	EA
Letters of Credit	N/A	% per 100 + \$ 50 (set up fee)	% per 100 + \$ 50 (set up fee)
Bank Guarantees	% per 100 \$ 200	% per 100 \$ 200	% per 100 \$ 200

2016 VISA CARDS CHARGES	Bank/Agent	Transaction Type	As per TZS
Card Payments	Bank/Agent	Card Payments	Free
Card Transfers	Bank/Agent	Card Transfers	Free
Card Loans	Bank/Agent	Card Loans	Free

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Teachers demand fast installation of road signs, bumps for pupils' safety

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

HEAD teachers from various primary schools in Dodoma have appealed to the government to fix road signs and speed bumps to ensure pupil's safety when crossing the roads to and from school.

The made the appeal yesterday in Dodoma when speaking during a ceremony to award winners of the 2019 Road Safety Drawing Competition organized by Puma Energy Tanzania Ltd. The event took place at Kaloleni Primary school.

The award ceremony culminates a month long road safety program in Dodoma that involved road safety training to 15 teachers and education officers, road safety education to 5 schools - training over 4,500 school children, and a road safety drawing competition.

Head teacher from General Musuguri primary school, Beatrice Chidumizi said there have been a number of road crashes caused by lack of road signs and speed bumps along the road passing near the school. She said the school has been forced to temporarily employ a person who is responsible of assisting children to cross the roads.

"Lack of speed bumps and road signs have been contributing into a number of accidents. We thank Puma for educating our children on safe use of the roads especially the things to consider before crossing roads", said Beatrice as she thanks Puma for educating pupils.

Chidumizi suggested for similar road safety programs to be provided to pupils in all the schools within the city. She said the move will help reduce ac-

cidents.

Speaking during the event which was also attended by Deputy Minister for State in the Prime Minister's office responsible for Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and Disabled, General Manager, Puma Energy Tanzania Ltd, Dominic Dhanah said Puma Energy Tanzania decided to come to Dodoma this year because the city has recently experienced a rapid increase of people, number of vehicles and social activities.

Dhanah said the increase in number of people poses a risk to pupil's safety while going and coming back from schools.

It should be noted that 1.35 million people die on the world's roads each year. Road traffic injuries are the leading killer of children and young adults aged 5-29 years.

This is the reason Puma Energy Tanzania has taken up this cause to demonstrate its commitment to saving people's lives especially the lives of primary school children who are mostly exposed to road risks when going and coming back from schools.

The road safety program in Dodoma is the continuation of the road safety campaigns that Puma Energy Tanzania Ltd started in 2013.

To date the program has reached over 100,000 students in 6 regions and over 80 schools in Tanzania. The regions covered includes Dar es Salaam, Geita, Kilimanjaro, Ruvuma, Arusha and now Dodoma. This year's campaign involved more than 25 primary schools in both Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar.



Ali Zubeir Ali (C), Vodacom Tanzania Plc's head of enterprise products and solutions, briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on a partnership agreement the firm has entered into with Biko to serve M-Pesa customers. Under the agreement, Biko will conduct special draws for M-Pesa customers. Others are Biko director general Charles Mgeta (R) and Vodacom Tanzania Plc enterprise business director Arjun Dhillon. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Kaaya: Hosting SADC summit at JNICC honours Tanzania, Nyerere

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC) has said the Southern African Development Community (SADC)'s decision to hold its 39th Summit of the Heads of State and Government at Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre (JNICC) was an honour to Mwalimu Nyerere, a statesman who championed the establishment of the regional economic organ.

Speaking to reporters in Arusha yesterday, the Managing Director of AICC, Elishilia Kaaya said holding a SADC Summit at JNICC was indeed an honour to Mwalimu Nyerere and a wonderful coincidence to Tanzania, which he said has done a lot to support freedom

struggle in the region.

"To hold a SADC summit at a convention Centre named after Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, a founding president of Tanzania, was an important opportunity to nurture and cherish Mwalimu Nyerere's legacy," Kaaya told reporters in a touristic city of Arusha.

The AICC boss also thanked the government for the support and guidance provided so far as the country inches closer to host one of the most prestigious summits of the Heads of State and government in Africa.

He said, AICC, one of the oldest and experienced entity in hosting international meetings was ready to comply and provide the best services beyond the SADC standard and ensuring that

the SADC summit was a success and a memorable one to all delegates.

"We also feel that this is an opportunity for the local Tanzanian entrepreneurs to make sure that they seize the opportunity provided by the SADC summit to show case their businesses and provided services that would be needed during the summit.

He called upon the Tanzanian entrepreneurs to take advantage of the business opportunity emanating from the presence of the SADC delegates to line themselves to make various business deals in Dar es Salaam other places likely to be visited by the delegates.

Kaaya, whose institution owns the Julius Nyerere International Convention

Centre (JNICC), said his organization was doing all it can to ensure that the regional annual summit was provided with the best services and facilities, saying preparations were in top gear.

Tanzania is set to host the 39th SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government from August 17 to 18, 2019. The summit will also be preceded by Ministerial meeting that will bring together Ministers and Permanent Secretaries and other senior government officials from August 9 to 16, 2019.

From August 5 to 9, 2019, the regional economical block has also organized a week-long SADC Industrialization week aimed at stirring and hastening industrialization drive in the entire SADC region.

Minister dissolves Mbeya Roads Fund Board

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

WORKS, Transport and Communications minister Isack Kamwelwe has dissolved the Road Fund Board and formed a new one that will last for three years.

The board was dissolved after it has completed its mandatory two terms (six years), said the Minister when speaking to members of the new board in Mbeya on Wednesday.

According to country laws,

members of the Road Fund Board are required to serve for two terms consecutively whereas after the six years period the responsible Minister is required to dissolve it and form another board.

Eng Kamwelwe tasked the new board to ensure proper management of funds allocated for road projects across the country. He ordered them to also ensure value for money and make sure the roads

are constructed at required standards.

He directed them to work on the many challenges facing road projects including theft of equipment and road signs, the thing that contributes into accidents. He urged them to ensure proper road usage by putting in place measures to control overloading.

Eng Kamwelwe said those found violating regulations including overloading, should be dealt with accordingly. He linked overloading with

economic sabotage since contributes into damaging roads. "You should work closely with the regional authority to ensure all the roads are constructed including the 40 kilometer Moram road from Uyole to Songwe. This road will facilitate movement of people and goods", said the Minister insisting construction of the specific road should commence in this financial year.

In another move, Minister Kamwelwe gave 14 days to the Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication to compensate residents of Kasumulu town in Kyela district to allow implementation of a construction project for the Joint Customs Center between Tanzania and Malawi.

He insisted the residents were to be compensated in May this year as per directives from President John Magufuli. He said funds required for compensation have already been deposited to TANROADS. "I am giving you until August this year to compensate the residents", he noted.

Works Permanent Secretary, Elius Mwakalinga told the minister that his office has recently visited the residents at Kasumulu village insisting they have set aside 5.5bn/- for compensation. He said payments are expected to commence in the next two weeks.

Mbeya Regional Commissioner, Albert Chalamila appealed to the Minister to speed up construction of ring roads to ease traffic congestion in the city. He said construction of ring roads will also reduce road crashes within the city.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

CONSULTANCY TO CONDUCT COMBINED END LINE EVALUATION SURVEY AND NEED ASSESSMENT FOR THE FAMILY STRENGTHENING PROGRAM GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE: ARUSHA, DAR ES SALAAM, MWANZA, PEMBA AND UNGUJA.

Introduction and Context

SOS Children's Villages Tanzania is a Local Non-Government Organization (NGO) affiliated to SOS Children's Villages Kinderdorf International, a worldwide childcare organization that work to protect and care children who have lost parental care, or who stand at risk of losing it. Established 74 years ago, SOS Children's Villages International currently has children's villages and other program in 135 countries around the world. Globally it runs two major programs namely, SOS Family care program (SFC) at SOS Children's Villages and Family Strengthening Program (FSP) supporting families in local communities. SOS has been working in the United Republic of Tanzania since 1991 and runs Children's Villages in Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, and Zanzibar and other programs in Iringa rural, Mufindi, and Pemba. The organization intends to conduct a combined End line Evaluation and need assessment in five locations namely in Arusha, Dar Es Salaam, Mwanza, Pemba and Unguja.

Purpose of the study

The purpose of this consultancy is to assess the impact of the FSP and needs of the target groups. SOS CV Tanzania is seeking to conduct a midterm evaluation to determine its impact in the lives of children and assess the needs to inform future plans and appropriate intervention to the same target population and program beneficiaries.

How to Apply

If you are interested in submitting a proposal/bid, please refer to the detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) that can be requested through the following email: Mgendi.Zacharia@sos-tanzania.org

Then submit sealed proposal/bids marked: "CONSULTANCY TO CONDUCT COMBINED END LINE EVALUATION SURVEY AND NEED ASSESSMENT FOR THE FAMILY STRENGTHENING PROGRAM." must be delivered at the address below latest by 5th August 2019.

Any proposal received after the indicated time shall be rejected.

The National Director,
Combined End Line Evaluation Survey & Need Assessment
SOS Children's Villages Tanzania,
P. O. Box 80462,
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Only successful applicant will be contacted.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Were you an employee of TechnoServe Incorporated – Tanzania during the period of 1995 to 2013. If so, you may be entitled of the voluntary pension plan which was organized by the employer as a saving plan that was commonly known as US pension plan.

In order for TechnoServe Inc to recognise you, you are required to submit your evidence of employment with TechnoServe during that time, this includes; letter of appointment, letter of separation or termination, through the email address: fkagize@tns.org before **August 15, 2019**.

Please note: TechnoServe Inc is processing the withdrawal of the pension plan which needs your immediate response and action for further verification. Hence this notice is only for those who have not received before any notification regarding withdrawal process from TechnoServe Inc, either directly through their personal emails, phone calls or colleagues.

Any false information that will be submitted will be considered as attempt to fraud which is against the Laws of Tanzania.

NBC PLEDGES TO SUPPORT LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES

The National Bank of Commerce (NBC), the oldest bank in the country with over 50 years of service to the financial sector, has pledged its continued support of Local Government Authorities. William Kallaghe, NBC Corporate Affairs and Government Relations Manager said this during the just ended 35th Association of Local Authorities of Tanzania (ALAT) Annual General Meeting in Mwanza. NBC was one of the sponsors of the ALAT Annual General Meeting

NBC offers a wide range of innovative electronic solutions for District and Municipal Councils in revenue collections and efficient payment solutions that alleviate financial overheads and improves reconciliation of accounts. These capabilities are further enhanced with a GePG compliant NBC footprint of Agency Banking (Wakala), POS collections, and Mobile Banking collections. The NBC electronic payments and revenue collection solutions provides LGAs with an efficient payments and collections

management capabilities that are secure and make accounts reconciliation easier.

NBC branches are equipped with the requisite manpower and customer service set up to accommodate the financial requirements of LGAs in all the areas in which NBC is located. "NBC is committed to serve LGAs in providing them with customer friendly electronic solutions to enhance government revenue collections" said William Kallaghe.

Editor's Note;

NBC is one of the most represented commercial banks in the country with over 50 years' experience in providing financial services. Apart from offering traditional banking services, NBC also prides itself on an expanded branch network of 50 branches and over 180 Visa enabled ATMs. The bank also services over 230 Points of Sales, over 1,700 agents strategically located throughout the country. NBC employs over 1200 staff.



The Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa being briefed by NBC Government Relations and Corporate Affairs Manager William Kallaghe at the NBC pavilion during the 35th ALAT Annual General Meeting in Mwanza recently. Looking on the right is NBC Head of Government Business Noelina Kivaria. NBC was one of the sponsors.



NBC Head of Government Business Noelina Kivaria receiving a certificate of appreciation from the Prime Minister Hon. Kassim Majaliwa during the 35th ALAT Annual General Meeting that was held in Mwanza recently. Looking on with red tie is Gulamhafeez Mukadam ALAT Chairman. NBC was one of the sponsors of the ALAT AGM.



The Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa admiring an information leaflet at the NBC pavilion during the 35th ALAT Annual General Meeting that was held in Mwanza recently. On the left is William Kallaghe NBC Government Relations and Corporate Affairs Manager. Looking on is Joseph Boaz NBC Personal Banker. NBC was one of the sponsors of the ALAT Annual General Meeting

Repatriation of smuggled gold, robbery haul has crucial lessons

ONE school of political philosophy subscribes to the maxim that nations experience shocks as a primary source of guidance, and the rest is repetition.

It has it that it is primarily through such shocks that customs and taboos are raised as fundamental prohibitions found in every society.

It is thus valid to say that shocking events reorganise people's expectations with respect to society or government in much the same way shocking events redefine relationships in private life.

It is through this prism that one could weigh the significance of Wednesday's handing over of a 35-kilogramme haul of smuggled rough gold bars and auxiliary pieces alongside a pile of Tanzanian banknotes and foreign currencies grabbed in a bank robbery 15 years ago.

Kenya may have witnessed more of that sort of operations than Tanzania over the years, one explanation relating to its more vibrant market, whether it is for goods or currencies. Still, for the gold smugglers, Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International airport was this time around only a stop-over to the final destination - Dubai.

The sort of itinerary that the gold and currencies passed through is an indication that this scenario took a long time to form and to come to fruition, if you will.

Questions linger, for instance as relates to the time it has taken for the whole thing to reach its logical conclusion, as the cash was impounded for 15 years and no deals were cut on the haul in question.

One might argue that the soul of law enforcement was beating, but strictures were being raised everywhere - rendering the process inconclusive.

It is reported that the prime suspect

in the bank robbery was arrested in 2004, upon which Tanzania's Directorate of Public Prosecutions filed cases and demands for the repatriation of the suspect and presumably the cash haul as well, but to no avail. Only as belatedly as in January this year was the suspect finally handed over to Tanzanian police and saw his day at the Resident Magistrate's Court.

Massive changes in Kenyan politics, and the subsequent waging of a relentless war on corruption, could understandably be given as a factor in the unfolding of the scenario we have just witnessed.

It was visibly in such circumstances that the armed robbery suspect was properly handed over, while returning the smuggled gold required a high level of expert operations and personal affinities in relation to regional cooperation.

The warming up of links between Tanzania and Kenya, including the thrust by the governments of both countries of easing conditions for doing business for investors in the East Africa region and foreign investors generally, has played a pivotal role in all this.

The wish to buy plenty of maize from this side of the border and the plan to build a natural gas pipeline from Dar es Salaam to Mombasa are symptomatic of a higher level of integration and have cleared whatever grey zones there may have been.

But it is doubtless the two leaders' commitment to the war on corruption that ended hopes for the culprits in the multi-million-dollar hauls of escaping or retaining their loot.

This is hugely commendable and should serve as something worth building on further in the two countries and worth learning from beyond the two countries' borders.

Continual reviews of training a must, with colleges exchanging experience

KEY stakeholders in health sector training in Tanzania are holding a national workshop meant to map out areas that need to be harmonised so as to give out the same competences among graduates in nursing and medical fields.

The need for revisiting modes of training and the sort of curricula used in different institutions arose from noticeable differences with regard to graduates of various institutions having contrasting competences in various areas.

The quest for standardisation is intended to iron out these differences so that a nurse is a nurse and a doctor is a doctor, irrespective of the university or college in which such a person will have trained.

Standardisation or rather uplifting of training levels and quality in various tertiary institutions to reflect the required levels, the gold standard so to speak, should see the enhancement of training in all colleges to reflect standards of the mother college or colleges.

In the health sector specifically, presenters in the workshop identified three colleges as having the right standards level or being the reference points for standards, namely, Muhimbili University for Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS), the Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences (CUHAS) in Mwanza and the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC) College. The Mwanza and Kilimanjaro universities are near replicas of MUHAS but the others have plenty to catch up with.

It appears that the problem is not one of having the right guidelines, as these are developed by competent ministerial bodies for each level and sector of training - for instance, the Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) and the National Council for Technical Education (NACTE).

However, given the scarcity of resources facing most higher learning institutions and vocational education centres, it is hardly surprising that there are often crying disparities in the sort of products they churn out.

It shakes public faith in the profession if substandard products are numerous as it soils the reputations of various institutions, tarnishes the image of its graduates and impedes their chances of landing employment.

Sorting out such problems is like standing between a rock and a hard place, where either option that decision makers take has a perilous implication in other regards.

For instance, it can neither be said that measures be taken to standardise resources for all institutions nor that tutors, lecturers and professors be of the same background and comparable track record in academic output or exposure, as some colleges have clear advantages over others.

In that sense, it is a matter of taking remedial measures including prolonging the training period or adding practical training or a sort of internship at the better placed colleges to inculcate ideas into "needy" students.

This sort of preoccupation with the quality of graduates in one or some other field has constantly led to curriculum reviews and changes in training formats in various areas.

For instance, the University of Dar es Salaam's Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts with Education course used to take three years, but it now takes one more year.

Much the same was done at the Law Faculty (later, School of Law). This sort of innovation can be implemented by evaluating college product weaknesses, to act on the same.

Why not have more of this for the good of our education system and, by extension, national development generally.

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Several issues for Africa to consider as US clarifies its position on AGOA

By Esther Rose

THE African Trade and Opportunities Act (AGOA), established by the United States government on May 18, 2000, has been described as the cornerstone of the US economic engagement with sub-Saharan Africa, where it has invested more than US\$7 billion towards trade capacity initiatives.

Some say AGOA was the US government's answer to China's growing presence on the African continent. But what is the US strategy as AGOA nears its end, and what is the impact of Africa's "growing youth tsunami" as the African Continental Free Trade Area starts being realised?

In a briefing with US Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of African Affairs Ambassador Tibor Nagy and Constance Hamilton, the Assistant US Trade Representative for Africa, the US government stressed that Africa is a top priority. "We see tremendous opportunities in this relationship. We want to work with our partners to unlock these gains," Nagy said.

Increasing trade and investment with the continent would be the mechanism for growing the continent's prosperity and providing jobs - for what he called the "Africa's growing youth tsunami" - who are in need of well-paying jobs.

Meanwhile, Hamilton said: "Only by easing the ability of the private sector to start and grow their businesses can African countries hope to provide the jobs for Africa's youth and maximise the potential of the youth bulge."

Countries need to take an active role in creating competitive conditions in which companies, entrepreneurs and farmers can thrive, Hamilton urged, noting: "Easing the way for private sector to operate and do business would also assist in creating jobs for youth as well as easing of constraints for small businesses."

She acknowledged the strides made by AGOA, but admitted that there were shortcomings, saying that AGOA benefits were "uneven, and more needed to be done to realise the full potential of trade between the US and Africa. The benefits, she noted, have not been broadly shared by all the countries that are part of the programme."

Trade diversification was another concern raised, where petroleum products accounted for 67 per cent of the AGOA trade imports.

When questioned on Nigeria's participation in AGOA, Hamilton said: "I think that Nigeria has not taken advantage of AGOA because they send us mainly oil. So, to a certain extent,

they actually are taking advantage of it, probably more than some of the other countries - but it is petroleum."

She elaborated: "And oil doesn't really create the kind of jobs or other benefits from trade that I think that countries are looking for. Nigeria's new government is talking about trying to expand and go beyond just petroleum production and get into other things, but that really is a question for what Nigeria wants to see happen."

Nagy and Hamilton, speaking on AGOA and its end date of 2025, confirmed that discussions are under way on replacing it. "We are starting the conversations now with our partners to talk about what comes next," said Hamilton, adding: "We do think that a free-trade area agreement builds on the success of AGOA in ways that it helps lock in the benefits the countries have already with AGOA, but it also provides the incentive to US investors to do more on the continent."

The African Continental Free Trade Agreement, AfCFTA, was founded by the African Union to bring African regions closer, to encourage intra-Africa trade and make the continent stronger within itself.

But will the AU's plan for free trade between the continent's countries and the ECOWAS single currency creation programme for the Francophone West African nations enhance the AGOA's goals or create barriers or conflicts?

Hamilton said the US government supports a lot of the objectives of the AfCFTA, noting: "We do believe that lowering barriers to trade and investment and boosting competitiveness, attracting investment, those are things that we have long supported in our own engagement with the continent, so we are very pleased about the progress they are making."

"We compliment the African Union, its partner states, all the stakeholders who have worked tirelessly to get this thing launched. We think this is something great for the continent," she said.

Nagy said that the plan for ECOWAS was to introduce an ECOWAS currency in 2020, noting: "They had planned that several times in the past, and they have had to delay the implementation, and we will just see what happens in 2020."

"Obviously, the United States of America supports the sub-regional trade blocs and organisations like ECOWAS in Africa, but that is purely a decision for ECOWAS to make regarding its own economic interests," he said.

Commenting on the US engagement efforts with Zimbabwe through the

US embassy in Harare and whether Zimbabwe would meet the remaining need-gap to becoming AGOA-eligible for 2020, Nagy explained the AGOA membership process in some detail.

"What happens is that we in Washington get a considerable amount of information about each of the countries. Some comes from our embassy, some comes from independent sources, NGOs and various other sources.

"Then we get an inter-agency government team together that is chaired by the US Trade Representative, and we discuss each of the countries. We discuss whether or not they meet the criteria. We discuss special concerns, problems that the countries may have, and it is a remarkably consensus-oriented process.

"Up to now, there has never been really a dispute between US government activities as to who does, who does not meet it."

Nagy explained further: "Then the recommendations go to the White House. The president will announce the eligible countries on January 1st. One other consideration is that if there is a change in status, right, in any of the countries, then the president needs to notify Congress 60 days in advance of that."

"So it's a very thorough process, but it's remarkable that in government there are different points of view on a number of issues, but on this one there has been just remarkable consensus on how we view the eligibility criteria of the various African countries."

Zimbabwe has had sanctions imposed on it by the United States for what it says are 84 individuals engaged in corruption, the violation of human rights and undermining democratic institutions.

Gambia's Truth Reconciliation and Reparations Commission has opened hearings into abuses carried out during former president Yahya Jammeh's more than two decades in power. He is accused of killing journalists, torturing and killing political opponents, and sponsoring a campaign that allowed "witch doctors" to abduct hundreds of people and force them to drink unknown substances. Jammeh's family has also been banned from entering the United States.

Sudan has seen the ouster of Omar al Bashir as president and a transitional government consisting of the military and civil society established. Al Bashir has been wanted by the International Criminal Court for war crimes and the killing of hundreds of Sudanese people during his presidency.

South Sudan, Africa's youngest country which split from Sudan

after conflict that was largely about the former's oil, has also been at the centre of political wrangling between President Salva Kiir and Riek Machar - who served as inaugural vice president of the country from its independence in 2011 until his dismissal in 2013.

All these four countries are looking to join AGOA - and Hamilton said that The Gambia is eligible for the programme, explaining: "It has been brought back into the programme. Countries like Zimbabwe and South Sudan ... we are very transparent in the concerns that we have when a country is not in AGOA."

"We don't always publicly notify, you know, put something in the press about this, but we make sure that the governments understand exactly where the shortcomings are and what we're looking for," she said.

"So when we do the review, looking at a country like South Sudan or looking at a country like Zimbabwe, we make sure that we communicate with the government where the problems are and what we're looking for in terms of what they need to do to get eligibility," she added.

"So we are very clear that we don't want governments to try to guess what they have to do. We want to make sure that they are very clear about the concerns that we have, and the concerns are always based around the eligibility criteria," remarked Hamilton.

She added: "Market access, human rights, labour issues, all of those are things that are important in this process, because without those in place, being in a programme like AGOA is not going to make any difference. You are not going to be able to use the programme, really, anyway."

Hamilton said she was looking to discussing "new trade initiatives" at the forum being held in Abidjan next month. "I think there is going to be interesting conversations with the trade ministers to make sure that they can utilise these new initiatives in the best possible way," she noted.

She noted that AGOA has been around for almost 20 years, "and as we continue to have this conversation and discussion during the forums, we all need to think about what should come next, and hopefully part of the conversation will focus on that as well."

"But we are looking forward to a very productive and informative AGOA forum, and (US Trade Representative) Ambassador Lighthizer is looking forward to being there, as well as all of the US delegation," she added.

• An AllAfrica.com report filed from Cape Town

Can justice prevail in the midst of war?

BY PETER FABRICIUS

RECONCILING peace and justice is inherently fraught, and surely nowhere more so than in the Central African Republic (CAR) - that seemingly chronic cancer in Africa's belly.

The CAR's Special Criminal Court was established by law in 2015 to try grave crimes committed during the country's armed conflicts since 2005. It officially came into operation only last year and is still far from becoming fully functional. No charges have yet been laid or arrests made.

Nothing illustrates the peace-versus-justice dilemma more than the inclusion in government of leaders from three of the many armed groups tormenting the country. They are now special military advisers in the prime minister's office. This was one of the provisions of the February peace accord signed in Khartoum. Fighters under one of those advisers, Sidiki Abass, allegedly killed over 50 civilians in the north-west of the country in May, according to a new Human Rights Watch (HRW) report.

Human rights defenders and victims expressed concerns that the vague commitment to justice in that peace accord could limit government support of the Special Criminal Court. It's hard to imagine Abass or the other two rebel leaders now in government being arrested and brought to court. In many other ways too, the HRW report paints an alarming picture of justice as an embattled outpost in the midst of war. Despite the February peace accord, the civil warfare that erupted again in 2012 continues in many parts of the country.

The fighting started when Séléka rebels marched on the capital Bangui and toppled François

Bozizé's corrupt government the following March. The mainly Muslim Séléka and a rival mainly Christian militia called anti-Baleka committed numberless atrocities, including murder, rape and assault, against members of rival communities. Later other armed groups sprung up.

Conducting investigations and seeking justice in an environment of such instability obviously presents challenges. As the report notes, United Nations peacekeepers are often needed to protect investigators as they range beyond Bangui to gather evidence. But that makes it difficult for investigators to operate discreetly, which is important to reduce risks to potential witnesses. This restricted access also suggests that the court may only be able to dispense justice selectively to those perpetrators it can reach.

One human rights defender told HRW: 'The major difficulty is that the victims and the tormentors live in the same neighborhood. It takes tremendous courage for the victims to dare to bring a complaint and turn to justice. We must have the protection of witnesses so that they can testify without fearing for their lives.' Yet witness and victim protection programmes barely exist, because of the lack of staff, logistics and psycho-social support.

The special court has a funding gap of about US\$1 million for 2019 operations, and no funds pledged for future years of operations, which are expected to cost some US\$12.4m a year. These tremendous obstacles to establishing a court in a warzone inevitably raise the question of whether it wouldn't have been better to stabilise the country before seeking justice.

Elise Keppler, HRW associate international justice director, says, 'Central Africans have waited



The Central African Republic's Special Criminal Court is a huge test case in balancing peace and justice. File photo

so long to see justice for the many killings, rapes, and other atrocities committed in the Central African Republic. The Special Criminal Court holds promise but it's had a slow start and needs to intensify investigations so trials can be initiated based on strong, compelling evidence.'

'The Special Criminal Court emerged out of the strong, unequivocal desire on the part of Central Africans to break cycles of violence and impunity in the country,' Keppler said.

In the CAR government, the

priority seems to be to seek peace first through a truth, reparation and reconciliation commission, meant to be established alongside the special court.

Institute for Security Studies senior researcher Allan Ngari believes in principle in seeking justice even before peace has completely been achieved. Advocating for peace before justice is often a cop-out by governments, he says, deploring the integration of people who have committed serious crimes into government on the basis that

peace must precede justice.

'There is little evidence, if at all, to show that placing peace initiatives ahead of justice has averted conflict or assisted post-conflict reconstruction,' Ngari says. He says beyond resource challenges, there seems to be little political will to get the special court or the truth, reparation and reconciliation commission up and running.

Ngari says neither can address the country's systemic governance problems. 'Glossing over these issues by setting up weakened

institutions won't effectively deal with the CAR's past. The unresolved past is what causes the recurrence of violence.'

Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta and his deputy William Ruto's moves to evade the International Criminal Court (ICC) should be a warning to the CAR about the dangers of trying to pursue justice against serving members of government. While pretending to cooperate with the court, these two leaders exploited their political power to get rid of witnesses or buy their silence, undermining the ICC case so that it eventually collapsed.

The example of rebel leader Bosco Ntaganda in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is more encouraging. He cooperated with the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) while under indictment by the ICC. Years later, when he was no longer politically useful, the ICC caught up with him and he was arrested, tried and convicted.

If justice is to be attained in the CAR, it's going to be a long, difficult and expensive game. The international community should step up and provide the special court with the financial and other resources it needs.

The court took a huge risk establishing itself in the CAR. But HRW believes the people of the CAR feel the risk is worth taking. One victim explained: 'We trust in the Special Criminal Court because it is the national justice, it is based here and knows the perpetrators.'

A heroic endeavour and one that will surely test to the limits the belief of human rights defenders that justice matters as much for peace, as peace does to justice.

Peter Fabricius, ISS Consultant

East African perspective on private equity investment in value creation

By Special Correspondent

AFRICA'S economic outlook is on the up, with the African Development Bank in its 2019 African Economic Outlook report forecasting sustained rise in the average GDP (gross domestic profit) growth rate for the continent - from an estimated 3.5 per cent last year to 4 per cent this year and 4.1 per cent in 2020.

Growth in investment is one of the major factors contributing to this, with private equity (PE) investors letting the monzzzzzey do the talking and PE funding for African businesses having increased from 2017 to last year by around US\$300 million.

Over the course of the last six years, a total of more than 1,000 PE deals - worth in excess of US\$25 billion - have been concluded in Africa and close to 200 of those have taken place in the East Africa region.

We see increased PE activity in the region across a diverse range of sectors, including agro-processing, capital investment, construction, energy, financial services, manufacturing, mining, tourism and telecommunications, and with countries such as Kenya and Ethiopia having recorded markedly higher than average GDP growth rates.

With a liberal and diverse economy, a growing middle class and a relatively stable political environment, business confidence in the former is at a high. Kenya recently went up 19 places, from 80th to 61st, in the World Bank Ease of Doing Business 2019 report.



Furthermore, the country has been identified by the African Private Equity and Venture Capital Association as the second most attractive African country - only after Nigeria - for PE investments in the coming years.

Ethiopia, the second most populous country in Africa, boasts one of the fastest growing economies in the world - with economic growth of 11 per cent over last decade and 7.7 per cent last year.

The significant growth of private enterprises with high demand for capital and local banks' inability to meet the capital demand and

entrepreneurial aspirations of local companies makes Ethiopia an ideal destination for PE funds.

Also, the government has a strong desire to overhaul the agricultural sector and to build vibrant industrial one. Given the inadequacy of traditional sources of investment, Ethiopia has an untapped potential to become a PE hub.

PE companies can follow the footsteps of Schulze Global Ethiopia Growth and Transformation Fund, the major PE fund focusing on small and medium enterprises.

With more interest, though,



They need to turn their attentions to developing operational management and transforming family-run businesses into mainstream, professional, modern businesses with the right management team.

comes more competition. In order to maintain their competitive edge, PE firms need a shift in focus - from lowering their costs to jettison their profits to the long-term viability of the companies in which they invest.

They need to find new, innovative ways of creating real value for these companies and transforming them into sustainable businesses that will continue to prosper even after the firms funding them have stepped away.

The PE fund manager's role has been extended beyond what his or her title suggests, to include

more active engagement in the businesses they invest in than that of the traditional fund managers. Meanwhile, the relationship with the founders and owners must always remain front of mind.

In the East Africa region, PE firms need to bring their deep strategic expertise to the table to navigate the challenges around developing local human capital, cultivating local talent and allocating funds for training and development.

They need to turn their attentions to developing operational management and transforming family-run businesses into mainstream, professional, modern businesses with the right management team.

They also need to take advantage of market innovations as well as new structures, among them investment holding companies and evergreen funds, to overcome cost and time constraints.

In terms of their impact, PE investments cast a wide net. The businesses they back grow faster than other types of companies, largely because of the hands-on style of ownership that most PE investors display.

But in addition to yielding profits for its investors, the industry also impacts on the broader social and economic conditions in a country or region. PE investments increase the stability, strength and vibrancy of both local and regional economies in Africa, by injecting international capital into the continent.

• **A DLA Piper dispatch emailed to The Guardian.**

As SDGs falter, the UN turns to the rich and famous

UNITED NATIONS

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are in trouble. United Nations officials are concerned and say so publicly. Secretary-General António Guterres joined in raising an alarm in mid-July when he introduced the most recent official UN report.

"It is abundantly clear that a much deeper, faster and more ambitious response is needed to unleash the social and economic transformation needed to achieve our 2030 goals," he wrote. Separately, a mammoth, 478-page study by independent experts drove the message home with extensive data to illustrate the crisis.

The experts' report, a joint project of the Bertelsmann Stiftung in Germany and Sustainable Development Solutions Network in New York, reveals some bleak findings: progress has been uneven at best, and in some cases has been reversed.

The study found that all nations were performing worst on addressing climate change, and no country has achieved a "green" rating. Many obstacles to success or the causes of reversals included tax havens, banking secrecy, poor labor standards, slavery and conflict.

Half the nations of the world are not on track to eradicate extreme poverty, a major – if not the primary – objective of the goals, the report found. Action on the SDGs, which were adopted in 2015 as the 2030 Agenda, are nearing their fifth year of implementation.

The most striking prediction of potential failure has, perhaps surprisingly, come from the top UN official in Asia. On July 18, the head of the Bangkok-based regional commission for Asia and the Pacific (Escap), Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana of Indonesia, warned in a UN News radio interview while attending a high-level UN forum on development in New York that her region was on track to miss all the goals.

The area covers a vast swath of the globe, stretching from the eastern Mediterranean to the Pacific rim, home to 60 percent of the world's 7.7 billion people. China, India and



Amina Mohammed, right, the deputy secretary-general of the UN, signed a partnership agreement with the World Economic Forum, led by Borge Brende, left, to speed up progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. António Guterres, the UN secretary-general (behind Mohammed) and Klaus Schwab, the Forum's chief executive, joined the ceremony in June. FILE PHOTO

Indonesia alone account for nearly three billion people. Alisjahbana, a UN under secretary-general, said that Escap's latest survey showed some evidence that the region is going backward, particularly in water resources and environmental sustainability.

At UN headquarters, one controversial and much-debated response to the crisis has been to team up in a "strategic partnership" with the World Economic Forum. This institution, founded in 1971 by Klaus Schwab, a German economist and engineer, is best known for its annual star-studded, invitation-only get-togethers in Davos, a Swiss mountain resort, which attracts government officials, business leaders and celebrities.

In announcing the partnership with the UN in a broad statement of intent with few details, the World Economic Forum claimed that it

can "accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development."

It defines itself as "the international organization for public-private cooperation" and lists six areas where the UN partnership can boost the development goals: in financing the 2030 Agenda and in addressing climate change, health, digital cooperation, gender equality and education.

The Forum has been steadily expanding its international presence through convening "thought leaders" around the world on topical issues, to exchange ideas and build influential networks on economic, industrial and social initiatives.

Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed signed the joint framework agreement for the UN with Borge Brende, the Forum's president. Guterres and Klaus

Schwab, the Forum's executive chairman, were onlookers at the ceremony on June 13.

Mohammed, who led the formulation of the SDGs, has dominated the UN's development agenda, sidelining the UN Development Program.

She was a strong proponent of creating the SDG package on the advice and consent of governments – bottom-up from the field, not top-down as the Millennium Development Goals were written in 2000 by international development specialists in and around the office of Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

Through the new UN-World Economic Forum, Mohammed is increasing her international roles. She will be taking part in numerous Forum initiatives and will review the possibility of linking the UN's resident development coordinators in national capitals with Forum

programs.

The theory underlying the creation of the SDGs, with governments as the key decision-makers, was a gamble. Human rights received no significant attention in the SDGs, reflecting numerous governments' attitudes or demands on these issues.

Rapid social changes and their place in development were ignored: the burgeoning international movement for LGBTQ recognition and rights, new diversity in what may constitute a "family" and the rising tide of activist women challenging male domination in politics and society, to name a few.

The SDGs are unwieldy, as critics have pointed out since the adoption of the 2030 agenda. The 17 goals are burdened with 169 targets and 230 indicators for measuring progress.

The strategic partnership with the World Economic Forum is not the first UN approach to the private sector.

Stephen Browne, the author of a book that will be published later this year, "UN Reform: 75 Years of Challenge and Change," worked for more than 30 years in the UN development system, including in Africa and Asia.

He has observed the trajectory of UN/private-sector cooperation, which has had some positive effects, he writes in the new book. With the creation of the Global Compact (which Annan introduced at the World Economic Forum in 1999), "relations with the private sector took on another dimension."

Browne writes: "The timing was germane. Globalization was already raising anxieties about its inclusiveness and it was appropriate for the UN to be shown conveying some concern to the private sector. . . . Galvanizing private sector interest in UN goals has had the positive effect of enhancing interest in and comprehension of the world body, helping to improve its public image in commercial circles."

The UN has also become better known to the private sector through the many GC local networks which have been established in all the major emerging economies.

"But the GC [Global Compact] has also carried risks for the UN, leaving it open to accusations of associating

with companies indulging in corporate malpractice. . . . The Global Compact cannot wholly avoid 'blue wash' [the UN equivalent to whitewash in the eyes of critics] but it restricts the use of the UN logo and establishes conditions for the selection of commercial partners. . . . Companies are in a large majority on the GC Board and are the principal contributors to the trust fund which supports the GC secretariat. Critics have claimed that the GC serves as a platform for the promotion of corporate interests at the UN, and not the other way round as originally intended."

Annan's successor, Ban Ki-moon, who asked all UN agencies and projects to stress overarching human-rights criteria in their work and publications, created several more narrowly targeted partnerships in, for example, stressing women's importance in development, advancing sustainable energy and improving nutrition.

"There is a sense, however," Browne writes in his forthcoming book, "that the UN perceived these initiatives as ends in themselves: any partnership being better than none. There has never been a rigorous attempt to evaluate the UN's [multistakeholder partnerships] and determine whether they actually add significant value. . . . It is not even clear to what extent they have succeeded in mobilizing additional funding."

Partnerships with corporations and rich foundations have drawn sustained criticism from various civil society sectors, especially when companies are producing and promoting goods – foods, for example – that are considered to have harmful effects on children or the general population.

In a message from Geneva, where he lives, Browne described his persistent qualm about reliance on private-sector agreements and compacts: "My real contention," he wrote, "is that the UN goes into partnerships as if they are a desirable end in themselves, without having determined what real net human development benefits have flowed from them, or could flow."

IPS

Horn of Africa drought threatens re-run of famines past

UNITED NATIONS

Humanitarian groups and the United Nations are warning of another drought in the Horn of Africa, threatening a repeat of the deadly dry spell and famine that claimed lives in Somalia and its neighbours eight years ago.

The British charity Oxfam said Thursday that more than 15 million people across drought-stricken parts of Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia now needed handouts and warned of a hefty death toll unless donors stumped up cash fast.

"We cannot wait until images of malnourished people and dead animals fill our television screens. We need to act now to avert disaster," said Lydia Zigomo, Oxfam's regional director for the Horn of Africa.

According to an Oxfam report, donors were quick to dig into the pockets for a drought in 2017, helping to stave off a famine that could have been as deadly as the 2011 dry spell that left more than 260,000 dead, and many more hungry and sick.

But while the humanitarian response was well-funded back in 2017, donor governments have not raised enough cash yet this time around, added Zigomo, a human rights lawyer from Zimbabwe.

"We learned from the collective failures of the 2011 famine that we must respond swiftly and decisively to save lives. But the international commitment to ensure that it never happens again is turning to complacency," said Zigomo.

"Once again, it is the poorest and most vulnerable who are bearing the brunt."

Halima Adan, Deputy Director of Save Somali Women and Children, said in the Oxfam report that the slowness of the response to the drought "mean[s] women's burdens and vulnerability are increasing.



United Nations are warning of another drought in the Horn of Africa. Eight years ago famine left more than 260,000 dead. Pictured here is a child from drought-stricken southern Somalia who survived the long journey to an aid camp in the Somali capital Mogadishu during the 2011 famine. FILE PHOTO

In often hostile environments, local actors are best placed to reach those most in need, where emphasis must be on reaching women and children."

The U.N. refugee agency UNHCR has also sounded the alarm. Somalia's recent April-June and October-December rainy seasons were drier than expected, worsening an arid spell that was already hitting farmers and herders across the turbulent country.

Some 5.4 million Somalis were expected to be facing food shortages by September, and 2.2 million of them would need "immediate emergency assistance" UNHCR spokesperson Babar Baloch warned last month.

Donors had only handed over one fifth of the 711 million dollars that was requested in an appeal in May, added Baloch.

"The latest drought comes just as the

country was starting to recover from a drought in 2016 to 2017 that led to the displacement inside Somalia of over a million people," Baloch told reporters in Geneva.

"Many remain in a protracted state of displacement."

Last month, the European Union launched a 3.2 million euro scheme to manage water sources and agriculture

and lessen the impact of drought, in cooperation with officials in Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, and the northern breakaway region of Somaliland.

"Water and land are critical resources for the Somali economy and people's livelihoods but are also extremely vulnerable to natural disasters and climate change," said EU diplomat Hjordis D'Agostino Ogendo.

"While access to water needs to increase, needed infrastructures are to be designed and managed in a sustainable way."

Somalia has seen little but drought, famine and conflict since dictator Siad Barre was toppled in 1991. The country's weak, U.N.-backed government struggles to assert control over poor, rural areas under the Islamist militant group al Shabaab.

Droughts are getting worse globally, according to the U.N. Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). By 2025, some 1.8 billion people will experience serious water shortages, and two thirds of the world will be "water-stressed".

Though droughts are complex and develop slowly, they cause more deaths than cyclones, earthquakes and other types of natural disaster, the UNCCD warns. By 2045, droughts will have forced as many as 135 million people from their homes.

"With climate change amplifying the frequency and intensity of sudden disasters ... and contributing to more gradual environmental phenomena, such as drought and rising sea levels, it is expected to drive even more displacement in the future," added Baloch.

But U.N. experts say there is hope. By managing water sources, forests, livestock and farming, soil erosion can be reduced and degraded land can be revived, a process that could also help tackle climate change.

IPS

Bank pledges to support local government authorities

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Bank of Commerce (NBC), the oldest bank in the country with over 50 years of service to the financial sector, has pledged its continued support of Local Government Authorities.

William Kallaghe, NBC Corporate Affairs and Government Relations

Manager said this during the just ended 35th Association of Local Authorities of Tanzania (ALAT) Annual General Meeting in Mwanza. NBC was one of the sponsors of the ALAT Annual General Meeting.

NBC offers a wide range of innovative electronic solutions for District and Municipal Councils in revenue

collections and efficient payment solutions that alleviate financial overheads and improves reconciliation of accounts. These capabilities are further enhanced with a GePG compliant NBC footprint of Agency Banking (Wakala), POS collections, and Mobile Banking collections.

The NBC electronic payments and

revenue collection solutions provides LGAs with an efficient payments and collections management capabilities that are secure and make accounts reconciliation easier.

NBC branches are equipped with the requisite manpower and customer service set up to accommodate the financial requirements of LGAs in all

the areas in which NBC is located.

"NBC is committed to serve LGAs in providing them with customer friendly electronic solutions to enhance government revenue collections" said William Kallaghe.

NBC is one of the most represented commercial banks in the country with over 50 years' experience in providing

financial services. Apart from offering traditional banking services, NBC also prides itself on an expanded branch network of 50 branches and over 180 Visa enabled ATMs. The bank also services over 230 Points of Sales, over 1,700 agents strategically located throughout the country. NBC employs over 1200 staff.

AfDB and partners see establishing African Education Fund as priority

ABIDJAN

THE African Development Bank (AfDB), the Association for the Development of Education in Africa and the African Union are recommending the establishment of the African Education Fund as the unique continental mechanism to address the challenges of education and skills development in Africa.

A joint declaration in support of the Fund was produced after a workshop held here mid-last week.

"The African Education Fund is a vision that many education stakeholders in Africa have had but could not put into practice. It is no longer just a vision - it is a reality," Oley Dibba Wadda, the AfDB's Director of human capital, youth and skills development, told the more than 50 participants.

The attendees represented 12 African governments, four regional economic communities and other development partners specialising in finance, skills development and education.

The organisers of the workshop sought inputs from regional member-countries on the structure of the Fund and highlighted the need to strengthen its position as a 'go to' resource for financing education across the continent.

"The AEF is a unique, Africa-initiated and continental mechanism for resourcing post-secondary education in Africa" said Albert Nsengiyumva, executive secretary of the Association for the Development of Education in Africa.

Beatrice Njenga, Head of the Education Division at the African Union Commission, meanwhile said that the Fund was not intended to be a substitute for existing funding mechanisms "but complements these mechanisms at the national and international levels".

Kandia K. Camara, Ivory Coast's Education and vocational training minister, opened the workshop by underscoring the need for African countries to be accountable and to take ownership of Africa's education and training.

The minister Camara also appealed to the participants to pay special attention to supporting girls and people with disabilities in the structure of the fund.

The two-day series of presentations, discussions and group sessions explored strategies for financing projects intended to contribute to human capital and skills development across Africa under the AEF banner.



NBC government relations and corporate affairs manager William Kallaghe (2nd-L) briefs Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa at the bank's pavilion at an exhibition held in Mwanza city at the just-ended 35th annual general meeting of the Association of Local Authorities of Tanzania (ALAT). Right is NBC head of government business Noelina Kivaria. PHOTO: GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT

5 years of MPawa adaptation to mobile phone usage fulfilling customer needs

By Guardian Reporter

THE mobile phone and the power of internet continue to be the backbone of technological revolution in Tanzania and Africa at large. The technology transformation has started bearing fruits.

A 27-year-old, Andrisa Mathias is one of the latest people who have benefited from the technological revolution in the country.

Mathias—an entrepreneur who deals in water vending from Geita Region last week announced the 15m/- grand draw winner of the "5 years of MPAWA" promotion.

His Journey to financial freedom that came as a result of using a

mobile phone integrated with MPAWA, a revolutionary banking product that allows users to save money through their phones, earn interest from those savings and eventually get micro loans when they need them it is interesting as also to many fanciful, even according to him

"At first when I got the call I couldn't believe it, I thought it's scammers, but when they kept calling and sending me transport fair to come to Dar es Salaam for the hand over event, I then certainly got really excited" Mathias said when speaking in an interview.

Being arguably one of the most important gadgets of the twenty-first century across the globe, one could think too much of ways to

use the mobile phone and many financial institutions have over the years come up with end to products to maximize the it's usage that would not only provide a convenient banking experience for their customers but also be fast, reliable and self-serving.

Among these is Commercial Bank of Africa and affiliate Vodacom Tanzania who when looking at ways of exploring Mobile phone usage introduced the MPAWA product- a mobile handset product, targeted for the Unbanked population in Tanzania that would not only fulfil the Banks goal of Financial inclusion for all but would also make it easy for a Tanzanian in the most remote regions in the country have access to Banking services with an experience that felt as though they were in one of the Banks Branches.

"MPAWA was introduced 5 years ago, in the Tanzanian market with only 4 customers at the beginning but now we have up-to 8.5 million users", According to Gift Shoko, the CBA BANK CEO as he addressed guests during the 5 years of MPAWA celebrations last week end.

This is a clear insight on how the product has been embraced by the Tanzanian market but also showing how much the usage of a Mobile phone has been adapted to by the growing population.

Dr. Gift Shoko also continued to explain how MPAWA has duly benefited the lives of its users who majorly consist of small business owners. "MPAWA has Simplified the lives of the Unbanked population by providing access to banking services at affordable rates, for instance one can borrow 1,000/- which cannot be done in traditional banking, MPAWA also provides Deposit accounts at a lower amount of Tanzanian shillings 1% and there is no other bank in Tanzania providing that, in so doing MPAWA simplified banking to no paper work needed for a transaction

to be made, no need for visiting bank branches all this together with MPAWA customers gaining profit from their savings," he said.

Following trends and digital transformation across all facets of the modern customer's life and how it's shaping the banking industry in Africa, products like MPAWA have kept giving back to their customers, and in these 5 years, to emphasize a savings culture, encourage early loan repayments and push the usage of their product, several campaigns, draws and promotions have been carried out.

MPAWA customers like Andrisa Mathias, the 15 million grand prize winner for the 5 years of MPAWA grand draw, Sophia Sarapion, the 10 million grand draw winner of the "Shindana MPAWA" promotion last year, Bajaji winners, double savings, early loan repayments, saving challenge winners and many more have testified to the benefits of using the product as well as carrying out transactions on the mobile phone, an experience that should not be ignored.

Lastly quoting Gift Shoko as he gave an insight on the MPAWA product, customers and the future "Our commitment to our customers and to the call of providing convenient banking services and products that suit all our customer needs, is a never ending pursuit; just as technology changes with the day so do we adapt and re-strategize to do more and to continue offering relevant experiences to our customers making sure we do not leave anyone behind".

With products like MPAWA and how they have disrupted the financial Eco system, one can only imagine the future usage of a mobile phone and what financial institutions like CBA BANK and Telcos like Vodacom do to take customer products and services in the Tanzanian Market a step further.

Vodacom, Girl Effect launches new digital campaign targeting young Tanzanian girls

By Guardian Reporter

VODACOM Tanzania Foundation and Girl Effect, an international non-profit organisation, have joined forces to launch 'Tujibebe' ("let's lift ourselves up, together"), a mobile-based brand aimed at young people aged 14-19, with a specific focus on reaching adolescent girls.

Tujibebe will unite young people through shared experiences and channel their entrepreneurialism; inspiring and supporting them to overcome life's challenges together and realise their ambitions.

Tujibebe's content will provide Tanzanian young people with access to information and resources they need to make positive choices about their futures - from finding skills building courses and setting up their own small business, to managing their personal finances.

The brand launches with a Tujibebe website and a national IVR (Interactive Voice Response) phone line - providing interactive, on-demand audio content - that will be free to access on Vodacom.

Tujibebe was officially launched at the Golden Tulip hotel in Dar es Salaam at an interactive event, officiated by the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) Board member, Simon Shayo, and attended by stakeholders from the development sector.

Attendees were able to engage with Tujibebe's content and hear from some of Girl Effect's Technology Enabled Girl Ambassadors (TEGAs), girl-researchers that have been central to uncovering authentic insights into Tanzanian girls' lives to ensure the brand has been co-created with young people. Speaking during the launch, Shayo said he was pleased to see more players collaborating to promote gender equality and empower young people. He applauded Vodacom Tanzania Foundation and Girl Effect for investing in initiatives that strive to transform communities.

"Tujibebe shows the importance of private and non-profit collaboration to drive progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. I would like to encourage more members of the private sector to be innovative in their areas of expertise and partner with civil society to create projects that empower communities," added Shayo.

"We know that mobile technology has the power to change the world, we are excited to be supporting Tujibebe through our network to develop the potential of girls and boys in our communities. The power of connectivity and technology will deliver content that will empower young people enabling them to maximize their potential," said Rosalynn Mworira, Corporate Affairs Director, Vodacom Tanzania and Trustee of Vodacom Tanzania Foundation.

Elaborating on the impact of Tujibebe to challenge gender stereotypes and help girls see a different future for themselves, Girl Effect CEO, Jessica Posner Odede, remarked that the brand's content has been designed to unite all young people, but with a focus on creating meaningful change for girls. She continued: "Young people often have a huge range of questions about their future that they don't know how to act on - from the right skills to get a job, ways to safely make money or how to save for the future. We're launching Tujibebe so that when girls go online, they can access content that is entertaining, informative and relevant to their everyday lives. Our ambition is to use Tujibebe to connect girls to services around them and create lasting behaviour change."



Anthony Mavunde (2nd-L), Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament, Labour, Employment and Youth), presents a dummy cheque for 4m/- in Dodoma yesterday to General Musuguri Primary School pupil Alphonse Philipo (to his left) for winning Puma Energy's 2019 Road Safety Programme and Drawing competition for primary schools. Left is Puma Energy managing director (competitions) Dominic Dhanah. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT IBRAHIM JOSEPH

DR Congo ethnic violence stopping refugee returns - UN

United Nations

Violence and disease have displaced hundreds of thousands of people in the northeast Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the threat of new clashes is stopping civilians from going back to their homes, a United Nations official has warned.

Leila Zerrougui, head of MONUSCO, the UN peacekeeping force in the country, described on Wednesday "simultaneous emergency situations" including outbreaks of Ebola and measles, interethnic bloodshed and rampaging militias.

Zerrougui blasted "spoilers" in Ituri Province for "seeking to play on ethnic tensions" between Lendu farmers and Hema herders that have resulted in violent clashes and forced more than 350,000 people from their homes.

"The deterioration of the security situation is interrupting the return process that had been gradually taking place since 2018," she told the UN Security Council.

This was "causing new displacements towards Bunia [city] and forcing the humanitarian community to reorient its assistance to the most vulnerable populations," she added.

Ituri clashes

Interethnic clashes in the turbulent, gold-rich Ituri region have also left 733,000 people needing aid handouts, Zerrougui told the UN Security Council via video link from the DRC capital, Kinshasa.

Ituri province has a history of ethnic violence, with more than 60,000 people killed and 500,000 others displaced by clashes between rival groups between 1999 and 2003, according to the UN.

Across the country as a whole, unrest has displaced 4.5 million people since December 2017 and more than 850,000 others have crossed the DRC's borders into



Congolese victims of ethnic violence are seen at a makeshift camp for internally displaced people in Bunia, Ituri. File photo

Angola, Zambia and other neighbours, according to the UN's refugee agency, UNHCR. The DRC was destabilised by the Rwandan genocide in the 1990s and other regional fighting that has left much of the country effectively run by armed groups.

UN peacekeepers want to help end the fighting, said Zerrougui. MONUSCO is as-

sisting Congolese officials to arrest Guidon Shimiray Mwiswa, of the Nduma Defence of Congo-Renové (NDC-R), a militia behind "conflict-related sexual violence" in North-Kivu, she added.

Ebola emergency

Zerrougui also described an Ebola

outbreak that has killed more than 1,700 people - more than two-thirds of those who contracted it - since it emerged in the country's eastern North-Kivu and Ituri provinces last August.

Combined, those two provinces border Rwanda, Uganda and South Sudan.

Health workers sent to tackle the virus

have faced "high levels of community distrust" and violence from armed groups, such as the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) armed group and the Mai Mai militia, said Zerrougui.

"This confluence of factors has resulted in a deadly environment for the people working to counter Ebola, to the point of

being specifically threatened and killed by armed groups," Zerrougui told the New York-based council.

Last week the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the Ebola outbreak in Congo's east as an international health emergency. Ebola is highly infectious hemorrhagic fever that spreads through bodily fluids.

Meanwhile, a deadly measles outbreak in eastern DRC has claimed some 2,000 lives since the beginning of this year - a death toll that is "even more than Ebola", warned Zerrougui.

Power struggle

On Monday, DRC's health minister Oly Ilunga Kalenga resigned in protest after being stripped of responsibility for handling the country's Ebola outbreak, the latest sign of tensions between rival factions in Kinshasa.

DRC politics has been wracked by a power struggle since Felix Tshisekedi won a surprise victory in a December 30 presidential vote against outgoing President Joseph Kabila's favoured candidate, Emmanuel Ramazani Shadary.

The United States envoy to the UN, Cherith Norman Chalet, blamed former President Kabila's supporters and said Washington would slap sanctions and travel bans on anybody who hurts "peace, stability, and security" in DRC.

"The absence of a national government, due primarily to the intransigence of political actors aligned with former President Kabila, compromises all other progress to which the Congolese people aspire," Chalet told the council.

"We call upon those blocking government formation to adopt the flexibility required to seat a cabinet and fulfil the hopes of the Congolese people for a better future."

Agencies

When walls talk: Hong Kong protesters bring grievances to suburbs

Hong Kong, China

In Hong Kong's summer of dissent, even the walls were talking.

"Once you read the messages here, you'll see so many people are in it together, showing support," said Elmo Ho, 21, while running up and down the stairways in the Fortress Hill district with a reel of sticky tape to reinforce the hundreds of adhesive notes on the walls.

Ho and her 18-year-old sister were also looking for space to display a sheet of plastic crammed full of notes.

"What you see here feels very different from what you usually would read online," said Ho.

In Hong Kong, nearly everyone owns a smartphone or two, and Facebook messaging and Whatsapp are commonly used. But as anti-government protests have ratcheted up over the past few weeks, the humble sticky notes that have covered pedestrian walkways have emerged as a new front of resistance.

Locals call them "Lennon Walls", after similar messages appeared in Prague after musician John Lennon was shot dead in the early 1980s. People write their demands and grievances on the colourful squares of paper, while others draw illustrations and doodles.

In Hong Kong, the first Lennon Wall appeared in 2014 during the pro-democracy sit-in known as the Umbrella Movement at the government headquarters. Protesters and their supporters would post messages as a way of cheering each other on.

Building momentum

When the surface at the government building came to life



This is the rare chance Hong Kong people get to vent, to say their piece," said Tang, 36, a property manager. "They've been keeping it inside for far too long. Those who profess their support for the government don't come out. If they'd come read the messages, they would see there's no reason to support the officials."

again in June - only for the sticky notes to be taken down in early July - protesters clamoured for more notes to be put up. Within days, more than 80 such walls appeared all over Hong Kong.

"This time around the wall serves to sustain the movement's momentum all over town," said Ho, a university student and the unofficial caretaker of the Fortress Hill area wall.

Over the past week, at least two incidents of arson and numerous fistfights have erupted in some parts of the city with walls.

But such bulletin boards have a precedent on mainland China and Hong Kong.

In 1978 and 1989, protesters calligraphed manifestoes on large pieces of wafer-thin paper, called "Big Character Posters," and plastered them in public areas. A "democracy wall" in Peking University became a hub for protesters.

And when Hong Kong was still under British rule, university students who chafed at their colonial masters did the same. Thus, it's not surprising that these walls have resurfaced during the extradition protests.

Last September, students at Hong Kong's Polytechnic University posted slogans demanding independence from China.

The surfaces are also a reflection of the limited space the public has to express its discontent.

"This kind of direct democracy is being exercised on the surface of tiny memo notes," wrote prominent culture critic Law Wing Sang in a recent newspaper column. "This is the latest innovation of Hong Kong's resistance culture."

'Chance to vent'

Returning to his neighbourhood of 30 years in Tai Po, pro-



Messages of support and anger from the protesters appeared in underground tunnels too. FILE PHOTO

tester Tang Shun was overcome by the messages in the Lennon Tunnel. Every inch had been papered over with a mosaic of notes.

Unlike Fortress Hill, a middle-class area, Tai Po is in the New Territories, a district that offers lower-priced housing.

"This is the rare chance Hong Kong people get to vent, to say their piece," said Tang, 36, a property manager. "They've been keeping it inside for far too long. Those who profess their support for the government don't come

out. If they'd come read the messages, they would see there's no reason to support the officials."

On Facebook, Tang said half his friends were still showing faith in the government.

"I'm scratching my head as we all grew up in a free society," he said.

But Ho of Forest Hill was disappointed to discover that someone had splashed brown liquid over part of the wall that she had been working on.

"Even when you disagree with what others say, you should still respect their

right to speak," she said.

The two sisters' mother had brought over stacks of Post-it Notes to help them, although she has yet to write a message herself.

Ho's was among the first few messages put up: "We'll act in lockstep. Stay united," she'd wrote.

Ho shrugged at the thought of the wall being cleared out. "We'll put it right back up," she said. "This is a chapter of Hong Kong's history; a show of people power."

Agencies

By Property Watch Reporter

NEW Kigamboni Municipal Director, Engineer Ng'wilabuzu Ludigiji has ordered Municipal Land Officer to meet protagonists in the Pemba Mnazi land row.

Eng Ludigiji said in Dar es Salaam this week that because he does not know the conflict pitting some Puna and Potea villages and Bandari Saccos, he has ordered the land offer to meet the two sides next week and update him on the latest situation so that he can take action.

"After meeting the two conflicting sides and listening to them, the land officer will be able to update me on what is the latest on the ground and together we can find ways to resolve the row," Eng Ludigiji said.

He said he is aware that the conflict so far is between two major land owners but did not name them saying the other ordinary villagers are simple caught in between the big feuding sides which have brought the issue to his attention.

"Let's wait until I get feedback from the district's land officer after their meeting," he added.

Earlier this year, residents of the two villages were shocked to see Bandari Saccos Limited's leaders invade their plots of land backed by armed policemen and went on to demarcate the area again.

Documentary evidence availed to Property Watch by the villagers indicate that local authorities have tried to resolve the conflict but failed so far. The documents show that on February 25 last year, Potea Village Chairman, Ngobi Meza summoned a meeting to address the land conflict involving Alhamdi Mussa, Idd Mohamed, Jones Killimbe, Valerie Killimbe, Charles Kubeja, Masanja Kasubi, Shija Shingajaji and Muddy Kaunda against Bandari Saccos.

Two of the affected plot owners, Jones Killimbe and Initiaz Lalji had beacons of their surveyed plot uprooted by agents of Bandari Saccos who were accompanied by armed policemen and surveyors allegedly from Kigamboni Municipality.

"Jones A. Killimbe and Valerie J. Killimbe said they bought their plot in 2007 from one, Lady Nyamki and requested for official surveying on

KIGAMBONI DIRECTOR INTERVENES IN BANDARI SACCOS, RESIDENTS LAND ROW



In recent days developers have descended on Kigamboni headland due to easy access to the city centre of Dar es Salaam. File photo.

September 28, 2007 so the plot was demarcated into five slots with title deed issued," said part of Meza's letter to Kigamboni Municipal Director.

The letter also quoted representatives of Lalji who attended the meeting which was boycotted by Bandari Saccos leaders despite being invited, Idd Mohamed and Alhamdi Mussa as saying, "The area was bought legally in August 2008 from Menard Makoye and in January 2011, we requested to have it surveyed and given title deed which happened in November 2017 as Block G."

In his letter, the Potea Village Chairman

concluded by saying that, "Through our investigations, it is true that Bandari Saccos bought an area from one, Rwegasira but that the institution encroached the complainants' plots when surveying its area hence destroying property and removing beacons marking their neighbours boundaries. Our advice is that Bandari Saccos should move out of the invaded area and pay for damages caused by the encroachment."

Meza went on to write Kigamboni District Commissioner a letter dated April 3, 2019 after the latest wave of Bandari Saccos invasion backed by armed police-

men, demanding that authorities stop the Kurasini based multi-billion rich savings and credit society from continuing to survey the area under conflict.

But Bandari Saccos leaders have dismissed the residents allegations saying the problem is presence of a corrupt local leadership. "It's false to say that a big institution like Bandari Saccos can grab land from villagers or an individual legitimate owner," argued Bandari Saccos Chairperson, Stella Mutayabarwa while responding to allegations that her institution invaded Puna and Potea villages earlier this year.

"Those village leaders in Puna are dishonest, they deliberately double allocated our land to other buyers hence causing unnecessary conflicts," Mutayabarwa said stressing that her institution wants to change the virgin remote area into a modern place.

"When an institution like Bandari Saccos comes to your village, you have to be happy because it will bring big changes through its investments, it can't do so by grabbing people's land in the era," she charged noting that Puna and Potea village leaders are crooks who should be held accountable.

Cement making companies are starting to get a \$33tr headache

NEW YORK

The world's biggest cement makers have been under pressure from environmental groups, regulators and lawmakers to cut pollution. Now, some of the world's most powerful investors are echoing those calls.

Members of the Institutional Investors Group on Climate change and the Climate Action 100+, a coalition of money managers with more than \$33 trillion under management, is asking that European construction-material companies commit to a target of reducing net carbon dioxide emissions to zero by 2050. The group sent the demands to CRH, LafargeHolcim, HeidelbergCement and Compagnie de Saint-Gobain, along with letters setting out steps applicable for each company on how to get there.

Just like industries from traditional power generation to shipping and transportation, pressure on is mounting on cement companies to clean up and help slow global warming. The industry accounts for 7% of the world's man-made carbon dioxide, according to the International Energy Agency.

"Construction material companies may ultimately risk divestment and lack of access to capital," said Vincent Kaufmann, chief executive officer of the Ethos Foundation, a member of the group. "An increasing number of investors seek to exclude highly carbon-intensive sectors from their portfolios to meet their own decarbonisation plans."

Money managers are calling on the companies to detail how climate change impact their business in order for shareholders to better assess those who aren't preparing for such scenarios, according to the IIGCC, which is an arm of Climate Action 100+. It also called on companies to align their investments with efforts to limit global warming to less than 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit).

"If the cement industry was a country, it would be the third largest global emitter, behind China and the US," said Jocelyn Brown, a senior investment manager for sustainable ownership at RPM Railpen, a pension fund for the British railway industry.

Cement makers should set both short, medium and longterm targets to reach a goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2050, according to IIGCC. Investors also expect that they assign specific responsibility for climate change to a board committee or board member, the group said.

Gas investments place Mozambique as potential regional economic leader - AfDB

MAPUTO

The African Development Bank (AfDB) says that Mozambique's new natural gas investments places the country as a potential regional economic leader, but warns of the need for the "right choices" and economic diversification.

"Mozambique is applying to be regional economic leader, especially as a gateway to southern Africa. Therefore, potentially, the right gas choices, coupled with economic diversification choices, can amplify one of the biggest success stories on the African continent," AfDB's Country Manager for Mozambique Pietro Toigo said in an interview with Lusa.

Toigo said the country should, during the period between investment announcements and the start of exploitation in 2024, focus on investing in other

key sectors, especially agriculture. "It is necessary to act now. During this time, it is important to invest in the industrialisation and productivity of agriculture," the AfDB director in Mozambique added. Toigo also notes that one of the main benefits of having gas is that it has a "very complex value chain," highlighting its role in the development and productivity in different industrial sectors.

"There are now many opportunities to use the same gas in various sectors in the process of economic diversification," he said. Toigo admits there are challenges, notably security, alluding to the action of armed groups in Cabo Delgado province, the scene of major investments in the gas industry, and the economic crisis that the country has experienced in recent years.

"There are challenges in the develop-

ment of all countries, and, in Mozambique, the challenges are great. But the country now has the opportunity to move to another stage of development. It is a historic period," he concludes.

The June announcement by the consortium operating in Area 1 of the northern Rovuma Basin natural gas project has re-ignited expectations and attention on the extractive industry in Mozambique. The consortium, led by US multinational Anadarko, will make a total investment of about US\$25 billion (about EUR 22 billion) in the extraction, liquefaction and maritime export of natural gas in the area. The announcement of another investment of a similar magnitude in the Rovuma Basin Area 4 by consortium led by Eni and Exxon Mobil is expected in the second half of this year.



Construction work of Rovuma LNG plant going on in northern Mozambique.

NEDBANK'S BILLION-RAND DEBT FINANCING DEAL WITH KENYA'S CENTUM

JOHANNESBURG

Looking to the rest of Africa to grow its property finance loan book, Nedbank Corporate and Investment Banking (CIB) has provided financing of more than R1 billion to Kenya's Centum Real Estate, part of Centum Investment Company plc.

Nedbank CIB's property finance division - the largest commercial real estate financier in South Africa, reportedly with a 40% share of the market - said in a statement that the deal is linked

to Centum's Two Rivers mega-development in Nairobi.

The bank said it "played the role of lead arranger and financier in the Two Rivers transaction" - a 102-acre development in Nairobi's diplomatic blue zone, where Centum has a 58.3% shareholding in addition to a 50% stake in the Two Rivers Mall. Besides the mall, Two Rivers is being developed into a mixed-use node with offices, hotels, residential towers, a hospital and a theme park.

Centum is the largest investment

company in East Africa and is an affiliate of the Kenyan government-owned Industrial and Commercial Development Corporation. Listed on the Nairobi and Ugandan stock exchanges, Centum operates in the real estate, infrastructure, financial services, fast-moving consumer goods, power, agribusiness, education, healthcare and ICT sectors.

Nedbank is the latest South African company to become involved in the Two Rivers development. Old Mutual Properties is a joint shareholder with

Centum in the 67 000m2 Two Rivers Mall, the anchor and first development in the node, reputed to be the largest shopping centre in sub-Saharan Africa outside South Africa. JSE-listed City Lodge Hotel Group also has a new 170-room hotel at Two Rivers.

Speaking to Moneyweb on Monday, Gerhard Zeelie, Nedbank CIB's Africa divisional executive for property finance, confirmed that the bank's total funding facilities to Centum Group exceed R1 billion. "Nedbank provided the financ-

ing to consolidate Two Rivers' debt facilities and is currently working on five deals with Centum, which includes developments in Kenya and Uganda. This is not Nedbank's first property finance transaction in Kenya and we are busy with the final execution of several transactions well over \$100 million (R1.4 billion). Most of the funding relates to projects in Nairobi although we are also implementing some transactions in Mombasa," he says.

Financing pipeline of more than

\$300m

Zeelie notes that the deal with Centum is part of Nedbank's recent move to grow its property finance business northwards, beyond South Africa. "The focus is on Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique and Zambia. We are busy working on a number of transactions with a pipeline in excess of \$300 million [R4.5 billion] and are also keeping a keen eye on opportunities in the Francophone countries in West Africa."

By Property Watch Reporter

HIGH end market hotels in Arusha and Zanzibar have excelled in International Hotels Awards presented by the London based institution.

In its latest report, International Hotel Awards named Sultan Sands Island as Arabia and Africa regional winner best hotel and resort while naming Gran Melia Arusha as regional winner best luxury convention and highly commended hotel.

Other winners include Bluebay Beach Resort & Spa of Zanzibar which emerged as highly recommended hotel and best beach Spa while Melia Zanzibar was named highly commended luxury hotel and resort and luxury sustainable hotel but also wedding venue. The awards are split into regions covering Asia Pacific, Arabia & Africa, the Americas, the Caribbean, Europe and UK. "Participants enter at their relevant national level and are judged by a highly experienced team of professionals who cover the whole range of hospitality disciplines," the organisers said in the statement.

The awards are open to hoteliers, hotel developers and builders, interior designers, architects, public relations companies, advertising agencies and web designers. Hotels under development can be entered at any stage of construction provided planning approval has been granted. Companies may submit single or multiple entries, the statement added.

The International Hotel Awards are the international 5-star standard of hotel ratings. It is the only organisation to provide 5-star accolades at an international level. The International Hotel Awards global competition determines the finest hotels and hospitality companies in the world.

"The International Hotel Awards

ZANZIBAR, ARUSHA HOTELS EXCEL AT GLOBAL AWARDS



Sultan Sands Island hotel in Zanzibar

were developed to identify, highlight and reward excellence throughout the global hospitality industry throughout a wide range of areas. In addition to categories for several types of specialty hotels and categories by hotel size, there

are also categories for best hotel architecture, construction, interior design, marketing and website," the organisers statement noted.

There are 17 categories to choose from. 5-star awards for each category are awarded on a national

level before going on to compete on a regional level. The regional winners are automatically entered into the overall International Awards, which ultimately determine the world's finest resorts and hotels. The International

Hotel Awards have evolved from the long established International Property Awards, which have become regarded as the definitive awards programme and focus on both residential and commercial sectors.

South Korea invests US\$5 million in doctors' housing project in Quelimane

MAPUTO

South Korea will invest US\$ 5 million this year building accommodation for doctors at Quelimane Central Hospital.

This is indeed good news for the health sector, given that this funding is part of the overall investment package allocated to the construction of Quelimane Central Hospital, which was completed in 2016.

South Korean Ambassador to Mozambique, Yeo Sung Jun, who announced the news following a courtesy meeting with Zambezia Provincial Permanent Secretary Júlio Mendes, representing the governor, said that the funding was already available and that work was due to start and finish later this year, finalising the hospital project.

Sung Jun also indicated that, in addition to the construction of accommodation, the purchase of new equipment was also planned, increasing the medical care available to patients seeking specialised medical care in Zambezia's largest hospital.

"We are happy with what we are developing with the government of Mozambique; in this partnership that aims to improve medical services for the population, as well as providing housing for the doctors and nurses saving lives at Quelimane Central Hospital," he said.

The South Korean ambassador said he would visit the hospital to assess how matters were proceeding and whether further interventions were necessary. Permanent Secretary Mendes praised the South Korean government's gesture and the support it had lent to safeguarding the population's health.

Mendes said that "the issue of housing construction and consulting on the operation of the hospital are important steps that South Korea is taking, and demonstrate its continued support. That is why we, as a government, are pleased and confident that, with them, we will obtain for the province the hospital it deserves."

Mendes also admitted that the provincial government was aware of the need to continue working towards managing the hospital better. The construction of accommodation for doctors at the Quelimane Central Hospital is part a second investment package, following the construction of the largest health unit in Zambezia province was completed in 2016.



An artist's impression of the 14-storey NHC Eldoret residential block.

NHC to put up Sh500m 14-floor Eldoret panel flat

NAIROBI

National Housing Corporation (NHC) will use Expanded Polystyrene Panel (EPS) technology to put up a 14-storey residential property in Eldoret town to host 182 families.

The Sh500 million project targets low-income families and will comprise 180 one-bedroom units and two studio-cum-commercial spaces. In regulatory filings, NHC environment

lead expert Mwongera Murungi said the project will help spread technical skills on application of EPS technology outside Nairobi.

A report to the National Environment Management Authority (Nema) says the EPS panels will be sourced from their Mlolongo factory, thereby creating awareness among up-country investors on availability of EPS wall, staircase and floor panels.

"The use of EPS panels as a substitute to traditional materials used in erecting walls, stairwells, floors and roofs is expected to reduce construction periods as well as direct and indirect building costs," he said.

The EPS are wave-shaped polystyrene covered with electro-welded zinc-coated square mesh for constructing structural walls in single panel up to four storeys and unlimited

storeys when used in double panels.

A 6.64-acre plot at the NHC Kapsuswa Rental Housing Scheme has been reserved for the project. Located 2.9 kilometres from Eldoret Central Business District. Mr Murungi said the project to be implemented in the next four years will give the youth a platform to learn employable skills on EPS application as well as solar panel installation.

NHC has said it will install solar panels on roof, saving tenants costs of running the facility's lighting systems. To promote greening, rainwater will also be harvested for watering gardens within the property. Among EPS-built houses sourced from NHC factory include Rongai La Casa Luxury apartments, Ndenderu Ruaka flats, Bungoma Sakata Gardens apartments and Kahawa Wendani hostels.

Cap:

South African largest property fund begins its acquisition trail into Africa

JOHANNESBURG

Growthpoint Investec African Properties (GIAP), the pan-African real estate investment business managed by Growthpoint Investec African Property Management, has begun executing on its strategy to aggregate a quality portfolio of prime income-producing commercial assets in select cities across Africa.

The news comes after South Africa's largest listed specialized shopping centre real estate investment trust, Hyprop announced on Friday that AttAfrica Limited, in which it owns a 37.5 percent stake, had concluded an agreement to dispose of its interest in Achimota Retail Centre in Ghana.

GIAP, established as a joint venture between Growthpoint Properties, the largest real estate group in the South Africa, and Investec Asset Management, announced today that it has successfully concluded the acquisition of 97.5% of Achimota Retail Centre, a prime shopping centre in Accra, Ghana.

This transaction marks the first of a pipeline of assets currently being negotiated for acquisition by GIAP. Achimota Retail Centre in north-eastern Accra includes approximately 15,000sqm of retail space occupied by more than 50 retailers, including big names Game, Shoprite, Mr Price, Pizza Hut and KFC.

GIAP also expects to announce a further acquisition of another key asset in the near term. In 2018, GIAP secured capital commitments of more than US\$212 million from several large institutional and international investors. Given the current pipeline of assets under discussion, GIAP's capital is likely to be fully invested by the end of 2019, and its investments further diversified across the office, retail and industrial sectors.

Achimota Retail Centre has been acquired from AttAfrica, a joint venture of JSE-listed REITs Attaca Limited and Hyprop Investments Limited, and certain minority shareholders.

Thomas Reilly, MD of Growthpoint Investec African Property Management, says, "GIAP has strategically timed its entry into the market to take advantage of a highly attractive entry-point into key cities which we view as offering strong growth prospects. We have adopted a very considered asset acquisition strategy with the result of being able to source quality yielding assets at very competitive prices. The business is enjoying significant momentum at the moment, and we expect this to aid the delivery of sustainable long-term investor returns."

The second transaction is expected to be finalised within the next month, after which further details will be made available. GIAP is expected to aid the development of local African real estate markets and to contribute to the wide-ranging developmental impact which real estate can have in such markets.

CONSTRUCTION

LONDON MAYOR LOOKS FOR GREATER POWERS TO CURB SKY-HIGH RENTS

LONDON

Rent controls could be introduced in London's private housing sector under new plans by London Mayor Sadiq Khan.

With London rents spiralling above inflation, Mr Khan wants to follow New York and Berlin in clamping down on landlords taking huge chunks of private renters' cash, on average 42 per cent of household income.

London's mayor currently lacks

powers to impose stricter rules, but wants to introduce open-ended tenancies and the ability to bring rents down, through a commissioned panel with devolved powers that would include current renters.

According to the Greater London Authority, the average rent for a one-bedroom house is higher than a three-bed house outside London.

In hoping to overturn what is a highly important issue for Londoners, Mr Khan said on Friday he wants to create a universal register

of London landlords as well as introducing caps on rent increases while the commission is being created.

"Unlike other mayors around the world, I have no powers over the private rented sector. That's why this landmark report sets out a detailed blueprint of what the government must do to overhaul tenancy laws, and what powers City Hall needs from them to bring rents down," said Mr Khan.

"Londoners are being priced out

of the neighbourhoods they grew up in, couples are delaying having kids and many tenants dare not complain about disrepair in case their landlord retaliates with a rent hike," said campaign group Generation Rent.

The Adam Smith Institute, a free-market think tank, accused London's mayor of being an "economic illiterate." Marc von Grundherr, director of estate agents Benham and Reeves, criticised London's mayor for showing "a real lack of under-

standing when it comes to the rental sector and wider property market."

Mr Khan is eyeing up re-election as the capital's mayor in 2020 and is set to make housing central to his manifesto. His rival for London's top job Shaun Bailey has proposed a taxpayer owned housebuilder acting like a private firm to build new homes. He has refused to put targets on how many homes he hopes to build, saying they act "as a bar" and rarely met.

Affordable housing and rent con-

trols have been at the forefront of a growing movement in other European capitals. Berlin approved a five-year rent freeze on Tuesday as soaring costs in the German capital have led to protests against increasing gentrification and demands for more government intervention.

The state also seized back 670 apartments on Karl Marx Allee, a famous boulevard stretching from the city centre through the former East Germany side dotted with Soviet-era buildings.

SAUDI ARABIA HOUSING MARKET SHOWS SIGNS OF BOTTOMING OUT

RIYADH

House prices continued to fall in Saudi Arabia's main cities during the first half of the year but transaction volumes rose sharply, indicating the market may be reaching the bottom of its current cycle, according to Knight Frank.

The real estate consultancy's latest Saudi Arabia Residential Market Review showed the decline in prices triggered by an economic slowdown that started in 2016 continued into the first half of 2019, with year-on-year apartment prices in Riyadh dropping 10 per cent in the first quarter and 6 per cent in the following three months. Villa prices fell 5 per cent in the first quarter and 2 per cent in the second quarter.

In Jeddah, apartment prices declined 11 per cent year-on-year in the first quarter and 8 per cent in the second quarter, while villa prices fell 7 per cent and 5 per cent over the same period. Only first quarter data was available for the Eastern Province, where overall residential prices fell 11 per cent year-on-year.

"The rising affordability challenge and the lack of suitable supply for middle and lower tier buyers continue to weigh on the sector," said Raya Majdalani, research manager at Knight Frank.

Transaction volumes, however, witnessed a hike as government



Riyadh city skyline construction and King Abdullah Financial District.

initiatives aimed at making homes more affordable for citizens were deemed to have played "a key role in triggering development activity in the affordable segment of the housing market", according to the report.

The volume of transactions completed in Riyadh in the first half of 2019 jumped 66 per cent year-on-year, and the volume of deals done in Jeddah climbed 56 per cent. Volumes in the Eastern Province cities

of Dammam and Khobar were up 32 per cent.

"In H1 2019, we have seen a significant pick up in transaction volumes across key cities which indicates that the market may be heading towards the bottom

of its cycle," Ms Majdalani said. The report also pointed to figures from the kingdom's central bank, the Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority (Sama), which showed that residential real estate loans during the first

quarter of the year were up 22 per cent year-on-year to 153 billion Saudi riyals (Dh149.84bn).

Knight Frank said it expects a recovery in the Saudi housing market "in the short-to-medium term", indicative of ef-

orts to diversify the economy and to stimulate the housing sector. The Ministry of Housing aiming to increase home ownership to 52 per cent by 2020 and 70 per cent by 2030 from the current 47 per cent.

JLL, another real estate consultancy, forecast rents and prices in Riyadh to remain under pressure for the next two years as 50,000 new units are expected to come onto the market, bringing the total by the end of 2020 to 1.35 million, according to a survey it released on Wednesday. It reported a 5 per cent year-on-year fall in prices for apartments and villas in the capital during the second quarter.

In Jeddah, apartment prices dropped 6 per cent and villa prices fell 7 per cent year-on-year, and the JLL's report said that although government policies had a positive impact on demand for home loans, "some households are opting to hold back or pull out of buying a home as they anticipate further drops in residential prices."

Hilton Worldwide Q2 profit beats estimates

NEW YORK

US hotel operator Hilton Worldwide topped Wall Street estimates for quarterly profit on Wednesday, helped by a steady demand for its rooms in the United States.

However, the owner of Waldorf Astoria and Conrad hotel chains lowered the high end of its 2019 outlook for revenue per available room (RevPAR) – an important performance metric for the hotel industry – amid slowing global economies.

The International Monetary Fund on Tuesday lowered its estimate for global growth in 2019, as trade tensions and Brexit uncertainties erode business confidence and weaken investment spending. This slowing growth directly affects travel budgets of corporates.

Hilton said it now expects full-year RevPAR to increase between 1 per cent and 2 per cent, down from an earlier rise of between 1 to 3 per cent. The company now expects adjusted earnings for 2019 between \$3.78 and \$3.85 per share, compared to their previous forecast of \$3.74 to \$3.84 per share.

Hilton's net income attributable to stockholders rose to \$260 million (Dh954.8m), or 89 cents per share, in the second quarter ended June 30, from \$217m, or 71 cents per share, a year earlier.

On an adjusted basis, Hilton earned \$1.06 per share in the quarter beating analysts' average estimate of \$1.02 per share, according to IBES data from Refinitiv. Revenue rose 8.4 per cent to \$2.48 billion.

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Descendants of German prince renew fight for seized land on Operation Valkyrie's 75th anniversary

BERLIN

Prince Friedrich zu Solms-Baruth III slept with two Luger pistols as he colluded to kill Adolf Hitler near the end of World War II.

Riding on horseback into the woods of his 17,000-hectare estate in eastern Germany, the anti-Nazi aristocrat hosted secret meetings to discuss the assassination plot, which was code-named Operation Valkyrie.

The plan failed, with the German dictator walking away with only a burst eardrum and shredded clothes from the blast of a bomb that one of the conspirators had placed in a briefcase beneath an oak conference table. Though spared a death sentence, Solms-Baruth was imprisoned, tortured and eventually lost control of the land his family

had owned for centuries.

Today, on the eve of Operation Valkyrie's 75th anniversary, the timing of that land transfer has become the focus of a two-decade legal battle between the German government and Solms-Baruth's descendants as they seek to reclaim the property. His namesake grandson has new evidence – a chemical analysis of ink on paperwork related to the estate – that he claims is proof the Nazi regime forced Solms-Baruth to sign over the land.

"I was brought up as a child with the aim and instruction by my father this litigation is what we should do if Germany ever reunified," said the fifth and current Friedrich zu Solms-Baruth, 55. "He never thought he would ever see the day, and when he did he started litigation right away."

While confiscations by the Nazis were generally overturned after 1989, the German unification treaty holds that seizures during the period immediately after the war remain unaffected. Solms-Baruth V claims the ink used on instructions to destroy any paperwork relating to his family's estate predates that period.

A spokeswoman for the Federal Administrative Court in Leipzig, which is hearing the case, declined to comment on pending litigation, while the finance ministry didn't immediately return an email seeking comment.

The case underscores how Germany is still grappling with the fallout from the rise of Hitler, whose downfall led to the country's postwar split and the creation of East Germany. Since the end of the war, the state has paid out more than 2 billion euros (Dh8.3bn) to Nazi victims who lost property in former East Germany, government data show, and that may climb if others follow the lead of the Mr Solms-Baruths.

"The figures could be astronomical," Mr Solms-Baruth V said. "By now, it's become much larger than vindicating my grandfather and not letting them get away with it in the case of our family."

Aristocratic dynasties like the Solms-Baruths can pass down the titles they held in Germany's monarchic age. Prince Friedrich V traces his clan's origins back more than 500 years and counts the UK's Duke of Edinburgh – the husband of Queen Elizabeth



The Berlin skyline - German government and grandson of Prince Solms-Baruth have been in a legal battle for more than two decades.

II – among his distant relations. The Solms-Baruths aren't the only German family probing for answers about their ancestors during the Nazi era. This year, the billionaire Reimann family – whose JAB Holding owns Keurig Dr Pepper, Panera Bread and Krispy Kreme Doughnuts – revealed that they have asked a historian to research the clan's ties to the regime. A report on the findings is expected next year.

Germany faced a surge of claims for lost real estate after its reunification in 1990. Before then, only West Germany had laws allowing the return of property seized by the Nazis.

Four years after the Solms-Baruths started their litigation, they reached a partial settlement that excluded properties on the estate owned by local governments. Funds from that deal helped to pay legal and research costs incurred by Mr Solms-Baruth V, who took over handling

the case after his father's 2006 death. It now consumes most of his time.

"Human greed" is the simple answer as to why the Nazis seized property, said German attorney Stephan Glantz, who represented local governments and families, including his own, in cases on East German property rights. "The confiscated assets somehow went to people who were friends of Nazi leaders," he said, speaking generally. "They stole and gave to friends and allies to keep them good."

Released from prison in the closing months of World War II, Solms-Baruth III stayed in Germany with the hope of convincing Russian forces of his anti-Nazi ideology. Yet he shortly learned of plans to arrest him at a town hall meeting with a Russian general, prompting him to flee the building through a restroom window.

He then led his family to a farm in former German colony

Namibia, one of his few remaining assets, accompanied by his chauffeur and valet. En route, the Solms-Baruths stopped in Denmark to stay with a relative who had married the brother of the country's king. They later traveled to Stockholm as guests of Swedish gentry until they could finally board a ship to Africa.

Solms-Baruth III died in 1951. His son eventually made a living farming animals for hunting – a far different subsistence from the timber companies in the family's former estate almost 8,000 miles away. Mr Solms-Baruth V grew up expecting to become a farmer, too. Yet now he and his family have a chance to reclaim what they see as stolen property, and he doesn't plan to give up the fight.

"There is too much at stake from a moral point of view," he said. "Once you go in this direction, you don't turn back."

WORLD

New UK PM assembles top team in biggest reshuffle since '60s

LONDON

BRITAIN'S new Prime Minister Boris Johnson named the first of his new front bench ministers on Wednesday night, just hours after moving into 10 Downing Street.

In what has been the biggest political reshuffle since the early 1960s, more than half of government ministers who served under former Prime Minister Theresa May were either sacked or resigned.

As Johnson handed out jobs, thousands of protesters converged in Whitehall Wednesday night, gathering around the entrance to Downing Street. Officers from the Metropolitan Police were forced to form a line across the entrance to Downing Street.

Reacting to the big changes at the top, Tom Watson, deputy leader of the main opposition Labour Party, said: "This huge cull will lead to early collapse of Johnson's government, bringing a general election that much closer."

The call for a speedy general election was echoed by Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn who said: "We need a General Election and a Labour government that works for the many not

the privileged few."

Sajid Javid, who was Home Secretary in May's government, was named as new Chancellor of the Exchequer, succeeding Philip Hammond who resigned.

Now in charge of interior matters as the new Home Secretary is 47-year-old Priti Patel, who served under May as International Development Secretary until she resigned.

The new Foreign Secretary is former Brexit Secretary Dominic Raab. He replaces Jeremy Hunt, the politician who went head-to-head with Johnson in the battle to be leader of the Conservative Party.

Media reports claimed Hunt had been offered a new job in Johnson's government but rejected what he considered a demotion from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

In an extraordinary day in British politics, outgoing Prime Minister May ended her last day in office at her final Prime Minister's Question Time.

May then made the short journey to Buckingham Palace to offer her resignation to Queen Elizabeth, followed soon after by Johnson's journey to the palace, to be invited by the British monarch to form the new government.



Britain's Queen Elizabeth II welcomes newly elected leader of the Conservative party, Boris Johnson during an audience in Buckingham Palace, London on Wednesday, where she invited him to become Prime Minister and form a new government. (AFP)

He then headed to his new home at 10 Downing Street where among the people waiting to greet him was his girlfriend Carrie Symonds.

In a rousing speech aimed at the nation, Johnson promised that Britain would leave the European Union on Oct 31.

Behind the world's most famous front door Johnson quickly started to hand out the first key posts in a team that will be made up mainly of Brexit supporters.

One of the few front benchers to stay in the same job, Steven Barclay, remains in Johnson's cabinet as Brexit Secretary. He had replaced Raab when he quit.

Also remaining in his old job is Health Secretary Matt Hancock.

Former security minister Ben Wallace, the new Defense Secretary, campaigned to remain in the European Union. He trained at Britain's top military academy, Sandhurst, and later joined the famous Scots Guards, serving in the military for eight years.

Loyal Johnson supporter Liz Truss has been appointed International Development Secretary. She was second-in-command at the Treasury in May's cabinet and in 2016 became the first female Lord Chancellor.

There was also a top job for former Environment Secretary Michael Gove who had a spectacular fall-out with Johnson in the 2016 leadership election which saw Theresa May emerge as prime minister. In that campaign Gove scuppered the leadership hopes of Johnson by announcing his own candidature on the morning Johnson was due to launch his campaign. Johnson stunned his allies by withdrawing from the contest.

Gove was also a contender in the recent contest for the leadership of the Conservative Party. Political commentators said it appeared Johnson and Gove have "buried the hatchet", with Gove appointed as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. The holder of the title is usually the de-facto deputy prime minister.

In his first speech as prime minister, on the steps of Downing Street, Johnson said he had a message for the doubters, the doomsters and the gloomsters, adding "they are going to get it wrong again. The people who bet against Britain are going to lose their shirts."

"We are going to fulfill the repeated promises of parliament to the people and come out of the EU on Oct 31, no ifs or buts," he said.

Xinhua

Nuclear talks in doubt as North Korea tests ballistic missiles, envoy cancels trip

SEOUL

NORTH Korea test-fired two new short-range ballistic missiles yesterday, South Korean officials said, its first missile test since its leader, Kim Jong Un, and U.S. President Donald Trump agreed to revive denuclearisation talks last month.

South Korea, which supports efforts by North Korea and the United States to end years of hostility, urged the North to stop acts that are unhelpful to easing tension, saying the tests posed a military threat on the Korean peninsula.

The South's National Security Council said it believed the missiles were a new type of ballistic missile but it would make a final assessment with the United States.

Firing a ballistic missile would be a violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions that ban the North from the use of such technology. North Korea has rejected the restriction as an infringement of its sovereign right to self-defense.

North Korea launched the missiles from the east coast city of

Wonsan with one flying about 430 km (267 miles) and the other 690 km (428 miles) over the sea. They both reached an altitude of 50 km (30 miles), an official at South Korea's Defense Ministry said.

Some analysts said the North appeared to have retested missiles it fired in May, but two South Korean military officials said the missiles appeared to be a new design.

The launch casts new doubt on efforts to restart stalled denuclearisation talks after Trump and Kim met at the demilitarized zone (DMZ) between the two Koreas at the end of June.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho had been expected to meet on the sidelines of a Southeast Asian security forum in Bangkok next week.

But a diplomatic source told Reuters on Thursday that Ri had canceled his trip to the conference.

The White House, Pentagon and U.S. State Department did not immediately respond to requests for



comment.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said the test had no immediate impact on Japan's security, according to Kyodo News.

U.S. national security adviser John Bolton, who has taken a hard line toward North Korea, made no mention of the launches in a tweet on Thursday after a visit to South Korea. He said he had "productive meetings" on regional security.

South Korea's nuclear envoy, Lee Do-hoon, had phone calls with his U.S. counterpart, Stephen Biegun, and his Japanese counterpart, Kenji Kanasugi, to share their assessment, South Korea's foreign ministry said in a statement.

Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told a briefing that Beijing had noted the launch, and called for North Korea and the United States to reopen negotiations "as early as possible".

'CLEAR MESSAGE'

After Trump and Kim met last month, the United States and North Korea vowed to hold a new round of working-level talks soon, but Pyongyang has since sharply criticized upcoming joint military drills by U.S. and South Korean troops.

North Korea's foreign ministry accused Washington this month of breaking a promise by holding military exercises with South Korea. On Tuesday, Kim inspected a large, newly built submarine from which ballistic missiles could be launched.

"By firing missiles, taking issue with military drills and showing a new submarine, the North is sending one clear message: there might be no working-level talks if the United States doesn't present a more flexible stance," said Kim

Hong-kyun, a former South Korean nuclear envoy.

Kim Dong-yup, a former navy officer who teaches at Kyungnam University in Seoul, said the weapons tested on Thursday appeared to be the same as the ones tested in May, which were less of a challenge than long-range missiles but "enough to subtly pressure" Washington.

But the South Korean military believes they may be new, because they traveled further. In North Korea's previous missile test in May, the projectiles flew only 420 km (260 miles) and 270 km (168 miles) though they reached the same altitude of about 50 km (30 miles).

"We're very cautious because it's difficult to extend the range within such a short time," said one military official, who asked not to be identified due to the sensitivity of the issue.

Nuclear talks between North Korea and the United States stalled after a second summit between Trump and Kim in Vietnam in February broke down. **Agencies**

Zimbabwe elections body defends appointment of former soldier as chief elections officer

HARARE

THE Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) has defended the appointment of Utoile Silaigwana as its Chief Elections Officer (CEO) following questions that had been raised in the media over the appointment procedures.

Silaigwana, who had been acting CEO since early 2018 when he took

over from Constance Chigwamba, was recently confirmed as the substantive CEO.

Some political actors have questioned the appointment, suggesting that it was tantamount to militarization of the national elections body since he is a former member of the Zimbabwe National Army. However, in a press statement titled "Setting the record straight",

ZEC chairperson Priscilla Chigwamba said the appointment was done after interviews were conducted by the full commission which sat as an interviewing panel and vetted several applications before Silaigwana was given the job.

"For the record, the current CEO was appointed on merit as he is a qualified elections administrator with 17 years experience in that

field. He is a holder of a Masters degree in elections administration from a recognized university as well as being an accrediting facilitator for Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections, a modular professional development program on electoral processes," said Chigwamba.

She said several articles that had

been posted on both social and mainstream media recently contained information with potential to cause alarm and despondency on the electorate.

Apart from questioning Silaigwana's appointment, the articles also alleged lack of professionalism on the ZEC leadership and alleged reluctance by the commission to implement reforms.

Beijing denounces US senator's remarks on HKSAR as 'nonsense'

HONG KONG

THE Commissioner's Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region has denounced remarks by an anti-China US senator on Hong Kong as "absolute nonsense."

Marco Rubio has alleged that "Communist Party of China used organized crime groups to attack protestors in Hong Kong" and that "they are violating everything they agreed in Hong Kong handover".

A spokesperson for the office yesterday condemned such hysterical smears and attacks on China out of ulterior motives.

The spokesperson said that Rubio (pictured) and some other politicians have a record of maliciously attacking China and confusing right and wrong without any moral sense.

"The recent attempt by Rubio to fabricate lies and drive a wedge between Hong Kong and the mainland for the sake of his own political interests has again exposed his despicable motives," the spokesperson said.

The spokesperson pointed out that to some American politicians, only violence in their countries counts as violence, while violence in other countries and regions is a matter of human rights and freedom; only those who attack the police and endanger social order in their countries are rioters, while those damaging public property, storming government institutions and even assaulting the police elsewhere are "human rights and freedom fighters".

Such hypocritical and ridiculous application of double standards defiles and tramples upon the rule of law, and abets violent offenders.

The spokesperson stated that since the return of Hong Kong to its motherland, China's central government has been committed to the principles of "one country, two systems", "Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong" and a high degree of autonomy in the HKSAR in strict accordance with the Constitution and the Basic Law.

Hong Kong has maintained its prosperity and stability as a result, and its people enjoy unprecedentedly extensive rights and freedoms in accordance with law.

The spokesperson emphasized that Hong Kong is part of China, and its affairs are completely China's domestic affairs.

"We will never allow any country, organization or individual to interfere in Hong Kong affairs and China's domestic affairs, and will never tolerate any efforts to undermine our national sovereignty and security and Hong Kong's prosperity and stability.

We strongly urge Rubio and others to immediately stop shameful attempts to stir up trouble in Hong Kong and China as a whole," the spokesperson said. **Xinhua**

Russia's Black Sea Fleet warships line up in Sevastopol Bay for Navy Day parade

MOSCOW

THE Black Sea Fleet's warships have lined up in a parade formation in the Sevastopol Bay ahead of Russia's Navy Day celebrations, the Fleet's press office reported yesterday.

"The Black Sea Fleet's warships have completed forming their parade lineup in the Sevastopol Bay," the press office said in a statement.

Sevastopol residents and guests will be able to view the submarine Novorossiysk, the air-cushion missile ship Samum, the frigate Admiral Makarov, the missile gunboat R-60 and other warships.

Sevastopol Naval Parade Commanding Officer, Commander of the Squadron of Surface Ships Rear Admiral Oleg Krivorog was in charge of the warships' parade lineup, the press office said.

Russia will celebrate Navy Day on July 28. Naval parades will be held in St. Petersburg, Baltiysk, Sevastopol, Severomorsk and Astrakhan, and also in the Syrian port of Tartus. Russia's Main Naval Parade in St. Petersburg and Kronstadt on July 28 will involve 43 warships, 41 aircraft and more than 4,000 personnel. **Agencies**



THE State Council Information Office of China issued a white paper titled "China's National Defense in the New Era" on Wednesday.

It is the 10th white paper on national defense the Chinese government has issued since 1998 and the first comprehensive one since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in 2012.

The main body of the 27,000-character white paper was divided into six sections: the international security situation, China's defensive national defense policy in the new era, fulfilling the missions and tasks of China's armed forces in the new era, reform in China's national defense and armed forces, reasonable and appropriate defense expenditure, and actively contributing to building a community

China releases white paper on national defence in new era

with a shared future for mankind.

The white paper pointed out that the socialist system of China, the strategic decision to follow the path of peaceful development, the independent foreign policy of peace, and the best of cultural traditions—considering peace and harmony as fundamentals—determine that China will pursue a national defense policy that is defensive in nature.

The white paper said that resolutely safeguarding China's sovereignty, security and development interests is the fundamental goal of China's national defense in the new era; never seeking hegemony, expansion or spheres of influence is the distinctive feature of China's

national defense in the new era; implementing the military strategic guideline for a new era is the strategic guidance for China's national defense in the new era; staying committed to the Chinese path of building strong armed forces is the path forward for China's national defense in the new era; and the service of building a community with a shared future for mankind is the global significance of China's national defense in the new era.

The white paper for the first time unveiled the missions and tasks of China's armed forces in the new era. It said that to meet the strategic demands of national security and development, Chi-

na's armed forces firmly implement the missions and tasks entrusted by the CPC and the people.

They endeavor to provide strategic support for consolidating the leadership of the CPC and the socialist system, safeguarding national sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, protecting China's overseas interests, and promoting world peace and development.

The white paper also presented a panorama of China's historic achievements in deepening reform in national defense and armed forces.

In the new era, China is advancing defense and military modernization across the board and deepening reform

in national defense and armed forces in all respects, with a focus on removing institutional barriers and solving structural and policy-related problems to adapt to the trends of worldwide RMA and the demands of national security. Historic strides have been made in strengthening the armed forces.

The white paper detailed the reasonable and appropriate defense expenditure in China. It introduced China's scale and composition of defense expenditure and compared China with other countries ranking high in defense expenditure.

All in all, China's defense expenditure is open and transparent, and its spend-

ing is reasonable and appropriate. Compared to other major countries, the ratios of China's defense expenditure to GDP and to government expenditure, as well as the per capita defense expenditure of the country, remain at a relatively low level.

There is still a wide gap between China's defense expenditure and the requirements for safeguarding national sovereignty, security and development interests, for fulfilling China's international responsibilities and obligations as a major country, and for China's development. In step with national economic development, defense expenditure of China will maintain a moderate and steady growth.

People's Daily

The
Guardian

SPORT



SportPesa Director of Operations, Luca Neghesti (R), hands over new lawn seeds to Director of Sports Development in the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Yusuf Singo, in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The seeds will be used in renovation of the National Stadium pitch. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SPORTPESA

Meek Mill's conviction thrown out, granted new trial

PENNSYLVANIA

A PENNSYLVANIA appeals court on Wednesday overturned rapper Meek Mill's conviction in a drug and gun case that has kept the rapper on probation for a decade and made him a celebrity crusader for criminal justice reform.

The unanimous three-judge panel said that new evidence that undermines the credibility of the officer who testified against the rapper at his trial made it likely he would be acquitted if the case were retried.

City prosecutors have backed the defense bid for a new trial and confirmed they do not trust the officer, who has since left the force and was the only prosecution witness at the 2008 nonjury trial. Still, District Attorney Larry Krasner said Wednesday his office needs time to decide whether to drop the case.

The 32-year-old performer, born Robert Rihmeek Williams, is now free of the court supervision he's been under most of his adult life. Williams has said he had trouble notifying probation officers about his travels as required because of the erratic nature of the music industry. A little more than a year ago, he spent five months in prison over technical violations of his parole.

"The past 11 years have been mentally and emotionally challenging, but I'm ecstatic that justice prevailed," Williams said in a statement. "Unfortunately, millions of people are dealing with similar issues in our country and don't have the resources to fight back like I did. We need to continue supporting them." Reginald Graham, the officer who wrote the search warrant in Williams' case and testified at his trial, left the Philadelphia Police department a few years ago after an internal probe found he had stolen money and then lied about it.

Graham testified at trial that Williams pointed a gun at him during his 2007 arrest outside his southwest Philadelphia home. Williams, who was 19 at the time, has denied pointing a gun at police. A police colleague who took part in the arrest

later said Graham lied about Williams brandishing a gun.

"Rather, (he) observed Williams attempt to discard his weapon," President Judge Jack A. Panella wrote in Wednesday's opinion, concluding that the new evidence was so strong "that a different verdict will likely result at a retrial."

In arguments in the case last week, Assistant District Attorney Paul George said the office wouldn't call Graham at a retrial in light of the questions about his credibility and due to its "legal, ethical and constitutional obligations."

Graham was also investigated, but not charged, by the FBI in a separate corruption probe. The six city drug squad members indicted were all acquitted at a 2015 trial.

"I never lied, I never stole, and I never said I did," Graham, now living in Florida, told Philadelphia Magazine for an article last year.

The Pennsylvania Superior Court also overturned the trial judge's parole violation findings and, in a rare move, pulled her off the case because "she heard highly prejudicial testimony ... and made credibility determinations in favor of a now discredited witness."

Common Pleas Judge Genece Brinkley had kept Williams on probation for 10 years and sent him back to prison for several short stints for violating parole. He has been called back to court repeatedly over concerns about his travels and, in one instance, use of painkillers. Then-girlfriend Nicki Minaj testified for him at one such hearing in 2016.

The Philadelphia rapper-turned-entrepreneur is launching a new record label in a joint venture with Jay-Z's Roc Nation.

The two performers celebrated the launch of Dream Chasers Records on Tuesday in New York City. Hours later, the court ruling came down.

Williams, in his statement, said he appreciated the support he has received from his family, his legal team, Krasner's office and celebrity friends, including Philadelphia 76ers co-owner Michael Rubin. AP



Senior national soccer team, Taifa Stars

Taifa Stars now ought to make Tanzanians happy

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL MWEBE

SENIOR national soccer team, TaifaStars, play Kenya on Sunday in their first leg of the first round of qualifiers for Africa Nations Championship for home based players, CHAN. The Harambee Stars of Kenya are old opponents who have tended to get the better of Taifa Stars over the years. In fact it was just last month when Kenya came from behind to beat Taifa Stars 3-2 in the Africa Cup of Nations group stage match in Egypt.

After qualifying for the first edition of CHAN in 2009, Tanzania has since had four unsuccessful campaigns. Ironically we qualified when the road to the championship was much tougher than it is now in the current format. The competitions was expanded to 16 teams and now for one to qualify you only need to succeed in two rounds as opposed to the three we went through in 2008.

This is the second time we face Kenya in CHAN. In 2008, we eliminated them in the first round before edging out Uganda who have since been our bottle neck in three different

campaigns. May this should our inspiration than now is the time to not only revenge for that bitter defeat in Cairo but also return to CHAN.

After a woeful campaign at the Africa Cup of Nations finals, Taifa Stars need to earn back fans' faith. It is time to make the fans happy again. And with all the negative publicity generated after head coach Emmanuel Amunike sacking, one feels Stars need a convincing victory this weekend to restore some pride after a torrid time.

As we saw against Uganda in March, on their day, Taifa Stars can certainly raise their game, and they will have to once more, to match a Harambee Stars side that is known for playing a very physical game.

Newly appointed interim coach, Etienne Ndayiragije, has a talented enough squad at his disposal to beat Kenya, even if our neighbours boast a superior head to head record against us and are a dangerous outfit.

Ndayiragije know if his team he is to make an impact in terms of qualifying for the CHAN finals again, they surely have to first make a statement against Kenya. A two-goal victory margin

is the minimum advantage we should take to Nairobi to stand a good chance of progressing to the second round where a troubled Sudan team awaits us.

If Ndayiragije can take plenty of hope heading into this game, however, it is that Taifa Stars tend to have better record when a coach is taking charge of his first game. In September last year, coach Emmanuel Amunike got a credible draw away to Uganda in his first game for Taifa Stars.

Amunike's predecessor, Salum Mayanga, won his first two games in charge. It was the same case for Boniface Mkwaya, who got an away draw to Uganda in his debut game.

My expectation is that Taifa Stars will not disappoint on Sunday, but it is hard to be overly confident, given that the national team have so routinely failed to meet expectations for a very long time.

Could this finally be the time for TaifaStars to make us happy again after a series of five winless matches? Or will they continue to give us the customary disappointments? The ball is firmly on their court.



Deputy Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Juliana Shonza (front row, 3rd L), in a group photo with Tanzania Volleyball Association (TAVA)'s officials, Morogoro regional authorities' leaders and Moro Stars volleyball team prior to the opening of this year's national volleyball club championship that is held in the region. Moro Stars notched 3-2 victory over Jeshi Stars of Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

Year before Games, Tokyo better prepared than any city before - IOC

TOKYO

A YEAR before hosting the 2020 Olympics, Tokyo is better prepared than any other city in the past to host the Games, Olympic chief Thomas Bach said on Wednesday.

International Olympic Committee President Bach came to the Japanese capital to attend several high-profile events marking one year until the opening ceremony in the almost-completed National Stadium. Only three Olympic venues in total remain to be finished.

Around 3.22 million tickets were sold during the first domestic sales phase last month, surprising organisers so much that their sales policy has had to be amended.

Over 200,000 people in Japan and

abroad have also applied to be volunteers at the Games in a further indication of the excitement building in the country.

"I can really say that I have never seen any Olympic city being so ready with their preparations one year before the Games as Tokyo already is," Bach told sports officials and journalists gathered for a presentation on Tokyo's progress.

The celebrations included the unveiling of the Olympic medal design, the presentation of the torch relay "ambassadors", a performance by traditional Japanese string instrument shamisen players and speeches, including by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

"The last six years have passed very quickly, and I am happy to hear that the preparations have been carried out as

planned," said Abe, recalling the award of the Games to Tokyo in Buenos Aires in 2013.

But it has not always been plain sailing. Tsunekazu Takeda resigned this year as president of the Japanese Olympic Committee following allegations of suspected corruption related to the bid, and in 2015 organisers had to scrap the original logo over accusations of plagiarism.

Budget figures released in December 2018 put total costs at \$12.6 billion, well above their original estimate at under \$7 billion.

Battle with rising costs may be offset by local sponsorship revenue which has passed \$3 billion, more than any other Games.

Tokyo also had to ramp up its heat

countermeasures, such as shaded areas, air-conditioned waiting areas and ice baths for athletes, as well as water sprays.

Although this summer has so far been mild and rainy, a record heat wave in July 2018 killed over a dozen people in Tokyo, with monthly average temperatures reaching more than 30 degrees for the first time since 1998.

Meanwhile, designer Junichi Kawanishi was still coming to terms with his sudden fame on Thursday, a day after his design for the medals to be awarded at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics was unveiled to the world.

Kawanishi, a graphic designer from Osaka, won a nationwide competition to design the medals for the Olympics and Paralympics next year.

His design was unveiled on Wednesday during an extravagant ceremony in the Japanese capital with exactly one year to go until the Games, which starts on July 24.

The medals, which are 85 millimetre in diameter, feature the Greek goddess of victory Nike in their design along with the Olympic symbol and are made from recycled metals, collected from 6.21 million electronic devices donated across Japan.

Kawanishi said he wanted the circular design on the front of the medals to represent the globe and reflect light.

"By receiving light from various angles ... I thought about the cheers from the public and those thoughts are reflected," Kawanishi told reporters on Thursday.

"Reflection of light reaches various directions so, I hope that the reflected light from the medal would reach all directions when it is worn by an athlete. That is my intention."

Kawanishi said he received a call last year which told him his proposal was selected from over 200 applications. He had to keep the medal design, and his identity, a secret until Wednesday.

"As many people applied, I thought there is no way I would be selected," he said.

"Experiencing the Olympic Games is a once in a lifetime experience. I was not born when they had the previous Games in 1964 so I was feeling happy already to experience home Olympics.

REUTERS

