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TANZANIA

SATURDAY 7 MARCH, 2020

HEALTH



ZANZIBAR BANS DIRECT FLIGHTS FROM ITALY PAGE 3

EDUCATION



PREGNANCIES CUT OFF STUDENTS FROM EDUCATION PAGE 5

AGRICULTURE



MINISTER URGES INNOVATION IN FARMING PAGE 6

SCIENCE



INNOVATION WEEK TO BE HELD OUTSIDE DAR ES SALAAM PAGE 7



Page 13

CCM lauds education system, rejects overhauling demands

More opposition top cadres will join CCM, says Dr Bashiru

By Songwa wa Songwa



WELCOME TO HOME OF GREAT NEWSPAPERS: CCM Secretary General Dr Bashiru Ally (in cap) in jovial mood with some senior editors and officials of The Guardian Ltd, publishers of The Guardian and Nipashe newspapers, shortly after he arrived at the firm's offices in Dar es Salaam's Mikocheni Light Industrial Area yesterday at the start of a tour of IPP media outlets. More photos on Page 4. Photo: John Badi

Our priorities are firstly improving agriculture, access to clean water and electricity as well as continuing with the provision of free basic education

AS some sections of the society call for the overhaul of Tanzania's education system for it to produce more competent manpower, the ruling party says the structure is superb. Speaking during his tour of IPP Media outlets in Dar es Salaam yesterday, CCM Secretary General Dr Bashiru Ally said those driving the narrative do not have authoritative knowledge of the matter. Dr Bashiru, who before succeeding Abdulrahman Kinana in the position in 2018 was a lecturer at the Department of Political Science of the University of Dar es Salaam, argued that what many people may not know is that Tanzania's education system produces some of the most brilliant brains in the world. "Tanzanians who get an opportunity to pursue graduate or postgraduate studies abroad, who are products of this system,

TURN TO PAGE 2

The Mo Ibrahim leadership prize 'cannot find' any winner for 2019

By Guardian Reporter

FOR the second consecutive year, Africa has failed to produce a winner for the Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership.

A statement released yesterday by Mo Ibrahim Foundation said that the decision

Nelson Mandela was an inaugural honorary laureate in 2007. Like 2019, there were also no winners in 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2016 and 2018

was made after deliberations by the independent prize committee chaired by former Botswana President Festus

TURN TO PAGE 2

Peacekeeping: Tanzania setting the pace in women involvement

By Henry Mwangonde

THE noticeable progress that the Tanzanian army has made in walking the gender integration talk has proved useful in peacekeeping operations around the world, participants at a high-level dialogue held in Dar es Salaam said yesterday.

The event, whose thrust was on the role of Tanzanian women in peacekeeping and security, heard that the country's involving of women soldiers in peacekeeping stands at seven per cent - well above the 4.4 per cent global average.

The Director of Peacekeeping Operations in the Tanzania

The TPDF target is to raise the ratio of women involvement in peacekeeping to 30-per cent by 2027

People's Defence Forces (TPDF) Brigadier Gen. Anthony Sibuti said through time involving women in peace keeping missions has been essential, noting that integration though has to proceed with caution.

"For example in Sudan a man is not allowed to speak to a woman. Therefore when

you involve women in patrols they are the ones to interact with women on the other side, while women's presence in such operations removes the fear from those protected because they perceive women as friendly," he said.

He said that in his lengthy period of serving in peace keeping missions in Africa and beyond, he observed that such operations are dominated by men. There are countries totally without women peacekeepers, he stated.

The TPDF target is to raise the ratio of women's involvement in peacekeeping

TURN TO PAGE 2

Yaeda Valley villagers starve as invaders harvest baobab fruits

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

RAMPANT harvesting of baobab fruits by outsiders at night has led to the dwindling of the staple food for the endangered gatherer community in Mbulu District, Manyara Region, pushing families into starvation.

A forum held here yesterday to address the matter was told that the vast virgin Yaeda valley where



the indigenous fruits thrive is now nearly empty, thanks to people yet to be identified who harvest them during the night and leave at dawn.

Speaking at a meeting which brought together peasants, livestock keepers and fruit gatherers, Endeko Endeko from Mongo-wa-Mono section of Yaeda-Chini, representing the

TURN TO PAGE 2



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Peacekeeping: Tanzania setting the pace in women involvement

FROM PAGE 1

to 30-percent by 2027, he declared.

Ambassador Liberata Mulamula said women have a key role to play in as far as peacekeeping was concerned, as their presence has changed a lot.

The dialogue was convened by the Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation and United Nations Women's Organisation (UN Women), with the main agenda being to discuss the contribution of Tanzania in promoting peace and security at regional and global levels.

"The focus is on the role played by Tanzanian women in UN and African Union (AU) peace operations. It is intended to serve as an opportunity to recognize and celebrate their contribution and to galvanize action towards the women, peace and security agenda in Tanzania under the rubric of UN Security Council Resolution 1325," said Hodan Addou, UN Women country representative.

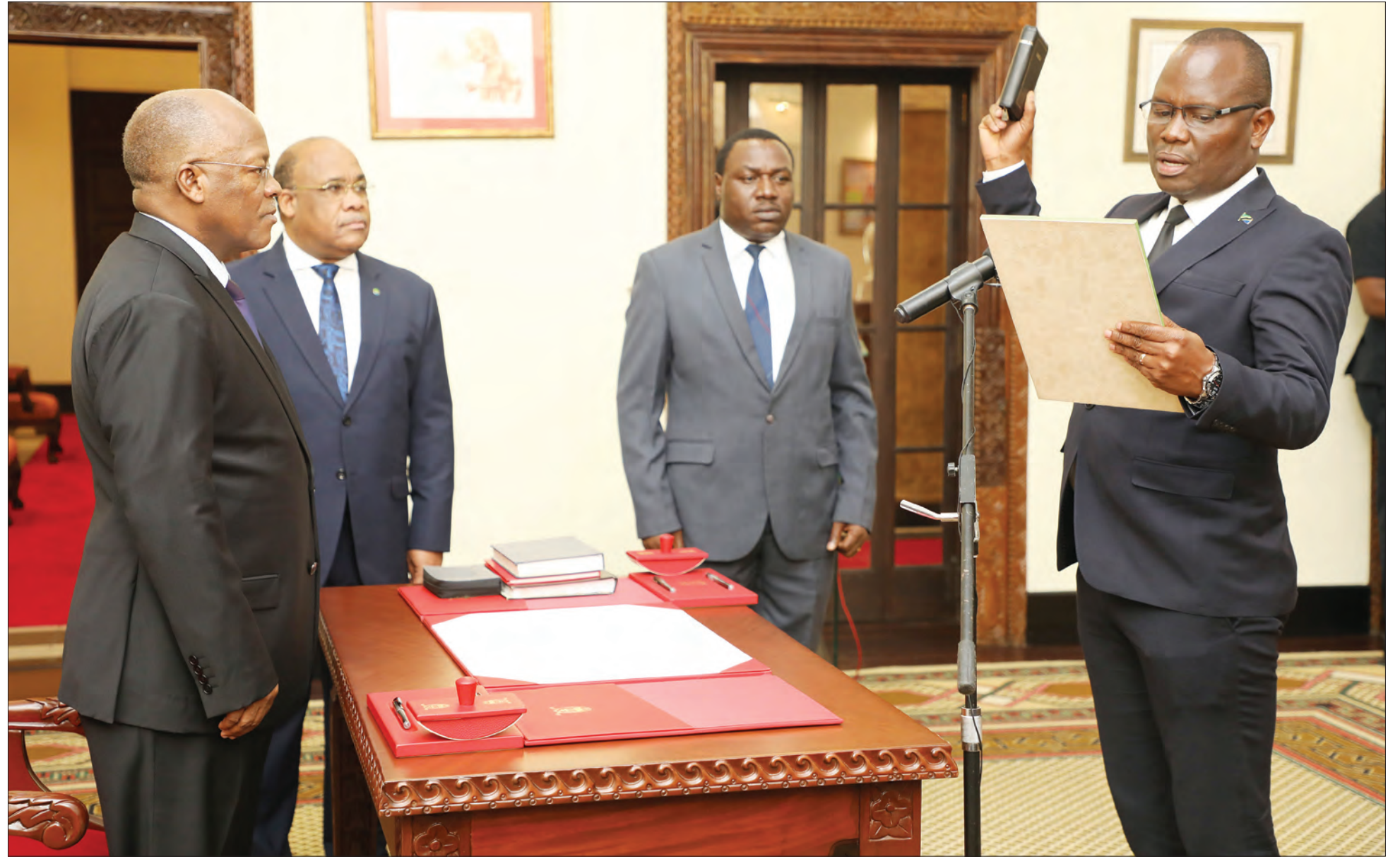
She said that on the

global stage, UN Women strongly believes that women's engagement in peace and security is essential to building sustainable peace, and has been working to support women's full and equal participation in all levels of peace processes and security efforts.

This initiative is one of several events to commemorate the International Women's Day on March 8.

"Our interventions are focused on increasing women's meaningful participation in formal and informal peace negotiations, along with promoting women's participation in peace building and recovery planning, she asserted.

Equally important is promoting women's increased participation in peacekeeping and protecting women's and girls' human rights by countering violent extremism through a gender-sensitive approach," the representative added.



President John Magufuli swears in Gerald Musabila Kusaya as Permanent Secretary in the Agriculture ministry. The event was held at State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House.

Yaeda Valley villagers starve as invaders harvest baobab fruits

FROM PAGE 1

Hadza communities in Manyara and Singida regions, pointed out that his people depended on baobab trees as their main source of food.

The fruit has recently gained popularity after some traditional healers spoke of its health benefits, making its juice a big hit especially in major cities and towns all over the country.

Hadza people are an endangered group classified under the 'Hunters and

Gatherers' communities. The invasion of their Yaeda land was described to be yet another death kernel because since time immemorial, the Bushmen, numbering less than 3000, have never tasted any other type of life, refusing to adapt to other ways of living.

"Hadza hardly farm or keep livestock, their lives depend on consuming fruits, roots and small animals, but with the invasion of aliens who take away all fruits in the valley, the endangered members of shrinking community could soon be annihilated," experts at

the forum warned.

The Hadza plight was among the concerns raised during the Forum for rural smallholder producers in Tanzania organized by the Tanzania Pastoralists Community Forum (TPCF) in association with the 'Mtandao wa Vikundi vya Wakulima Tanzania' (the Network of Farmers Associations of Tanzania - MVIWATA).

Joseph ole Parsambei, executive director for the Tanzania Pastoralists Community Forum (TPCF), explained that the gathering has brought together

rural producers from villages in the northern parts of Tanzania.

"They comprise of farmers, livestock keepers, fruits and seeds gatherers, beekeepers and fishermen and women, meeting to identify and find ways of solving the myriad of challenges facing them in their respective precincts," he stated.

One of the participants, Paulo Dudui from Loliondo division of Ngorongoro District called for the infrastructure for an irrigation scheme so that local farmers could make proper use of

ongoing rains.

"All the rain water goes to waste. We need huge dams and wells to trap the precipitation and irrigation channels to pump water into farms so that the farms may cease to be season dependent," he said.

Dr Elifuraha Laltaika, a lecturer from the Tumaini Makumira University who was the main facilitator at the forum pointed out that at the moment climate change was the major problem affecting all rural communities.

"Shrinking pastures, drying water

sources, emerging diseases and deaths of livestock brought about by famine, are all results of global warming and climate change. The country needs to come up with even better ways of offsetting such effects," said Dr Laltaika.

The organizer group, MVIWATA is a national farmers' organisation which brings together smallholder farmers from all regions in order to have a common voice to defend economic, social, cultural and political interests of smallholder farmers

TCRA steps up efforts to fight cybercrime

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has started engaging religious leaders in the fight against cybercrime - which remains a serious challenge due to the growing number of devices used and the number of people accessing the internet.

Through the campaign dubbed: 'Sirubuniki Mjanja Haingizwi Chaka', religious leaders under their regional peace committees are empowered with skills on how they can be free from cyber-related crime when using communication gadgets in order to inform their followers in their respective areas.

TCRA head in eastern zone, Christopher John said this when speaking at a one-day seminar to members of Morogoro regional peace committee, which involved

different religious leaders across the region.

John described religious leaders as key leaders when it comes towards addressing cybercrime as they can deliver the messages to their followers, who are in big numbers. He said that Information and communications technology (ICT) across the world and Tanzania in particular, are threatened by cybercrime as the use of the internet becomes part and parcel of the growing middle class.

"Religious leaders are powerful people in the area of public education and that's why the authority saw it better to use them to disseminate the message," he said, adding: "The campaign aims to cover all peace committees across the country. We hope that in the end, the campaign and the intended message will reach the majority of Tanzanians."



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa inspects Pangani River bank safety enhancement project shortly before launching it yesterday. Flanking him are Mussa Sima (L), Deputy Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and the Environment), and Pangani district commissioner Zainab Abdallah. Photo: PMO.

CCM lauds education system, rejects overhauling demands

FROM PAGE 1

do extremely well in various fields.

Therefore, changing the education system is not a priority for the party which is currently drawing its election manifesto ahead of general election slated for late October.

"Our priorities are firstly improving agriculture, access to clean water and electricity as well as continuing with the provision of free basic education among others," he said.

But last month, the legislature recommended the formation of a commission to overhaul Tanzania's education system from kindergarten to university.

Tabling its annual report, the Parliamentary Committee on Social Services and Community

Development said the education being provided in the country does not respond to massive changes in the world, including in the areas of science and technology.

The committee submitted that for the system to produce competent, competitive job creators as opposed to half-baked job seekers, an education commission be formed to set out what is required so that the government can implement the changes.

Asked about the current political situation whereby top ruling party officials including himself traverse the country mobilising support while opposition politicians are not allowed to do so, Dr Bashiru said it is nothing but incumbency advantage.

"Let me tell the opposition that if it happens that they get power, they will also use incumbency advantage it," he asserted.

He argued that it is negligence of the highest order for a ruling party not to use such benefit because once power is lost, it is an uphill task to regain it.

"We don't want to be like KANU or UNIP," he said, referring to independence parties in Kenya and Zambia that lost power in 2002 and 1991, respectively, and never regained it.

Dr Bashiru reiterated the position of President John Magufuli that there is no ban on political rallies but restriction of the same to respective constituencies until the formal election campaign period.

As for the wave of opposition politicians decamping to CCM with suspicion of inducement by the ruling party, he laughed it off saying that those who join the party do so by their own volition.

He used the opportunity to brag about netting former Chadema secretary-general Dr Vincent Mashinji who joined CCM last month.

He said that attracting the secretary general of a major opposition party who has the entire organisation's plans is no mean feat. Dr Bashiru went ahead and asserted that more opposition figures are headed to the green and yellow.

"We have a long list of more opposition politicians joining our party soon. The harvesting

continues," he declared.

With regard to demands for 50-50 gender ration in leadership, the CCM top executive said it is an aspiration but should not be implemented to achieve numbers but quality.

Dr Bashiru said the important thing is to give women equal opportunities in accessing basic services including education which will finally see competent women climb the ladder of leadership in a competitive manner.

Statistics show that there are more women than men not only in Tanzania but in most countries in the world, making them a key group that must first be emancipated economically and in other social aspects of life. The politics will naturally follow, he underlined.

The Mo Ibrahim leadership prize 'cannot find' any winner for 2019

FROM PAGE 1

Mogae.

"The Mo Ibrahim Foundation announces that there is no winner for the 2019 Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership," reads the statement.

This is the second consecutive year retired African leaders have failed to convince the Mogae-led committee that they did an excellent job while in office.

Winners of the award receive about USD5 million, spread over a decade, and a further USD200,000 annually for the rest of their lives.

Since being launched in 2006, the Ibrahim Prize has been awarded five times, with previous laureates being President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia (2017), Hifikepunye Pohamba of Namibia (2014), Pedro Pires of Cabo Verde (2011), Festus Mogae of Botswana (2008), and Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique (2007).

Nelson Mandela was an inaugural honorary laureate in 2007. Like 2019, there were also no winners in 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2016 and 2018.

Set up by Sudanese-British tycoon Mo Ibrahim in 2006, the Ibrahim Prize is given based on the review of a special committee that includes former diplomats, Noel Prize laureates, business leaders and democracy activists.

Candidates for the prize are former African heads of state or government who ended their terms of office during the last three calendar years (2017-2019).

Apart from demonstrating exceptional leadership, they should - as a basic prerequisite - have been democratically elected and served their constitutionally mandated term(s).

Announcing the decision, Prize Committee chair Festus Mogae commented: "The Ibrahim Prize recognises truly exceptional leadership in Africa, celebrating role models for the continent. It is awarded to individuals who have, through outstanding governance of their country, brought peace, stability and prosperity to their people. Based on these rigorous criteria, the Prize Committee could not award the prize in 2019."

Commenting on the decision, Mo Ibrahim, chairman of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation said Africa is facing some of the toughest challenges in the world - ranging from those connected to population growth, economic development to environmental impact.

"We need leaders who can govern democratically and translate these challenges into opportunities. With two-thirds of our citizens now living in better-governed countries than ten years ago, we are making progress. I am optimistic that we will have the opportunity to award this prize to a worthy candidate soon," he added.



Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan presents an award to TBL human resources manager Goodluck Lusingu in recognition of the firm's contribution to job creation and talent development in Tanzania. This was at a meeting of Southern African Development Community (SADC) employment and labour ministers and social partners held in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. Left is Jenista Mhagama, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and Persons with Disabilities). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Women's sexual and reproductive rights are under threat, reports UN

By Guardian Reporter

DESPITE significant progress in women's rights in recent decades including abolition of discriminatory laws and increased numbers of girls in school, the rights are being diluted in some countries, said António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

According to the UN, women's sexual and reproductive rights are under threat.

In his message on the International Women's Day, the Secretary General said: "This profoundly affects us all and is a barrier to solving many of the challenges and threats we face, from achieving a fair globalization that works for everyone, to ending the epidemic of violence against women and building peaceful and secure societies. We must also urgently address the digital gender divide that threatens to entrench gender inequality in societies and economies for decades to come".

He said centuries of discrimination and deep-rooted patriarchy have created a yawning gender power gap in economies, political systems, corporations and culture.

He said with women still occupying just one quarter of seats in parliaments around the world, political representation is the clearest evidence of the gender power gap.

Guterres added: "That is why gender parity at the United Nations is one of my top priorities, which has already led to the achieve-

ment of parity at senior levels, two years ahead of our target".

Going forward, he said UN make sure women are represented in all decision-making at the United Nations, including in peace processes.

"I will also advocate with member states for the repealing of all discriminatory laws, for women's equal participation in all spheres, for increased protection from violence, and for more inclusive economies", he noted.

Gender equality is a means of redefining and transforming power that will yield benefits for all. It is time to stop trying to change women, and to start changing the systems and power imbalances that prevent them from achieving their potential.

The theme for this year's IWD is 'I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights', it is aligned with UN Women's new multi-generational campaign, generation equality, which marks the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and platform for action.



He said centuries of discrimination and deep-rooted patriarchy have created a yawning gender power gap in economies, political systems,

DC assures children with albinism of security

By Guardian Correspondent,

Shinyanga

SHINYANGA district commissioner, Jasinta Mboneko, guaranteed as security for children with albinism living at Buhangija Albino Centre, insisting that the government will continue protecting them.

The Buhangija Albino Centre houses over 400 children, of these, approximately 40 to 80 are either blind or deaf. The

children are taken care of at the centre because of the inability of their families to attend to their special needs.

Mboneko (pictured) made the statement yesterday when speaking at the hand over ceremony of boys' dormitory rehabilitated by Shinyanga based non-governmental organization—Women For Change. The NGO rehabilitated the dormitory to ensure better shelter for the children.

The DC noted that it is the

government's responsibility to ensure security of the children with albinism at the centre, adding plans are underway for the construction of a fence and new dormitories. She said construction of a fence would beef up security.

"I am aware of the various challenges facing the centre including lack of a fence to the newly constructed dormitories. We are finalizing plans to start constructing a fence so that our children live at a safer place",



said the district commissioner.

She commended the women group for financing maintenance of the boys' dormitory calling for Tanzanians to emulate the spirit since children at the centre were facing a number of challenges. According to her, it is the responsibility of every Tanzanian to take care of the children with albinism and those living in difficult conditions. Women 'For Change' Secretary, Lucy Mwitwa said they had financed re-construction of the dormitory as part of its activities

to mark the Internal Women's Day celebrated globally every March 8th. This year's IWD campaign theme is 'Each for Equal'.

Head of the Buhangija albino centre, Seleman Kipanya applauded the women group for repairing the dormitory.

"Some of the buildings here are old and dilapidated, we are thankful for the support because our children have been assured of a better and safe place", said Kipanya calling upon the members of the public

to volunteer rehabilitating other dormitories as well as construction of a fence.

He added: "We have constructed new dormitories at a nearby place but the houses are yet to be occupied due to lack of a fence. We want the children to be safe while at schools and during the night."

Kipanya said the centre also takes care of children with different disabilities whereby 74 are deaf, 23 with physical disabilities and 131 with albinism.

Zanzibar bans direct flights from Italy

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR has banned direct flights from Italy to the Isles, citing concerns over the spread of coronavirus.

Zanzibar's Health minister, Hamad Rashid Mohamed (pictured), told journalists during a press conference in Zanzibar yesterday that the decision was reached after the fast spread of the COVID 19.

The government has also banned gatherings including the Jitima celebration which was supposed to take place yesterday.

The minister said though Zanzibar is safe for now but the possibility of having the disease is high due to the huge number of visitors from various countries.

"We commend the office of the Mufti to postpone the event today, I call upon Wananchi to take precautions against the disease," he said.

The minister used the opportunity to call upon Zanzibaris not to discriminate Chinese nationals who are



in the Isles saying they were safe.

The minister also elaborated on information circulating on social media which said a tourist from Italy who was in Zanzibar recently was diagnosed with Corona upon arrival in her home country saying this does not mean that Zanzibar had the disease. He said since the outbreak of Corona, the revolution government has taken various steps to contain the disease.

"We are doing a lot to control the disease, this includes screening all visitors entering the country in all major entry points," he said.

Recently Air Tanzania Company

Limited (ATCL) postponed its maiden flights from commercial capital Dar es Salaam to China, citing concerns over the spread of coronavirus.

Tanzania's national carrier had planned to begin charter flights to China next month ahead of the expected launch of scheduled direct flights to the key Asian tourist market.

A recent study led by a French researcher and academician listed Tanzania as among countries that have high and comparable importation risks of the coronavirus on account of intensity of trade interactions, varying levels of preparedness to face the threat of an outbreak and high levels of vulnerability.

Egypt, Algeria and South Africa showed the highest risk for COVID-19 importation from China but had low vulnerability levels and moderate to high preparedness levels, the study asserts.

Two weeks, Egypt was the first African country to confirm a case of the disease.

Gender education programme to benefit at least 700 Dar men

By Getrude Mbagu

OVER 700 males in Kinondoni district, Dar es Salaam are set to benefit from an intensive gender education programme dubbed "Kijiwe cha Kahawa" which is aimed to edify them on gender issues and thus enable them participate fully in the fight against gender-based violence (GBV) in the country.

Implemented by no profit organization- Transformative and Integrative Build Out for All (TIBA), the three-months programme is expected to reach men in 22 coffee hubs in Tandale, Upanga and Mwananyamala wards.

Speaking during the official launch of the programme in Dar es Salaam yesterday, TIBA director, Malcela Lungu said that violence against

women (VAW) or GBV has remained one of the major challenges that thwart women and girls' development efforts.

She said that apart from the 750 males who will be reached with the programme, 270 more women will also benefit from the project and later become champions to educate others.

She said that to accelerate GBV fight efforts, the organization came up with the project so as to increase male participation. "The programme involve visiting various coffee hubs where usually men meet to among others have cups of drinks, discuss and share views on various issues."

"Use of coffee hubs is the first approach being used in Tanzania and I am sure that it will transform men's perception about gender and will

also produce male champions will be in forefront campaigning for gender equality and fight against violence," she noted.

Lungu said that TIBA works to promote gender equality and women's empowerment and also strives to ensure access to education for all children, with a specific focus on the girl child and children with disabilities. The organisation moreover addresses the impact of climate change on women and youth, as well as sexual and reproductive health, amongst other issues.

For his part, Tandale ward executive officer (WEO) Mtono Othman welcomed the project in his area saying that it is going to transform minds of a number of males on the issue of gender equality.

"We are happy that now almost

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CCM Secretary General Dr Bashiru Ally tours IPP media outlets in Dar



CCM Secretary General Dr Bashiru Ally (in cap) exchanges greetings with The Guardian Limited senior editors and other officials upon arrival at the newspaper publishing firm's offices in Dar es Salaam's Mikocheni Light Industrial Area yesterday at the start of a tour of IPP media outlets. Welcoming him (from-R) are The Guardian newspaper managing editor Wallace Mauggo, Nipashe newspaper deputy managing editor Epton Luhwago, TGL commercial director Ajay Goyal, The Guardian newspaper chief sub-editor Richard Mngazija, HR & legal manager Emmanuel Matondo and acting senior HR manager Ayoub Semvua. Photos: John Badi



Emmanuel Matondo briefs the CCM Secretary General at the TGL printing unit. Others are IPP director Joyce Luhanga (R) and Ayoub Semvua.



East Africa Television and East Africa Radio managing director Regina Mengi takes Dr Bashiru Ally around the twin stations' studios.



Capital Radio presenter Sarah Kipingu (L) in business, as the CCM executive and Radio One Stereo director Deogratus Rweyunga look on.



ITV channel director Macharia Koigi briefs Dr Bashiru Ally on operations in one of the station's studios, with ITV and Radio One managing director Joyce Mhaviile close by.



CCM Secretary General seated in the ITV News Bulletin studio during a briefing by Macharia Koigi.



Operations in progress in the Radio One studio, witnessed by Dr Bashiru Ally as well as Deogratus Rweyunga, Joyce Mhaviile and other members of staff of IPP media outlets.



TGL printing manager V. Balasubramanian briefs the guest on newspaper production.



Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS) managing director Dr Leonard Maboko (R) receives 500,000/- from Benchmark Productions projects director Evelyn Byalohanga in Dar es Salaam yesterday. It is a donation meant to support the commission in conducting a public education campaign on HIV and AIDS. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Senior officials from Sudan visit Tanzania to learn on nutrition and food fortification

By Guardian Reporter

A delegation of senior government officials from Sudan are in the country to learn on food fortification and nutrition.

The Prime Minister's office has been coordinating the nutrition and fortification learning sessions including cross-cutting issues due to the powers vested on it.

The coordination is done through the national committee on nutrition under the leadership of Permanent Secretary (policy, coordination, and investment) Dorothy Mwaluko.

Tanzania has managed to prepare a collaborative national programme on nutrition including the establishment of other nutrition programmes including that of the private sector.

Speaking after the meeting in Dodoma, the Director for the department of coordination of government operations in the PM's office Paul Sangawe said the programmes aims at combating malnutrition and stunting.

"Due to the proper implementation of the nutrition campaign we have managed to have a strong network from the private sec-

tor and as of now it has already been inserted in the national development plan (2016-2021)," he said.

He said Tanzania has also managed to establish guidelines for fortification which involves huge industries and manufacturers.

In his remarks, the Head of delegation from Sudan Huda Kambai explained that they came to Tanzania to learn on fortification especially on wheat and cooking oil.

"We in Sudan do not have this kind of a system of involving multiple sectors, we have come to learn so that we can do the same at home," he said.

Taking folic acid is believed as the most effective and freely available prevention against spina bifida in newborns—a birth defect that affects 4,000 children annually.

There have been various efforts undertaken to fight the challenge but, they are hindered by the fact that fortified foods are found in urban areas while majority of women live in rural Tanzania.

Readily available in clinics, folic acid tablets are mostly ignored by pregnant women due to its bad smell and bitterness with many dumping them in homes.



Tanzania has also managed to establish guidelines for fortification which involves huge industries and manufacturers

Govt trains over 110 health officials on COVID-19 screening

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

THE government has trained 118 health officers on communicable and non-communicable diseases who have been posted at various entry points to conduct screening of COVID-19.

Port Health Manager from the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Remidius Kakulu made the remarks at the just-ended aviation stakeholders' conference which involved participants from the aviation industry.

The conference was aimed to chart ways to combat coronavirus outbreak that continue to infect many people across the world.

He said a total of 140 thermal scanners have been installed at all point-of-entries in the country including airports, ports and ground crossing. He said the ministry has provided an ambulance to the Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA) to facilitate transport for suspected patients.

Kakulu noted that through Collaborative Arrangement for

Prevention and Management of Public Health Event in Civil Aviation (CAPSCA) forums, airport are required to have standard isolation facilities for holding suspected cases, personal protective equipment such as mask, gloves and waste disposal equipment.

They also include installation of alcohol based sanitizer and provision of regular awareness to all stakeholders at the airport on Coronavirus and other diseases prevention.

Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) Director General,

Hamza Johari said coronavirus is alarming hence the need for everyone to take measures to prevent being infected with the virus.

"As stakeholders in aviation industry, we have agreed to be proactive so that we can give updates about what happens in Tanzania and other countries about coronavirus outbreak. We are also working very closely with the ministry of health," he said noting that so far there are new cases in some African countries including Senegal, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria and Nigeria.

Johari said Tanzania as member state of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) since 2014 has developed a plan for the prevention and combat of communicable disease in civil aviation.

The COVID-19 situation report number 43 released by the World Health Organisation (WHO) early yesterday said that eight countries (Andorra, Jordan, Latvia, Morocco, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Senegal and Tunisia) reported one case of COVID-19 each.

Increased cases of the disease

in the Eastern Mediterranean region was of great concern, the report underlined.

Dr Ahmed Al-Mandhari, the WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean reiterated the need to enhance surveillance and response activities, share critical information, as essential to containing the outbreak and strengthening health systems.

The report reveals that total and new cases on Tuesday globally stood at 90,870 confirmed, 1922 new while in China 80,304 cases were confirmed of which

130 were new ones, along with 2946 deaths in total, of which 31 occurred in the 24 hours to the report.

Outside China, there were 10,566 confirmed cases (1792 new) in 72 countries, eight being new states reporting coronavirus cases for the first time. There had also been 166 deaths with 38 deaths occurring in the 24 hours to the report, the agency noted.

The WHO risk assessment affirms that in China, the Asia region and the world at large were all on very high risk for the spread of COVID-19.

Pregnancies cut short education journey of 184 students in Coast

By Guardian Correspondent, Kibaha

A TOTAL of 184 students out of 2,091 from primary and secondary schools in Coast Region have failed to continue with studies due to pregnancies in 2019.

Out of this number 40 were from primary schools and 144 from secondary schools while 1,907 other failed to continue with studies due to truancy and other reasons.

Consequently the Coast Regional Commissioner Evarist Ndikilo has directed school inspectors to make regular follow ups on education development in schools.

The RC said the inspectors are supposed to follow up teaching, truancy and lunch situation, the challenges that contribute to truancy.

The statistics were given yesterday in Kibaha by the regional education officer Abdul Maulid at a meeting of education stakeholders.

"Truancy is one among many challenges facing the education sector in our region, others include long distances from home to school and lack of lunch at schools," said Maulid.

Meanwhile he said 2,221 students who were selected to join Form I are yet to report to their respective schools to date and no one knows their whereabouts.

He said the students are among 25,000 selected to join Form I out of 30,000 who completed primary school last year.

Following this revelation the RC said if schools inspectors build the habit of regularly visiting schools, many existing challenges would be solved including truancy.

"Every year we have a meeting with education stakeholders but I have never heard of any steps being taken against those who impregnate students, we want to know what has been done to them so that the challenge is eradicated," said Ndikilo.

He said every District Council should make efforts to hunt for Form I students who have not reported up to now and report to respective schools by March 30.

He also said the region's district commissioner and councils' officials should sit with education stakeholders to discuss how to improve education infrastructures, the same as it was done for Kisarawe and Kibaha Districts.

The meeting was attended by district commissioners, councils executive directors, some school heads, education officers and other stakeholders.



Every year we have a meeting with education stakeholders but I have never heard of any steps being taken against those who impregnate students, we want to know what has been done to them so that



Rehema Mwangao, owner of a packaging material manufacturing plant, has a word with TADB managing director Japhet Justine in Kahama recently. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TADB endeavours to empower women in agriculture bears fruit

By Guardian Reporter

AS Tanzanian women join the world to celebrate the International Women's Day, access to loans has been cited as a vital tool to avoid dependency syndrome, build productive capacity and contribute to the development.

This year's Women's Day runs under the theme: "The generation of equality for Tanzania's present and future development".

Commenting on the contributions made by Tanzania Agricul-

tural Development Bank (TADB) in empowering women in the country, bank's Communications Manager, Chaba Rhuwanya said that already the bank has been supporting some women in the whole value chain; with equipment's to enable them improve packaging which will help in the reduction of post-harvest loss.

She said that a good example of post-harvest investment is the TADB's customer Rehema Mwangao through her company—Rochlunzu Limited.

Based in Kahama district, Shinyanga region, Mwangao is engaging in the manufacturing of packing materials with financial support from the agro-bank.

"Our interest as a bank is to create and support more women like Mama Mwangao," Rhuwanya said, adding that the bank's strategy is to include more women in accessing formal financial services in order to reduce poverty and bring sustainable development through agricultural value chain financing approach.

She further pledged that the bank will continue to provide a wide range of services to women entrepreneurs, farmers and industrialists in the agricultural sector.

Mwangao who is the director of Rochlunzu Limited said that most women have remained dependent and fail to attain their goals because they do not involve themselves in income-generating activities and lack access to finance from reputable financial firms.

"As long as, we are determined, dedicated and focused, effective

use of loans borrowed from any lending institution can improve our lives," she said.

Mwangao through her company acquired loan from TADB to improve production efficiency of packaging products.

Explaining how the loan has helped her, she said so far she increased production capacity from 10,000 bags to 25,000 bags per day.

Her clients come from almost every corner of Tanzania and she is currently exploring the possibility of going beyond the borders.



Dr Sarah Mwakyambiki (R), Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy's gender department head, pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting a consignment of items to Ocean Road Cancer Institute Chief Nursing Officer Jesca Kawegele for patients admitted to the facility to use on the occasion of International Women's Day - March 8. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Mwapachu gives books to library in Tanga to boost reading culture

By Correspondent George Sembony, Tanga

FORMER East African Community (EAC) Secretary General Juma Mwapachu has handed over three books written by him to the Tanga Regional library.

The books are 'Challenging the Frontier of African Integration - the Dynamics of Policies, Politics and Transformation in the East African Community', 'Confronting New Realities - Reflections on Tanzania's Radical Transformation' and 'Tanzania in the Age of Change and Transformation'.

In January, this year, Mwapachu's brother, Former Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Bakari Mwapachu presented the library with a book written by former President Benjamin Mkapa - 'My Life, My Purpose: Tanzanian President Remembers'.

Speaking at the event, Mwapachu expressed disappointment over reduced reading culture among Tanzanians insisting reading was critical in the development of minds and the quest for increased knowledge.

Mwapachu said the book - 'Tanzania in the Age of Change and Transformation' outlines a number of measures that could play key role in the entrepreneurial turn of the country.

"The book emphasizes on leadership, human capabilities and institutional innovation," he said noting that the world currently requires a generation of new ideas and proposals for change.

He said the second book, 'Challenging the Frontiers of African Integration' comprises of his speeches and writings over the past six years which are inspired by the philosophy of the power of ideas and how they can contribute to a clearer understanding of the dynamics of change and transformation in a particular setting and programmes.

He said the book - 'Confronting New Realities - Reflections on Tanzania's Radical Transformation' helps the reader to reflect and imbibe that sense of a movement of a country in transition and of the key factors that underlie and influence Tanzania's process of change and transformation.

"It's my hope that these books will provide cutting edge raw material to all those committed to exploring the myriad of challenges that confront many developing countries in a brave new world," he said.

Tanga Regional Librarian, Martin Chambo called on prominent Tanga residents to emulate the Mwapachu family's commitment to keep the library up-to-date with new books and continue to making it an important tool for learning in the region.

TCRA out to identify and reward ICT stakeholders outstanding performance

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) will from this financial year start identifying, recognising and rewarding stakeholder's outstanding performance in the Information Communication Technology (ICT) sector.

TCRA Director General, Eng James Kilaba said on Thursday that the awards dubbed -TCRA-

ICT awards 2020 will take into consideration advancement of professionalism in the overall ICT industry in the country and quality of regulated goods and services.

The first award event is scheduled to take place on May 20th, this year, he said.

Explaining, Eng Kilaba said the concept behind the TCRA-ICT awards 2020 is to identify, recognise and reward

outstanding performers in the ICT sector in Tanzania.

He noted that the regulator has since its establishment in 2003 been taking initiatives to maintain its objectives of ensuring that communication service licensees offer goods and valued services to the public.

Eng Kilaba said: We will from this financial year identify, recognize and reward

stakeholders who have demonstrated an outstanding performance in the promotion of information communication technology and country's digital economy".

He insisted the TCRA -ICT awards will be carried out in a transparent and accountable process. He said awards will be given to outstanding players that positively contribute, into the ICT industry in the

country.

"Our goal is to enhance the welfare of Tanzanians through effective regulations that promote innovation and ensure universal access to secure, quality and affordable communication services," he said.

He said through the awards they will be providing knowledge and information by sharing best practices, experiences and expertise through

documentaries and foster innovation and creativity in ICT thus improve efficiency in service delivery.

The TCRA boss noted that the awards enhances greater regional collaboration in the development and promotion of local content as well as promoting universal access to ICT to enhance digital economy.

"This is all about improving the digital economy where

creativity and innovation in ICT is critical," said Eng Kilaba adding that increased innovation and creativity in ICT as well as its utilisation contributes to the country's digital economy.

He said improvement in the digital economy contributes to increased national income and improve welfare of citizens through transactions of economic activities.

Bashe directs cotton farmers to go digital

By Guardian Correspondent, Simiyu

DEPUTY Minister for Agriculture Hussen Bashe has directed cotton farmers in the country to go digital and make sure that they open personal bank accounts as this seasonal payments will be deposited directly in their accounts.

He made the remarks here during the launch of a five-year strategic plan for cotton farming which is implemented by a non-governmental organisation of Gatsby Africa.

Bashe said that the government has already directed banks to ensure that the farmers have their personal bank accounts.

According to him, the major objective of the decision is to address various challenges associated with manual payments but also promote and strengthen financial inclusion.

"I want all cotton growers to be sharp once the bank officers arrive in their areas to register them. We have entered into agreement with various banks including the major ones of NMB and CRDB that the accounts will be opened for free and will have no monthly charges," he said.

He also said that the government also wants to restore the farmer's value to enable them be able to access loans and other services from the financial institutions for their development.

The deputy minister further directed the office of the registrar of the Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Unions (AMCOs) to educate key leaders on how to prepare financial statements.

Earlier, Gatsby director supervising cotton and garment products, Samwel Kilua said that the strategy aims to revive cotton farming, increase farmers' efficiency, productivity and eventually profit.

According to him, studies show that majority of farmers have been harvesting 100-200kg of cotton per acre due to poor farming but with modern farming, they can harvest up to 1,000kg per acre.

"The launched strategy is aimed to equip farmers with essential knowledge and skills on better farming and it will reach all farmers in Simiyu, experts will also be visiting farmers in rural areas, train them on best farming practices and leave them with enough documented guidelines that will help them during the whole farming season," he said.

Kilua said that the strategic plan is implanted by Gatsby in collaboration with other key stakeholders such as the government, cotton buyers and cooperative unions.

Simiyu Regional Commissioner Antony Mtaka said that the strategy will enable cotton production to increase from 160 million kg to 400 million kg per year.

"Most of the farmers here are reluctant to adopt best farming practices and technologies so as to reap big from the sector. I hope that this strategy will address the challenge thus transform the farmers' economy."

Cotton growing and ginning is one of Tanzania's top three agricultural export industries. It is a major source of livelihood for up to half a million smallholder farmers, mostly in the Lake Zone.



Vodacom Tanzania Plc managing director Hisham Hendi speaks to youths in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the closing of ICT training conducted through Code Like A Girl. This is a project meant to sensitise young people on how the imparting of skills 'fast-tracked' through information technology can help them cope better with competition in the labour market. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Global food processor promises to plant 3 million trees

By Guardian Reporter

GLOBAL food and drinks processor Nestlé yesterday announced it will plant at least three million trees in key sourcing locations in the Americas by 2021.

The company said in a statement that this is the initial phase of a broader reforestation initiative, which forms part of the company's plan to scale up actions in agriculture and deploy nature-based solutions to absorb more carbon. This move will help transform Nestlé's supply chain, making it more resilient. It will also contribute to achieving its net-zero greenhouse gas emissions

pledge by 2050.

To this end, Nestlé has partnered with One Tree Planted (OTP) - a non-profit environmental charity with a focus on global reforestation to restore forests and protect habitat for biodiversity. Together with OTP, and its associated partner, the World Resources Institute, Nestlé will select specific planting locations where palm, soya, paper, coffee, or coconut are grown, and where precious ecosystems such as forests, wetlands, peatlands or mangroves can be restored. This selection process will aid restoration efforts in degraded landscapes while protecting existing high conservation

value areas.

Beginning in March 2020, Nestlé will start planting trees in Brazil and Mexico.

"Achieving our net-zero ambition requires that we transform how we do business. Together with our suppliers we will restore land, improve the management of our supply chain and, as a result, better manage greenhouse gas emissions.

This investment will lead to enhanced biodiversity and the regeneration of ecosystems we depend upon in the Americas," said Laurent Freixe, CEO of Zone Americas at Nestlé.

"Our goal is not to compensate

the emissions but truly adopt nature-based solutions that we are deploying as part of our pledge to become carbon neutral by 2050. Planting trees not only captures carbon but also helps rebuild forests and communities, protect threatened and endangered biodiversity, promote soil nutrients, and conserve water - all of which help increase the resilience of farmers," said Magdi Batato, Executive Vice President, Head of Operations at Nestlé. "Reforestation also complements our commitment to halt deforestation in our supply chains. Tackling climate change requires multiple solutions."

The reforestation initiative builds on Nestlé's existing actions, such as the agroforestry programme initiated in 2014 under the Nespresso AAA Sustainable Quality TM Programme, whose goal is to plant five million trees in the Nespresso's coffee supply chain by end of 2020. Last year, the programme was deployed across Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Kenya, Nicaragua, and Uganda.

Nestlé will expand the reforestation activities to Africa, Asia, and Oceania, with a focus on sourcing locations vulnerable to the adverse effect of climate change.

Govt reiterates stand on rice importation

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

DEPUTY Agriculture Minister, Hussein Bashe has reiterated the government's stand to ban importation of agricultural food items including rice.

Bashe made the remarks in Dodoma in his address at the Rice Council of Tanzania (RCT) meeting organised to discuss best ways of producing the crop as well as measures to improve productivity and number rice growers.

He said the government will continue controlling importation of rice into local markets to protect Tanzanian rice farmers.

"This is our stand; we cannot allow importation of agricultural food items that are adequately produced locally. The country is now producing one million tonnes of rice, we want to improve production to between three and four million tonnes per year," he noted.

The Deputy Minister called upon

participants to make sure they came up with strategies to improve rice production as well as expansion of rice irrigation schemes. He insisted investments in rice production were crucial to meet the country's demand.

"We should strategise how we can produce quality rice seeds for better yields," Bashe said.

Some participants complained over lack of rice packaging materials. They claimed that lack of packaging materials have been contributing into increased post-harvest loss.

In 2016, when winding up debate on his office's budget estimates Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa ordered security organs to tighten security in border points and along coastal areas to curb smuggling and illegal importation of rice.

Majaliwa told the National Assembly that the government has suspended all permits for importation of rice in the country due to increased local production.

According to the premier, the decision would help local farmers to have good prices of their rice and improve their living standards.

The Rice Council of Tanzania was registered in June 2014 to spearhead, coordinate and lobby activities of the rice industry in Tanzania. The council represents private sector stakeholders including farmers, input suppliers, processors, traders, service providers, financiers, researchers, consumer organisations and NGOs along the rice value chain in Tanzania.



This is our stand; we cannot allow importation of agricultural food items that are adequately produced locally. The country is now producing one million tonnes of rice, we want



Mbulu district executive director Hudson Kamoga (R) plants a tree at the premises of the newly built 1.5bn/- district hospital on Thursday - as part of a project expected to see a total of 1,000 trees planted. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Dr Shein charms Nigerian investors to grab potential business opportunities in Zanzibar

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein has wooed Nigerian investors to grab various investment opportunities in the Isles.

He made the remarks yesterday during his meeting with Nigerian Ambassador to Tanzania,

Dr Sahabi Isa Gada at the State House in Zanzibar. The Ambassador was accompanied by Nigerian businessmen and investors from IBRU Company.

Dr Shein said although the company has invested in the fishing industry in several countries, it was high time it considers investing in Zanzibar's

fishing sub-sector and many others. He said the government was implementing a number of initiatives to improve Isles' fishing industry including revive of the Zanzibar Fishing Corporation (ZAFICO). "Our doors are open for investors from around the world, we have an improved business and investment envi-

ronment facilitated by the Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority (ZIPA)", he noted insisting that Tanzania and Nigeria have a long-standing bilateral relationship.

He commended the Nigerian government for continued support on Isle's education sector. He said Nigeria has been provid-

ing secondary school teachers for science subjects.

Meanwhile, Gada assured President Shein that visiting investors from IBRU Company have enough business experience in various sectors including fishing. He said the company has invested in different countries in the continent.

He added that the company has so far established projects in the fisheries, transportation, hotel, aviation, oil and natural gas, tourism, agriculture and information and communication technology.

The Ambassador noted that the firm has invested in the fisheries sector in Nigeria and

others in Western Africa—Togo, Cameroon, Benin, Mauritania, Gambia, Angola and Namibia. Ambassador Gada noted that apart from Nigeria providing secondary school teachers, the country has also forged university partnership with Zanzibar through the State University of Zanzibar (SUZA).



Assistant Commissioner of Police Rienada Millanzi pictured on Wednesday taking students of Iringa municipality's Epatha and Ipogolo secondary schools through ways to keep out of harm's way, particularly International Women's Day anniversary and other celebrations. Photo: Friday Simbaya

HDIF joins Costech in Innovation Week 2020 preparations

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) in collaboration with the Human Development Innovation Fund (HDIF) has organised the Innovation Week 2020 expected to start this Sunday.

Speaking to reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday the COSTECH Director General, Dr Amos Nungu said this year innovation week will be held in and outside of Dar es Salaam.

The director said COSTECH was glad to participate in the 6th innovation week, with increased outreach and event outside of Dar es Salaam.

He said with innovate for impact, as the main theme, it will bring over 6000 participants countrywide adding that this year's innovation week spreads its wings much wider to cover Arusha, Iringa, Zanzibar, Dodoma and Mbeya.

Dr Nungu added that during the week, there will be discussions, hackathons, panel discussions and similar events to take place here in Dar es Salaam and other selected venues.

"It is clear indication that the innovation ecosystem is growing and that there is national interests in participating," he said.

Dr Nungu said since 2011, the government through COSTECH set out to build an innovation ecosystem in the country. "As we talk impact, COSTECH is proud to discuss of the last 9 years?"

"We have had over 11-start ups that have been created through DTBi, Buni and innovation funds amounting to 1.9 bn/-, innovation has changed, the landscape of various sectors and even public services. Our ecosystem has created over 700 direct employment and 14,000 employments directly," he added.

For his part, the Human Development Innovation Fund (HDIF) Country Director Joseph Manirakiza said: "This is the 6th innovation week that HDIF and COSTECH have put together with support of the UKAid, and we could not be prouder to see the strides that the innovation ecosystem has taken in Tanzania".

"It is evident in the huge growth we have seen in sponsorship and partnership support for innovation week, the government's increased investments in innovation."

"UNDP is excited to support the innovation week 2020 for the first time, we put innovation at the core of our business because it is essential in catalysing development, commented the Sergio Valdini, the UNDP Deputy Resident Representative.

He further added; "in collaboration with our partners we use various ways and technologies to bring solutions and accelerate progress in communities, especially the hard to reach areas.

Over 100 events and partners will host over 6000 innovation stakeholders countrywide this year.

Wild animals kill over 3,000 livestock in areas surrounding Serengeti National Park

By Guardian Reporter

OVER 3,000 livestock belonging to pastoralists in districts surrounding the Serengeti National Park have died after being attacked by fierce animals such as leopards and lions in a period of one year.

The livestock owned by pastoralists from districts of Tarime, Bunda and Serengeti in Mara region includes cows, goats and sheep which

are pastoralists' main source of income. The pastoralists have appealed for help from President John Magufuli saying they have been suffering due to the tragedy with no support from the government.

They aired their grievances at different occasions during a visit by the Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, Luhaga Mpina who visited the villages of Masanga in Tarime district, Nata in Serengeti and Mari-

wanda in Bunda.

The pastoralists told the minister that they have remained poor due to the incidents as their livestock were the only thing that they depended on to run their lives.

They said the problem has been there for a long time and that their representatives at the National Assembly have never raised the matter in parliament.

The livestock keepers expressed

the need to have special representation in the August House to properly table their agendas.

One of the pastoralists, Samweli Mahewa said there is need for the National Assembly to have legislators who originates from pastoralists communities so that they can air their views.

Bunda wildlife officer, John Msekale said they have been transferring lions from Serengeti to

Burigi National Park in Kagera as a mechanism to reduce the problem.

In his remarks, minister Mpina agreed that there was a need for the government to intervene as the number of killed animals is too big.

During the meeting which was attended by members of the regional security and defense committee, both, villagers and officials agreed to conduct frequent patrols so that the incidents do not repeat.

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Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Technology, ingenuity driving new generation of African innovators

INNOVATION in its modern meaning is 'a new idea, creative thoughts, new imaginations in form of device or method'. Innovation is often also viewed as the application of better solutions that meet new requirements, unarticulated needs, or existing market needs. Such innovation takes place through the provision of more-effective products, processes, services, technologies, or business models that are made available to markets, governments and society.

An innovation is something original and more effective and, as a consequence, new, that 'breaks into' the market or society.

Innovation is related to, but not the same as, invention, as innovation is more apt to involve the practical implementation of an invention - improved ability to make a meaningful impact in the market or society, and not all innovations require an invention. Innovation often manifests itself via the engineering process, when the problem being solved is of a technical or scientific nature. The opposite of innovation is exnovation.

While a novel device is often described as an innovation, in economics, management science, and other fields of practice and analysis, innovation is generally considered to be the result of a process that brings together various novel ideas in such a way that they affect society. In industrial economics, innovations are created and found empirically from services to meet growing consumer demand.

At the conference on sustaining African Healthcare Innovations held over the weekend at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, the award-winning African infectious disease scientist, Dr. Dougbeh Christopher Nyan, has emphasized that "Africa governments need to strongly support African innovators and protect these innovations from

intellectual property theft."

"Intellectual property protection of the many vibrant innovations from the African continent is key to sustainability and improvement of healthcare and life in other sectors. These ideas may have high economic values and economic benefit to the continent," Dr. Nyan added.

He said, "Africa cannot continue to allow its ideas to slip out, be reproduced and repackaged by others, and then sold back to Africa at higher cost or brought back to Africa as so-called donations. Africans need to build factories to manufacture for ourselves and export to the world."

The conference which centered on Sustaining Healthcare Innovations in Africa was organized jointly by the African Public Health Network, Mzuzah Africa and the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. The Johns Hopkins University is a major US higher institution of learning whose School of Public Health is fighting global health disparity.

Commenting further on the sidelines of the Mzuzah Convergence Africa Innovation Health conference, Dr. Nyan mentioned that "Africa has enormous talent, hence investing in producing our own ideas will yield economic benefits for the continent," adding that, "this was the vision of the late President William R. Tolbert of Liberia and is now the path of the dynamic President Paul Kagame of Rwanda." Dougbeh Chris Nyan is the renowned inventor of the Multiplex Rapid Diagnostic Test for Infectious Diseases. The Nyan Test can simultaneously detect and identify multiple infections in 10 to 40 minutes.

The test is designed to be portable, less expensive, and simple to use. It detects infections like Ebola, Zika, Malaria, HIV/AIDS, Coronaviruses, Hepatitis viruses, Dengue, West Nile virus, several neglected tropical infections, and many others.

International Women's Day: Gender equality a powerful driver of growth

An appeal by Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan for women in the country to work harder and support each other more for them to achieve the equality they fight for is timely, to say the least.

This is a General Election year in Tanzania, and elections are an ideal platform for women to show that they trust one another, without putting up a stiff neck just because another woman has expressed interest in standing as a candidate.

International Women's Day is celebrated on the 8th of March every year. It is a focal point in the movement for women's rights. The day has been celebrated as International Women's Day or International Working Women's Day ever since.

While Tanzania has achieved progress towards gender equality over the last decade, key challenges remain such as inequitable access to and ownership of land and resources, the low participation of women at all levels of decision making, gender based violence and women exclusion from the economy.

The concept of women in development means the integration of women in national development endeavours to bring about social, economic, ideological, cultural and political liberation. The labour force participation is 88.1 per cent for women and 90.2 per cent for men. Women are more likely than men to be poor and illiterate and less likely to have access to training and credit. Yet, women are the main care givers in many households. The economic necessity of taking up paid work constrains women's time, creating strains within the family. Women are forced to adapt on a daily basis to compromise on either their paid work (in terms of where they work, and what jobs they undertake) or their social responsibilities in the effort to make this new reality work for the woman, her family and community.

VICE President Samia Suluhu Hassan

has urged women to ensure they insert 'Agenda 50-50' in election manifestos of the various political parties for this year's general elections. She gave the statement here yesterday when launching the African Women Leaders Network (AWLN) Tanzania, coordinated by UN Women.

She said women should insert the agenda in party election manifestos for election campaigns. She appealed to women to step up in big numbers to seek leadership posts in various fields - including politics, business, social services and civil societies. Many countries have not attained gender equality in many fields including top leadership of public organizations, she told participants.

In the Judiciary the percentage of women judges in the High Court is 30 while in the Court of Appeal it is 38. In the cabinet of ministers, women make up 18 percent while for women deputy ministers it is 33 percent.

The population census shows that the women population is bigger than men, therefore if women cooperate well and trust each other, they can uplift the gender ratio, she emphasized.

Research shows that having more women in political leadership has been contributed by improvements in policy, laws and the budget, she said.

After a lot of advocacy from the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP), Tanzania's National Bureau of Statistics added time use surveys to their Integrated Labour Force Survey in 2006.

The survey provides a wealth of information on the range of paid and unpaid activities and tasks that women and men undertake during a day. It allows for measurement of the work done by women which is usually undercounted in all other surveys and very explicitly includes children and time spent on caring for children and the amount of time that men and women spend in caring for children.

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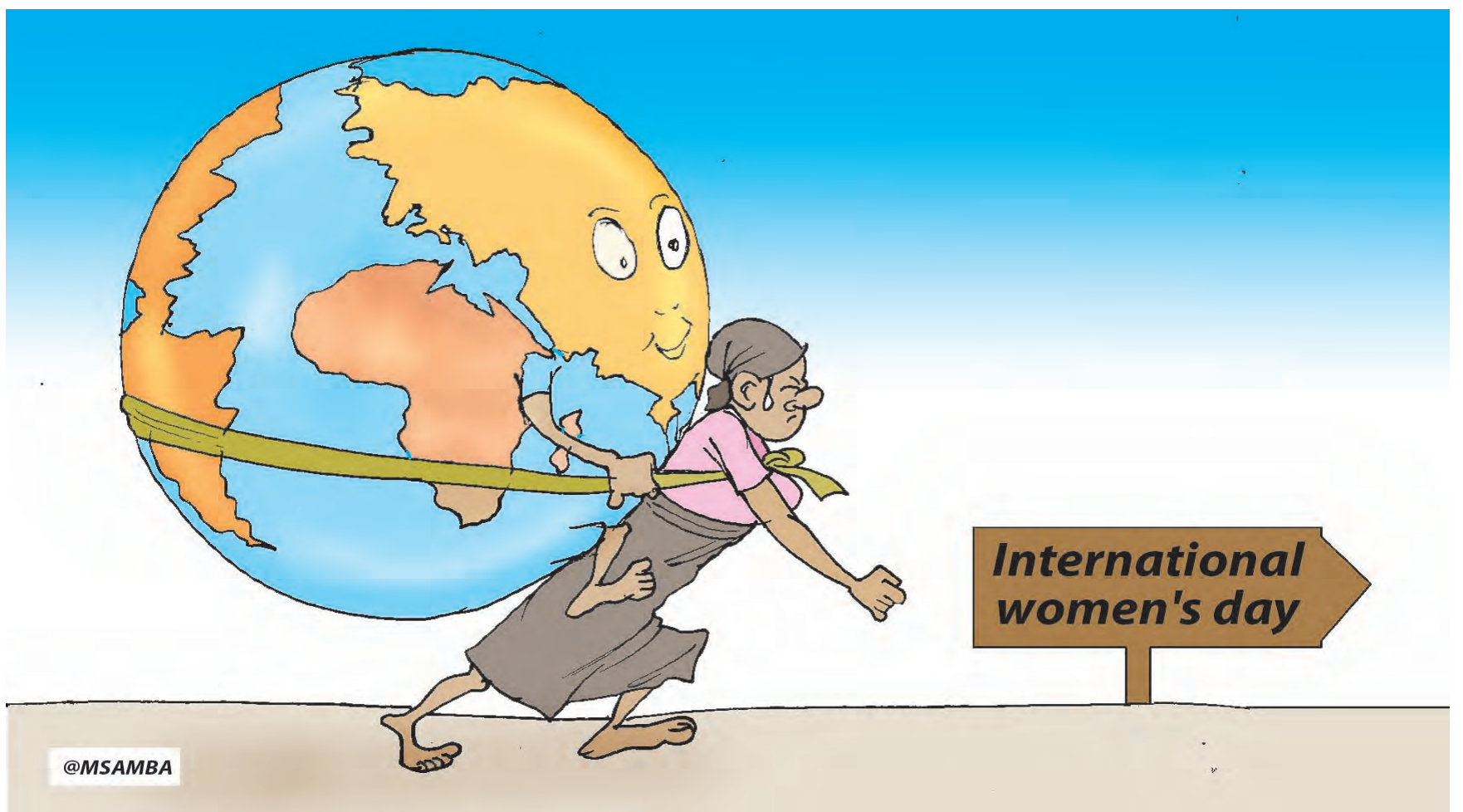
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We must invest differently to support women and girls

By Giselle Leung

MANY of the structural issues at the root of gender inequality are locked in and magnified by our current financial system

Around International Women's Day, when our aspirations focus on its theme of a "more equal and more enabled future", an unsettling reality lurks just under the surface.

The truth is, despite our best intentions, many of us are unknowingly perpetuating - and even exacerbating - global gender inequality in perhaps the most influential way of all: our financial investments.

But simple action by anyone with a retirement or a savings account can make a difference.

It is true that we can rejoice in some fundamental progress made toward the more equitable world. Recent United Nations (U.N.) data, for example, indicate that fewer girls are forced into early marriage, and laws are slowly being reformed with an eye toward equality.

Yet, unsurprisingly, those same data make clear that tremendous gaps remain.

Worse still, many of the structural issues at the root of gender inequality are locked in and magnified by our current financial system.

Female entrepreneurs receive dramatically less investment compared to their male counterparts. Women represent 39 per cent of the global workforce but only 27 per cent of managerial positions, according to the U.N., and are still paid about 20 cents less on the dollar than men.

These disparities become a self-reinforcing feedback loop in the status quo financial system.



If we want to move closer to an 'equal and enabled' future, one of the most effective paths is changing the way we invest our money.

In this new decade, we are beginning to see signs that people are taking that fresh approach and using their investment dollars to push for a more equitable world.

'Gender lens investing' is an investment practice with a critical focus: promoting gender equality.

Traditionally, this type of investment has provided funding support directly to women-owned businesses or financed enterprises that offer products or services which improve the lives of women and girls. Such investments drive progress in a direct and explicit way.

But increasingly, gender lens investing is - as the name suggests - equally understood as a

lens through which conscientious investors can assess the gender equality implications for any investment opportunity.

That lens can be applied whether or not the underlying investment is specifically 'women-focused.' From that holistic vantage point, investors can see that all financial investments have a ripple effect of broad impacts far beyond their financial return - and some of those impacts make a world of difference for women and girls.

Use of the gender lens already has traction among investors intentionally seeking an environmental or social benefit alongside their financial return.

The latest Global Impact Investing Network survey shows that six in 10 impact investors now make 'Diversity and Inclusion' - including gender and racial equity - one of their impact goals.

Despite this progress, we still need far more investment capital in this space and all of us can be demanding higher standards to deepen our impact.

Hard evidence is increasingly on our side. In 2018, Boston Consulting Group, the consultant, studied 350 early stage companies and discovered that "businesses founded by women ultimately deliver higher revenue - more than twice as much per dollar invested - than those founded by men."

Similar research finds that diverse leadership teams boost innovation.

But right now, the mainstream investing community's focus on gender equality is not always ambitious enough.

Too many approaches seem to be little more than a nod toward tokenism, when a more holistic view is needed. Far more egregious, though, are firms that avoid the issue altogether. Silence about how our investments impact women and girls is simply no longer an option.

In 2020 we can do better and expect more

All of us with savings and retirement accounts must consider the range of impacts that our investments produce. Ask your financial advisor about how their firm approaches investing with an eye toward gender. If the firm is not presently considering it, join this movement and demand a change. If the standards are weak, demand better.

The women and girls of our world deserve it - and many of them need it urgently.

There can be no green peace without gender equality

By Jennifer Morgan

GENDER inequality - like the climate emergency - is not inevitable, but is kept in place by the poor choices too many cis men make on a daily basis. And it is not just women who are hurt and trapped by this patriarchal problem, but girls and non-binary people too, as well as many boys and men.

For millennia, gender inequality has been working very well for the majority of men. Globally, men hold 85 per cent of senior leadership roles in companies, for example, while the 22 richest men in the world have more wealth than all of the women in Africa. None of this is by accident and many men are reluctant to change a system they think benefits them.

Meanwhile women remain on the frontlines of gender inequality and the climate emergency. And due to the patriarchy, unsurprisingly they are rarely heard on issues that deeply impact them, which as a

result, affects society as a whole.

A great number of men do believe in gender equality and this needs to be acknowledged. But it is easy for men to merely 'believe' in something they subsequently reap social rewards for. Accepting that gender inequality exists - as much as the climate emergency - and taking positive action is crucial if we are to achieve a more equitable, peaceful and green planet.

Because the fact is equity across the world and spectrum would lead to more life satisfaction, better security and economies, and more sustainable solutions to climate change.

That's why this International Women's Day, I call on men to be more than feminist; to do more than just celebrate womxn.

For a start, we need men to be anti-patriarchal and anti-misogynist, and to be actively campaigning against climate denial, for the benefit of all. Only

then would we begin to get closer to the #IWD2020 theme of equality.

What I am calling for may sound overwhelming, but small individual changes in attitude can lead to huge progressive shifts in the stale social norms that are damaging too many people at our collective detriment.

"We are all parts of a whole. Our individual actions, conversations, behaviors and mindsets can have an impact on our larger society," as the IWD organizers say.

Men can proactively start to promote gender equality in the spaces they dominate in many straightforward ways: by listening to womxn and not talking over them; crediting them for their ideas; rejecting male only settings; ensuring women are included on panels and sports teams; refusing to play into stereotypes, and calling out others who are being anti-womxn, anti-diversity and anti-science.

Customer satisfaction is a myth

If you have lived long enough, you know that customer care isn't so good in most places.

I am a client of the 2 biggest banks in the country, and I have come to hate their customer care service. However, I need the banks, so I have nowhere to run to.

In the first bank, getting anything done takes hours of queuing. Getting an ATM card replaced just takes ages.

In the second bank, I recently queued for an hour to replace a card, then they asked me to bring a copy of my tax PIN certificate. I tried to give them a soft copy but they could have none of it. I had to go out, get somewhere to print, then come and queue again.

In the third bank, last time I went to withdraw money from over the counter they said that my account did not have a passport photo. "No big deal. I am here in person. Let's add one," I said. The response was that was not possible, and I needed to go to the branch where I opened the account to have that fixed. Only after threatening to close the account did a manager intervene.

Mobile phone customer care sucks. I had to replace my SIM card twice, and pay customer care center a visit before they realized that the reason my SIM card was not able to receive a 4G signal was because of a 'small error' on their side.

You might also know that the first thing the Telcos customer care attendants tell you is to try restarting your phone, even when you have clearly told them that you have restarted it 72 times.

Have you ever tried contacting Paypal, Facebook or Google? You are likely to be attended to by a robot. Paypal once closed my account due to a non-existent transaction, and my attempt to appeal was always responded to with the automated message that their decision was final. Facebook erroneously charged me twice for a transaction, which they denied. When I reversed the first transaction which they claimed was not successful, they sent me a warning that any reversal of transaction would lead to my account being closed.

But why is customer care a problem? Because it is hard. First, I do not need any customer service help when every-



thing is OK. When something is wrong, I try and figure it out. When I cannot fix it, I turn to customer care support. With that, customer care ends up doing the most difficult tasks possible.

Second, customer care is just a necessary evil. If my bank had only ten clients, they would know us by our faces and our names. They would solve all our problems on phone. They would not require us to sign anything, just a word of mouth would be enough. That is not the case. With millions of customers, every institution now needs a dedicated person called customer support, with a well outlined plan on how to deal with customers. They have standard answers to most questions, and they are not the most tech-savvy people the telcos or banks have. Their desire to keep costs low ends up providing poor services to the people they want to serve.

Third, it is hard and costly to build a good company culture and empower employees to speak in one voice, and stand up for your core values. Small institutions are able to that. The big-

ger an institution gets, the harder it becomes. This has also been the point where many institutions die. It is also the point where corporations risk being disrupted by new technologies and processes. It takes a lot of input to offer excellent customer care.

So in a nutshell, how can an institution excel in customer support?

The best answer is simply to work hard. An institution should consider customer support as one of their main marketing channel, and do all it takes

to ensure customer satisfaction. This can be achieved by ensuring availability of support team when needed, timely response to customer queries, ensure polite and friendly service, capacity building to ensure high quality support. Work on build a good customer experience, giving honest and caring response to clients. Never lie or give flimsy excuses. Offer what you promise, build a customer centric organization/business, where the needs of the customers drive your actions.



On 8th March and all the other days: Each for equal

NAIROBI, Kenya

DEVELOPMENT efforts over the past two decades have seen millions of people freed from poverty and hunger, and inequalities reduced worldwide. This is an undoubted achievement, but is no reason for complacency. The fact is that inequality between men and women, between boys and girls, remains not only a social justice concern, but one of the impediments on development in countries across Africa and beyond. Addressing such inequalities is a duty for all of us, and one which is at the heart of the theme of this year's International Women's Day on 8th March: Each for Equal.

Facing reality, then act accordingly

Gender inequality is so deeply ingrained in many societies that simply being born female can have a deleterious impact on a girl's life chances. Too often, girls are still viewed as a drain on their families' resources, kept out of school in favour of their brothers when money is tight, married off as children to older men, and condemned to a lifetime of poor health, unwanted large families and poverty. Too often, they are also condemned to illiteracy and economic dependence on men.

The effort towards achieving gender equality is not only the business of women. It is the business of each of us. Male champions have a critical role to play when it comes to challenging stereotypes, fighting bias and standing up against discriminations and violence against their mothers, sisters, wives and daughters. In this regard, H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta, as a gender champion, has set a path by taking personal commitments to End Female Genital Mutilations (FGM) by the year 2022.

Globally, Kenya has demonstrated its engagement against gender-based violence through the development or enactment of the following: a National Policy on Gender and Development (2019), a National Policy for the Eradication of FGM

(2019), the Sexual Offences Act (2006), the Counter-Trafficking Act (2011), the Children's Act (2001), the Prevention against violence Act (2015), and the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act (2011). The wins for gender equality and women empowerment will also be achieved through the implementation of the 'Big Four' Agenda which focuses on Universal Health Care, Food Security and Nutrition, Affordable Housing and Manufacturing.

Win-Win

The irony is that gender equality would benefit all and make no losers. In its 2016 Africa Human Development Report, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) pointed out the clear intersections and interdependencies between gender equality and human development. Improving women's capabilities and opportunities improves in return their ability to contribute better economically, as employers, employees and entrepreneurs, to the common wealth; it brings social and environmental benefits in terms of better health and education, changes the attitudes that enable the scourge of physical and sexual violence against women, and works to improve sustainable resource use. Additionally, the report argues, women's political involvement leads to fairer and more representative decision-making and resource allocation, to the benefit of all and that of the environment too. Actually, none of the UN-sponsored Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) will be achieved if girls and women are institutionally and systematically discriminated against and left behind. Hence, these complex issues must be worked on at all levels at a time.

While much of the gender equality debate globally focuses on income disparities, it is crucial to look beyond. Upstream, achieving equality at work is hampered by unequal access to education. Our daughters are profoundly unlikely to earn as much as our sons, or even to be able to compete for their jobs, if they have not been educated, or if societal attitudes to



The economic inequalities plaguing much of the world today are reinforced by many other forms of inequality, including inequalities in sexual and reproductive health-Dr. Natalia Kanem, ED UNFPA. File photo

women allow employers to dismiss their applications out of hand. To accelerate the achievement of SDGs and in particular SDG 5 on Gender equality will help, among others, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights. And it happens that healthiest women with fewer chores at home can spend more time prospecting on the job market, and ultimately secure higher revenues to sustain their families.

For these virtuous circles to become our everyday reality, we need to go deeper; to challenge the social and political norms and entrenched interests that prevail in many nations, communities and families.

A mission for each of us

But what can we, as individuals, do? How can we help shape a world where your gender does not dictate your future? Each of us needs to understand how his/her own thoughts and actions shape society.

The Each for Equal campaign urges each of us to challenge our deeply-held assumptions about girls and women, about their abilities and rights. Silence always benefits the status quo and perpetuates situations of oppression. Conversely,

speaking up takes courage, determination, and a willingness to stand out from the crowd. Our thoughts and actions are powerful. Our voices are powerful when we use them to speak up against the injustice we testify, or to celebrate women's aspirations and achievements. It is both an individual and collective responsibility to achieve justice, opportunity and equality for half the world's population.

The reasoning is valid both nationally and worldwide. 25 years after the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, the 2020 Generation Equality Forum will gather governments, the United Nations, civil society, feminist groups and other stakeholders to call for action and accountability for the full realization of the gender equality agenda. Priority issues and structural obstacles to progress on gender equality will be put at the center of the agenda, and stakeholders will make commitments along six thematic coalitions of action: Gender-Based violence, Economic justice and rights, Bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights, Feminist action for climate justice, Technology and innovation for gender equality, Feminist movements and leadership. **Agencies**

'China's experience needed'

By Chen Qingqing

WORLD Health Organization (WHO) experts hailed China's efforts and achievements in the country's fight against the outbreak of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pneumonia, as China stands in the frontline to protect the world from it.

The organization also urged other countries and regions to learn from China's lessons, the most important of which is the speed of the action.

"The world needs the experience and expertise of China, as the country is the most experienced in the world, which has turned around a serious outbreak," Canadian epidemiologist Bruce Aylward, who heads the WHO mission team to China, said on Monday at a technical briefing upon the completion of the WHO-China Joint Mission on COVID-19, adding that the only success the world had in tackling COVID-19 is in China, where old approaches like suspension of travel and quarantine were used.

"There's no question that China's bold approach has changed the course of the rapid escalation of this epidemic. These significant measures could only be adopted with tremendous collective will, not only in the community but also [among] top officials, which is also rare to see," Aylward said.

Before he addressed the media, Aylward sent out condolences, in a highly emotional way, to all the Chinese people who lost their lives and their family members amid the outbreak while expressing a special gratitude to people in Wuhan, capital of Central China's Hubei Province, where the COVID-19 originated, as they have made great contributions to the epidemic control work.

Citing several examples he noticed during this trip to China, the Canadian epidemiologist said he was impressed by the capacity of social mobilization and tremendous collective will of top-down officials and Chinese people in containing the virus, but without proven pharmaceutical measures yet, the disease can be extremely dangerous.

He described those measures such as keeping a social distance, implementing quarantine and city lockdowns as old-fashioned but aggressive as well as ambitious, underscoring a huge sacrifice that Chinese people have made for the happiness of others - not only in China but also in other countries.

"We have to work with what we have. China's approaches are the only ones that we know work," he said.

One example, as Aylward mentioned, was although every province suffered from the epidemic, local governors always prioritized mobilization of medical workers and supplies to support Wuhan and Hubei.

He noted that the ongoing slowing spread by weeks thanks to China's efforts can "buy time to test drugs, work on vaccines," and the international community needs to use the time China has bought to better effect.

China's National Health Commission (NHC) reported 409 new coronavirus infections nationwide, 150 new deaths as of Monday. The total number of infected soared to 77,150, with 2,592 deaths as of Monday.

Outside China, there were 1,769 confirmed cases as of Monday and the death toll

reached 17. The disease has spread to 28 countries and regions across Asia, Europe, and the Middle East, with South Korea, Japan and Italy recording spikes in recent days.

The decline is real, Aylward noted, referring to visible progress that China has made in epidemic control work as the daily new infections have been dropping in recent weeks.

The number of coronavirus cases reported in China a day has dropped from 2,500 when he arrived two weeks ago to 406 on Monday, he noted. "That's an 80 percent decline and the decline that we are seeing is real," the expert said.

It has been a month since Wuhan - a city with 11 million people - implemented the city lockdown, while other provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions implemented various measures to control population flow in containing the epidemic at the cost of social and economic growth.

When asked about whether the epidemic in Wuhan is getting close to an inflection point, the WHO expert said as cured numbers rose and new infections continued to drop, it showed a rapid escalation of the outbreak has been contained. However, when daily new infections drop to double digits in the next few weeks, it would be the time to decide whether the epidemic is under control.

Italy is taking similar moves. The WHO official said he has explained to the world that there are benefits from extreme containment measures, which are the tools available to fight the disease.

The mission's report has 22 recommendations for other countries and China itself, including recommendations for the general public, which, however, can't work without the collective will of the population contributing to it.

This virus is neither SARS nor influenza and viewing it as one or the other impedes the ability to learn about the virus and adapt the response, the WHO official noted.

According to the major findings of the WHO-China Joint Mission, the deadly coronavirus has not significantly mutated.

"The animal host has not been confirmed - a bat could be the host, but also a pangolin," Liang Wannian, head of the Chinese expert group at the joint mission, who is also in charge of responding to COVID-19 at the NHC, said at the press briefing.

The joint expert team visited Wuhan over the weekend after completing investigations in Beijing, South China's Guangdong Province and Southwest China's Sichuan Province.

The mission aims to learn more about the epidemic features, including the source of transmission, to better understand the Chinese government's policies and the future response to the epidemic, and to put forward recommendations for relevant scientific research, Liang said.

"The transmission route is respiratory droplets. The fecal-oral route needs to be further studied," Liang said.

About 80 percent are milder cases and about 13 percent are severe, while 6 percent are critically ill, the WHO-China joint mission technical report showed. About 1 to 5 percent of the close contacts to coronavirus patients were later confirmed to be positive.

People's Daily

HIV/AIDS: New power, old problems

By Ufieda Ho

THE bad news about HIV, as Winnie Byanyima sums up plainly, is that it "sits on top of socio-economic injustices". The UNAIDS Executive Director was speaking at the launch of the report "We've Got The Power - women, adolescent girls and the HIV response" in Rosebank, Johannesburg on Thursday. She joined the dots as to why it's still the most vulnerable in society - women and adolescents girls - who are also the worst affected by the epidemic. It also means that changing the outlook of HIV for women and girls comes down to the still mammoth task of halting gender-based violence and challenging and changing gender inequality in all its forms in the world today.

The report launch comes ahead of International Women's Day on Sunday, 8 March, and also at the 25-year mark of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. This was the so-called "global policy road map for fulfilling the human rights of women and girls and achieving gender equality" that was adopted in 1995.

More bad news is that a quarter of century since the adoption of the declaration and after 40 years of a global response to HIV, the report shows that AIDS remains the leading cause of death for women aged between 15 and 49 and a staggering 6,000 women between 15 and 29 are still becoming infected with HIV every week.

In 2019 there were 1.7 million new infections around the world, with 60% of these being women and girls. "It's sad and avoidable but we know what is driving this - it's inequality, it is a patriarchal society and it's poverty. So we have to roll back these human rights barriers," Byanyima said, sharing the platform on Thursday with Nados Bekele-Thomas, the resident co-ordinator of the United Nations Development Programme in South Africa, Steve Lesike, co-chair of the South African National AIDS Council and Martha Clara Nakato of the Uganda Network of Young People Living with HIV/AIDS.



Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director, UNAIDS addresses the media at the global launch of "We've got the power: Women, Adolescent girls and the HIV response" ahead of International Women's Day.

Byanyima said there has to be better implementation of laws that protect against violence against women. It's also ensuring that universal secondary education becomes a reality and that comprehensive sexual education is introduced in schools.

Focusing on South Africa, Bekele-Thomas said South Africa has made progress in having a dedicated budget for tackling HIV/AIDS as well as having the right institutions, frameworks and policy in place. However, the country suffers from a lack of implementation and accountability. She also said South Africa has dropped the ball on sustaining prevention campaigns.

"I don't see or hear adverts on TV or radio or see billboards about HIV prevention," she said, adding that prevention is effective, is less expensive and frees up resources for other health responses.

She also said that of the 220,000 new infections in 2018 in South Africa, it's still young women who make the bulk of infections. Bekele-Thomas pointed to the contributing factor of the "inhuman" relationship of exploitative sugar daddy's or blessers who exploit young women are economically desperate.

"It is about societal values that are going down in South Africa, it is behaviours and practices that

we need to challenge and different conversation that we need to be having," she said.

There was however, some good news from the UNAIDS report. There has been success in keeping more primary school girls in class and seeing them through to the end of the primary school phase. The report also notes that there are more women in political leadership around the world and importantly that by mid-2019 HIV treatment had been scaled up to reach 24 million people around the world including 13 million who are women or girls.

Speaking to Maverick Citizen, By-

anyima said that now at around the 100-day in office mark as executive director there's excitement even as she says there is "a steep learning curve" to mount. This especially as there is a 10-year window to plot the next strategies to get to finally getting on top of the HIV epidemic.

For her it will also include hearing more from women and girls themselves about what they need and to ensure that they are at the heart of decision-making. It's also putting in place measures to end stigma and discrimination and to ensure dignity for people in need of treatment.

Byanyima is a by training an aeronautical engineer and also had a political life in her home country Uganda. She came to UNAIDS via Oxfam. Both Oxfam and UNAIDS have had their share of sexual harassment and gender inequality storms and Byanyima said the mark the time for "seismic change to come", including riding the momentum of the #metoo movement.

She said "these organisations need to be feminised and there needs to be an acknowledgement that across sectors, including in the NGO sector, that women have been harassed, exploited and abused".

She warned though that feminists who cannot see beyond their own narrow agendas are themselves a stumbling block in not advancing the feminist cause.

"There can be debate, but then they need to find common ground and move forward," she said.

Byanyima met with President Cyril Ramaphosa this week. She commended him for his actions to address gender-based violence through the summit he convened in 2019, through committed leadership, reportback structures and allocating resources.

"It is South Africans though who must hold him to account to make sure that he delivers," she said, also acknowledging the Ramaphosa has to use his plat-

form as African Union chair in 2020 for bring the continent to stand together on everything from progressive taxation and tax reform to foregrounding gender based violence and gender inequality gaps.

Byanyima understands her influence and her huge role as executive director. But even when she's jetting between Geneva and the 75 countries that are part of her constituency, she said she doesn't ignore the fact that in many ways she's still at the very bottom of the pecking order. She returns to the farm she shares with her husband on the outskirts of Kampala to "get her hands dirty", growing avocados, lemons, jackfruit and mangoes.

"I am a black African woman who comes from one of the poorest countries in the world, Uganda, so I understand there are hierarchies in the world," she said.

She added that it was with "some unease" that she agreed to get dressed in siren red and with matching lipstick to take part in a cover shoot for Forbes Women Africa magazine's "50 Most Powerful Women in Africa" cover this month.

"I accepted because even as I am about fighting socio-economic injustices I wanted to talk about feminist leadership in a magazine that is read by economic elites. I took part to challenge more than to identify with, and also to state that I draw my power from movements, from social justice and from giving voice to the marginalised," she said.

It may seem contradictory but it is time too to reframe the story, to shift perspectives. It's how new conversations can get started, how different audiences can be reached and ultimately how everyone can come to understand that HIV/AIDS, inequality and injustice is our problem.

Agencies

What is South Africa's place in Africa's growth story?

BY ALANNA MARKLE AND JAKKIE CILLIERS

BETWEEN now and 2040, almost every second person born worldwide will be African, and the continent will account for more than 60% of growth in the world's working-age population. Africa has boundless potential. And yet the income gap between Africa and the rest of the world has been growing since the 1960s.

A new book, *Africa First! Igniting a Growth Revolution*, draws on a decade of work on African futures to explain this trend, and how the continent can reshape its long-term prospects.

It investigates the reasons for slow growth and models the impact of key transitions on Africa's future - from the provision of basic water and sanitation infrastructure to technological leapfrogging and trade integration. *Africa First!* shows how growth in Africa can be accelerated to allow for economic catch-up in the long term.

Achieving this though will depend to a large extent on the economic fate of 'locomotive' countries such as South Africa and Nigeria. These are large economies whose performance has spillover effects on other countries in their region. But South Africa is on a low-growth pathway when compared to upper-middle-income countries globally. Among other structural issues, poor governance and corruption mean that instead of pulling others along, South Africa is serving as a brake on the region.

Without serious structural reform, South Africa is expected to grow at around 2% a year to 2040 - less than half the target set out in the country's now-outdated National Development Plan. The rest of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) is likely to grow at almost 6% a year. So what can be done to change this rather dismal forecast?

Solutions are being debated today during the Institute for Security Studies' panel at Daily Maverick's *The Gathering: 2020*. Drawing on *Africa First!* and a new ISS report on South Africa's trajectory, experts will explore Africa's



South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa and Ghana's Nana Akufo-Addo shake hands during their meeting in Accra, Ghana. File photo

likely development pathway and the long-term future of South Africa.

South Africa first! Getting to Thuma Mina (or 'send me') models structural transformations in five key sectors in South Africa. The first is a much more ambitious transition to renewable energy with all the associated benefits of a more distributed, flexible energy system, never mind the associated health improvements and reductions in carbon emissions.

South Africa's destiny and development prospects will be determined by what happens in the region. The second is to step away from the country's historical capital-intensive mode of industrialisation to one that embraces the potential of a digital economy that empowers or-

inary citizens. A third is land and water reform to unlock the agricultural potential in the former homelands without compromising the country's water resources.

Much has been written about the National Health Insurance scheme and the dire state of the country's education system. South Africa's health indicators are nothing short of disastrous and the country comes close to last among its peers in the quality of education.

Hence improvements in health through affordable healthcare and a turnaround in the management and quality of education are the two final structural transitions required. Both require some adjustments in how we are currently seeking to approach solutions in each.

In the positive "Thuma Mina" scenario, South Africa achieves a growth rate that averages 3.8% to 2044, with improvements gaining momentum over time. This is achievable and could, by 2040, result in an economy that is 150% larger than today - double the expectation along our current pathway. Average incomes could increase by 60%.

Government cannot do any of this on its own though. Beyond its empty coffers, evidence rather than ideology needs to drive decision making within a government and tripartite alliance that seems paralysed by factional infighting and the need for endless consultation.

For South Africa to become a growth engine in the region and to meet the aspirations of its

increasingly disgruntled citizens, it needs to stop scoring own goals. 'Many of the challenges we face,' President Cyril Ramaphosa recently noted, 'are of our own making, and the inevitable outcome of poor planning, fragmented implementation, poor oversight and monitoring, wastage and duplication.'

South Africa is likely to experience larger gains from the AfCFTA than any other country

Whichever way one looks, it is either the private sector or the International Monetary Fund that will break this impasse - the latter with all the associated negative impacts associated with an externally imposed austerity programme. The private sector has the means to help, but lacks confidence in an administration that cannot decide if it wants to grow the economy or protect current employment at all costs.

And then it is important to underline that South Africa's destiny and development prospects will be determined by what happens in the region. It is the only place where we have a constant trade surplus and to where we consistently export value-added goods.

More rapid growth and stability in the region is in our direct interests. Hence the priority that the country is placing on kickstarting the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) as a priority during its 2020 chairing of the African Union.

The modelling done for *Africa First!* indicates that South Africa is likely to experience larger gains from the agreement than any other country. In fact, South Africa is expected to accrue more than double the monetary gain from additional exports by 2040 compared to the next country, Egypt, in a positive AfCFTA implementation scenario. That will take time, however.

The implementation of the AfCFTA is a tide that will eventually lift all boats, although only after some initial tariff loss pain. The continent's GDP growth rate is 0.5 percentage points higher on average from 2020 to 2040 with AfCFTA's implementation. This growth translates into almost 57 million fewer Africans living in extreme poverty by 2040.

In the process trade will expand South Africa's economy and allow it to develop regional value-chains that will eventually benefit the South African economy as much as the rest of the region.

The growing gap between Africa and the rest of the world is not cast in stone. Nor is the pessimism about South Africa's destiny. Turning our prospects around requires a clear national purpose and plan, leadership and determined implementation.

AGENCIES

Farmers find sweet spot with nutritious, drought-hardy crop

By Caroline Wambui

IN drought-prone central Kenya, a farmers' cooperative is growing resilient sweet potato and making popular bakery products with it.

A sweet scent filled the air as workers dressed in white gumboots, aprons and hats mixed ingredients and rolled out dough at a modern factory in central Kenya, the only one of its kind in Meru County.

The dozen products made there, including bread, cakes, doughnuts and crisps, all share the same main ingredient: sweet potato.

Owned and run by Meru Friends Sacco, a savings and credit cooperative, the facility in Maua town was established two years ago as a way to help people access nutritional food in a region where crops are routinely destroyed by drought.

The cooperative's members of more than 1,000 farmers were motivated by a U.N. report warning climate change and poverty were major threats to health in the lower parts of Meru, explained Patrick Mbaabu, the factory's general manager.

They wanted to find a crop that would boost climate resilience in the area while also addressing the issue of malnutrition, he added.

After first considering bananas and Irish potatoes, the farmers settled on sweet potatoes because they are known for being rich in Vitamin A and essential minerals, Mbaabu said.

In addition, the hot, dry weather that makes it hard to grow thirsty crops in Meru is ideal for the sweet potato plant, said Julius Inyngi, chairman of Meru Friends Sacco.

"The warmer the area, the faster the crop grows," he said.

Kenya's National Drought Management Authority and the European

Union helped pay for the factory, which cost 40 million Kenyan shillings (\$398,000), and also provide training for the farmers on how to run it and grow the potatoes.

As the farmers in Meru Friends Sacco urge their neighbours to grow more sweet potato, they highlight the fact that the under-rated plant is easy to cultivate - even in poor soil - and versatile, which adds value to the crop, Mbaabu explained.

Interested farmers are provided with drought-tolerant, disease-resistant vines that have been propagated for the project by the Kaguru Agricultural Training Centre, under Meru County's agriculture department.

There is no accurate figure yet for the number of farmers supplying the factory with sweet potatoes, but their ranks are steadily growing as farmers are drawn by the extra income and a nutritional boost for their families, Mbaabu said.

After registering with the project last year, Grace Kiambi planted her sweet potato vines among the bushes of khat on her 0.5-acre (0.2-hectare) farm in Maua.

Growing the crops together means each benefits from the nutrients the other releases into the soil and also makes watering more efficient, Kiambi said.

Before the project, she would earn an average of 8,000 Kenyan shillings each month selling khat, a mildly narcotic leaf - today, she brings in nearly double that.

"Planting sweet potatoes has helped transform my life," Kiambi said.

Sweet potatoes are well-suited to the county's erratic rainfall, said Inyngi of Meru Friends Sacco.

The vines can be planted at any time of year and require little water,



he added.

They grow fast as long as the weather is warm, so farmers are often advised to leave the roots in the ground for as long as they can and only harvest them when needed, he noted.

"That helps provide farmers with a continuous food supply, even when other crops have failed," he said.

Hellen Ringera, a nutrition coordinator for Meru County, said growing sweet potato could help improve health in the area.

She pointed to the county's latest malnutrition survey, carried out in 2014, which revealed a quarter of Meru's children were stunted - too short for their age.

"Besides providing a rich source of energy and nutrition, the project will also help increase household incomes (and) employment opportunities," she said.

Before they joined the project, farmers used to rely on brokers who bought their produce at "throw-away prices", said Martin Munene, agriculture director for Meru County.

Now they sell directly to the factory for 50 Kenyan shillings per kilogramme, double what they got before, he added.

"With the sweet potato value addition, we are in line with the government's agendas of having a food-secure and healthy country while creating employment for the youth and women," Munene said.

The factory sells its sweet potato-based products and flours - all certified by the Kenya Bureau of Standards - to local businesses and schools.

It produces about 3,000 loaves of bread and 320 crates of doughnuts per day, as well as flour, among other goods.

Although the factory guarantees the farmers

payment within seven days, it sometimes does not make enough profit to also cover the wages of all the factory workers, Mbaabu said.

And demand for sweet potato products is higher than the current roster of farmers can handle, he explained, a problem the group is trying to solve by bringing more into the project.

At the same time, farmers often have trouble acquiring enough sweet potato vines from the Kaguru Agricultural Training Centre, which is also struggling to keep up with demand.

Despite the challenges, in a country where many people can barely scratch a living from their fields, Kiambi, the farmer in Maua, said growing sweet potato could provide some relief.

"It has not only kept my farm productive throughout the year, but has also turned my financial life around ... and I now comfortably tend to my family," she said.

More land rights mean fewer fires in Mozambique

By Arlindo Macuva

LAND titles ease conflicts with neighbours - and can cut down on problems including runaway fires.

While fires in Australia and Brazil's Amazon have captured headlines over the last few months, half a world away and far from the media spotlight, Mozambique was similarly ablaze.

The fires, combined with agricultural expansion and development, have reduced Mozambique's forest cover by three million hectares - about 11% - from 2001 to 2018, according to the United Nations.

But a pair of innovative land-rights programs, funded by the

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and Britain's Department for International Development (DFID), are helping to clarify what is fueling the fires and are providing guidance on how the blazes might be battled.

For years, farmer Calisto Luis Vasconcelos had a front row seat to the fires.

Six times he lost his sugar cane crop to the flames.

"In the past, it has been out of control," said Vasconcelos. "You would just see a wall of fire coming toward you with no warning"

In Mozambique, fires are a season problem. They are the result of traditional farming practices in which farmers burn

their fields to prepare them for the next planting season.

Unclear and undocumented rights to land add fuel to the fire, because when farmers have unclear and undocumented rights to their land, they tend to have conflicts with neighbors.

The World Bank estimates that 90% of rural land in Africa is undocumented, so, this is a common problem. The undocumented and unclear boundaries and the slim margin for survival for many rural families are a destructive combination.

Farmers often dispute boundaries with their neighbors with an eye toward claiming a few rows of their neighbor's corn or cane for themselves. With pov-

erty and hunger high, every row counts.

These persistent disagreements over boundaries tend to sour relations between neighbors, sometimes bubbling over into outright violence. In this toxic environment, when a farmer decides to burn his or her field to make way for the next season's crops, they may not warn a neighbor of their plans or take care to ensure that the fire does not spread.

This was the case in Vasconcelos' community. He was locked in conflict with his neighbors over his prized parcel of land - four acres of extremely fertile land down by the river. "It is a good piece of land and everyone

claimed it," said Vasconcelos. "It was mine, but everyone wanted it." His neighbors would try to nibble away at the edges of his field, trying to get his land by taking a few rows of corn at a time. Their constant bickering meant that, in the words of Vasconcelos, "There were no rules. Things were out of control."

And when his neighbors burned their fields, they gave Vasconcelos no warning and took no action to contain the fires to their own fields.

This began changing when DFID and USAID funded programs to help communities clarify and document their land. Working in different villages throughout the region, USAID

and DFID's partners have been teaching villagers how to use GPS-enabled tablets and to document the boundaries of each person's fields.

Farmers receive land certificates with maps of their property, a calculation of acreage, their name, and a list of community witnesses - providing documentation of their land use. Now, everyone in Vasconcelos' village, Enhumua, has agreed on where their fields end and their neighbors' begin.

Vasconcelos and his neighbors who have never had titles or deeds - often inheriting their land from their parents or buying it on a handshake - finally have the security of documen-

tation that the land they farm is theirs.

Local government leaders Oliveira Pinto and Martin Gabriel Paiva said the land documentation programs were aimed at improving women's empowerment, boosting nutrition, and reducing conflict. They have achieved those goals and brought another unexpected benefit, reducing the uncontrolled fires.

"Now that the issue of land is settled, we are working together more," said Paiva.

"Now that we have recognized each other's rights, we have changed our behavior," said Vasconcelos. "We respect each other."



Tough livestock farmers touched by South Africa drought donations

By Petro Kotze

South Africa's livestock farmers are resilient types, but the severity of the current drought has left them with little choice but to accept aid - and many fear for their future.

"What's happening to us now is exceptional," he said.

Last year, the Northern Cape region clocked its lowest average recorded rainfall since 1933. That came on the back of an already devastating drought, now in its eighth year.

In this part of the world, wetter and drier periods usually alternate in cycles of seven to nine years, but the current drought was preceded by just two years of normal rainfall, said Willem Symington, head of disaster management at industry body Agri SA.

By the time this drought started, pasture and water reserves were already below their usual levels.

The impact has been devastating for farmers across the province, where about 70% of land is used for livestock.

For generations, farmers here have kept mostly cattle and sheep, although some breed game too.

Symington, also vice president of nonprofit farmers' group Agri Northern Cape, said red

meat production in the province had plummeted 50% since the drought began, causing devastating losses for farmers and knock-on effects in local communities.

But their plight has rallied South Africans countrywide to help, with donations of groceries, water, animal feed and even toiletries being driven in or sent by post.

Last weekend, the streets of the small town of Kenhardt were lined with locals in pick-up trucks waiting for the South African Water Warriors, a volunteer group.

They arrived with nine trucks of feed, a cooler truck of perishable goods, four trailers of groceries and 37,000 litres of water to distribute to the families of 355 farmers and farm-workers in the Kenhardt area.

Since the South African Water Warriors was set up two years ago, its members have delivered relief supplies to drought-hit farmers, mostly in the Northern Cape, said founder Deon Smit.

Agri SA's Symington, himself a farmer, said his peers were used to facing difficulties.

"We farm in hard country," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "But when it comes to donations, and people are good to you, that's when you cannot control your emotions anymore."

Realising women's rights difficult for Africa's fragile states

NAIROBI

POKOT girls are expected to face the knife stark naked and with courage. To inspire confidence, their fathers sit a few metres away from them with a spear in hand.



"If a girl screams or shows even the slightest resistance, the father is allowed to throw the spear at her for bringing shame to the family. The men can also throw the spear at me if I do not circumcise fast enough," Chepocheu Lotiamak, a circumciser, tells IPS.

It defies belief that young girls between the ages of nine and 15 could sit side by side, legs spread apart as one after the other their external genitalia is chopped off by an elderly female circumciser.

Lotiamak says that when it comes to payment of a bride price, a Pokot girl who has undergone FGM receives 60 to 100 cows, or on the lower side, 25 to 40 cows. Those not 'cut', even if university graduates, receive four to eight cows. But then again, very few make it to university.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) was outlawed in Kenya in 2011.

But the situation of women and girls in Kenya's expansive West Pokot County, approximately 380 kilometres from the capital, Nairobi, is characterised by FGM, child marriages, and high maternal and child mortality rates.

Apakamoi Psinon Reson, a conflict mitigation expert based in West Pokot, says that FGM is closely linked to conflict and pastoralist communities, as those communities that enjoy relative peace have all but abandoned FGM.

Even as the world marks International Women's Day on Mar. 8 under the theme I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights, it is a long

road ahead for Pokot girls and women.

"Whether in West Pokot, Baringo, Kerio Valley in the Rift Valley region or the northern parts of Kenya experiencing ethnic conflict over natural resources, livestock and poor leadership, women have no rights and are living very difficult lives," Mary Kuket, the chairperson of the Baringo County chapter of Maendeleo ya Wanawake (Development of Women), a national women's movement, tells IPS.

Northern Kenya has a long history of ethnic conflict and marginalisation, and now terrorism spilling over from neighbouring Somalia has intensified conflict in this region.

Reason argues that it is difficult to protect women and girls, and to enforce the law in these conflict situations.

"We have many pockets of heavily armed bandits in pastoralist communities who are happy to maintain a situation of lawlessness in these regions," he tells IPS, adding that even after years of disarmament missions

As a Pokot girl in Kenya undergoes Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), her father stands guard with spear at hand to ensure that the ritual goes as planned. FGM was outlawed in Kenya in 2011 but is still practiced among pastoralist communities. FILE PHOTO

communities have not been fully disarmed.

Kenya, recognised as East Africa's largest economy by the World Bank, is not among the top 10 Sub-Saharan African countries lauded for promoting gender equality, according to the Global Gender Gap Report 2020.

It ranks 109 out of 153 countries by the World Economic Forum based on progress made towards gender parity.

Human Rights Watch (HRW) cites a lack of accountability for serious human rights violations, including rape perpetrated largely by security forces in the 2017 elections.

Kenya is outperformed by much smaller economies such as Rwanda, Uganda, Namibia, Zambia and Madagascar, all of which made it on the list of top 10 countries in sub-Saharan Africa for their notable steps towards gender equality.

But with the current pace of transformation, gender gaps in sub-Saharan Africa can only be closed in 95 years, according to the World Economic Forum.

South Sudan remains on the radar of human rights organisations since December 2013 when a fresh round of conflict began. The World Report 2019 released by HRW estimates that more than four million people have fled their homes.

Gender champion and executive director of the non-governmental Coalition of State Women's and Youth Organisation in South Sudan, Dina Disan Olweny, explains the harmful and retrogressive traditions that prevail,

particularly in some of the country's more fragile states.

Olweny tells IPS that South Sudan's Eastern Equatorial state is particularly notorious for the abhorrent practice of blood money.

Regional clashes between the government and rebel forces resulted in crimes committed against civilians, including sexual violence.

"There is frequent conflict here over livestock and grazing fields. When a family loses a loved one, they expect to be compensated with livestock by the family that killed their loved one," says Olweny.

"This compensation is called blood money because the affected family receives something for life lost. Those too poor to afford livestock usually give away one of their young girls," she says. She says that at least five of the 12 tribes in this state continue to give away young girls as blood money.

Other frail states across Africa, including Chad, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Central African Republic, Somalia, Niger, Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have the worst gender indexes, according to a 2019 global report by Equal Measures 2030, a civil society and private-led partnership that connects data and evidence with advocacy and action.

Throughout 2018, HRW reported that DRC's government officials and security forces carried out widespread repression and serious human rights violations.

The World Report 2019

further documents that "government officials and security forces carried out widespread repression and serious human rights violations. In central and eastern DRC for instance, the situation reached alarming levels as an estimated 4.5 million were displaced from their homes, and that more than 130,000 refugees fled to neighbouring countries".

The Central African Republic (CAR) remains a particularly fragile state as armed groups, which have expanded control to at least 70 percent of the country, continue to perpetrate serious human rights abuses – killing civilians, raping and sexually assaulting women and girls.

The African Union has entered into a political dialogue with the armed groups towards ending the fighting in the country.

Similarly, Somalia is now defined by fighting and lack of state protection. Currently, at least 2.7 million people are internally displaced, many of them at risk of abuse such as sexual violence.

Women in Mauritania are not sufficiently protected by the law. According to the World Report 2019 "a variety of state policies and laws that criminalise adultery and morality offences renders women vulnerable to gender-based violence, making it difficult and risky for them to report sexual assault to the police".

HRW has raised concerns that Mauritanian law does not adequately define the crime of rape and other forms of sexual assault. Nonetheless, a more comprehensive draft law exists.

Despite ongoing conflict, across Africa, women have made significant effort to participate in the labour force nearly on par with men. However, gender experts such as Olweny raise concerns over the wide gap between male and female professionals and technical workers.

She says that women remain marginalised and excluded from the economy because they are confined to unskilled work, and are working out of necessity to put food on the table.

The Global Gender Gap Report 2020 concludes that this is an indication that a vast majority of women are in poorly paying jobs within the informal sector.

For instance, in the DRC about 62 percent of women and 67 percent of men participate in the labour force. However, only about 25 percent of women are employed in professional and technical work.

Similarly, only 23 percent of women in Cote d'Ivoire's labour force are professionals. The numbers are similar in Mali and Togo, coming in at 21 percent and 20 percent respectively.

"Across Africa, although in varying degrees, we are experiencing prevailing levels of discriminatory gender norms and practices. We still have alarming levels of violence towards women, and institutions that are too weak to address the plight of women," Fihima Mohamed, the founder of the Women Initiative, a local social movement for the empowerment of women and girls in the republic of Djibouti, tells IPS.

Agencies

Target men to reach our HIV goals

HARARE

WOMEN are the face of HIV in Africa, yet four of every 10 persons living with HIV in East and Southern Africa are men. Despite higher rates of HIV infection among women, more men living with HIV are dying.

Men are often left behind by programs that aim to reduce HIV rates as well as those providing HIV treatment.

Global HIV targets are that by December 2020, 90% of all people living with HIV will know their status, 90% of those HIV positive are on treatment and, 90% of those on treatment have reduced replication of the virus in their body.

Some African countries are on track to achieve these targets because programs for women are doing so well. Unfortunately, men in many settings are far from achieving these targets.

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) report shows that globally, less than half of men living with HIV are on treatment, compared to 60% of women. Data from 30 African countries also show that, across all age groups except 45-49 years, men are much less likely than women to have ever taken an HIV test.

In response to HIV testing and treatment gaps between men and women, the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief emphasizes the need for an acceleration of strategies to reach men under 35 years.

For more than a decade, I have been researching why men in sub-Saharan Africa do not take up HIV services even though they are aware that they

need to take the necessary steps to either prevent HIV or ensure it does not eventually kill them. I recently visited four African countries - Lesotho, Malawi, Tanzania, Zimbabwe - to explore why men act against their own best interests.

One issue that came out in all countries is that men believe that the body and mind ought to be resilient. They consider 'submission' to the healthcare system as necessary only when the body can no longer hold out, or when men are certain they are no longer in control of their health and fate. A fisherman in Tanzania summed it up as: "A man is like a car which only goes to the garage when it has broken down."

Men want to be seen as being in control, but HIV - considered a serious, life-long condition - undermines this image, with the result that men want to avoid knowing they have it.

HIV programs therefore need to change the narrative around HIV for example by repositioning HIV testing and treatment as acts that allow men to regain control of their health and fate more broadly.

Another concern voiced by men is that programs are largely based at clinics, but men rarely visit clinics. Programs need to take services to where men are.

We implemented HIV self-testing in three African countries and found that it increased HIV testing among men. Men liked that they were in 'control' of the testing process and that they were the first to know the result, which is different from when a health worker does the testing.

Global HIV targets are that by December 2020, 90% of all people living with HIV will know their



status, 90% of those HIV positive are on treatment and, 90% of those on treatment have reduced replication of the virus in their body

But self-testing requires a second test to confirm a possible positive result, so programs need to consider how to make confirmatory testing easily accessible for men who self-test positive.

It is also important to ensure that men who test HIV-positive access treatment. Large numbers of HIV-positive men choose not to seek treatment nor stick to treatment plans once started. An innovative way to address barriers to treatment access has been the use of community medication refill groups, where groups

of individuals who are doing well on HIV treatment take turns to collect medication for each other, reducing the need to go to the clinic regularly.

Another barrier for some men is fear that others may learn their HIV status, which can mean they prefer to collect medication from male community health workers, and in secret. While some argue that too many resources have been channeled to HIV and it is now time to focus on other conditions, HIV has provided huge learning which can be adapted by other programs.

Better still, health systems (including community-based approaches) developed for HIV

prevention and care can be combined with those for non-communicable diseases (e.g. diabetes, hypertension) and implemented alongside each other.

I am not arguing for less focus on women. But all that focus and hard work will be undone if we do not also focus on men. To do that, we need to use targeted approaches that take into account men's particular concerns about privacy, self-determination (control) and need for flexibility.

At stake is more than simply reaching global goals. At stake is the health and well-being of millions of African men.

Agencies

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD =064=

WORD FIT

In this puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start.

1. Holy city (9)
2. Part of the land adjoining the sea (5)
3. Large and satisfying meal (4-3)
4. Forceful expression of dismissal (4,3)
5. Only poisonous liquid with a strong garlic smell (7)
6. Woody plant (4)
7. Surgical incision through the abdominal wall (12)
8. Irish Republic Army (3)
9. Years spent alive (4)
10. Mark with a pen (7)
11. Period of light between sunrise and sunset (3)
12. Covering to hide a face (4)
13. armory by malevolent interference (6)
14. Violent robber (6)
15. Friendly reception (11)

CROSSWORD

Down:

1. Hill in Rome across the river Tiber from the seven hills (9)
2. Venture capital (4,7)
3. Sounds accompanied infirms (5,5)
4. Genuine person (5)
5. Person whose Parents are from different races (4,5)
6. Make great efforts (6)
7. Give money due for work (3)
8. an aircraft carrier (4-3)
9. Tug (3)
10. Person who writes essay (8)
11. Come into being (5)
12. Organised criminals (5)
13. short for bon mot (3)
14. Upper part (3) 15. nevertheless (3)

BUSINESS



The NdovuCare device consists of a GSM card, a motion detector, a warning light and a siren and can detect an elephant at a radius of 180 metres. It offers a solution to human-wildlife conflict.

TECH SAVVY

How teens' innovation keeps elephants at bay

NAIROBI

There are many ways to keep elephants from destroying crops or attacking people. Erecting electric fences around national parks and game reserves is one. But how much would it cost to fence the expansive Tsavo National Park?

The use of bees and pepper has also been tried and tested. And in some areas, villagers bang drums to turn away the animals, which are averse to noise. But how many beehives would have to be placed around the Tsavo to keep farms and farmers safe?

Luckily, there is a new innovation that could prove as effective. Known as Animal Sandra (Anisan), the technology was invented at Kajjire Girls in Voi, Taita Taveta County, in 2018 by four students as part of a competition.

Sandra Maryanne, Joyce Matoto, Nancy Wairimu and Macrina Antonia were motivated to come up with the idea because they had experienced human-wildlife conflict in their home area, which borders the Tsavo.

Learning was frequently interrupted and many were the days students reported to school late and left early to avoid encountering elephants along the way. Their parents grow crops on the fringes of the park, which attracted the animals. In many instances, farmers have had to kill elephants to save their crops but, once in a while, a hapless villager falls victim to an attack.

So how were such conflicts to be resolved?

The quest for an answer led the four friends to think of an idea that could reduce human-wildlife conflict. "We

want both humans and wildlife to co-exist and this will lead to a peaceful community and good performance in school," Sandra said in an interview with The Edge.

In its nascent stage, the four students named their innovation the "Ndovu Care Project". Their hope was that the innovation would help keep elephants away from crop fields and community areas and, in the end, provide a permanent solution to perennial conflict between man and beast. Guided by their teacher Ezra Abuga, they submitted their innovation for the Start-Up Africa Diamond Challenge competition for the most innovative technological invention.

The competition was held in Elgeyo-Marakwet County and the girls won the first prize. As a result, they qualified for a global challenge to represent Kenya at the University of Delaware in the US after defeating 85 other projects presented by secondary schools from across the country.

MOTION DETECTOR

When Sandra, now 18, completed her secondary education in 2019, she continued making improvements on the portable device, which consists of a GSM card, a motion detector, a warning light and a siren.

The gadget can detect an elephant at a radius of 180 metres, after which it sends alerts to the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) as well as villagers, preparing them to act before the animals start destroying crops or making their way to habited areas. The warning text messages are sent to individuals whose phones are linked to the GSM card.

Why few girls have embraced TVET

KIGALI

Nadia Uwitonze is a 21-year-old third-year student pursuing a course in electrical and electronic technology at IPRC Gishari, Rwamagana District.

Uwitonze is also one of the ten female students in a class of 38. The decision was not an easy one to make to pursue her dream course. Every so often, she was told how girls rarely manage to excel in such subjects, which are deemed easier for her male classmates.

This, coupled with the fact that only 25 per cent of the 3,081 students who graduated from Integrated Polytechnic Regional Centres (IPRCs) last year, were female can be intimidating to most girls aspiring to pursue vocational related courses.

Uwitonze explains that the wrong perceptions surrounding the technical and vocational courses can be blamed on the fact that few girls embrace TVET.

She explains that while she was still in secondary school, most of her fellow students would point out how joining a polytechnic required one to be well versed with physics and mathematics, which most girls found intimidating.

"Most girls are intimidated by these courses because they think that they require physical ability. Others think that the subjects are too complicated, but also, not being able to see many females graduating in these courses discourages the rest," she said.

Uwitonze, however, decided to follow her heart and go to a technical school and looking back, she is proud of her choice. "I did not come here by accident. This has always been my dream. People out there are complaining about unemployment, but for us, it is easy to employ yourself and create jobs for others after school. This is in some way better than pursuing other courses," she explains.

However, Uwitonze says that being a female technical and vocational training graduate comes with its own challenges. "You always meet people who are sceptical about your abilities. They mostly cannot seem to understand how a woman can be an electrician but I prove them wrong with my abilities. Hopefully, this attitude will change gradually," she says. Uwitonze hopes to create a company of electricians.

The Deputy Principal for Academics and Training at IPRC Gishari, Dominique Ingabire, says that the number of girls attending academic institutions can be blamed on the lack of awareness on the subjects provided at IPRCs.

For instance, he says that there is a need to debunk a perception that students who attend IPRCs are those who had fewer marks in national exams, which Ingabire said is not true. Ingabire also pointed out the issue of culture which pushes girls to join some trades more than others, often categorising some courses or jobs as female or male.

EXCELLENCE

From a career in the SANDF to styling for Forbes Woman Africa

JOHANNESBURG

Featuring 50 successful African businesswomen, including media personality Bonang Matheba and South African businesswoman Irene Charnley, the cover celebrates inspirational women.

But it's not just the people featured in the magazine that have an incredible story to tell. Bontle Mogoye, the woman who styled the cover stars, has her own story to tell - and it's an unbelievably inspiring one.

From serving 10 years in the South African National Defense Force (SANDF), to driving a taxi and now styling magazine covers, Bontle says she has attained one of her dreams through this cover. Bontle, who is from the Free State, tells DRUM she grew up in a family where everyone loved clothes. "My childhood was centered around beautiful people, my grandmother loved clothes. I was around women who loved dressing up, which is where my love for fashion started."

She was a fashion stylist for Woman & Home magazine and styled actress Terry Pheto for one of Previdar Online Magazine's covers a few years ago. "With all the other work I had been doing, the art director of Forbes magazine had been looking at my work and asked me to do the recent cover."

As a fashion stylist, she sources clothes and works with the art director



Bontle Mogoye.

to decide on which colours will work. Seeing her childhood dream coming true, Bontle says she's still trying to make sense of it. Styling media personality Bonang Matheba was a dream come true. "When I

saw the magazine yesterday I was like, "This is what I have always wanted."

Despite all the love the family had for fashion, they still wouldn't let her get into fashion design. "Coming from a small town,

Kroonstad in the Free State, they'd say I can't be a fashion designer and that I could be a doctor. They forced me to do physical sciences, biology and mathematics but I knew it wasn't my first love and I didn't want to do it."

Her parents, Washington and Daphney Mogoye, told her to take a break to figure out what she wanted to do besides fashion. "My father even said 'no one is sitting at home.'" Her parents applied for her to join the SANDF, she was called for an interview and went there to make her parents happy.

"I was even wearing a short skirt for some funny reason to show them I don't like the job. Funny how I was passing everything, it wasn't my intention to pass," she laughs. Surprisingly, she got the job and ended up staying for 10 years. After finishing her time with the military, Bontle helped to drive taxis owned by her family.

"Driving a taxi was supposed to be a joke but I saw that people loved it. So I started talking to the South African National Taxi Council (Santaco) about how we can involve women in the taxi industry to become taxi owners or drive taxis." A lot of women showed interest in learning more about the taxi industry. "I am currently looking for funding to help women who are interested in the taxi industry," she says.

LOSS

Samasource ex-CEO Leila Janah passes away aged 37

KAMPALA

A serial entrepreneur Leila Janah, who was the CEO and founder of machine learning training data company Samasource, passed away at the age of 37 due to complications from epithelioid sarcoma, a form of cancer, according to a statement from the startup.

Janah focused her career on social and ethical entrepreneurship with the goal of ending global poverty, founding three distinct organizations over her career spanning the for-profit and nonprofit worlds.

She was most notable for Samasource, which was founded about a decade ago to help machine learning specialists develop better ML models through more complete and ethical training data sets.

The company is known for delivering AI-driven services to Fortune 100 companies with a global workforce of data specialists, a large number of whom are located in East Africa. Janah and her company were well ahead of their time, as issues related to bias in ML models have become top-of-mind for many product leaders in Silicon Valley today.

The company has 2,900 staff worldwide and is the largest AI and data annotation employer in East Africa, Janah said. She talked about taking Samasource, and its mainly African workforce, from nonprofit to for-profit status. "As a CEO I need to make it clear to investors that this is an investible entity," she said.

Janah shared her view that providing for-profit AI training data to global companies can be done while improving lives in East Africa. "I strongly believe you can combine the highest quality of service with the core mission of altruism," she added.

"A big part of our values is offering living wages and creating dignified technology work for people. We hire people from low-income

backgrounds and offer them training in AI and machine learning. And our teams achieve above the industry standard."

In the announcement on Janah's passing, Samasource said, "We are all committed to continuing Leila's work, and to ensure her legacy and vision is carried out for years to come. To accomplish this, Wendy Gonzalez, a longtime business partner, and friend to Leila will take the helm as interim CEO of Samasource. Previously the organization's COO, Wendy has spent the past five years working alongside Leila to craft Samasource's vision and strategy."

Aside from Samasource, Janah founded SF-based Samaschool, a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to helping low-income workers learn critical freelancing skills by helping them negotiate the changing dynamics in the freelance economy. The organization has built partnerships with groups like Goodwill to empower them to offer additional curricular resources within their own existing programs and initiatives.

Janah also founded LXMI, a skin-care brand that emphasized organic and fair-trade ingredients, with a focus on sourcing from low-income women's cooperatives in East Africa. Founded in 2017, the company raised a seed round from the likes of NEA, Sherpa, and Reid Hoffman.

In all of her initiatives, Janah consistently put the concerns of under-represented people at the forefront, and designed organizations to empower such people in their daily lives. Her entrepreneurial spirit, commitment, and integrity will be sorely missed in the startup community.

Janah's legacy will continue through the AI data-training specialists the company she founded, Samasource, trains, and employs. In late 2019, Samasource increased staff in Uganda to 90 people, with plans to grow that by 150% in 2020 as a part of its latest Series A.



The late Samasource CEO, Leila Janah.

NAIROBI

ADVENTURE

Kenyan young globetrotters

Whether it is to revel in the Caribbean's charming weather, to hike in Macau, shopping expeditions in France or to party in Ibiza, for young Kenyans with money, the world is their oyster.

With few or no family responsibilities, their money is largely spent on adventure. They travel the world solo or in groups, and some have even started travel groups, with target destinations every year. So, what is it like to travel as a millennial? How do they balance their careers with their propensity for travel?

Mina Reeve, 28
Mina has been to the UK, Netherlands, Thailand, France, Spain and to the United Arab Emirates. She has also been to Zimbabwe and Zambia. Thailand, where she stayed for two weeks, stood out for her, especially the food.

"Street food is cheap. Getting around with canoes and scooters was fun. The architecture is delightful," she says. Mina plans her travels in advance, sometimes six or seven months before.

"Flight tickets are affordable if you book in advance. This allows me to pay for the ticket in instalments. I also pick connecting flights because they are cheaper," she says. For accommodation, she relies on various websites including Booking.com and Airbnb. "I normally pack one bag because I'll return with more luggage after shopping," says Mina, who's also a member of a local millennials tour group. "Water sports, skydiving, sightseeing and shopping make up my schedule. I'm very adventurous, so anything sporty or

adrenalin-inducing excites me," she adds.

Travelling doesn't get in the way of her young career. As a teacher (she teaches sports and health science at Braeburn School), I capitalise on school holidays. I must do one international tour every year," she says. "I like to stay in nice places. My type of activities cost a lot of money. Dining, partying and shopping are particularly very costly," she says.

On a tour, Mina normally spends between Sh150,000 and Sh200,000. "It sounds like a lot of money, but these are months-long savings," she says. Mina travels to learn about different cultures, to meet new people and for new ideas. "I am an opportunist, so I like to engage people and to grow my networks. Travelling is also liberating," she says. Any trouble while travelling so far? None that she can think of, she says.

"I've been called Latina, Arab, Indian, African, Caucasian and even Asian. I don't take racist comments seriously." When she is not flying half the world for adventure, Mina likes to lose herself in Lamu, Malindi, Diani, Mombasa, Samburu, Amboseli or Ngare Ndare.

Dismissing the notion that travelling is an expensive affair, she argues that it boils down to early planning. "When the trip costs a lot of money, compensate by making the most of your stay in that country," she says.

Emmanuel Kinara, 29
Emmanuel has been to hiking expeditions in Oman and Georgia and has been to



Mina at a zoo in Thailand

the last three editions of the World Cup in South Africa, Brazil and Russia.

The list of countries he has visited is nearly inexhaustible. He has visited Qatar, UAE, Iran and Lebanon. He has also been to Ukraine, Poland, Belarus, Romania, Italy, France, Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany and the UK.

Visits to Brazil to watch the World Cup in 2014 and to Napoli in Italy that same year to attend a friend's wedding are the most memorable tours for Emmanuel who work in Australia. "I liked the relaxed atmosphere and weather. They have large open farmlands and vineyards. The food is also mind-blowing," he says, adding that Brazil is pretty affordable.

Travelling to a country during a major sporting

event is as convenient as it's cheap. "Blending in is also easier because there are usually many travellers," he says, adding that travelling to Norway to watch the Northern Lights is his ultimate travel goal.

So, how does he plan for his travels?

"I make sure I have my travel documents, credit cards and US dollars just in case some places don't accept credit cards. Phone chargers and international SIM card with a portable Internet device are important. I'll also pack a cap and a pair of sketched that I can wear with anything," he says.

For ease of check-in and checkout procedures and at airports, Emmanuel carries only one backpack. Emmanuel travels in groups of mostly two to three people because some of the trips

are work-related. Each trip lasts between three days and slightly over a week.

Now with a young family, Emmanuel says his travel frequency has reduced, with a cumulative two months of travel in a year. He has four trips lined up in 2020. To Emmanuel, travelling affordably means taking advantage of travel miles and staff privileges for air tickets.

"I mostly book into backpacker hostels or share spaces through Airbnb or Couchsurfing. The advantage of these is that you get to enjoy local hospitality, food and the culture," he says. Instead of taking an insurance cover every time he has to travel, he gets an annual cover, which is cheaper.

"A yearly cover costs about Sh28,000 while an individual one goes for roughly Sh7,000. Air tickets sell for

between Sh30,000 and Sh130,000. With the rebates though, I mostly pay an average of Sh15,000," he says.

"I use TripAdvisor to filter out activities. This way, I'm able to join free guided tour groups," he says, adding that he either walks or uses public means to move around. On average, Emmanuel spends between Sh5,000 and Sh7,500 every day to cover food, bus fare and accommodation. "Europe is even cheaper because there are many options for backpackers," he says.

Is travelling cheap? No, he disagrees, but argues that routine activities are even more expensive. "People host parties nearly every weekend and spend a lot of money on drinks. These amounts would comfortably fit within a dream trip if saved for a few months in a

year," he says.

Lisette Gachanja, 29
Off the top of her head, Lisette says she has been to 15 countries. These include Mexico, Hong Kong, Macau, Malaysia, Singapore, Ghana, South Korea, US and Australia. By averaging five countries every year since 2017, she believes she's inching closer to becoming a global citizen.

Before she embarks on a trip, Lisette researches about key attractions and fun activities before drafting her itinerary around them. "I check for visa processes, flights and in-country travel. Checking weather patterns and currency rates is also critical for planning. Often I download apps to help with language, navigation, currency conversion and popular attractions," she explains.

She considers herself a big planner, by drawing several mini-budgets to avoid incurring miscellaneous expenses. "I have invested in a lot of gear to cushion me from having to buy new clothes, shoes and travel bags for every trip," says Lisette, who travels alone and, whenever possible, with either her partner or family.

Whenever she's out on a trip that will usually last between a week and one month, Lisette prefers to go off the beaten path by keeping off "predominantly tourist adventures" and instead finding culturally immersive activities, discovering hike paths and camping.

"I love indigenous things. Trying out local cuisine is a definite must. My priority is

always to maximise on attractions that aren't available back at home." Has globetrotting affected her career? It's only fortified it, she says. "I'm an adventure consultant, so merging work and play is, thankfully, my biggest privilege."

To answer the question on how she raises money for her tours, Lisette employs a philosophy: "Money spent on something always comes back to you. You, however, can't reverse the clock. Time and memories made can't be replaced."

"I'm not a spendthrift, but as soon as I've ticked an item off my travel list, I start to plan my next adventure, within my budget and with a goal," she says. Destinations in her travel bucket list are Latin America and New Zealand. The lure? Indigenous tribes and breathtaking landscapes.

"I can't wait to kayak in the Amazon River and to go caving in the remotest parts. Swimming with bioluminescent plankton is definitely something to look forward to," she says. Other than the thrill of visiting a foreign country, Lisette's experiences have been largely uneventful.

Equally big on local tourism, she has arced the country from Lodwar to Namanga and from Malaba to Lamu. "Every weekend finds me out and about. Whenever I can, I travel on weekdays too." For young women hoping to tour the world, Lisette proposes audacity, but within a rational plan.

"You can have a great time doing solo or partner travels," she advises. "Research on affordable travel deals. Arrange and oversee your own travel plans because it's cheaper this way than having someone do it for you. Have adventure!"

JOHANNESBURG

A special report by BankServAfrica - which also manages the BETI report, an indicator of economic activity - has analysed private pension data to gain insight into the lives and pension income of South Africa's older population. The 60-plus group is one of the fastest-growing segments of the population in South Africa.

"The state's old-age grants have the potential to provide massive relief for the typical private pensioner who gets paid just R5 531 in their bank account. Receiving another R1 780 pm on top of that means that the typical individual pensioner should then have a combined R7 311 a month available," BankServAfrica said.

The BankServAfrica private pensions data for January shows an increase of 3.1% for the average pension in real terms. Private pensions averaged R8 239 in nominal terms. But the typical private pensioner receives only R5 531, it noted.

The current old age grant is R1 780 monthly. It has been increased to R1 860 per month in the latest Budget. And, according to a 2019 Old Mutual report, nearly half of South Africans say they are saving less now than they were a year ago.

Who gets what?

The SA pension system has about a million people out of an estimated 5.3 million over the age of 60 receiving private pensions, BankServAfrica said. The government's old age grants, for which private pensioners receiving less than R6 510 per month are eligible in this financial year, cover 3.566 million people.

BankServAfrica believes overlap between the two groups could mean as many as 200 000 pension-age



UNFAIRNESS

SA pensioners in dire financial state, report shows

people are receiving no income at all - not from the state or from a pension. It did not verify the estimate independently.

"In January 2020, BankServAfrica had about 649 000 banked private pensions on record," it said. "Of these, about 341 000 received less than the old age grant threshold, which means that more than half of individual pensioners could apply for the state's grants pay-out [...]. "We estimate that there are just

over half a million other private pensioners, not on our records, who are also eligible for old age grants."

Taking into account the nearly 3.7 million who receive grants, a million who receive private pensions, around 400 000 who are still employed and around 200 000 who have their own business, according to their records, this should theoretically mean that all pensioners have an income of some sort, Bank-

ServAfrica said.

"But assuming that a quarter of a million private pensioners also get an old age grant and, say 100 000 of those self-employed, then about 350 000 people over the age of 60 get no income directly either from government, work or pension.

"Some could be members of other private pensions or have access to other financial means from their partner or a spouse. An estimated 70 000 people

over the age of 60 would love to be employed - an indication of the need for extra income. So we believe that at least 200 000 older people probably do not get any income even if from a partner or a spouse," the researchers argued.

Cost of living

The researchers believe that having pensioners in a better financial position will have a broader economic benefit. It will also provide indirect bene-

fits to municipalities, who could collect higher income from water and lights, they say.

"The average water and lights account was estimated to be R1 444 in September 2019. Add rates and taxes and the ordinary municipal account increases to over R2 000 pm (R2 104 estimate). Even in a small property, this amount will easily be well over R1 300 pm," argues BankServAfrica.

OUTSTANDING

Inside the luxury Rwandan resort which Sheikh Mohammed visited

KIGALI

The One&Only Gorilla's Nest in Rwanda officially opened its doors last week and one of its first guests was Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid, the Vice President and Ruler of Dubai.

Sheikh Mohammed appears to have been one of the very first visitors at the resort. An Instagram post shows the ruler of Dubai touring Rwanda. In the video, Sheikh Mohammed can be seen flying over the African nation in a helicopter before touring One&Only Gorilla's Nest in the rain.

Another picture on Instagram depicts the ruler of Dubai taking in the country's naturally green surroundings. The Emirati visitors also took part in a gorilla trekking experience, the signature offering at One&Only Gorilla's Nest.

The official opening ceremony at One&Only Gorilla's Nest came after four months in soft launch. It was hosted by Mohammed Al Shaibani, chairman of Kerzner International. Rwandan President Paul Kagame and the First Lady were in attendance for the event which began with a display of traditional Rwandan drumming.

Offering a front-row seat to one of the world's most populated mountain gorilla sanctuaries, One&Only Gorilla's Nest offers travellers the change to get close to nature in luxury seclusion. Located in Virunga, it is less than five minutes away from Africa's oldest national park.

Here, the highest number of mountain gorillas in the world roam free. The park is also home to five dormant volcanoes. One&Only Gorilla's Nest is the second resort from the luxury hotel group to open in Rwanda, after One&Only Nyungwe House in the country's southwest.

COINCIDENCE

US survey says 38% of drinkers won't touch Corona because of Covid 19 fears

NEW YORK

Corona - Latin for "crown" - is one of the most popular beer brands, and its labels are aptly adorned with a golden crown.

But the link between the word "corona" and a global epidemic has led to questions about whether or not Corona is in for a branding nightmare. The coronavirus, which causes the disease Covid-19, has killed at least 2,900 people around the world since it originated in China in December. Its name was derived from the crown shape its viral particles form.

Constellation Brands, which has the exclusive license to distribute Corona Extra in America, has unequivocally said that concerns that shoppers are ditching the beer because of fears over the illness are misleading.

"There's a good amount of misinformation out there that doesn't match the reality of the business or consumer sentiment," a Constellation spokesperson told Business Insider. "Sales of Corona remain strong, and we appreciate the continued support of Corona drinkers."

But some studies have raised concerns about the health of the Corona brand. The public-relations agency SWPR surveyed 737 adult US consumers about Corona and found 38% said they "would not buy Corona under any circumstances." A total of 16% said they were "confused about whether Corona beer is related to the coronavirus."

The market-research firm YouGov calculates "buzz" scores for brands based on an average daily sample size of 357 respondents with an opinion on a brand. The firm also breaks down "purchase



The Mexican Corona Extra beer.

intent" for different products and brands based on an average daily sample size of 2,110 participants.

YouGov found that Corona beer's buzz score dropped from 75 at the start of 2020, around when news of the coronavirus first began to spread, to around 51 in February. YouGov said the beer brand's additional drop regarding "purchase intent" could also be attributed to it being "closely associated with beach holidays."

And in a case of unfortunate timing, Corona just released a hard-seltzer campaign based on the slogan "coming ashore soon" - which, given the spread of the coronavirus from China to 55 countries around the globe, landed with a thud on social media.

But for its part, Constellation Brands has maintained that it trusts consumers not to link the epidemic to its beer brand. "We believe, by and large, that consumers understand there's no linkage between the virus and our business," Maggie Bowman, a representative for Constellation Brands, told Business Insider in January.

BACKLASH

Delay of James Bond film makes cinema and restaurant shares slide

LONDON

The postponed release of the latest James Bond movie due to the coronavirus outbreak has left more than just 007 fans feeling glum. Shares of UK-listed cinema operator Cineworld Group plunged as much as 24 per cent as the delay will defer a boost to box-office takings, while US peers also slumped and bond prices fell. Cineplex, a takeover target of Cineworld, also plunged after a short seller said the deal is likely to fall apart.

And it wasn't just cinema owners feeling the pain: Restaurant Group, which has outlets located near to film theatres, also tumbled. The release date for the Bond sequel No Time to Die was pushed back from April to November late Wednesday, and according to Peel Hunt analyst Ivor Jones the postponement is unlikely to be the last. Jones said that the top 10 movies will account for about 40 per cent of box office revenue in a typical year.

"Films are expensive to produce and promote and, with many Asian cinemas closed, and the prospect of, at best, reduced audiences elsewhere, other producers of major films may choose to delay release," the analyst wrote in a note as he cut his recommendation on Cineworld to hold from buy.

The plunge for UK-listed Cineworld - which also owns the Regal chain in the U.S. and last year announced a deal to buy Canada's Cineplex - was its biggest on record, and extended a year-to-date plunge to 45 per cent. Cineplex weakness today can also be attributed to a new call from Hindenburg Research, which said it is short Cineplex as it expects the Cineworld deal to "fall apart or be reduced in price materially."

Hindenburg Research said on Twitter that while the market has been indicating roughly a 90 per cent chance of the deal going through, this appears to be "horrendously mispriced". The short seller sees the odds nearer 50 per cent to 60 per cent with the market "significantly underestimating the desperation" that Cineworld will seek to break or modify the deal. Hindenburg expects Cineplex may drop more than 50 per cent in a total deal break scenario.

Cineworld had no immediate comment on the short call and Cineplex didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. In New York, Cinemark Holdings fell as much as 6.2 per cent, IMAX slid 7.2 per cent and AMC Entertainment Holdings dropped 10 per cent. And in Belgium, cinema operator Kinopolis Group retreated 9.8 per cent, while projector-maker Barco descended as much as 6.2 per cent.

Loans from European chain VUE were bid lower, according to three people familiar with the matter, and sterling bonds from AMC also slid. Restaurant Group, whose outlets include Frankie & Benny's and Wagamama, tumbled as much as 18 per cent in London. That took the stock's decline for the year to date to more than 50 per cent. Previous Bond releases have provided a short-term boost to sales for the company.

Given a high proportion of the cost base of cinema companies is fixed, anything that affects admissions can have a material impact on earnings, JP Morgan analyst Alexander Mees said by email. "It would have been problematic for the industry to see one of its big hopes fall flat at the box office," Mees wrote. "In that regard, it makes sense to delay to November when hopefully the situation will have calmed down."



ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

| MONDAY 02 March | TUESDAY 03 March | WEDNESDAY 04 March | THURSDAY 05 March | FRIDAY 06 March | SATURDAY 07 March | SUNDAY 08 March |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 Habari 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap: Isidingo the need 09:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Jagina rpt 11:30 Igizo rpt: Mtego 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Jungu kuu rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Mjue Zaidi 13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Art and Lifestyle rpt 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:10 Abibu yako rpt 18:15 Mapishi 18:45 Kesho leo 19:00 Aya ya Jamii 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Dakika 45 22:00 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTW | 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 Habari 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 09:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok 11:20 Uchumi na biashara rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Dakika 45 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt 19:00 Igizo rpt: Dhoruba 19:30 Ijue Sheria 20:00 Habari 21:05 Dakika 45 22:00 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 2:00 DWTW | 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 09:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Dakika 45 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt 19:00 Igizo rpt: Dhoruba 19:30 Ijue Sheria 20:00 Habari 21:05 Dakika 45 22:00 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 2:00 DWTW | 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 09:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Dakika 45 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt 19:00 Igizo rpt: Dhoruba 19:30 Ijue Sheria 20:00 Habari 21:05 Dakika 45 22:00 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 DWTW | 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto wetu 10:00 Mjue Zaidi rpt 11:45 Mapishi rpt 12:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 17:30 Ibada ya kislamu 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mizengwe rpt 18:30 Shamba lulu 19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipima Joto 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 DWTW | 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto wetu 10:00 Mjue Zaidi rpt 11:45 Mapishi rpt 12:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt 12:40 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:40 Igizo rpt: Dhoruba 15:15 Igizo: Mkaguzi 16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe 16:20 Igizo: Mtego 17:00 Shamsam za Pwani 18:00 Habari 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Igizo: Dhoruba 19:00 Art and lifestyle 19:25 Jungu Kuu 20:00 Habari 21:00 Shangeka 21:30 Kesho leo rpt 22:00 Kipindi maalum: Insta Moja 22:15 Hawavumi lakini wamo 23:00 Isidingo rpt 01:30 DWTW | 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto wetu 10:00 Mjue Zaidi rpt 11:45 Mapishi rpt 12:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt 12:40 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:40 Igizo rpt: Dhoruba 15:15 Igizo: Mkaguzi 16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe 16:20 Igizo: Mtego 17:00 Shamsam za Pwani 18:00 Habari 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Igizo: Dhoruba 19:00 Art and lifestyle 19:25 Jungu Kuu 20:00 Habari 21:00 Shangeka 21:30 Kesho leo rpt 22:00 Kipindi maalum: Insta Moja 22:15 Hawavumi lakini wamo 23:00 Isidingo rpt 01:30 DWTW |



British actor/cast member Daniel Craig arrives for the premiere of 'Spectre' in Berlin in 2015. Analyst Hindenburg Research has suggested that a decision to delay the launch of the new James Bond film, No Time To Die, could help to scupper Cineworld's planned takeover of competitor Cineplex.

WORLD

Africa urged to prepare for outbreak

By Edith Mutethya

DESPITE the fact that only a dozen cases of the novel coronavirus have been confirmed in Africa so far, organizations have been urged to put protocols in place not only to prepare for a possible outbreak but also to combat its impact.

As of Thursday, seven African countries - Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Tunisia - have reported confirmed cases.

According to the African Union, or AU, all the confirmed cases in Africa re-

ported recent travel to a country with local transmission or contact with a person who had been to such places.

"No country in Africa has reported sustained human-to-human transmission in the community, like 'widespread transmission', the AU said in a statement released on Tuesday.

The AU said all staff members including their dependents should have real-time and evidence-based information to make informed decisions during this fast evolving period of the epidemic.

Didintle Kwape, associate consultant at Mercer, a US human resources con-

sulting firm, said African organizations should not take chances in terms of preparing for coronavirus eventualities.

"As of today, there have been only a few cases of coronavirus reported in Africa. However, we have seen the negative impact on businesses that the coronavirus outbreak has caused in other parts of the world," Kwape said.

She said having a solid business continuity plan in place that focuses equally on operations and employees will help organizations to navigate effectively during these challenging times.

No exception

Gerishon Ikiara, an international economics lecturer at Kenya's University of Nairobi, said the economic impact of the coronavirus is already being felt across the globe and that Africa is no

exception since China is its biggest trade partner.

"The epidemic outbreak is likely to have an effect on the global economy. There is therefore an urgent need for control, medicine and preventive measures that will work properly," Ikiara said.

He appreciated the fact that African governments are coordinating activities and building capacities in terms of testing and creating quarantine facilities.

Ikiara said governments, especially in the East African Community economic bloc, should cooperate with the private sector in combating the impacts of the epidemic.

He noted that the private sector in the region contributes over 70 percent of the gross domestic product and employment, and hence should be involved in ensuring that the situation calms down.

Agencies



Ethiopian Airlines cabin crew wait to be screened for the novel coronavirus at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport in Lagos, Nigeria, on Thursday. AP

Coronavirus may be a product of US 'biological attack' aimed at Iran and China, IRGC chief claims

The US could be the prime culprit behind Covid-2019 outbreak that hit China and then Iran, head of its elite Revolutionary Guards claimed, threatening that the virus will eventually be turned against those who unleashed it.

"It is possible that this virus is a product of a biological attack by America which initially spread to China and then to Iran and the rest of the world," Hossein Salami said on Thursday.

He vowed that Iran would "fight" the virus and cautioned that the illness "will return" to the United States, if Washington was indeed responsible for the outbreak.

Though such conspiracy theories have been circulating for a while, there's still no official proof it could be true.

The Head of Iran's Civil Defense Organization, General Gholam Reza Jalali, said earlier on Tuesday that media fear-mongering over the new coronavirus in the country bolsters claims that the virus is a biological attack on China and Iran.

He said that some reports indicate that it could be a hostile state, but added that his suspicion requires laboratory investigation and a study of the virus genome.

Iran has been one of the countries hit hardest by Covid-19 outside of mainland China where it originated. As of Thursday, the Islamic Republic has reported 3,513 confirmed cases and 107 deaths attributed to the virus. Some 15 of those who have succumbed to the coronavirus died in the last 24 hours, according to Iran's Health Minister Saeed Namaki.

The country has shuttered all schools and universities until the end of the country's calendar year on March 20 in an effort to stop the spread of the virus.

On Tuesday, state media announced that the head of Iran's emergency medical services was being treated for coronavirus. Numerous high-level Iranian officials have fallen ill to the virus. Recently, 23 lawmakers tested positive for the illness in the Islamic Republic.

Mohammad Mirmohammadi, a member of a council that advises the supreme leader, died after falling sick from the disease. His death follows those of two other high-profile Iranians who contracted the virus - a former ambassador and a newly-elected member of parliament.

WHO expert praises China's COVID-19 containment measures

WASHINGTON

Bruce Aylward, team leader of the China-WHO joint mission on COVID-19, commended China's counterattack against the epidemic, saying that it can be replicated but requires speed, money, imagination and political courage, a US newspaper reported.

The containment is still possible if countries act quickly "because we don't have a global pandemic - we have outbreaks occurring globally," Aylward was quoted as saying by the New York Times.

Aylward, who visited China for two weeks in early February, dis-

missed suspicion that COVID-19 cases in China is not going down.

"It peaked at 46,000 people asking for tests a day; when we left, it was 13,000. Hospitals had empty beds," said Aylward.

"Back of the envelope, it's hundreds of thousands of people in China that did not get COVID-19 because of this aggressive response," said Aylward.

Aylward said China moved half of its medical care online, so "if you needed prescriptions like insulin or heart medications, they could prescribe and deliver it."

Also, the virus testing is free and if it was COVID-19, when patients'



Team leader of the joint mission between World Health Organization (WHO) and China on COVID-19, Bruce Aylward shows graphics during a press conference at the WHO headquarters in Geneva on Feb 25, 2020. (AFP)

insurance ended, the government will pay a larger share of their medical bills for their ensuing treatment, said Aylward.

Aylward also praised China's ability of mobilization, noting that about 40,000 people were dispatched to Hubei province and many of them are volunteers.

"They're mobilized, like in a war, and it's fear of the virus that was driving them. They really saw themselves as on the front lines of protecting the rest of China. And the world," said Aylward.

Xinhua

Democratic presidential contender Warren drops out of 2020 race

WASHINGTON

SENATOR Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, who campaigned as a progressive Democrat, said Thursday that she is dropping out of 2020 U.S. presidential race.

"I want you to hear it straight from me: Today, I'm suspending our campaign for president," Warren said in a call to her campaign staff on Thursday morning.

Speaking to reporters outside her home in Cambridge, Massachusetts later, Warren said she will "stay in the fight," despite her exit from the nomination battle.

The announcement came two days after Democratic primary's "Super Tuesday," in which Warren won no states and lost her home-state Massachusetts to former U.S. Vice President Joe Biden.

A moderate political veteran, Biden won 10 of 14 states voting on Tuesday. Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, a progressive, finished second by winning the other four.

Biden and Sanders are the last two viable Democratic candidates standing this election cycle. U.S. Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii is still in the race but has trailed well behind them.

Warren's ideological stance aligns more closely with Sanders, but she said she will not be making an endorsement right away. "I need some space around this and want to take a little time to think a little more."

Warren, 70, announced her White House bid in February 2019 and had been considered a top-tier candidate ever since.

The former Harvard University law professor and a second-term senator had campaigned on progressive proposals like free college, canceling student loans, and a Medicare-for-All health care system, and surged to the top of the polls in late 2019.

Sanders tweeted Thursday that Warren "has run an extraordinary campaign of ideas."

"Without her, the progressive movement would not be nearly as strong as it is today," Sanders wrote. Biden, in his tweet, said



Senator Elizabeth Warren

they needed Warren's voice in the race and that they "need her continued work in the Senate."

Sitting President Donald Trump, a Republican, also reacted to Warren's departure, claiming she was dropping out "THREE DAYS TOO

LATE." "She cost Crazy Bernie, at least Massachusetts, Minnesota and Texas. Probably cost him the nomination!" Trump wrote on Twitter, referring to the Super Tuesday primary.

The next Democratic primaries

will take place on March 10 for voters of six states to cast ballots for their preferred presidential candidate this year.

The 2020 U.S. presidential election will be held on Nov. 3.

Xinhua

Ethiopian govt calls for international support to contain 'very sever' desert locust outbreak

ADDIS ABABA

THE Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture on Thursday called on its international partners to support ongoing efforts to avert desert locust-inflicted food insecurity in the country.

Noting that about 3 to 5 locust swarms are currently active in parts of the East African country, the ministry stressed that the desert locust situation "is very severe which needs intervention of several stakeholders including the international community," state-run Ethiopian News Agency (ENA) quoted officials at the ministry as saying on Thursday.

As the country embarked on its second rainy season, the Ethiopian government is battling against time

to control the spread of desert locust influx, in which the country has so far managed to spray chemical on 112,000 hectares of land infested by the desert locust swarms across different parts of the country.

"The Ethiopian government is exerting maximum efforts to mobilize resources from several stakeholders and partners in bid to protect the spread of locust swarms," Sani Redi, Ethiopian State Minister of Agriculture, said.

According to the state minister, the locust is expected to upsurge in Ethiopia until the end of August, in which the situation could be further exacerbated by new swarm breeding, which may produce more locust swarms.

The Ethiopian government, which

has so far allocated 30 million Ethiopian birr (about 1 million U.S. dollars) funding in addition to financial pledges from its partners to support the prevention and controlling mechanisms in the coming months, also stressed that it's intensifying preventive and controlling measures with support from its international and bilateral partners, such as the government of China and the United Nations.

The UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) pledged to support about 4.5 million U.S. dollars and 220,000 liters of chemicals to help Ethiopia in tackling the desert locust swarms, according to Redi.

The state minister, however, stressed that allocating financial

budget "is not enough to control the swarms," as he emphasized the greater need to deepen the general public's awareness on how to control the locust before experts reached the places is imperative.

"We have already tasked our experts to train farmers in simple and effective ways so as to control the swarms, and they are now providing trainings to the farmers with particular emphasis on swarm prevention mechanisms," ENA quoted Redi as saying.

As the East African country enters into its February-May rainfall and harvesting season, known locally as Belg, the fight against locust invasion has taken an important dimension, with an ultimate goal of preserving

the vegetation being planted across Ethiopia's major crop-producing areas from the desert locust devastation.

According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the ongoing desert locust invasion across different parts of Ethiopia "is further compounding the humanitarian landscape" in the country, in which the desert locust infestation has so far affected some 180 Woredas (local administrative districts) across the country.

Noting that some 17.8 million people are living in areas affected by the desert locust as of mid-January, the UNOCHA in its latest humanitarian update also stressed that an ongoing assessment will provide an overview

of the impact of the desert locust infestation on food security and livelihoods by mid-March.

Amid the regional desert locust outbreak, the FAO had also recently warned that the locust invasion could further exacerbate the already dire food insecurity situation across the region, in which some 20.2 million people are already facing severe acute food insecurity in the affected East African countries that are Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania.

"Even before this outbreak, nearly 20 million people have been facing high levels of food insecurity across the east African region, long challenged by periodic droughts and floods," the FAO had said. Xinhua

Agencies



A smuggled pangolin is seen inside a cage in Dumai, Riau province, Indonesia on Oct. 25, 2017. Indonesian authorities seized more than 100 critically endangered pangolins during a raid in October, according to an official. Photo: Xinhua

China's thorough ban on illegal wildlife trade timely amid COVID19

Chinese lawmakers agreed to thoroughly ban the illegal wildlife trade and eliminate bad habits of eating wild animals in China, the decision was hailed as "timely" and demonstrates a "global impact" experts agreed.

The decision will "thoroughly ban illegal wildlife trade and eliminate bad habits of eating wild animals to safeguard people's health and livelihoods." The decision was made on Monday's bimonthly session of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, China's top legislature.

The decision expands the legal sphere and establishes a system for the future of "complete prohibition of wild animals."

The current Wildlife Protection Law is only limited to national protected animals or other wild animals that have no legal source and have not passed quarantine inspection, according to the legislature.

But comprehensive revision of the wildlife protection law requires a process. The special decision on Monday is to clear and comprehensively prohibit the consumption of wild animals in a timely manner before the relevant laws are amended. This provides strong legislative guarantees to win the war against the epidemic and protect the lives and health of individuals, Chinese lawmakers said.

Violators of Wildlife Protection Law shall be given harsher punishment and face crackdowns and stricter monitoring, lawmakers said.

Some illegal wildlife venues are still not prohibited and wildlife markets in some places are prevalent during the outbreak.

Experts reached by the Global Times said the decision helps to crackdown on such illegal behavior and curb disease originating from animals that can be transmitted to human beings.

"It's a big step toward the complete ban on the wildlife trade in China. It expects to help some regions to alter their bad habits of eating wild animals and fundamentally change the

industry," a re-search fellow from the Beijing Forestry University's College of Nature Conservation Wildlife Institute told the Global Times on the condition of anonymity.

The research fellow suggested that the government shall release specific lists on what animals are included in the ban and highlight those wild animals that may pose health risks to human beings.

The ban doesn't include wildlife products and wildlife in medicine use. Wild animals such as pangolin scales are commonly used in traditional Chinese medicine to promote lactation and impotence.

Since the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, issues regarding wild animals and its hidden dangers to public health safety have attracted widespread attention. Many believe the coronavirus was transmitted from wild animals, such as bats and pangolins, before it spread to humans.

"Thoroughly banning the illegal wildlife trade will provide an example for neighboring countries, forcing them to change their views on the wild animal industry as a whole. It will strengthen China's global ecological and environmental governance," Sophia Zhang, assistant secretary general of China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation, told the Global Times.

Before the nationwide ban on the illegal wildlife trade, many local governments, including northern China's Tianjin Municipality and southeast China's Guangdong and Fujian Provinces announced a ban on trading and indiscriminate consumption of wildlife after the coronavirus outbreak.

The Law on Wild Animal Protection, which was released in 1989 and amended in 2018, prohibits the consumption of protected animals.

According to Xinhua News Agency, the law bans hunting and killing key protected animals, as well as selling, buying and using these animals and their products.

Global Times



Thoroughly banning the illegal wildlife trade will provide an example for neighboring countries, forcing them to change their views on the wild

Beggar-thy-neighbour practices don't help with global epidemic control

AFTER the outbreak of the novel coronavirus epidemic, the World Health Organization (WHO) has repeatedly advised against travel or trade restrictions and called on all countries to implement decisions that are evidence-based and convincing.

However, there are still certain countries that didn't follow the WHO's authoritative advice and took excessive restrictions. Such beggar-thy-neighbor and selfish practices didn't help with epidemic prevention and control, but created fear and panic, disturbed normal international personnel exchange and cooperation, and exerted negative impact on the order of the international aviation market and the development of the global economy, causing rising anxie-

ties among the public. In front of the epidemic, any impulsive, irrational or unwise behavior could bring about secondary challenges.

When the WHO declared the outbreak of the novel coronavirus in China a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) according to the International Health Regulations (IHR), it did not recommend any broader restrictions on travel or trade.

Thanks to China's decisive and effective prevention and control measures, the number of confirmed cases reported overseas only accounts for less than 1 percent of the total number worldwide.

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) noted

that adopting measures that go beyond the recommendations of the WHO and the ICAO without a proper risk assessment may result in unnecessary negative effects.

"Responses that are anchored in fear, misinformation, racism and xenophobia will not save us from outbreaks like COVID-19." That's from a joint statement made by 16 health law scholars from the U.S., the U.K., Canada, Switzerland, Chile and Italy in a commentary published on The Lancet.

They called on countries to start by rolling back illegal travel restrictions that have already been implemented and by supporting WHO and each other in implementing the IHR.

Such voice show respect for

the international laws and are conducive to safeguarding global common interests.

Scientific research and practices indicated that taking extreme restrictions such as halting flights cannot really reduce the risk of virus spread.

Canceling flights, cruises and locking down borders when it's not advised by international agencies will be not only an act of economic self-harm but also a wasted opportunity to learn from the mistakes of the past, said an article published by American media.

In the era of globalization, the world needs to conform to the trend of the times and jointly shoulder responsibilities and cope with challenges. Since the outbreak of the epidemic, nation-

al leaders of Thailand, Cambodia, Pakistan, and Canada have made it clear that they won't ban entry of Chinese nationals.

French President Emmanuel Macron said that France respects the professional guidelines proposed by the WHO in responding to the COVID-19 epidemic, and its response to the outbreak is generally objective, adding that the French Consulate General in Wuhan is still operating.

Canadian Health Minister Patty Hajdu believes that it lacks basis and is unreasonable to ban entry of Chinese nationals. Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said imposing a travel ban on Chinese citizens won't help the government's fight against coronavirus.

Cambodian Prime Minister

Samdech Techo Hun Sen visited Beijing amid the raging epidemic, showing support from the Cambodian government and the Cambodian people. Kang Seung Seok, the new consul general of the Republic of Korea (ROK) in Wuhan, arrived in the city amid the epidemic on Feb. 20.

These facts prove that the strong and resilient relations between China and these countries are unbreakable and cannot be destroyed by certain countries.

In the era of globalization, the interests and destinies of countries are intertwined. To respond to the epidemic is by no means to stop all socio-economic activities. The right choice is to try to ensure normal economic activities on the premise of strengthening health and safety protection.

However, excessive or even extreme restrictive measures adopted by some countries, such as cancelling flights, will only lead to more negative impacts of the epidemic, causing lose-lose results and casting a shadow on world economic growth.

According to U.S. media reports, Washington's comprehensive restrictions will severely hurt U.S. companies that rely on Chinese products or target Chinese customers. Goldman Sachs recently released a report anticipating a 0.4 percentage point slowdown of U.S. annualized growth in the first quarter due to the coronavirus outbreak, as the U.S. restrictions will reduce the number of Chinese tourists by 28 percent and their spending by \$5.8 billion.

People's Daily

Russia's military base in Syria aims to create balance in the region – Assad

MOSCOW

THE presence of Russia's military base in Syria is aimed at fighting terrorism and creating a military balance in the region, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said in an interview with the Rossiya-24 TV channel.

"The presence of the Russian military base in Syria is not only aimed at fighting terrorism but also at creating an international political balance in the Security Council, as well as a military balance in different areas with a view of restoring the Russian role," he said.

"Restoring this role is in the interest of all states, including Syria and other small and medium-sized countries," the Syrian leader noted.



"Therefore, we view this relationship from two perspectives: a partnership on the bilateral level and a relationship based on this international role, which we hope will continue to increase," al-Assad added.

He stressed that the relations between Russia and Syria had always been based on mutual respect.

"Through the different circumstances, including the 1990s after the collapse of the Soviet Union, our relations with Russia have always been based on mutual respect, a peer-to-peer relationship.

We have never felt at any time, even during this war, that Russia is trying to impose its views on us. They have always treated us with respect; even when we differed, they respected the views of the Syrian government," al-Assad noted.

Agencies

Biden's comeback leaves Sanders little time to expand appeal

WASHINGTON

After losing the momentum in the Democratic presidential race, Bernie Sanders has work to do - and little time to do it - to build the "multiracial, multigenerational movement" he says will propel him to victory over Republican President Donald Trump in November.

In an unexpectedly strong night for Joe Biden, the former vice-president won 10 of the 14 states up for grabs on Super Tuesday, confirming suspicions that Sanders was struggling to expand his base, particularly among older voters and African Americans.

Sanders' supporters said on Wednesday the disappointing results were no cause for panic but showed that the democratic socialist senator from Vermont still needed to prove he could broaden his base enough to capture the Democratic nomination.

Sanders was strongest on Tuesday among young and Latino voters, according to exit poll data, and scored a major victory winning California, the state with the most delegates.

But a far wider coalition fueled Biden's victories, with some of his biggest support coming from African Americans - a key Democratic voting bloc - and white voters over 60 - a group that regularly turns out in large numbers.

In Texas, where Biden narrowly beat Sanders, Biden won among black voters by 60 percent to 17 percent, according to exit polls.

"I won't absolve the Bernie campaign of not doing the deeper work around the black community," said Natalia Salgado, national political director at the Center for Popular Democracy Action, which endorsed Sanders in December. "I think if the Bernie camp wasn't paying attention before last night, they're paying attention now."

Larry Cohen, chairman of Our Revolution, a progressive group founded by Sanders but which operates independently from the campaign, said time was short to stage a turnaround. A majority of delegates needed to win the Democratic nomination will have been awarded after primaries next Tuesday and on March 17.

Biden led Sanders in the delegate count by 526-463 on Thursday afternoon, with final results from California still outstanding.

"With this time frame, the key is to



Democratic presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders gestures as he addresses supporters during a rally at Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Phoenix, Arizona on Thursday. (AFP)

stay positive about the kind of nation that we can have and to really continue to screw down on turnout," Cohen said. "The turnout of younger voters wasn't as good as it could have been."

Kyle Kondik, an elections analyst at the University of Virginia, said with Biden looking strong in upcoming contests in Florida and Georgia, Sanders would need to exceed expectations in the Midwest to "regenerate" his campaign.

"Ten days ago, Biden needed to change the race, and now Sanders needs to do the same," Kondik said.

A Reuters/Ipsos poll of registered Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents taken on March 4-5, after the Super Tuesday results, found 55 percent would support Biden in a two-man race over 45 percent for Sanders.

Sanders said he had not had time to analyze all the results but pointed to his success among people of color in California, including Latinos and Asian Americans, as well as African Americans. Exit polling showed Sanders won among all non-white voters in the state.

"We're going to do better with the African-American community and we continue to try to do that," Sanders told reporters on Wednesday in Vermont, without offering specifics.

Agencies

Agencies



Swimming coach, Ramadhan Namkoveka (L), issues instructions to one of domestic Paralympics swimmers at Nordic School's pool in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: JOSEPH MCHEKADONA

Paralympics Qualifiers postponed

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA will not send Paralympic athletes to United Arab Emirates (UAE) for the Paralympics Qualifiers as the hosts have postponed the games to June due to corona virus outbreak.

Tanzania Paralympic Committee (TPC) Secretary General Tuma Dandi said they received the communication from UAE on Tuesday evening on the postponement of the games.

He disclosed part of the hosts' statement noted the postponement came about because the latter want to prioritize athletes' health and well being.

Tanzania's squad was made up of Ignatius Mtweve and Sauda Njopeka that were expected to be led by coach Taratibu Machaku. The team was expected to depart for UAE on Tuesday for the event.

"We regret to announce that the Tanzania Para athletics team will not travel to UAE for the qualifiers, we received a communication from the hosts' Local Organization Committee (LOC) of the event on Wednesday informing us of the development," Dandi said.

"We will inform you on the new dates of the departure but the qualifiers will take place in June," he disclosed.

Dandi, however, stopped short of disclosing whether the local athletes will continue participating in non residential training, saying he needs to first consult fellow officials.

A joint letter from UAE Local Organizing Committee and World Paralympic Athletics body to all National Paralympic Committees made certain of the postponement.

"We regret to inform you that the Dubai 2020 World Paralympic Athletics Grand Prix, which was scheduled to take place from March 14-17 in the United Arab Emirates, has been canceled," it disclosed.

"The decision was announced by the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) on Wednesday following instruction by the UAE government and local authorities to postpone all international sports events scheduled for the next two months due to the corona virus outbreak."

"World Paralympic Athletics deeply regrets the cancellation of the event but supports the decision by the LOC and local authorities to prioritize athletes' health and well-being."

"In terms of classification opportunities for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, World Para Athletics is assessing alternatives and will communicate with National Paralympic Committees in due course."

Dar 'El Clasico': Predicting the game, and the results?

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

CITY rival Dar Young Africans and Simba SC take to the pitch again tomorrow in a second and mandatory encounter for the Tanzania (or Mainland) Premier League. It comes rather early upon the most recent encounter as the schedule more or less reverts backwards, so a side meets the more recent opponents, and the more distant encounters are repeated at an equally noticeable distance. That makes this new encounter a sort of repetition of the latest match, as the memory of it is still fresh.

Listening to what happened in the last encounter and what may happen now, the chances of the results remaining the same are not exactly likely, but the manner in which change may occur isn't precisely predictable either. There are only scattered lessons from the previous match - not tactical lessons on playing patterns as those are hard to learn but psychological aspects. The issue is the mood that will pertain as the two side take to the pitch, not precisely what they wish to do for 90 minutes.

The first point of difference between the two matches is that Simba shall be more worried about the results, while the last time chances are that they took the match for granted. This means they will be more fired up and ready to put in their best, while on the contrary Yanga is likely to suffer minimal disadvantage of being more assured of their abilities than earlier. The sequence of results in major competitive encounters has tended to show that being less confidence fires up players, and vice versa, where a team with advantage in self confidence risks plenty by that stance.

So there is a reversal of psychological disposition in regard to the match, not on the idea that Yanga will be as sure of themselves as Simba are likely to have been the other time, but rather because they are less fearful, less wor-



Simba SC midfielder, Clatous Chama (C), gets the better of Yanga players, Haruna Niyonzima (R), and Mapinduzi Balama when the two clubs clashed in a Vodacom Premier League clash in Dar es Salaam early this year. The teams settled for a 2-2 draw.

ried, and therefore less resolute than was the case earlier. Simba are on the contrary more worried, much less assured of their abilities vis a vis their arch-rivals than earlier, in which case this tends to boost their inward disposition to fight and obtain results. In that case, if Simba overconfidence and Yanga all out resolve to fight led to a draw, there is a slight chance that a slightly more relaxed Yanga and a rather fearful or worried Simba leads the game to different results in favor of the side that takes greater care.

When it comes to techniques, Simba have lately had fewer problems with their technical bench after apparently the 'group stage hero' of the African Champions League had relaxed, and tended to allow players to relax as well. That brought a situation of playing on the basis of skills and talent without stamina and the push needed to obtain results, in which case the technical bench was overhauled. Still the drawn game with their arch-rivals came as a shock, and

a relief to the other side.

Listen to some pundits in various intense discussions ahead of the return encounter, one feature that came up was an apparent difference of technique between the two sides, that Yanga are known for long balls and attacking football by using wings to get the ball closer to the opponents' box, etc. It means that Simba have a noticeable disposition to trying and controlling the pitch, taking much of the possession and building up an attack on that basis. That might be plausible as coaches come and go, so the idea of a club tradition when it comes to patterns of play is sort of hardy.

Still there is a tested tradition which points to the likelihood that this very pattern of play that is being suggested might just come to pass in that same manner. The point is that controlling the game is possession football, and usually the team that senses it has an edge in technical and abilities of players more easily takes to the pattern of game domination,

showing of skills and making assured attacks that can end in goal more assuredly. The side that has less trust in its skills and ability to dominate the pitch may see the use of using long balls, tricky runs on the wings and lobbying into the box where a fast moving forward can shoot directly. It is a different thing from short passes right into the goal area, not just the penalty box.

The non-possession and long balls method is at times said to be 'counter attack' sort of play, which implies that for a lot of time they did not have the ball, or it was a goal kick and immediately it is used for attack. Chances that Yanga resort to this method are significant, as in two recent major encounters that plenty of fans in Dar and elsewhere were watching, the Spanish El Clasico and the FA Cup upset lately. There is an expression that 'what is good for the goose is good for the gander,' so what works in La Liga also works here; using techniques of a better side is risky.

Curry scores 23 in return, but Raptors clinch playoff spot

SAN FRANCISCO

STEPHEN Curry seemed every bit himself after a four-month layoff, save for a little long-range rust.

"He looks exactly the same to me," coach Steve Kerr said.

Curry scored 23 points for Golden State in his anticipated return from a broken left hand, but the Toronto Raptors beat the Warriors 121-113 Thursday night to clinch a playoff spot.

After being sidelined 58 games, Curry led Golden State out of the tunnel to a big ovation - as loud as his neon sneakers, one pink and one yellow - and the crowd stirred every time he pulled up to shoot.

He missed his first two attempts, but had three quick assists, including a no-look, behind-the-back dish to Andrew Wiggins. He finished with seven assists and seven rebounds in 27 minutes.

"I was trying to be out there and not think about it," Curry said. "If I needed to make that pass, make it and no hesitation. It was a good feeling, throwing the first one."

The two-time MVP hit a 17-footer for his first basket early in the second quarter, then got a huge reaction for a 3-pointer from well beyond the arc shortly

before halftime. He was 3 of 12 from 3-point range and 6 of 16 overall for the game, the only blemish on an otherwise encouraging night for the three-time champion.

"It was a cool vibe, competing like that," he said.

Norman Powell scored a career-high 37 points for Toronto, which won in a rematch of last year's NBA Finals. The Raptors won that series in six games, finishing with a victory in Golden State's final game at its old arena in Oakland.

Kyle Lowry added 26 points and 10 assists, Serge Ibaka had 13 points and 13 rebounds, and Pascal Siakam had 17 points for the Raptors, who won at Phoenix on Tuesday night

to end a three-game losing streak.

"Knowing that Steph was coming back, we knew it was going to be a great night, a great atmosphere," Lowry said. "One of the best players in the league was coming back from injury, we were a little more focused and concentrated on him, but coming in here, it's a great regular-season game."

Damion Lee scored 23 points with five 3-pointers, and Marquese Chriss had 17 points and 12 rebound for the Warriors, who have lost 10 straight at home.

Curry was the only Golden State player in uniform who also played in last year's Finals - a fact that hit him during warmups, when none of his team-

mates harmonized with his strict pregame routine.

They jelled better after tipoff. Curry connected a few times with Wiggins, acquired from Minnesota in February. Toronto swarmed Curry when he had the ball, and Wiggins was the biggest benefactor with 21 points.

While Curry said he plans to work on his chemistry with Wiggins over the season's final 19 games, he said their connection Thursday was more coincidental - Curry was mostly just trying to find open teammates. He had just one turnover and came out pleased with his ability to space the floor with the remainder roster.

"I felt better than I expected and felt like I obvi-

ously could have played more minutes," he said. "Have to stick to the plan just this first game, but that was the hardest part to deal with."

A 3-pointer by Lowry and a powerful dunk from Anunoby stemmed Golden State's rally in the fourth quarter with Curry on the bench.

Curry checked back in with 3:51 left and hit a falling layup with two minutes remaining that pulled the Warriors within 113-108. Wiggins added a 3-pointer to make it 113-111, but Siakam made two baskets in 15 seconds to keep Toronto's lead safe.

"I think that it was a high energy building tonight and they were playing well," Raptors coach Nick Nurse said. "I expected it to be a really close game tonight and there were no illusions in my mind that it wouldn't be."

Curry practiced Monday with the G League Santa Cruz Warriors, then was recalled later in the day in a most anticipated promotion. His return to action came without most of his familiar supporting cast - Draymond Green missed his fourth straight game with a left knee injury, and Klay Thompson remains out with a torn left ACL.



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) reacts after shooting a 3-point basket against the Toronto Raptors during the first half of an NBA basketball game in San Francisco, Thursday, March 5, 2020. (AP Photo)



In this June 6, 2019, file photo, singer R. Kelly pleaded not guilty to 11 additional sex-related felonies during a court hearing before Judge Lawrence Flood at Leighton Criminal Court Building in Chicago. (AP)

R. Kelly pleads not guilty; feds say new charges planned

CHICAGO

R&B singer R. Kelly on Thursday pleaded not guilty to an updated federal indictment that includes child pornography charges and allegations involving a new accuser, while prosecutors said more charges alleging yet another victim are upcoming.

Kelly, 53, stood silently in orange prison garb with his hands behind his back as his attorney entered the plea on his behalf at the arraignment hearing in Chicago.

More legal trouble is on

the horizon for Kelly.

The government plans to file more new charges in the coming weeks, adding another accuser, prosecutor Angel Krull said during the hearing. She didn't elaborate except to say agents recently seized more than 100 electronic devices, including hard drives, in the case.

Agents wielding a search warrant hauled the items away from a storage facility outside Chicago where Kelly keeps some of his equipment, defense attorney Steve Greenberg told reporters after the hearing.

"We expect that they're not going to find anything incriminating," he said.

The possibility of new charges in yet another superseding indictment was among the reasons cited by U.S. District Judge Harry Leinenweber to push Kelly's April 27 trial date to Oct. 13.

The 13-count superseding indictment was unsealed last month. It is largely the same as the original indictment - which also had 13 counts - but includes a reference to a new accuser, referred to only as "Minor 6." AP

Ronaldinho and brother will not face prosecution for fake passports

ASUNCION.

FORMER Brazilian football star Ronaldinho and his brother were "deceived" and will not face prosecution for traveling to Paraguay on false documents, officials said Thursday.

Prosecutor Federico Delfino said he had recommended not pursuing Ronaldinho and his brother Roberto de Assis Moreira.

"But on the condition of admitting committing the crime of which they are accused, in this case the use of false documents," he said.

Ronaldinho's lawyer had earlier denied that he and his brother had used fake passports to enter Paraguay.

"We have proceeded to charge several people," Delfino told the press.

"Ronaldinho and his brother Roberto contributed relevant information to the investigation" and were then removed from the case.

The brothers were acting in "good faith" in receiving the falsified Paraguayan documents, he said.

"The information that they provided is very useful in disrupting a criminal organization dedicated to the production of false documents," he said.

Brazilian authorities withdrew Ronaldinho's passport in November 2018 after he failed to pay a \$2.5 million fine for environmental damage incurred during the building of a property in Porto Alegre, in southern Brazil.

The World Cup winner and his brother were questioned for more than seven hours by the public prosecutor in Asuncion.

Ronaldinho had been invited to the Paraguayan capital by a foundation for needy children, and to

promote his new book.

The 39-year-old and his brother went to the prosecutor's office in the morning alongside Paraguayan lawyer Adolfo Marin.

"They decided voluntarily to stay and submit themselves to the public prosecutor's investigations," said Marin.

According to the inspector leading the investigation Gilberto Fleitas, Ronaldinho was given a fake passport by Brazilian businessman Wilmondes Sousa Lira, who has been arrested.

Marin said Ronaldinho had told the public prosecutor that the documents in question were given to him a month ago in Brazil.

Former two-time world player of the year Ronaldinho and his brother were detained on Wednesday at their hotel.

Their fake documents were detected upon arrival at the Asuncion international airport, according to Delfino.

The former Barcelona, AC Milan and Paris Saint-Germain forward and his brother traveled using "doctored Paraguayan passports and fake identity cards," Delfino said.

However, Marin insisted that Ronaldinho had traveled with his own documents and was not subject to travel restrictions.

Marin added that the two Brazilians faced no restrictions on their movements in Asuncion.

Interior minister Euclides Acevedo earlier said Ronaldinho's celebrity would not spare him.

"As an authority, we couldn't ignore this irregularity," he said, adding that those who allowed Ronaldinho into the country would also be investigated.

AFP

Solskjaer frustrated over scheduling ahead of Manchester derby

LONDON

OLE Gunnar Solskjaer has voiced his frustration over how Manchester United's preparations for their derby against Manchester City have been impeded by the scheduling of their midweek FA Cup tie.

United cruised through to the quarter-finals at second-tier Derby on Thursday, when Luke Shaw's second career goal and two strikes from January signing Odion Ighalo wrapped up a 3-0 win.

Europa League football this season means United are used to playing on Thursdays, but City have an extra day to prepare for Sunday's Old Trafford encounter after beating Sheffield Wednesday the previous evening.

"It's that help we get from the FA again -- that extra 24 hours that they've had," Solskjaer said.

"I cannot believe why there's a derby on Sunday and we've got to play Thursday night. What's the point in that? That doesn't level the playing field."

City also had an extra day ahead of December's derby at the Etihad Stadium, although Marcus Rashford and Anthony Martial scored in a shock 2-1 win for United.

Solskjaer aired a similar grievance about the Premier League after winning at Chelsea last month on a Monday, saying he could not understand why they did not play on the Saturday following the winter break.

Asked if he had complained about the scheduling this time, the Norwegian said: "No, I've not. I don't think we can. It's one of those where you get told when you're going to play, so we've not got any help before this one."

United go into the derby with some momentum, having set up an FA Cup quarter-final with Norwich and taken their unbeaten run to nine matches in all competitions.

Solskjaer's side has risen to the



big occasions this season, including December's Premier League win at the Etihad Stadium and a 1-0 triumph there the following month in the League Cup semi-finals.

- Old Trafford defeat -

But that second-leg victory was not enough to make up for the 3-1 loss inflicted by Pep Guardiola's men at Old Trafford, where a poor start proved their undoing -- something Solskjaer knows cannot be repeated.

The United boss admitted his players' heads "went for a little while" in that match after City took the lead through Bernardo Silva's superb strike.

"It wasn't an issue until our heads went for a little while, so we've got to control our emotions more," said Solskjaer.

"And we have, we have learned, so that's an experience we'll bring into this game definitely."

Harry Maguire is a doubt for the derby after rolling his ankle in training and missing the match against Derby, the day of his 27th birthday.

"Well it's touch and go because he rolled his ankle and he twisted his ankle but hopefully he'll recover quickly," Solskjaer said.

AFP

Mane expects Liverpool to end unexpected slump

LONDON

SADIO Mane has urged Liverpool to use the worst week of their season as fuel to power the Premier League leaders a step closer to the title when they face Bournemouth on Saturday.

Jurgen Klopp's side crashed to a stunning 3-0 defeat against struggling Watford last weekend that ended their hopes of going unbeaten through the entire league campaign.

The Reds' limp display at Vicarage Road was followed by another underwhelming effort on Tuesday as Chelsea knocked them out of the FA Cup with a 2-0 fifth round victory.

Klopp was willing to sacrifice the FA Cup to rest several of his players, even if it prolonged Liverpool's slump.

Mohamed Salah, Roberto Firmino, Trent Alexander-Arnold and Alisson Becker were among the stars missing from the starting line-up at Stamford Bridge.

Whether that proves a wise gamble will become clearer over the course of the next week.

With Liverpool's 1-0 Champions League last 16 first leg loss at Atletico Madrid having triggered this unexpected dip, the European champions have now endured three defeats from their last four games in all competitions.

Even their lone win in that sequence was hardly convincing as they needed a blunder from West Ham keeper Lukasz Fabianski to spark a come from behind 3-2 success.

Liverpool have been so dominant in the league -- winning 18 successive games before the Watford debacle -- that it is understandable if they have lost a little intensity with the title almost in their grasp.



Sadio Mane

They are 22 points clear of second-placed Manchester City and need just four more wins to end their 30-year wait to be crowned kings of English football.

Atletico are due at Anfield for the decisive second leg on Wednesday, but Liverpool winger Mane knows it is important to get back on track domestically before turning to their defence of the Champions League.

"We have another important game on Saturday and then on Wednesday, so we will be ready and we will be back again," Mane said.

"This can happen in football and we are used to it. We just have to keep

working hard and keep going if we want to be great champions."

- 'It's little things' -

Third-bottom Bournemouth are desperate for the points as they battle to avoid relegation.

They will look to exploit a suddenly leaky Liverpool defence that has conceded seven goals in their last three games.

The absence of injured Jordan Henderson has robbed Liverpool of the midfielder's energy and leadership, in turn leaving the Reds defence more exposed to the kind of counter-attacks that led to goals for Watford's Ismaila Sarr and Chelsea's Ross Barkley.

"It's little things, but little things make the difference," Klopp said.

"The boys are strong, they have showed a wonderful reaction so many times, and now we have to show that again."

At Old Trafford, Manchester United badly need a third derby win against Manchester City this season as they battle to qualify for the Champions League. Fifth-placed United are three points behind fourth-placed Chelsea, who host Everton on Sunday.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's team stumbled when a blunder from keeper David De Gea forced them to settle for a draw at Everton

last weekend.

City, in contrast, are on a high after beating Real Madrid in the Champions League last 16 first leg, then retaining the League Cup against Aston Villa on Sunday and advancing to the FA Cup quarter-finals on Wednesday.

United have defeated City twice already, but were beaten by them at Old Trafford in the League Cup semi-finals.

"It's better to go there winning games, being in the FA Cup than being out. We're going to go there to try to win," said City manager Pep Guardiola, who could be without the influential Kevin De Bruyne due to a shoulder injury.

Tottenham, in seventh place, travel to Burnley hoping the fall-out from Eric Dier's astonishing row with a fan in the stands after their FA Cup loss to Norwich does not prove a damaging distraction to an increasingly troubled campaign.

Fixtures (1500 GMT unless stated)

Today
Liverpool v Bournemouth (1230), Arsenal v West Ham, Crystal Palace v Watford, Sheffield Tomorrow

Chelsea v Everton (1400), Manchester United v Manchester City (1630)

Monday
Leicester v Aston Villa (2000)

AFP

Pressure back on Barcelona as Madrid look to ensure Clasico momentum lasts

MADRID

REAL Madrid's victory in the Clasico gave them a one-point lead that might mean little in La Liga's error-strewn title race but whether it causes a decisive shift in momentum will be easier to read after this weekend.

Barcelona host Real Sociedad on Saturday, an awkward fixture against a team that have won their last six consecutive matches and will still be flying high on the back of beating Mirandes on Wednesday to reach a first Copa del Rey final in 32 years.

If Barca need to respond, Real Madrid have to prove their win at the Santiago Bernabeu can be the start of something more sustained, by overcoming Real Betis at the Benito Villamarin on Sunday.

By the time they kick off in Seville, Madrid could be back lying in second and with the heat back on, as long as Barcelona avoid another setback amid a chaotic few months and a trying 10 days.

Their 1-1 draw away at Napoli in the Champions League a fortnight ago was a decent result and sets them up nicely to make the quarter-finals later this month, given they are expected to finish the job at home.

But the performance was underwhelming - again slow and ponderous - and concerns only deepened when an encouraging first half against Madrid was followed by capitulation in the second.

With Real Madrid wounded after their own defeat by Manchester City and uncertain after one win in five games, a braver and bolder Barcelona might have landed a knock-out blow. Pique admitted it was an opportunity missed.

"We missed a chance to hurt them," said Pique after the match. "They didn't give off a good vibe in the first half. Of all the times I've been here it was maybe one of the worst Madrids I've faced."

Instead, Quique Setien's side dithered and their opponents stormed back, as two goals in 21 minutes swung the pendulum of the title race back in Madrid's favour, for a few days at least.

"We've recovered the lead," said Sergio Ramos. "Now we have to see who can keep it up."

- Run-in favours Barca -
Barcelona have a relatively kind



Real Madrid's win over Barcelona last weekend shifted La Liga's title race back in their favour (AFP Photo)

month in which to restore confidence. After Real Sociedad at home, they play away at struggling Mallorca and then at home against Napoli, before facing another relegation battler in Leganes, whose top scorer Martin Braithwaite recently left for Barcelona.

They have the slightly

better run-in too, with Sevilla the only side in the top six left to play away from home, even if trips to scrapping Alaves and eighth-placed Villarreal could prove challenging.

Madrid, meanwhile, have a spring in their step but plenty to do to ensure they are not soon playing catch-

up. After Betis, they have Eibar at home, four days before the crunch second leg away at Manchester City in the Champions League.

If they cannot pull off a remarkable comeback in Manchester, they will have to pick up the pieces at Mestalla against Valencia

and at home to Real Sociedad.

"We have to keep going until the end," said Zidane. "We are going to have more difficult moments this season and people are going to criticise us again. That's nothing new."

Behind the top two, it seems five teams are fighting for the remaining Champions League places, with Sevilla in third up against Atletico Madrid, in fifth, at the Wanda Metropolitan on Saturday.

In between, Getafe in fourth can capitalise by beating 17th-placed Celta Vigo while Valencia are aiming for a revival themselves after beating Betis last weekend for their first win in six. They play Alaves away on Friday night.

Fixtures (GMT)

Today
Eibar v Mallorca (1200), Atletico Madrid v Sevilla (1500), Barcelona v Real Sociedad (1730), Getafe v Celta Vigo (2000)

Tomorrow
Osasuna v Espanyol (1100), Real Valladolid v Athletic Bilbao (1300), Levante v Granada (1500), Villarreal v Leganes (1730), Real Betis v Real Madrid (2000)

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Yanga host Simba SC in tricky derby

SPORT

Mane expects Liverpool to end unexpected slump

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Yanga defender, Andrew Vincent (L), blocks Simba SC's John Bocco when the two clubs clashed in this season's Vodacom Premier League game, which took place in Dar es Salaam in January.

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Vodacom Premier League's second phase match between age old rivals, Yanga and Simba SC, is set for tomorrow at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam with lots of expectations from both teams.

The most sought-after fixture on the domestic scene is expected to bring drama and noise in the country and the whole of East Africa region as bragging rights and points are at stake.

The last time the two teams met in the league was on January 4 this year at the same venue and the clash ended in a 2-2 draw.

Yanga and Simba have both boosted their squads with the signing of new players, notable players that are expected to enter

tain people on Sunday include Yanga's Bernard Morrison and Simba's Luis Miquissone. The two have had an impact in their teams in recent games.

Hosts Yanga, through the squad's mobilization officer Antonio Nugaz, said all is set for tomorrow encounter. He asked Yanga supporters to flock to the stadium to cheer their team.

He said Yanga know the importance of winning the match against their rivals and the former's players have promised to put spirited showing on Sunday.

Nugaz said Yanga head coach, Luc Eymael, has assured him that the team's players are ready for the encounter.

"I'm asking all of our supporters to come and watch the match, the team is ready, our coach Luc Eymael has assured me that the boys are ready to 'sweat blood' for their club, this is one of the important games to our team," he disclosed.

"I on Thursday was talking to coach Eymael, he told me

that our opponents are the best team with good individual players, but after he had analyzed their performance in recent games, he has discovered that they have many weaknesses and he is working on them," he said.

He also said in an effort to boost Yanga players' morale, one of the club's official sponsors, GSM Group, has pledged 200m/- to the club for a win.

"One of our sponsors GSM Group has promised 200m/- to the team for a win, this is huge money and I'm really sure that the players will work hard on the pitch to bring the required results," he noted.

"Yes football has three results, winning, posting a draw and losing, but winning is the results we want on Sunday."

Nugaz also disclosed that the team's security at their training ground has been tightened to avoid any interference from intruders.

He disclosed when the two sides are preparing for the der-

by, there are many things which happen both on and outside the field of play.

The two sides are separated by 21 points on the log table, with Yanga placed third having collected 47 points from 24 games.

Simba, the league's defending champions, are leading the table with 68 points but with two games more than their rivals.

Nugaz said to them, winning tomorrow's clash matters most, insisting the results is worthwhile as opposed to winning the league's top honour.

"This is a derby, it is beyond the silverware, what is most important is pride, beating your rivals always brings pride," he disclosed.

"Winning the trophy without beating your age old rivals does not bring joy, we want our supporters to, on Monday, move around tall and smiling," he said.

Heading into the tomorrow's clash, both Yanga and Simba are beaming with confidence after winning their last two Premier League games.

Yanga beat Alliance FC 2-0 and later notched a similar victory over Mbao FC, while Simba beat KMC FC 2-0 and went on to record 3-2 victory over Azam FC.

Forward Ditram Nchimbi netted a brace for Yanga in the side's game against Alliance FC, David Molinga and Patrick Sibomana scored for the team in the game against Mbao FC.

Simba midfielder Miquissone recorded two goals for the team in the game against KMC FC.

Defender Erasto Nyoni, winger Deo Kanda and forward Meddie Kagere netted for Simba in the squad's game against Azam FC.

Simba have a score to settle with Yanga after the former's surprise 2-2 draw with the latter in the league's first phase game between the two.

Simba SC's Director of Com-

petitions, Hamis Kissiwa, said the derby always turns out to be full of surprises but his side is ready to collect three points on Sunday.

He said his charges know the importance of the match and they are going to exercise caution.

"The team is in the right frame of mind, they preparing well and I can assure you we will get good results on Sunday, we know how to beat them and we expect to smile at the end of the match," he said.

Simba SC head coach, Sven Vandenbroeck, was reported to have said that his side is ready for the encounter as the aim is to collect maximum points and entertaining their supporters with classic football.

"I'm calling upon all our supporters to come in big number, our team is good and is in high spirit," he disclosed.

"The players have promised to give their all while entertaining their supporters with classic football," he said.

On Thursday, the government through Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, asked all sports lovers to follow protocol at the stadium.

The ministry's Director of Sports, Yusuf Singo, issued the statement, he also asked the clubs to sensitize their players and supporters on the importance of fair play.

"This is one of the high profile matches, and on top of that we expect CAF president Ahmed Ahmed and other officials to watch this game live," Singo disclosed.

"I'm asking Yanga and Simba to sensitize their players and supporters on fair play, CAF president is coming because of the reputation of the Dar es Salaam Derby so we must not tarnish that reputation," he said.



Morogoro darts club spokesman, Ramadhan Masikini. PHOTO: MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

Moro darts squad to feature in Women's Day festival

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

MOROGORO darts club is expected to field five players in an open tournament to be held in Dar es Salaam this weekend.

The two-day tournament will be part of activities aiming at commemorating the World Women's Day.

Morogoro darts club's information officer, Ramadhan Masikini, who will also be part of the team set for the competition, mentioned other players as Sylvester Mpeka, Taedi, Salum Salum and Soud Selemam.

Masikini noted the Morogoro team will come up against several Dar es Salaam teams, including Ibukoni, Segerea, Banana and Police.

According to Masikini, the Morogoro darts team had intensive training for three weeks at its venue in Morogoro town.

He said the training centered on standing on an oche and improving scoring on the dartboard.

He maintained the five players are moreover determined to help Morogoro win silverware in men's category of Eastern Zone competition, slated to take place later this year.

He disclosed that veteran female darts player, Fabiola Namajojo, had for over three years represented the region well in major tournaments in and outside Tanzania.

"The Dar es Salaam event's message is supporting women as they have potential to helping the nation achieve its targets," he disclosed.

"We hope the two-day competition will appreciate their presence in our communities."

"Morogoro darts club's slogan states that women ought to be supported, early this year the club had conducted two competition, with winners being presented with utensils," he noted.

"We hope a man or woman will trust his or her spouse should the latter be a darts player and comes back home with a present, it is hoped the approach will help us end negative perception that dart players are people that have nothing to do during leisure time and they, therefore, turn to drinking alcohol."

Masikini insisted darts players should encourage family members to participate in the sport.

He pointed out the sport is quite useful to students who wish to be mathematicians, adding simple calculations like addition, subtraction, and minus are simplified by playing darts.

"It is hoped female darts players will, after tournament, be ambassadors for their families as far as participation in the sport is concerned."

Education stakeholders, he pointed out, should turn darts into one of extra curricular activities in schools with a view to curbing failure to solve questions in mathematics, particularly in elementary schools.

Masikini, who is as well the Eastern Zone Darts Association's spokesperson, pointed out the body's members are Morogoro, Coast Region, Dar es Salaam and Mtwara.

He pointed out Mtwara darts players face such challenges like failure to afford modern dartboards and darts.

He noted one dartboard costs over 200,000/-, whilst a set of darts is sold at 1500,000/-.

He said the region's players moreover do not have a venue for either training or hosting tournaments.

Muumin introduces new music band



Veteran domestic dance musician, Mwinjuma Muumin (2nd R), speaks to reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday on his new band, known as Shadai. He has been flanked by some of the band's musicians. PHOTO: SABATO KASIKA

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

VETERAN domestic dance musician, Mwinjuma Muumin, has set out to make a memorable comeback in the music industry in Tanzania with a new band, named Shadai.

Muumin noted at a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday the band's official music style is known as 'Tikisa Tikisa'.

The musician pointed out the band has already come up with nine songs.

Muumin, who is as well the band's Managing Director, said the songs include 'Nimefulia', 'Maajabu ya Mgongo', 'Minnie', 'Ushauri wa Mama', 'Mwanadamu Haridhiki' and 'Alkasusu'.

He disclosed the band has 18 musicians that include veteran soloist, Rashid Sumuni, rapper Saulo Ferguson and bass guitarist, Dekanto, who had previously worked for Akudo Band, also based in Dar es Salaam.

"We will on March 28 launch our band in Dodoma and we will make our way back to Dar es Salaam to stage shows," he said.

Speaking on the 'Nimefulia' song, he disclosed the song focuses on the challenges he has encountered in life, noting he is now making a comeback with the band.

Muumin had in the past enjoyed huge success in domestic music industry with bands, in-

cluding African Revolution and Double M Sound.

He rose to fame with African Revolution Band that was owned by prominent music stakeholder, Asha Baraka, and he, later, left the band and formed Double M Sound, which also turned out to be quite successful.

"I parted ways with Double M Sound with a view to forming the Shadai Band, I'm managing this band with a sponsor that is currently outside the country," he said.

"I'm sure we will scale great heights in the profession should domestic media give us the much needed backing."

Kisarawe DC appeals to fans to turn up at derby

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

KISARAWÉ District Commissioner, Jokate Mwegelo, an enthusiastic supporter of Yanga, has called on the outfit's followers in the country to throng the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam tomorrow to cheer the team when they face their rivals, Simba SC, in a Vodacom Premier League encounter.

Jokate said she expects to see Yanga win the clash, nicknamed 'Dar es Salaam Derby'.

She, though, noted the victory can only be achieved if the club's supporters will flock the stadium.

She said cheering the team the whole 90 minutes gives energy to the players to continue fighting for their team.

She also reminded Yanga supporters that in the world of football supporters play a major role during games.

"I'm confident our team will emerge victors against our rivals Simba on Sunday, but I'm asking all Yanga supporters to flock the stadium and cheer the team the whole 90 minutes... this help to motivate the players to work hard," she said.

She said she was attending some of her official duties in the Coast

Region district, but would like to personally like to watch the clash live at the National Stadium.

She also hailed Yanga's sponsors and official kits suppliers, GSM Group, for a job she described as having been done in a professional way.

She disclosed now many people can afford the side's original jerseys at a reasonable price.

The GSM Group's Brand and Communication Manager, Matina Nkurulu, on his remarks, said his company has enough original stock of Yanga jerseys, insisting football supporters should buy the kits before the Dar es Salaam Derby.

He said his company is loved by many sports and arts personalities in the country because they produce attractive and original and high quality jerseys.

Nkurulu said putting on an original Yanga jersey from his company on the game's day will make the club's supporters look colourful.

"With GSM Group being producers and suppliers of Yanga's original jerseys, as well as one of the side's sponsors, we are delighted to inform the general public that we have enough stock of original Yanga jerseys, people can come and buy at our shops," he said.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

Leave POLITICS To POLITICIANS...



-- WHAT WE WANT FROM YOU IS YOUR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION!