



National Pg 3 Science laboratories for all schools



National Pg 4 Land for youth activities



National Pg 7 Traffic jam at Dar es Salaam port



National Pg 11 Mangu engages Rwandan operators



Tanzania and Zimbabwe in 700,000 tonnes maize sale deal

A report by the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee in February indicated that the number of people facing hunger in Zimbabwe surged because of economic shocks including rising food prices and a shortage of cash

By Guardian Reporter

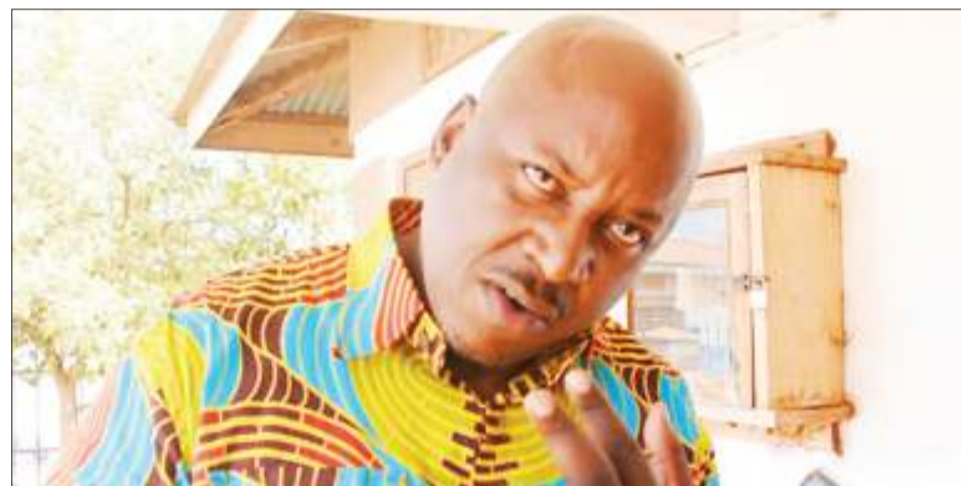
TANZANIA will be exporting 700,000 tonnes of maize to Zimbabwe to ease the country's food shortage, President John Magufuli said yesterday in Harare. A statement released by the Directorate of Presidential Communications said the Head of State made the announcement shortly before holding talks with his host President Emmerson Mnangagwa. "He said last season Tanzania harvested 16.8 million tonnes while its

actual needs are 13.5 million tonnes, leaving it with 3.3 million tonnes of excess maize," the statement reads in part. Zimbabwe has experienced intermittent food shortages since the government began a land-reform programme in 2000 that resulted in the seizure of mostly white-owned commercial farms. A report by the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee

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The Minister for Defence and National Service, Dr. Hussein Mwinyi shakes hands with former UN peacekeepers during commemorations of the International Day for UN Peacekeepers at Mnazi Mmoja grounds in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: John Badi



Investors fail to develop beaches, govt moves in

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism is finalizing plans for the establishment of a special authority on beaches, in an effort to promote beach tourism, the National Assembly heard yesterday. Acknowledging that the nation has not benefitted much from attractive beaches straddling the long coastline, and with intent to diversify tourism, the authority will help tap revenue and set out the proper use of beach areas. Deputy Minister Constantine Kanyasu (pictured) told the House here that unlike other countries, Tanzania has relied on traditional tourism, noting that the time has come to change the trend. He was responding to a supplementary question by Special Seats MP Amina

Mollel (CCM) who wanted to know what the government was doing to diversify tourism instead of relying on just one mode. She also asked if the government was ready to develop Coco Beach and other beaches in Dar es Salaam in particular. "When shall you develop Coco beach as well as install cable cars on the Mount Kilimanjaro circuit?" she demanded. The lawmaker argued that many countries that have achieved success in the tourism sector having diversified the types of tourist activities, and Tanzania should do the same for more revenues to be expected from the sector. Kanyasu cited a ministerial research report which affirmed that beaches in the city are not developed, with investors having been permitted in the past to develop them but have failed to do. On Coco Beach, he told MPs that an existing legal tussle between the city authorities and the beach investor has derailed the development process. However, the deputy minister also said plans were underway to install cable cars on Mount Kilimanjaro to enable young tourists who cannot climb to the top of the mountain on foot to visit it too. Earlier, in the main question, the MP sought to know how the government is

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Three firms to recycle discarded plastic bags

By Guardian Reporter

THREE companies have agreed to venture into recycling plastic bags to make desks and PVC pipes, the Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union Affairs and Environment), January Makamba had declared. He said this in Dar es Salaam yesterday at a one-day seminar for journalists on the negative effects of plastic bags. The minister said the three companies will be using the available single use plastic bags and are based in Dar es Salaam and Mwanza. Apart from importing raw materials for making plastic goods, the factories will be using locally available plastic bags. "The move is meant to remove plastic bags in the environment as well as addressing hazardous effects caused by the bags," he said. The government was urging those with large consignments to take such loads directly to



Apart from importing raw materials for making plastic goods, the factories will be using locally available plastic bags

the factories when the ban comes into effect on June 1, instead of delivering the plastic bags to environment agencies as the government won't pay for the costs incurred to make or deliver them, he said. The government has already started removing plastic bags for carrying goods from shops and the remaining ones will be removed gradually, he stated. "The journey to remove plastics will be taken step by step. After this operation, which is the first phase, we're going to come up with the second phase that will involve manufacturers of plastic bottles, so that they come up with better technology to easily recycle those bottles. Our aim is to ensure that Tanzania is free of plastic containers as far as possible." "We know, this is a tough game, but we're going to win, as there is an underground move to make this campaign unsuccessful. This is

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UK firms, Tanzania launch business easing dialogue

By Henry Mwangonde

THE government and the UK business community yesterday launched the inaugural British-Tanzania Business Dialogue to facilitate identification of concrete actions and ways to work in partnership to improve ease of doing business in the country. Among other issues, the dialogue will discuss the regulatory and policy environment and challenges faced by British businesses investing in Tanzania. Speaking at the event, British High Commissioner Sarah Cooke (pictured) said the United Kingdom is among the largest investors in Tanzania, thus strong partnership, genuine dialogue and support to investors already in Tanzania will help attract further responsible investment. "British businesses are playing a key role in delivering President Magufuli's vision

for industrialization. We have estimated that British companies pay five percent of all tax revenue in Tanzania and have created nearly 300,000 jobs in the last 10 to 15 years," she said. In the last three years, Tanzania has fallen 12 places to 144 out of 190 in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business ratings, while the global financial institution also calculates that Foreign Direct Investment fell from 3.9 percent of GDP in 2016 to 2.3 percent in 2017, the envoy noted. There is severe lack of confidence for business prospects over the next two years if things don't change, she remarked. UK investors in the country have highlighted issues that frustrate their businesses including policy predictability, multiplicity of bureaucracy and pace of decision-making. "There will never be perfect information

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Three firms to recycle discarded plastic bags

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due to business interests," the minister intoned.

He called on plastic bags manufacturers to use this opportunity and sell remaining consignments to recyclers, who are ready to turn them into other products.

Commenting on the June 1 deadline, the minister said the operation involves the National Environmental Management Council (NEMC) in collaboration with local government authorities.

NEMC officials will be everywhere in Dar es Salaam and in the regions to ensure that the ban is enforced.

"Our interest is to see that this exercise is conducted scientifically. And we don't want people to be harassed in any way. That's why we're investing in awareness creation so that everybody is aware of the conduct of the campaign," he emphasized.

Earlier, NEMC enforcement officer Dr Madoshi Makene said the decision to ban the materials was meant to protect the health of people and animals, as well as protect the environment.

He however said that the ban exempted plastics that are used in packaging medicines and medical facilities, plastics that are used in construction, agriculture, garbage collection and food processing.

Ndimbumi Joram, NEMC senior

environmental officer, described plastic bags as number one polluter of the environment and silent killer of numerous species than most people understand.

"This is because it takes more than 500 years for a single plastic bag to decay. That's why the ban is an important step for the well-being of our people and entire planet," she said.

Tanzania joins neighbouring countries like Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda to enforce a total ban on the use of plastic bags.

Plastic bags were introduced in Africa a generation ago and are reported to pollute the seas and land at an alarming rate.

EcoWatch, an environmental activist group, says plastics affect the whole biological spectrum, including posing risks to human health and wildlife.

Accumulation of these products has led to increasing amounts of environmental pollution around the world including Africa. About 90 percent of all trash floating on ocean surface is believed to emanate from plastics, it says.

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) says that half of all plastic bags produced are designed to be used just once and then discarded, resulting in mass amounts of chemically-laden debris landing in oceans and littering landscapes.



President John Magufuli (3rd L) leads Tanzania delegation in talks with Zimbabwe officials chaired by Zimbabwe President Emmerson Mnangagwa at State House in Harare, Zimbabwe yesterday. President Magufuli is in Zimbabwe for two-day official visit. Photo: State House

Investors fail to develop beaches, govt moves in

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prepared to implement agendas in the tourism sector five year diversification plan.

The 2016/2017 to 2020/2021

programme is currently being implemented by the government in collaboration with other partners through Meetings, Incentives Conferences and Events (MICE) initiative, among others.

Tanzania, Zimbabwe in massive maize sale deal

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in February indicated that the number of people facing hunger in Zimbabwe surged because of economic shocks including rising food prices and a shortage of cash.

The situation has been exacerbated by droughts that resulted in the country becoming an importer of most

of its grain needs.

President Magufuli also expressed his unhappiness on the non-convening of the Joint Permanent Commission (JPC) between the two countries which sat for the last time in 1998, the statement indicated.

President Mnangagwa expressed gratitude for Tanzania's readiness to

sell his country the key commodity, a staple food.

President Magufuli arrived in Harare on Tuesday from Namibia where he also called for the revival of JPC meetings between the two countries which has not met since 1999. He directed cabinet ministers in Tanzania to hold a Joint Permanent Commission

with Namibian ministers in the next two months to discuss areas of further cooperation.

On his two-day state visit there, he launched a main street in Windhoek named after Tanzania's founding father Julius Nyerere and visited a meat processing factory in the capital, inviting the firm to invest in Tanzania.



UN Women Tanzania Country Representative Hodan Addou (R) welcomes Finland ambassador to Tanzania Pekka Hukka at a farewell dinner hosted by UN Women Tanzania yesterday. Looking on is UN Resident coordinator in the country Alvaro Rodriguez. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

UK firms, Tanzania launch business easing dialogue

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but reducing delays in approving new investments or issuing residence and work permits. Otherwise, there is the risk that they will simply give up and take their investments elsewhere," Cooke said.

She said this was an opportunity

for constructive dialogue to identify a number of concrete actions to improve ease of doing business in general and, where appropriate, for individual investors.

The minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investment) Angellah Kairuki said the gathering was an important platform to explore matters

of mutual concern, in particular with regards to investing and doing business in Tanzania.

"As minister responsible for investment, I believe it is important to meet with key investment stakeholders like yourselves, to discuss how we address existing concerns and how we should attract and nurture new

investments," she said.

Pursuing policy reforms has its challenges, and the intention of the government is to strike an appropriate balance between the rights and obligations of investors and the need to provide sufficient protection to foreign investors while ensuring that legal obligations are upheld.

'3,800 peacekeepers sacrificed their lives for peace under UN'

By Guardian Reporter

A TOTAL of 3,800 peacekeepers have sacrificed their lives for peace under the UN flag since 1948, Minister for Defence and National Service, Dr Hussein Mwinyi said yesterday.

Dr Mwinyi was speaking at Mnazi Mmoja grounds in Dar es Salaam during commemoration of the International Day of UN Peacekeepers themed: 'Protecting Civilians, Protecting Peace'.

He stated that the commemorations are vital because apart from congratulating peacekeepers scattered at different countries, Tanzanians remember their fellows who lost their lives serving under the UN flag.

"We have gathered here to congratulate our peacekeepers currently operating in various countries, and remembering more than 3,800 others who have lost their lives. There are nearly 100,000 UN peacekeepers volunteering in peace keeping missions", said the Minister insisting Tanzania plays a role in world peace hence sending its military and police personnel to the UN peace operations.

Minister Mwinyi added that Tanzanian peacekeepers are currently serving in Darfur, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Central Africa, Lebanon and several others. He said Tanzania will continue sending its soldiers to peace keeping missions whenever requested by the UN.

UN Resident Coordinator, Alvaro Rodriguez said: "The UN appreciates the contribution of Tanzania's military and police personnel to the UN peace operations in Abyei-Central African Republic, DRC, Lebanon, Darfur-Sudan and South Sudan. The contribution is among the largest amongst member states currently contributing uniformed personnel to the UN peacekeeping".

He added that UN Tanzania commends the government for continuing to send UN peacekeepers the most recent being last week when the 13th Tanzanian battalion

arrived in Darfur region to pursue peace keeping initiatives.

"Protecting civilians is an active duty of all peacekeepers, military, police and civilian themselves. UN peace keeping operations are an investment in global peace and security. Peace hkeepers make a difference everyday in the lives of millions of the most vulnerable", said Rodriguez.

Peacekeeping contributor from the Traffic Police headquarters, Mbunja Matibu said that he participated in the UN peacekeeping missions in Sudan and Darfur from 2010 to 2013.

"We were protecting women, children and elders following incidents of human rights violation. We intended to control the rampant incidents of rape as well as early marriages to ensure school girls complete their education", he noted.

Matibu said they were also educating the people in Sudan to use mosquito nets and make sure they drink boiled water to avoid waterborne diseases.

In his message, the UN Secretary-General António Guterres said: "For millions in conflict-affected situations around the world, peacekeeping is a necessity and a hope. Let us work together to make peacekeeping more effective in protecting people and advancing peace".

The first UN peacekeeping mission was established on 29 May 1948, when the Security Council authorized the deployment of a small number of UN military observers to the Middle East to form the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) to monitor the Armistice Agreement between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

Today, more than 90 percent of UN peacekeepers serving in eight peacekeeping operations – in Abyei and Darfur, the Central African Republic, DRC, Haiti, Lebanon, Mali and South Sudan have protection of civilians' mandates. Peacekeepers put themselves in harm's way to protect civilians from violence every day.



Graduates in Masters' degree in Business Administration at University of Dar es Salaam. The Guardian Ltd accountant Jackson Paul (R) and his colleagues tax administration Pricewaterhouse Coopers Angela Costantino (C) and entrepreneur Davisi Matola during the 49th graduation ceremony held yesterday. Photo:Correspondent Miraji Msala

400 villages earmarked for planning-minister

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

AT LEAST 400 villages in the country have been earmarked for planning and gazetted in the 2019/20, Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Development Settlements, William Lukuvi told the National Assembly yesterday.

The plan is part of the government initiatives to survey and plan all land in the country, reducing the increasing pace of squatters in urban and peri-urban areas in the country.

He noted that the government is committed to improve human settlements, whereby 6.4 billion/- has been allocated for 29 district councils in the country for land planning and valuation.

At the same time, he said the government is preparing master plans for 18 towns through the Urban Local Government Strengthening Programme (ULGSP) under the Ministry of State in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government.

"The government continues with land development programme aimed at land valuation, surveying and issuing of title deeds" he said.

The minister said this in response

to a question from Kasulu urban MP, Daniel Nsanzugwako, who had wanted to know if the government had sustainable plans for planning all urban areas gazetted by the government.

He also wondered why the government was leaving the survey and planning activities to district councils, most of which do not have enough resources.

"Kasulu town is among the oldest towns in the country, is the government ready to help the council plan the town?" he asked.

In response, the minister said the government is implementing the survey and planning activities of all towns gazetted already and provide master plans for towns and cities.

However, he added that the government has been doing it in collaboration with other stakeholders.

On Kasulu, he said the government in 2008 had prepared ten year interim land use plan for Kasulu (2008-2018) which among others, stated the land use programme in the council.

He added that despite the end of the programme, Kasulu district council still have the responsibility to prepare master plan for the development of the council.

'All public secondary schools will be fully quipped with science laboratories by 2025'

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

ALL public secondary schools in the country to have fully equipped science laboratories by 2025, deputy minister of State in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Mwita Waitara told the House yesterday.

He stated that the government is implementing the plans to build

laboratories in secondary schools in collaboration with members of the public and development partners from within and outside the country.

Waitara told the House that in 2019/20 the government has set aside 107.1billion/- for secondary schools, 58.2 billion/- through the Education Programme For Results (EP4R) while 48.9 billion/- is through the Secondary Education Quality Improvement

Programme (SEQUIP).

According to the deputy minister, 58.2 billion/- was given to 1964 schools in the country for different purposes.

"Part of the money is aimed at aimed building science laboratory in public secondary schools in the country" he said, adding that the plan is to improve learning of science subjects in schools.

The deputy minister was

responding to a question from Mwangi MP, Jumanne Maghembe (CCM) who had wanted to know when the government would set aside money for completion of laboratory buildings in ward secondary schools in the country.

He noted that while the government has taken great steps in providing education in the country through fee-free education, there were still

challenges facing the sector, especially lack of science laboratories in ward secondary schools.

Meanwhile, the deputy minister Waitara yesterday directed local government authorities to set aside ten per cent of revenues allocated to the respective groups of people, failure of which disciplinary measures will be taken against them.

He called on fellow MPs to sit

with the LGAs and confirm if the allocations is per the government directive and which have benefited from the funds.

He said this in response to a supplementary question from Special Seats MP, Kiteto Koshuma (CCM) who had wanted to know steps taken by the government on the district councils that fail to budget and disburse the money for the groups.

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

Govt faults shoddy water projects

THE government has expressed disappointment by the number of water projects built below standards, saying some 88 projects between 2010 and 2015 did not meet the requirements.

Minister for Water, Makame Mbarawa said the government is currently investigating all the water projects in the country and where negligence will be revealed, all those responsible will face the law.

He told the House that despite the shortcomings noted in the projects, the government will still provide funds to complete them in efforts to ensure the public get the services.

Mbarawa gave the explanations in response to a supplementary question from Moshi Rural MP, Anthony Komu (CHADEMA)

who wanted to know steps the government would take on contractors who performed below standards.

"What strict measures are taken by the government on those whose water projects are below the government standards?" he asked.

Earlier, in the basic question, the opposition MP noted that the government has implemented a water project in Mbokomu ward but is a lot of water leakages, causing water woes in many

areas of the project such as Korini South, Kiwala and Korini north villages.

He wanted to know why the government had failed to verify the project, carry out maintenance as well as take serious measures on those found to have performed shoddy works.

The minister in response said the project is one of the six projects in Moshi district council through the Water Sector Development Programme (WSDP I) and

was completed on 31st July, 2014, serving 10,467 residents of Upper Korini, Central Korini and Southern Korini. He explained that at the onset of the project, there was an old project that was supplying water to the villagers.

Mbarawa noted that the government through Moshi district council in collaboration with the road contractor managed to repair the leakages at the cost of 1,437,000/-

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Job Level	Management level
Work Type	Full Time
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Reporting to	Managing Director of the Company
Years of Experience	Minimum 5 years
Place of work	Tukuyu – Rungwe District, Mbeya.

Description

Education & Qualifications:

- Minimum Qualification: CPA
- Degree: Bachelors in Corporate Finance or Business Administration
- Experience Level: Management level
- Experience Length: minimum 5 years as Financial Controller, preferably in agriculture sector
- Registered with NBAA
- Tanzanian Citizen

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Prepare & Maintain Cash Flows, Monthly Management Accounts
- Manage Annual Budgets including preparation
- Prepare end of year Financial Statements, manage and assist in end of year audit.
- Supervise financial assistants and other employees in the facilitation of day-to-day operations, including management of financial datas
- Ensure that all the company's financial practices are in line in statutory regulations and legislation
- Recommend cost-reducing solutions
- Ensure operational compliance and policies
- Reconcile monthly bank accounts and general ledgers
- Liaising with Auditors, Banks depending on the requirement.
- Liaising with Government Authorities and ensure all statutory returns are paid in time
- Any other works as and when assigned by the Management from time to time.

Candidates shortlisted will be contacted by email.

TIRA urges health companies to abide by the country's laws

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Insurance Regularity Authority (TIRA) has challenged health insurance companies to adhere to the country laws, ensure quality services and conform to the sector's standards of morality.

Dr Baghayo Saqware, TIRA Commissioner of Insurance, said this recently when speaking during an Iftar dinner held in Dodoma city. Organised by the AAR Tanzania, the event was attended by Members of Parliament, AAR board members, health insurance service providers, stakeholders and religious leaders.

Dr Saqware commended efforts by AAR Tanzania to give back to the society as well as offering quality insurance services.

"I commend the company for offering quality health insurance services but also supporting various groups in our community such as people with disabilities and the underprivileged", he stated.

He challenged other services providers to borrow a leaf from AAR Tanzania through supporting the community and improving lives especially during the holy month of Ramadhan.

Earlier, AAR Tanzania executive director, Violet Modichai thanked the legislators for attending the Iftar since they represent citizens who are the main consumers of their services.

"We are committed to continue supporting variety society groups as well as offering quality services to our clients. We are supporting the government to have a health population for the country's development", said Modichai reiterating the company's determination to protect the development through insurance.

In his remarks, Maswa West Member of Parliament, who is the Vice President of Parliamentary Budget Committee,

Mashimba Ndaki said Tanzanians including the legislators have been benefiting from the company's insurance services.

"You have simplified our lives through health insurance services. Most of us can access medical treatment at hospitals without having cash in hand", said Ndaki as he commends the firm's quality services.

He however called upon insurance companies operating in the country to review their annual membership contributions to enable many people to join the services.

Ndaki also challenged AAR Tanzania to take their services in rural areas since citizens residing in peripheral areas deserve insurance services.

"As the government targets for universal health coverage, it is your responsibility to ensure insurance services reaches every district across the country. We need to build a health nation", he added.

Last week, Speaker of the National Assembly, Job Ndogai told the August House that the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) bill is set for tabling in the next financial year.

The aim is to end the burden of out-of-pocket payment for millions of Tanzanians.

Ndogai said that all preparations for the proposed law are in place including learning tours by MPs to some African countries that have successfully implemented the programme.

He said: "This will bring transformation in our healthcare because no one will be left out as opposed to the current situation where many people cannot go to hospital because they have no money".

Ndogai noted that as Tanzania strives to build an industrial economy and attain middle income country status by 2025, UHC is inevitable as it is also a precondition for attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



UNESCO head of office and representative to Tanzania Tirso Dos Santos delivers his key note speech while officiating at the five-day training of 51 community radio practitioners in Tanzania on Tuesday. The training has been organised with funding from SDC, SIDA, and KOICA. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

AFRICAN experts have called on farmers and investors in agribusiness to embrace technological innovations to improve efficiency of food production and eliminate hunger.

The agro-trade experts said that technology will open vast untapped potential for farmers, investors and entrepreneurs to not only define agriculture in the continent but also to be a major player in global food markets.

African farmers urged to embrace innovative agriculture to boost country's food security

"There is enormous potential for innovation to transform African agriculture bringing jobs, and strengthening food security," Kevin Kyle, managing director of the Agri-Food Trade and Investment said on the sidelines of a regional forum in Nairobi.

"This is an important platform for those wanting to capitalize on those opportunities within the eastern Africa's agri-food sector," Kyle said.

Kyle said Africa intends to feed 1.5 billion people by 2030 and 2 billion by 2050, adding that to keep up with the demand, adoption of innovation was vital within ten years.

The African Development Bank (AfDB) in its latest report has expressed concerns over the growing trend of Africa spending too much on food imports, saying that currently, the continent was spending 3.5 trillion

shillings (about 35 billion U.S. dollars), a situation that he is worried that if left unchecked will surge to 110 U.S. dollars by 2025.

"However, modern technology-driven agriculture that is resilient to climate change, job and wealth creation and health promoting is the cornerstone of the continent's transformation," AfDB says in its latest on food security.

Research Institute organises conference about use, regulation and health effects

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tropical Pesticide Research Institute has organised an international conference on the use, regulation and health effects of agrochemicals in sub-Saharan countries as pesticide-related health risks are exacerbate in Africa due to inadequacy of regulatory frameworks and inexistence, surveillance and control systems.

The four-day conference on going in Arusha region, aims at laying the foundations for a long-term scientific cooperation on the management of pesticide-related occupational and environmental health hazards in Africa.

It aims at exploring the trade-offs between production and prevention that underlie the expansion of chemical-intensive agriculture on the continent, to understand the relations between technique, knowledge and power that condition the inclusion of African populations in the globalized economy, and to grasp the resulting health inequalities.

The conference also aimed at

bringing together researchers from various backgrounds in social sciences and public health, as well as members of administrations and NGOs involved in pesticide regulation who are eager to reflect on what may be done to better assess and manage pesticide-related detrimental health effects.

"The import, production and use of pesticides take place without the legal safeguards and institutional counterweights ensuring that public health concerns receive adequate attention in a political context where 'development', narrowly defined as economic growth, and 'food security', with a single dominant focus on increased agricultural production, are the overriding priorities", read part of the statement issues yesterday.

It said that the current economic boom in many sub-Saharan countries is accompanied by an unprecedented increase in non-communicable diseases (NCDs) due to industrial pollution, including pesticides.

While local and international mobilizations call for more stringent pesticide control measures, African

governments often refrain from adopting and enforcing strict regulations - considered as potential obstacles to 'development'.

African governments and western development agencies are less challenged, however, when - backed by private foundations and transnational corporations - they are calling for an "African Green Revolution", still essentially based on the much-contested model of chemical-intensive agriculture, with pesticides as the cornerstone.

However foreign agro-companies and governments are making large-scale land acquisitions in a new "scramble for Africa", transforming the continent into the new frontier of global agro-industrial expansion.

Africa bears new occupational and environmental health hazards, which are exacerbated by the use of highly toxic pesticides, by informal trade, by dysfunctional control systems, by lack of access to risk information, by the inexistence of protective gear appropriate for tropical climates, and by the diversity of exposed populations.

Set aside land for youth's income generating activities, says minister

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MINISTER of State in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Suleiman Jafo has directed district commissioners across the country to set aside specific land for the youth's income generating activities.

He made the statement yesterday in Mbeya during a ceremony to hand over 1.7bn/- to nine private firms that deal with creation of jobs, entrepreneurship and youth empowerment through a local organisation namely "Feed The Future". The youth programme is funded by the government through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

"Feed The Future" is implementing a youth programme dubbed: 'Inua Vijana' in Rungwe and Kyela district in Mbeya region, Iringa and Zanzibar. The aim is to empower youth with various life skills to be able to employ themselves. Youth are also taught on how to generate incomes by adding value to agricultural crops. "To enable youth to employ themselves, there should be specific areas for them

to conduct their income generating activities. The land can also be used for agricultural activities", said Jafo.

The minister asserted that it is the responsibility of district councils to allocate the land for youth's agricultural activities as the central government strives to create friendly business environment. He said youth should be equipped with skills to practice modern agriculture to enhance productivity.

"Private firms that empowering youth should also assist them in searching for markets", he said adding that the DCs should link the beneficiaries with the Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) so that they establish simple factories to process their agricultural produce.

"I know you have huge pieces of land that are not used, these areas should be given to the youth for establishment of small industries", he noted.

various life and leadership skills.

USAID Tanzania mission director, Andrew Karas applauded the government for various initiatives to improve citizens' economic welfare through various projects.

He said projects such as 'Inua Vijana' empowers youth economically through engagement in agriculture. He said the project targets young people aged between 15 and 35 years.

According to Karas more than 7000 youth have benefited from the project whereas some have been enabled to establish small industries and to practice modern agriculture.

Mbeya Regional Commissioner, Albert Chalamila said the programme has benefited youth especially those from poor rural families. He said some of the beneficiaries are university graduates. RC Chalamila requested the organisation to expand the project to cover all the districts in Mbeya region since there are still many young people in need of the skills.



Room to Read

World Change Starts with Educated Children.™

Position: Life Skills Clubs Facilitator – Girls Education Program

Position Overview:

The Life Skills Clubs Facilitator will be responsible for organizing and implementing the life skills club sessions and activities that are part of Room to Read's larger Girls' Education Program (GEP) in Bagamoyo, Chalinze and Kibaha Districts. The Life Skills Clubs have a primary focus on increasing girls' financial literacy knowledge and skills. In collaboration with GEP staff and school focal teachers, the Club Facilitator works with parents to educate them about the importance of girls' education by facilitating Community events and parent meetings. The majority of her time is spent with the girls at their schools. This position reports to the Girls' Education Program Officer-Technical. The Life Skills Clubs Facilitator has no direct reports.

Location: Pwani.

Role and Responsibilities:

Program Implementation, Training, and Monitoring

- Organize and facilitate Room to Read's life skills club activities with girls and support them to use such skills in their lives. This includes delivering sessions using a standard financial literacy curriculum, and coordinating related project activities with girls.
- Organize and facilitate Room to Read's parent and community events to help girls share their skills and learning from life skills Clubs in relation to girls' education.
- In collaboration with authorities at the school level organize and facilitates after school hours and holiday life skills clubs activities.
- Serve as a positive role model to girls, and engaging in other support activities as needed.
- Participate in regular trainings and meetings with Room to Read staff, as planned.
- Participate in donor site visits and provide information to donors about life Skills Clubs Component of Room to Read's Girls' Education Program as needed.
- Work with teachers/school authorities to provide additional support to girls.
- Participate in regular review meetings and any other activities that may be required to be undertaken to fulfill the objectives of the organization.

Planning, Reporting and Documentation

- Monitor and keep written records of girls including Clubs and community events attendance, and participation in other program activities. Provide this data to POs when requested.
- Plan, conduct, and document and report results of club activities in schools of work.
- Document best practices, case studies, and lessons learned and share with the GEP Team.

Qualifications and Experience:

Required:

- Diploma (tertiary experience or degree, preferred).
- 0-1 years of relevant work experience.
- Good interpersonal skills and a team player.
- Organizational and planning skills including the ability to monitor progress of program implementation.
- Prior success working closely with children and/youth is preferable. Experience or familiarity with gender rights, girls' education, youth development, and/or financial literacy is an advantage.
- Strong interest and/or passion in furthering girls' education.
- Desire and ability to spend the majority of time providing direct support to girls at the school, or community.
- Experience with facilitation and/or delivering trainings is an advantage.
- Strong oral and written communication skills.
- Fluency in language spoken by girls.
- English fluency preferred.

Application Procedure:

Please send a cover letter and resume by email, with life skills club facilitator in the subject line to tz.info@roomtoread.org or to send by post to the People Operations Manager, Room to Read Tanzania, House no.14, Senga street, Mikochei A, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. If you do not hear from Room to Read within one month of the closing date, please accept that your application was unsuccessful. Please note that late applications will not be considered and correspondence will be limited to short-listed candidates only.

Room to Read is proud to be an equal opportunity employer committed to identifying and developing the skills and leadership of people from diverse backgrounds, Women are encouraged to apply. **CLOSING DATE: 06th June, 2019.**

www.tigo.co.tz



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ILO members agree on decent work and socially responsible tourism

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

MEMBERS of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda have agreed to ensure decent work and socially responsible tourism in the region.

The agreement was reached at a two-day of sub-regional tripartite workshop in Arusha where government officials, trade union representatives and workers attended.

Members of the meeting generally agreed of a need to have decent work in the tourism sector that is picking up.

ILO Program Officer, Anthony Rutabanzibwa said it was unfortunate that for many years tourism sector operated under conditions where workers were paid low salaries or had contracts that were not fair.

"We are now happy that government representatives, employers and workers have come and agreed on these issues. They have agreed to go and improve the working environment with workers getting their fair share," said Rutabanzibwa.

He said that he saw political will and hoped that all will go well in realizing the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number eight that seeks to promote for sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

Mupapa Perbin, Senior Labour Officer from Uganda said they will be recommending for ratification of the Convention 172 on working conditions in hotels and restaurants. He said they would be consulting with stakeholders to ensure decent work in the tourism sector.

The Head of Unit, Sectoral Policies Department at Geneva ILO Office, Mariagels Fortuny said they are focusing on tourism because it is a sector that is coming up, bringing a lot of youth and women, but with no decent work.

The meeting was aimed at knowledge sharing among the participants on policy priorities for the design of holistic sustainable tourism development policies with a view to improve productivity and working conditions in the sector and capacity building on the promotion of the above

guidelines.

It focused on the role of tourism as a catalyst for jobs, inclusive socio economic development and poverty reduction in rural areas and will pay particular attention to gender equality issues. It focused on the need to investing in the human resource development, addressing the need for targeted training and preparing for the future of work in a fast evolving services sector, implementing international labour standards and promoting rights of people and groups vulnerable to discrimination, people with disabilities and gender equality and

Globally, tourism directly and indirectly contributes to job creation, particularly for women and young people, while fuelling growth through micro-, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). According to the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) : Economic Impact 2019, in 2018, travel and tourism overall (directly and indirectly) generated 319 million jobs.

In 2017, tourism overall contributed to 9.7 percent of Kenya's GDP, and is expected to rise by 5 percent annually to reach 9.1 percent of GDP by 2028 and over 1.1 million jobs were created by the industry, representing 9 percent of total employment.

In Tanzania, according to ILO, the total contribution of tourism to GDP was 9 percent and is expected to reach 10.1 percent 2028. The sector generated 1.1 million jobs representing 8.2 percent of total employment.

In the same year, Uganda's tourism industry contributed 7.3 percent of GDP, which is forecasted to grow slower with a rise of 5.7 percent annually to 7.1 percent GDP in 2028. The sector overall generated approximately 605,000 jobs, representing 6.3% of total employment, a number expected to reach almost 900,000 jobs in 2028 (6.2 percent of total employment).

The three countries have great potential to further develop their tourism industry. However, decent work challenges including poor working conditions and low skills levels need to be addressed with a view to improve the industry's productivity and competitiveness and take full advantage of its potential for economic development and jobs creation.



TPB Bank chief executive officer Sabasaba Moshingi addresses the audience during an iftar organised by the bank for its customers and Muslim faithful in Kigoma region over the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Handeni district council faces acute shortage of schools

By Correspondent James Kandoya

DESPITE government efforts to improve the quality of education in the country, many students in Handeni district council cannot attend classes due acute shortage of schools.

Kitumbi Ward Councillor, Charles Abeid disclosed this when speaking to journalists on Tuesday during the community awareness campaign to mark the Global Action Week for Education (GAWE) held in Handeni district, Tanga region.

He was speaking at Kitumbi primary school in the district. He said that students are also failing to attend

classes due to long walking distances.

He said the education sector in the district faces various challenges including shortage of teachers and lack of commitment from parents to donate for development of the schools.

According to Abeid, students in his ward walk long distance (25 kilometers) to and from schools. He said the long distances contribute to poor academic performances as children spent most of the time on the roads.

He noted that Kwamgosi secondary school is far from the villages thus forcing students to walk for 25 kilometers. He added that learning

environment is not friendly.

"We have almost 300 pupils dropping out of school each year due to reasons mentioned above including shortage classrooms", the Councillor noted mentioning other wards with similar challenges as Fuleta and Kwangani.

"We call on the government to reconsider building schools in these villages to enable facilitate children education. Having schools near their vicinity will encourage them to learn", he said.

Abeid called upon parents to stop hiding the children with disabilities since they deserve access to education.

Hassan Mwehoga from Kwangani village said many students do not attend to school for some reasons including shortage of classrooms, distance and early pregnancies.

He said in Kwangani village the school dropout has reached 600 children adding that concerted efforts are needed to find alternative to the problem.

"These problems pose a number of challenges to our children, walking for long distances affect their academic performance. Stakeholders including parents, development partners and the government must work to find solutions to the challenges", he said.



National Assembly Speaker Job Ndagui exchanges greetings with youth parliament speaker Zephania Sane paid a courtesy call at his office in Dodoma yesterday. Others are youth deputy speaker Ashiruna Muhunzi (L) and clerk Aliphonsina Ambrosi (R). Photo: Parliament

By Guardian Reporter

Precision Air starts flights to Mwanza and Dodoma

PRECISION Air has announced that effective from 3rd June 2019 it will commence its operations between Mwanza and Dodoma. The move is part of ongoing Precision Air's initiative to connect Dodoma, the capital city of Tanzania to rest of the regions in the country.

Following recent moves by Tanzanian government to move its administration to Dodoma, and Mwanza being a port city bordering Kenya and Uganda, the establishment of these flights will facilitate movement of people, commodities and services across the two regions and beyond.

Quoted in a press statement, Precision Air's Marketing and Corporate Communications Manager, Hillary Mremi said, Starting from 3rd June 2019, there will be morning flights from Mwanza to Dodoma departing at 07:40 AM and arriving at 09:25AM every Monday, and on Fridays, there will be an evening flight from Dodoma

departing at 17:50PM to Mwanza arriving at 19:35PM.

"We are excited to be front liners in connecting the country, the role that we have owned since the beginning of this company. Our focus is to make sure we connect the country from east, west, north, south and beyond through a reliable air transport services," he added

Hillary went on and explain further that the vision is shared not only within the airline, but also shared by the Wananchi and government, alike. "With the government focus on promoting industrialization, reliable air transport is a key in achieving this goal, he added

The public saw the opening of other new routes to and from Dodoma and several others earlier this year by

Precision Air, a move that was well received by many.

Established in 1993, Precision Air is a public listed airline that provides scheduled flights to over 10 destinations within and outside Tanzania from its main hub in Dar es Salaam including Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Serengeti, Mtwara, Kahama, Bukoba, Mwanza, Zanzibar, Tabora, Serengeti, Nairobi, Entebbe and most recently route Tanzania's capital of Dodoma. Other service provided by the charter include chartered and cargo air services. The conglomerate is also a recipient of multiple awards from Tanzania Society of Travel Agents, Africa Aviation News Port, Tanzania Leadership Awards, TASOTA, among others and a listed company at the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange.

Meet present needs without compromising next generation, East African nations urged

By Guardian Reporter

PARTNER states of the East African Community have been urged to enhance efforts towards meeting present needs without compromising next generation's needs.

Chairperson of the 20th meeting of the Sectoral Council of Ministers for Lake Victoria Basin, Dr Vincent Biruta made the call recently when opening the ministerial session of the 20th SECOM held in Kisumu, Kenya.

Dr Biruta, who is also the Minister for Environment of Rwanda, said that the realization of such development aspiration lies in putting in place a green economy model, ensuring social equity and striving for wellbeing of citizens in East African Partner States.

Dr Biruta's call for sustainability was also emphasized by the Executive Secretary of Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) Dr Ally Said Matano whose message to the Ministers from EAC Partner States centrally focused on 14 areas of cooperation for Lake Victoria Basin as articulated in the Protocol for Sustainable Development for Lake Victoria Basin.

Central areas of cooperation in the Protocol for Sustainable Development include, sustainable and development of water resources, promotion of sustainable agriculture, sustainable management and development forestry, improvement of public health and sanitation, wildlife conservation and sustainable tourism, among others.

Interventions through programmes and projects regionally coordinated by LVBC and implemented in EAC partner states are informed by the 14 areas of cooperation and existing development needs of the citizens in the EAC Partner States. LVBC Executive Secretary underscored the importance of the 20th SECOM, noting its decisions and directives guide the LVBC towards

the attainment of its objectives and implementation of programmes and projects in Lake Victoria Basin and EAC Partner States.

The Executive Secretary informed the meeting that after the successful completion of the Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation project phase II, over 7 million people are expected to access clean water while 1.5 million will have access to healthy sanitation facilities in Lake Victoria Basin. Several socio-economic and environmental benefits can be attributed to this project in all five partner state. The SECOM comprises of ministers of environment, water, health, sanitation, forestry and other interrelated sectors.

He outlined key achievements and future targets for the LVBC which included fast-tracking processes towards actualizing "the Commission's and Partner States' dream to have a permanent home" in Kisumu, Kenya. The foregoing is in line with directive of the Council of ministers relating to disbursement of funds for construction of LVBC Headquarters in Kisumu, Kenya. LVBC Executive Secretary commended the chairmanship of the Republic of Uganda which enabled securing of \$1,350,000 as partial funds for construction of LVBC headquarters.

He equally extended his appreciations to the Development Partner such as World Bank, Nordic Development Fund, KWF, USAID, AfDB and others for supporting LVBC's sustainable development process in the wider Lake Victoria Basin. H

e pledged proactive engagement of development partners and other stakeholders for further support specifically on initiatives such as Climate Smart Agriculture in the Lake Victoria Basin, trans boundary sludge management poor urban dwellers and promotion of integrated water resources management.

Kenya's delegate to the Meeting 20th SECOM, chief administrative secretary, Ministry of East African Community and Regional Development, Ken Obura reiterated Kenya's commitment towards regional integration and sustainable conservation of natural resources within Lake Victoria Basin.

"Kenya is fully committed to the regional cooperation process and shall continue supporting projects and programmes implemented in the Basin for the benefit of citizenry of the East African Community," Obura said. He noted that the LVBC's promotion of sustainable development in Lake Victoria was a worthy cause and in line with Kenya's development agenda.

The Deputy Secretary General in charge of Productive and Social Sectors, East African Community, Hon. Christophe Bazivamo, commended EAC Partner States for joining a community of other African states in signing agreements and conventions geared towards environmental sustainability. He lauded LVBC for completing climate change adaption strategy and action plan adopted by the 38th meeting of the EAC Council of Ministers.

EAC Deputy Secretary General remarked that emerging environmental and natural resources management challenges need concerted efforts so that Partner States' commitments—improving the quality of life of EAC citizens and attaining sustainable development objectives—are not undermined in the future. He outlined key EAC policy and legal frameworks acting as ample evidence of EAC's readiness to achieve sustainable development. In line with EAC guiding ideal—citizen centred regional integration, Hon. Bazivamo urged delegates to reprioritize regional initiatives with greater and tangible impacts to local communities.

Truck drivers castigate traffic jam at Dar port

By Guardian Reporter

TRUCK drivers, transporters and other port users have raised concerns on the traffic jam at the Dar es Salaam port which has remained unsolved for a long period.

Speaking to this paper, some truck drivers complained of the traffic jam that cause chaos when entering and departing at the port.

A driver, Juma Seif said the jam is especially experienced during container inspection whereas both local and international transporters may spend up to 2 hours in the jam before they are cleared.

"The chaos normally occurs at Kurasini highway where they have put a new weigh bridge for containers coming from the port", he said calling upon authorities to take measures to address the problem.

"Sometimes transporters especially those going outside the country have time limit to reach their destinations, delaying at the port during inspection may affect their schedule. It is very important for transporters to deliver cargo on agreed time", Seif said.

Another driver, Malima Bundwa said that Dar es Salaam port management should consider working on the traffic jam since they are competing with

other ports such as Mombasa, Beira, Nacala, Maputo, Djibouti and Durban.

"Time is very important. Lets improve our services so that users of the Dar es Salaam port do not opt for other ports like Beira in Mozambique or Mombasa in Kenya. Their shifting would hurt our economy", he added.

Othman Abdul said that traffic jam at the Dar es Salaam port paralyze not only the smooth operations of transporters and other road users but threatens security just in case fire breaks.

He said besides the port there are different warehouses with heavy fuel cargo and gas which is dangerous because in cases of emergency the road will be impassable.

"Truck congestion lead to the closure of all available roads in the area something that paralyzes many economic activities around the port", he said.

Reached for comments, Dar es Salaam port manager, Fred Liundi directed the journalists to contact the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) because they are the ones responsible for the container inspection system that is being used at the port.

TRA director of taxpayer education, Richard Kayombo said that he was not aware of the complaints



The wife of Zanzibar's President Mwanamwema Shein holds Nadir Abdalla who among many children living at House of Children's orphanage situated at Mazizini during an iftar she hosted for them on Tuesday. Photo: State House

Rwanda receives global recognition for strengthening youth involvement in agriculture

KIGALI

THE Rwandan Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI) was awarded this year's Edouard Saouma Award, a global prize instituted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), for outstanding

efforts in involving youth in Rwanda's agriculture transformation.

MINAGRI has been selected as joint winner, with the Ministry of National Food Security and Research in Pakistan for Strengthening youth roles and access in the Agricultural sector in Rwanda. The award consists of an

inscribed medal, a scroll describing the winner's achievements and a cash prize of \$25,000.

Winners are presented with the award by the Director-General at a special ceremony held during the year of the FAO Conference. The award will be presented to Rwanda during the 41st

FAO Conference on Wednesday June 26 to be held in Rome, Italy.

The award winning project, "Strengthening youth roles and access in the Agricultural sector in Rwanda" funded by the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) has supported the establishment

of Rwanda Youth Involvement in Agribusiness (RYAF), a platform that brings together different youth organizations, individual youth farmers and entrepreneurs in Agriculture Sector working in one or many of the agriculture value chains.

Today, Rwandan youth involved in

Agriculture who are registered under RYAF counts to 12,000+ with more than 1,300 businesses.

These youth are categorized in 5 clusters based on what they do, i.e Agro-processing, Livestock production, Crop production, Inputs and Agro-services, and ICT4Agriculture.

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

BACKGROUND
 IntraHealth International, Inc. and its partners Tanzania Youth Alliance (TAYOA) and Afya Plus are implementing the Cooperative agreement for "Accelerating the Scale-up of Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC) for HIV Prevention for Maximum Public Health Impact in the United Republic of Tanzania funded by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)". This five-year project (2016-2021) named "Tohara Plus" is currently being implemented in thirty-three Sub National Units (SNUs) in Mwanza, Geita, Simiyu, Mara, Shinyanga, Kagera and Kigoma regions. The project supports the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MOHCDCGEC)/National AIDS Control Program (NACP) and President's Office Regional Authorities and Local Government (PORALG) to strengthen and scale-up a comprehensive package of quality, safe VMMC services among adolescents and adult men 10-29 years to reach 80% prevalence in the targeted SNUs by 2020 and to integrate Early Infant Male Circumcision (EIMC) services in reproductive and child health (RCH) clinics for sustainability.

IntraHealth invites quote from eligible, registered companies for supply VMMC Supplies to be used for provision of VMMC Services. Below is the list of VMMC supplies to be procured

1. Lot Number 1: Supply of VMMC supplies 2019/12/06

No.	Description of Goods/Services	Unit of Measure	Quantity required	Delivery Place
1	Surgical Gloves (Size 7.5), box of 50pairs	Box	12,000	Dar es Salaam Warehouse.
2	Sterile Paraffin Dressing, 10cm X 10cm, box of 50 pcs	Box	4000	Dar es Salaam Warehouse.
3	Absorbent Gauze, 12x8 mesh, 90cm x 100yards	Roll	8000	Dar es Salaam Warehouse.
4	Examination Glove, box of 100 pcs	boxes	6,000	Dar es Salaam Warehouse.
5	Disposable Surgical caps, sachet of 100 caps	Pack	2,002	Dar es Salaam Warehouse.
6	Bin liners/ biohazard plastic bags • Red color - 90 packs • Yellow color - 140 packs • Black color - 187	Pack of 350	417	Dar es Salaam Warehouse.
7	Chronic Catgut 3/0, round bodied needle, 75cm long	Dozen (12 pcs)	33,333	Dar es Salaam Warehouse.
8	Precept, Tab of 2.5g	Tin of 100 tabs	1,251	Dar es Salaam Warehouse.
9	Syringes-10mls	Box of 100	2,000	Dar es Salaam Warehouse.
10	Syringe -2 mls	Box of 100	2,000	Dar es Salaam Warehouse.
11	Zinc oxide plaster, roll of 7.5cm x 5m	Pcs	20,000	Dar es Salaam Warehouse.
12	Liquid Soap, Gallon of 5ltrs	Gallons	1,668	Dar es Salaam Warehouse.
13	Hand sanitizer solution	Bottle of 500mls	950	Dar es Salaam Warehouse.
14	Heavy Duty utility Gloves - Black	Pair	3,336	Dar es Salaam Warehouse.
15	Sterilization tape (indicator), 1.905CM x54.6M	Roll	3,336	Dar es Salaam Warehouse.
16	Face Masks-disposable	Packs of 50 pieces	4,170	Dar es Salaam Warehouse.
17	Disposable Soft Tissue (napkins), pack of 100 sheets	Packs/100 pcs	4,170	Dar es Salaam Warehouse.
18	Povidone Iodine, bottle of 250mls	pcs	40,000	Mwanza warehouse
19	Bupivacaine injection 0.5% ,vial of 10 mls	Vial	40,000	Mwanza warehouse
20	Paracetamol tabs 500mg	Tin of 1000tabs	3,600	Mwanza warehouse
21	Ampiclox caps 500mg	A box of blister pack/100	3000	Mwanza warehouse
22	Metronidazole tabs 200mg	A box of Blister pack/100	3000	Mwanza warehouse
23	Normal saline bottle of 500mls	Bottles	30,024	Mwanza warehouse
24	Dispensing envelopes	Pack/100	2,000	Dar es Salaam Warehouse.
25	Injection Safety Box, medium size	Pcs	6,255	Dar es Salaam Warehouse.
26	Disposable Apron	Pack/100 pcs	4,170	Dar es Salaam Warehouse.
27	Green liner, Roll of 100m	pcs	1,200	Dar es Salaam Warehouse.

Interested bidder/vendor may get further information & details through email Procurement-TZ@intrahealth.org during office hours (7:30 am to 4:00pm) Monday to Friday except on public holidays.

Interested and eligible vendor should submit their quotations in a sealed enclosed plain envelope and delivered to the address given below. The deadline for receiving quotes is June 12, 2019.

The Tender Committee
 Plot #443, Kawe Mlalakua area, Golf Street
 P.O. Box 12007, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania
 Tel: +255 22 2780383
 Mob: + 255 767 538 215/754 282 783

All quotes must be in Tanzania Shillings and applications received after June 12, 2019 at 4:00pm will not be considered.

Please Note:

- Late or Incomplete bid/quote will not be accepted
- Please submit all quotes on company letterhead and VRN, TIN, Tax clearance certificate. All quotes must be valid for a minimum of thirty 30 days.
- The request for quote does not constitute a contract commitment by IntraHealth
- IntraHealth has the right to disqualify any offer based on offeror failure to follow the solicitation instruction
- Offerors shall not be reimbursed for any costs incurred in connection with the preparation and submissions of quotes.
- If item quantity is not currently in stock, include expected date when item quantity will be in stock (delivery time), brand name of the product /item and country of origin.
- All goods will be delivered at IntraHealth International- Dar es Salaam/Mwanza Warehouse.
- IntraHealth reserves the right to (a) reject any and all offers, in whole or in part, for any reason whatsoever, (b) waive immaterial requirements, and (c) pursue purchasing in a manner that is in the best interest of IntraHealth.

ZANZIBAR REVENUE BOARD

Tender No.SMZ/F0111/W/ICB/2018~19/25

For

Proposed Construction Works for ZRB Pemba Office

Building at Gombani - Chake Chake - Pemba

Invitation for Tenders

Date: 30th May, 2019.

- This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice (GPN) for Zanzibar Revenue Board that appeared in the Zanzibar Leo of 29th August, 2018 and through ZRB e-procurement Web Portal:zanrevenue.org/eproc/.
- The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar has set aside funds for the operation of Zanzibar Revenue Board (ZRB) during the Financial Year 2018/2019. It is intended that part of the proceeds will be used to cover eligible payments under the contract for the Proposed Construction Works for ZRB Pemba Office Building at Gombani - Chake Chake - Pemba.
- The Zanzibar Revenue Board (ZRB) now invites sealed tenders from eligible Building Contractors Class I for carrying out the Proposed Construction Works for ZRB Pemba Office Building at Gombani - Chake Chake - Pemba. The work will involve the construction of six storey building (B+G+4) and will cover the estimated total built area of 5,387 square meters.
- Tendering will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the Public Procurement (Goods, Works, Consultant Service and Disposal of Public Assets by Tender) Act No.11 of 2016 and are open to all Bidders as defined in the Regulations.
- Interested eligible Tenderers may obtain further information from and inspect the Tendering Documents from 08.00 to 17.00 hours local time Mondays to Fridays except on public holidays at the office of the Secretary of Tender Board,

submission of a written application to the address given under paragraph 5 above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of TZS 200,000.00 (Tanzanian Shillings Two Hundred Thousand Only). Payment should be by bank payable to Zanzibar Revenue Board through the following bank details; Bank name -People Bank of Zanzibar (PBZ) ,A/C Name; Commissioner -Zanzibar Revenue Board and A/C No.02110300475. Also interested eligible bidder may download tender document through ZRB e-procurement Web Portal:zanrevenue.org/eproc/

- All Tenders must be accompanied by a Tender Security in an acceptable form in the amount of TZS 20,000,000.00 (Tanzanian Shillings Twenty Million Only) or freely convertible currencies in case of foreign Tenderers. Tender security shall be a Bank Guarantee in the format provided under Section X of the Tendering from a reputable Bank.
- All tenders in one original plus three copies, properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered to the PMU Office, Second Floor, Room No 209, Zanzibar Revenue Board, Mazizini, P.O. Box 2072, Zanzibar at or before 10.00 hours local time on Monday 15th July, 2019 must be written "Construction Works for ZRB Pemba Office Building at Gombani - Chake Chake - Pemba, NOT OPENED UNTILL ON 15th July, 2019 at 10.00hrs". Tenders will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of Tenderers' representatives who choose to attend at Zanzibar Revenue Board Conference Room.
- Late tenders, portion of tenders, electronic tenders, tenders not received, tenders not opened at the tender opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

Zanzibar Revenue Board,
 P.O. Box 2072,
 Mazizini- Zanzibar.
 Tel: +255 (24) 2230639/233041
 Fax: +255 (24) 2233904
 Email: info@ZRBznz.org
 Website: www.ZRBznz.org.

Commissioner,
Zanzibar Revenue Board,
 P.O. Box 2072,
 Mazizini - Zanzibar.
 Tel: +255 (24) 2230639/233041
 Fax: +255 (24) 2233904
 Email: info@ZRBznz.org
 Website: www.ZRBznz.org.

- A complete set of Tendering Document(s) in English language and additional sets may be purchased by interested Tenderers on the

Plastics pollution: A threat to mankind

PLASTIC pollution is the accumulation of plastic objects such as plastic bottles and much more in the Earth's environment that adversely affects wildlife, wildlife habitat, and humans. Plastics that act as pollutants are categorized into micro-, meso-, or macro debris, based on size. Plastics are inexpensive and durable, and as a result levels of plastic production by humans are high. However, the chemical structure of most plastics renders them resistant to many natural processes of degradation and as a result they are slow to degrade. Together, these two factors have led to a high prominence of plastic pollution in the environment.

Plastic pollution can afflict land, waterways and oceans. It is estimated that 1.1 to 8.8 million metric tons of plastic waste enters the ocean from coastal communities each year. Living organisms, particularly marine animals, can be harmed either by mechanical effects, such as entanglement in plastic objects or problems related to ingestion of plastic waste, or through exposure to chemicals within plastics that interfere with their physiology. Humans are also affected by plastic pollution, such as through disruption of various hormonal mechanisms.

As of 2018, about 380 million tons of plastic is produced worldwide each year. From the 1950s up to 2018, an estimated 6.3 billion tons of plastic has been produced worldwide, of which an estimated 9 per cent has been recycled and another 12 per cent has been incinerated. In the UK alone, more than 5 million tonnes of plastic are consumed each year, of which only an estimated one-quarter is recycled, with the remainder going to landfills. This large amount of plastic waste inevitably enters the environment with studies suggesting that the bodies of 90 per cent of seabirds contain

plastic debris. In some areas there have been significant efforts to reduce the prominence of plastic pollution, through reducing plastic consumption and promoting plastic recycling.

Some researchers suggest that by 2050 there could be more plastic than fish in the oceans by weight.

According to reports Africa is leading the way in eliminating plastic waste with several plastic bag bans in place across the continent, including in countries like Tanzania and Kenya.

Tanzania implemented stage one of its plastic bag ban in 2017, which prohibited the manufacturing and in-country distribution of plastic bags of any kind.

Phase two, which will come into effect on June 1, limits plastic bag usage for tourists. In a statement released recently, the Tanzanian government extended the original ban to tourists, citing Special desk [sic] will be designated at all entry points for surrender [sic] of plastic carrier bags that visitors may be bringing into Tanzania.

The ban does recognize the need for plastic bags in some scenarios, including in the medical, industrial, and construction and agricultural industries, as well as for sanitary and waste management reasons.

"Ziploc" bags used to carry toiletries through airport security are also exempt from the ban, provided travellers take them home again.

Tanzania isn't the only African country to introduce such a ban. Over 30 African countries have adopted similar bans, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa, according to National Geographic.

Kenya has had mixed success with its ban, which was implemented in 2017. The country introduced the strictest punishments, with perpetrators facing up to \$38,000 in fines or four years in prison.

The health risks and negative impacts of marijuana use

CANNABIS, also known as marijuana among other names, is a psychoactive drug from the cannabis plant used for medical or recreational purposes. The main psychoactive part of cannabis is tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), one of 483 known compounds in the plant, including at least 65 other cannabinoids. Cannabis can be used by smoking, vaporizing, within food, or as an extract.

Cannabis has mental and physical effects, such as creating a high or stoned feeling, a general change in perception, heightened mood, and an increase in appetite. Onset of effects is within minutes when smoked, and about 30 to 60 minutes when cooked and eaten. They last for between two and six hours. Short-term side effects may include a decrease in short-term memory, dry mouth, impaired motor skills, red eyes, and feelings of paranoia or anxiety. Long-term side effects may include addiction, decreased mental ability in those who started as teenagers, and behavioral problems in children whose mothers used cannabis during pregnancy. There is a strong relation between cannabis use and the risk of psychosis, though the cause-and-effect is debated.

Cannabis is mostly used for recreation or as a medicinal drug, although it may also be used for spiritual purposes. In 2013, between 128 and 232 million people used cannabis (2.7 pc to 4.9 pc of the global population between the ages of 15 and 65). It is the most commonly used illegal drug both in the world and the United States, though it is also legal in some jurisdictions. The countries with the highest use among adults as of 2018 are Zambia, the United States, Canada, and Nigeria. In 2016, 51 per cent of people in the United States

had used cannabis in their lifetime. The possession, use, and cultivation of cannabis is illegal in most countries of the world.

The UK's New Frontier Data has ranked Tanzania the fifth in Africa, with 3.6 million of its citizens said to take marijuana.

In EAC, Tanzania leads the two other populous nations Kenya with 3.3 million consumers and ranked sixth in Africa while Uganda with 2.6 million consumers is ranked eighth in Africa.

Top consumers in Africa, according to the report, are Nigeria with 20.8 million users, Ethiopia with 7.1 million people, Egypt 5.9 million people and DR Congo taking the fourth slot with 5 million people.

According to the study, Nigeria has the world's highest rate of cannabis use, with 19.4 per cent of its population aged 15 and above having consumed it in the past year.

In 2018, Africa recorded a staggering value of up to \$37 million worth of marijuana consumed on the continent.

New Frontier Data's latest analysis reveals a huge demand for marijuana with more than 260 million adults worldwide consuming cannabis at least once per year. The collectively spending is a staggering US\$344 billion annually.

Asia is the world's largest market due to its geographical size with 39 per cent of the global consumers. There has been a growing trend of countries around the world legalizing the usage of marijuana, especially for medical purposes.

In Africa, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Lesotho and Uganda are among countries that have cleared the medical application of marijuana. Kenya activists have opened a case in the high court to push for its legalisation.

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Address population time bomb in Nigeria

By Correspondent

NEWLY reappointed Governor of Central Bank of Nigeria [CBN] Godwin Emefiele recently expressed worry over the country's rapid population growth rate. He warned that urgent steps must be taken to put policies that would take care of the projected 425 million Nigerians by the year 2050. Emefiele spoke when he appeared for screening before the Senate Committee on Banking, Insurance and Financial Institutions.

He said the impending population explosion and its economic implications would create tough times for Nigerians. Emefiele said, "We just came back from the IMF/World Bank programme in April and in the IMF's/World Bank's World Economic Outlook, Nigeria is positioned as a country whose population will rise to over 425 million people in 2050." That will make Nigeria the third most populous nation after China and India, overtaking the United States of America.

Emefiele painted a gloomy picture of Nigeria in comparison with other countries. He said with the current

rapid population growth rate, there was urgent need for development-driven monetary and economic policies. He said, "We from CBN, from the monetary policy side, have come to the realisation that using the instrumentality of the Anchor Borrowers Programme where access to credit is being provided to our masses all over the country would be a way to generate employment and boost economic activities amongst our rural population."

A report published by Daily Trust in October last year shows that Nigeria's population more than tripled since independence from 45.1 million in 1960 to about 200 million in 2018. The report revealed that Nigeria's population is 2.57 percent of the world's total 7.6 billion people while our population density is 215 per square km, with a land area of 910,770 km².

Vice President Yemi Osinbajo and Minister of Finance Zainab Ahmed both expressed similar worries when they spoke at the Nigeria Economic Summit (NES) in October last year. Osinbajo said the problem of poverty and the attendant deficits in human development indices become more significant because our population

continues to grow at about three percent annually with young people accounting for 60 percent of this population. The Finance Minister, on the other hand, explained how the federal government has been engaging critical stakeholders including traditional and religious leaders to advise their members on child spacing.

Owing to the grave consequences that Nigeria stands to suffer if it fails to properly regulate the country's population growth rate, it would be apt to consider the articulation of appropriate strategies that would slow down the current high rate of population growth as a national emergency. One persuasive and easily sellable approach to checking rapid population growth would be to popularize child spacing, which is an indirect way of limiting a couple's number of children.

Instead of using the term 'birth control', which is widely misconstrued to denote depopulation, child spacing appeals more to the religious and cultural feelings of most Nigerians. Increasing girl-child access to education is another strategy for controlling birth rate. Education will help a married

woman to appreciate the socio-economic challenges associated with having unspaced children. She would, thus, willingly adopt child spacing policy.

Such attendant challenges include exposing a pregnant mother and the un-born child to life-threatening risks, poor quality of life, poverty, destitution and pressure on existing public infrastructure. Government is encouraged to partner with clerics and traditional rulers on child spacing strategy.

Usually, the effects of measures taken to check a socio-economic crisis as critical as demography are only felt after a long period of implementation. This is why it is time for government to intensify advocacy on the child spacing initiative. It would be disastrous to continue to speculate or defer policies needed to control fast-growing population especially one growing exponentially at a rate faster and higher than economic growth. If we do not act now, a time might come when painful measures would be taken such as forced sterilization in India and China's one child per couple policy.

We owe it to ourselves to make Africa a success story

By Phumla Williams

WE continue to see the role of media and communication as central to what we all are striving for in the continent.

We owe it to ourselves to make the continent a success story. The more we trust each other with direct investments the more we are likely to grow and attract foreign direct investments to our continent.

There is something poetic in the fact that South Africa's presidential inauguration falls on May 25, which is also Africa Day. On this day in 1963 all independent African states set aside their differences to form an organisation then known as the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

South Africa was one of the last nations to join this organisation which then became the venue for the birth of the African Union in 2002.

In the midst of organising the presidential inauguration, Government Communication and Information Systems hosted an African Press Attachés Round Table on May 22 2019 at Tshedimotsetso House, the seat of government communication.

This gathering was in line with the resolutions of the African Union Specilised Technical Committee

on Communication and ICT which, amongst others, seeks to promote the work and achievements of integration and inter-continental trading as Africans.

This engagement brought together Africa's press attachés and editors from across the African continent based in South Africa, as well as press officers under the AU banner. As we reflected on the continent's priorities, we noted how far we have come. The dramatic rise of African member states as a significant trading bloc to our country, overtaking Europe in 2013 and on par with Asia since 2014, is a clear indication that South Africa's prosperous future is intertwined with the continent's future.

The economic adviser to President Cyril Ramaphosa, Ms Trudi Makhaya, illustrated how InvestSA is actively collaborating with investment promotion agencies on the continent and have signed Memoranda of Understanding with the Kenyan Investment Authority, the Uganda Investment Authority and GAFI in Egypt. The intention is to foster closer collaboration between these agencies in attracting foreign direct investments to the continent.

Our commitments to the vision of pan-Africanists including Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Julius Nyerere of

Tanzania, Sekou Toure of Guinea and Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, find voice in the growing partnerships between fellow nations on the continent. The implementation of this vision is well illustrated by a series of developments across Africa.

Ms Makhaya informed us that intra-Africa investments have been growing at a compound rate of 32.5 percent. This is impressive! Africa's rising population market of 1.2 billion people is compelling, our story of an integrated Africa with a Gross Domestic Product of more than US\$3.4 trillion is remarkable.

We as African communicators ought to tell the stories, and inform our youth of the vast opportunities that are available across Africa. Knowledge is power and this was reflected in the presentation of Mr Thulani Mavuso, the Acting Director-General of Home Affairs, on innovations which promote and ensure that Africans have free movement to trade, to study and to live in South Africa.

The web based e-Home Affairs system is truly easy, efficient and secure. These interventions have now improved the facilitation of people, movement and goods, making it easier for African tourists, business and academia to come to South Africa.

During the interaction discussions

focussed on the important role that communicators, in partnership with the media, can play to shape perceptions of our continent. In today's world, perception has a price. What is perceived to be real often takes on a life of its own and if we do not promote our continent, its virtues and opportunities we risk opening the door and allowing misperceptions to take hold.

As we commemorate Africa Day with President Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa we should take pride in our achievements as a continent whilst bearing in mind that more needs to be done to realise the full vision of the founding fathers of the AU.

Since its formation, the African Union has strived to build a better, more united and prosperous continent.

The organisation has shifted its focus to ensure economic emancipation and socio-economic development in Africa. It currently leads the promotion of regional and market integration that will see the lowering of transport costs, enable the free movement of goods, services and people, and encourage the optimisation of resources.

We dare not rest until all who call Africa home are empowered to build a better tomorrow, free from injustice, inequality and unemployment.

I volunteered to work for a company for career insights

First let me start by saying that, I had never thought of working without pay but when I learnt how the history of the company's performance and its overall professional image would elevate my career and boost my CV I forgot all the security a monthly wage comes with and actually gave it a try.

Now am not advocating for a college graduate to initially study a company's history and background before volunteering because it's all about what volunteering will get you at the end rather than a company's background footage.

I graduated from college with the very first thought of landing myself a job in an institution with a very attractive wage just like any other normal and likeminded college graduate would look forward to after completing their studies.

I scrolled through several job sites countless times in a day and would tirelessly apply for any job opportunity that popped up, I had by then got shortlisted in like two job applications amongst the several I applied for and neither did I secure any.

I then came across a young man's job search journey on social media which was not only a

story about his struggle and eventual success but also on how he was able to launch two companies after several years of employment after graduating from college and I saw so much sense into it, practical results, career growth and even self-development from his very rare experience and unique initiative he applied throughout his journey and had the dire need of heading down the same road.

Sometimes the road less travelled has indeed the plentiest of treasure.

As crucial as it is to remain positive about job seeking especially for a graduate who is fresh from



college with no experience, it's also important for students to be in a position to learn from working in various institutions regardless of low pay or no

pay at all.

However this requires discipline and commitment that not a majority of college students can pull up.

A young man's story on social media encouraged me to volunteer to work in a banking institution as a volunteering assistant accountant some years



back and I was in the position to gain various career insights

It enabled me to add a valuable referees' list in my CV

Volunteering exposed me professionals in my field of study who I relied upon in doing my daily duties in the field who supervised me and who I built a professional relationship with that I use in my referees' list in my resume to date.

This professionals have an opinion about my skill set, ethical behaviors amongst others.

I have then learnt that if you ever need people to vouch for your skills in your field of study, volunteering will provide you with experienced people who have seen you in action and can recommend you for a job even later when you are called for one. Don't be a plain paper graduate with no skills but instead volunteer to get recommendations and references that could separate you from the rest in the job market

It outlined work experience in my CV

This was the most important strategy in my job search by then, especially when a job advert would make me

quit looking at it twice due to the number of years of experience working in a relevant field one was required to have to apply.

I have come to the realization that its way better to volunteer so as to have a current employer list in your CV which will add higher chances of success of securing the position than having a resume with no experience at all which always leaves recruiters doubting your ability to perform well enough for the advertised role.

I built priceless networks

We have heard it before and I will say it once more, it's not what you know, it's who you know. Volunteering enabled me to grow my network where I was in a position to find out about new positions and be at the forefront of people's minds if they learn of an opportunity.

I have come to learn that, if you don't know many people in your field, then you are at a distinct disadvantage.

Go out there volunteer and meet people and don't just know them by their names but also associate with them professionally.

People are investments, don't forget that.

It kept me busy

Volunteering allowed me to be quite busy and to lift my spirits.

Volunteering prevents you from staying idle at home with nothing to do instead allows you go to work while you develop your skills and practice basics of your field of study.

It listed me on the top if a job was available in the institution

A job would even be created that wouldn't have existed in case there wasn't someone working tirelessly three months straight without pay as a Thank you note to you.

Imagine you are volunteering at a company and suddenly an opportunity pops up, you sure won't go for someone else over you literally!

You have already proven your skills, your dedication and your passion hence will best fit the requirements for the role.

I have since come to learn that, you ought to work hard, show case your skills and always have in mind why you are there in the first place and watch yourself land an opportunity right there. All in all volunteering opened up opportunities for me that I wouldn't know existed if I hadn't made that decision.

Climate finance to support agriculture in Tanzania

By Gerald Kitabu

The government has reaffirmed its commitment in the fight against climate change, including in the plans and allocation of reasonable budget. It is also working out plans to promote and implement climate smart agriculture (CSA) practices and technologies.

Principal Agriculture Officer in the President's Office - Regional Administration and Local government, Dr. Hassan Shelukindo said for this financial year, the government has directed relevant government authorities to make sure that they include climate change in their budget and plans.

He was speaking at stakeholders' validation meeting on promoting climate finance to support agriculture in Tanzania organized by Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI) under the Ministry of agriculture in collaboration with the technical centre for agricultural and rural cooperation (CTA).

"As a country we must take measures. Currently we are looking for funds from different development partners like Global Environmental Fund, Green Climate Fund and others to get more funds that will be directed to local government authorities to address climate change.

He called for other stakeholders and development partners to join hands saying climate change is an issue that require collective efforts from different local and international partners.

Tanzania is one of the countries affected by climate change and this can vividly be seen in rainfall

variability. Acting Assistant Director, Climate Change and Impact Assessment, Vice President's Office, Dr. Freddy Manyika said that as a nation Tanzania has a climate change strategy that started to be implemented since 2014. The aim is to ensure that the effects of climate change are minimized and controlled.

Tanzania is contributing to the global efforts in the fight against climate change although it doesn't contribute much to causing climate change, he said.

Tanzania's economy is largely dependent on socio-economic sectors such as agriculture, water, health, energy, which are highly impacted by climate change. The country is keen on climate financing in agriculture because Agriculture comprises key sub-sectors of crops, livestock, fisheries and forest resources. Agriculture contributes about 95 percent of the national food requirements, generates 30.1 percent of the GDP, and 30 percent of exports earnings, rich base of land and water resources, high crop diversity, rain fed basis, employs 75 percent of the total labor force, therefore climate change influence productivity and livelihood

"For us from the Vice President's Office, we have continued working with other stakeholders to create awareness and to provide education to the general public on climate change and different plans and programs being taken and doing whatever is needed in every sector.

For example, energy sector has a role to play in climate change, with increased energy; people



Acting Assistant Director, Climate Change and Impact Assessment in the Vice President's Office, Dr. Freddy Manyika (left) presenting a paper at stakeholders' validation meeting on promoting climate finance to support agriculture in Tanzania held in Dodoma recently. Photo by Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

will no longer fell trees for biomass energy. Similarly, with reliable energy, the farmers will be able to conserve and process their crops, keep them and use during drought and hunger times. This means the energy sector has a great contribution to ensure agriculture sector grows in a sustainable manner.

The government through the Ministry of energy has put in place short term and long-term plans. For a short term, the government is planning to have 5,000 megawatts by 2020 and 10,000 megawatts by 2025. In accomplishing these plans, the government is currently undertaking the giant hydroelectric power project in Rufiji which is expected to generate 2,100 megawatts at the Rufiji River. The government is also planning to generate

power from gas which is Kinyerezi I extension that is 185 megawatts and now commissions power project at Kinyerezi II which is 240 megawatts. Furthermore, the government is planning to develop power projects at Somanga Fungu which will produce 330 megawatts. Another project is in Mtwara that is 300 megawatts. The government has also recently advertised new projects from coal which is 600 megawatts and wind power project which will produce 200 megawatts, and another one is from Solar power which is 150 megawatts. All these power projects are expected to be implemented by 2020.

The head of Environment Management Unit in the Ministry of Agriculture Shakwaananda Natai said globally climate change (cc) has been the main threat

to all sectors especially economic and productive sectors like agriculture, livestock, fishery, etc.

Through initial and second national communications of 2003 and 2014, Tanzania identifies agriculture as one of the most vulnerable sector to climate change with far-reaching consequences on food security.

In responding to climate variability, Tanzania has taken several measures including formulation of relevant national strategies, sector policies, acts, programs and plans as well as ratifying relevant International Conventions and Frameworks.

Forexample, Tanzania ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1996 and related agreements that followed till the Paris Agreement of

2015.

The Convention and its Paris Agreement emphasize that actions taken to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change in a manner that does not threaten food production.

Tanzania has more than 25 policies related to climate change. These policies are aligned to the National Development Vision 2025 (Mainland) and Vision 2020 (Zanzibar) and Nine (Mainland) and Four (Zanzibar) of these policies directly support implementation of climate smart agriculture (CSA) in Tanzania

Citing an example, she said that National Climate Change Strategy of 2013 presents opportunity to address climate change adaptation and participate in the global efforts to reduce GHG emissions in the context of sustainable development. It also sets out strategic interventions for climate change adaptation measures and greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

The National Agriculture Policy (2013) promotes agricultural practices that sustain the environment through up-scaling of climate smart agriculture (CSA).

Tanzania Agriculture Climate Resilience Plan (ACRP, 2014 - 2019), ensures productivity and food security through four priority actions, agriculture land and water management, up scaling climate smart agriculture, reduction of climate shocks thru risk management and strengthening knowledge and systems targeting climate action.

Commenting on Nationally determined contributions (NDC's),

Natai said that Tanzania prepared and submitted the Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) that mainstreams climate smart agriculture including up-scaling the level of improvement of agricultural land and water management.

Also in the list are to increasing yields through climate smart agriculture, protecting smallholder farmers against climate related shocks, including through crop insurance.

Strengthening the capacity of agricultural research, strengthening knowledge, extension services and agricultural infrastructures to target climate actions and promoting climate change resilient traditional and modern knowledge on sustainable pasture and range management systems.

According to CAADP, the Tanzania CSA Programme (2015 - 2025) and the nationally determined contribution (that is to be implemented by 2030), Tanzania will be supossed by 2030 to transform its agriculture to CSA by almost 80 percent. For the Tanzanian community to transform its business as usual agriculture to CSA by 80 percent, there is a need for support at knowledge and skills level, financial and technical level to support implementation and up-scaling, full private sector involvement as well.

The development partners and other co-financiers should see the importance of continue supporting the efforts of the government of Tanzania in transforming agriculture by deploying climate smart agriculture (CSA) practices and technologies and making it climate smart as well as implementing the respective sustainable development goals (SDGs).

Effects of tobacco on health also impact human lives

BY AGENCIES

World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) is observed around the world every year on 31 May. It is intended to encourage a 24-hour period of abstinence from all forms of tobacco consumption around the globe. The day is further intended to draw attention to the widespread prevalence of tobacco use and to negative health effects, which currently lead to more than 7 million deaths each year worldwide, including 890,000 of which are the result of non-smokers being exposed to second-hand smoke.[1] The member states of the World Health Organization (WHO) created World No Tobacco Day in 1987. In the past twenty one years, the day has been met with both enthusiasm and resistance around the globe from governments, public health organizations, smokers, growers, and the tobacco industry.

- In 1987, the WHO's World Health Assembly passed a resolution for 7 April 1988 to be a world no-smoking day. The objective of the day was to urge tobacco users worldwide to abstain from using tobacco products for 24 hours, an action they hoped would provide assistance for those trying to quit.

- In 1988, resolution was passed by the World Health Assembly, calling for the celebration of World No Tobacco Day, every year on 31 May. Since then, the WHO has supported World No Tobacco Day every year, linking each year to a different tobacco-related theme.

- In 1998, the WHO established the Tobacco Free Initiative (TFI), an attempt to focus international resources and attention on the global health issue of tobacco. The initiative provides assistance for creating global public health policy, encourages mobilization between societies, and supports the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). The WHO FCTC is a global public health treaty adopted in 2003 by countries around the globe as an agreement to implement policies that work towards tobacco cessation.

- In 2008, on the eve of the World No Tobacco Day, the WHO called for a worldwide ban on all tobacco advertising, promotion, and sponsorship. The theme of that year's day was Tobacco-free youth; therefore, this initiative was especially meant to target advertising efforts aimed at youth. According to the WHO, the tobacco industry must replace older quitting or dying smokers with younger consumers. Because of this, marketing strategies are commonly observed in places that will attract youth such as movies, the Internet, billboards, and magazines. Studies have shown that the more youth are exposed to tobacco advertising, the more likely they are to smoke.

- In 2015, WNTD highlighted the health risks associated with tobacco use and advocated for effective policies to reduce tobacco consumption, including ending the illicit trade of tobacco products.[6]

- In 2016, on World No Tobacco Day, held on 31 May, the World Health Organization (WHO) called on governments to get ready for plain packaging of tobacco products.

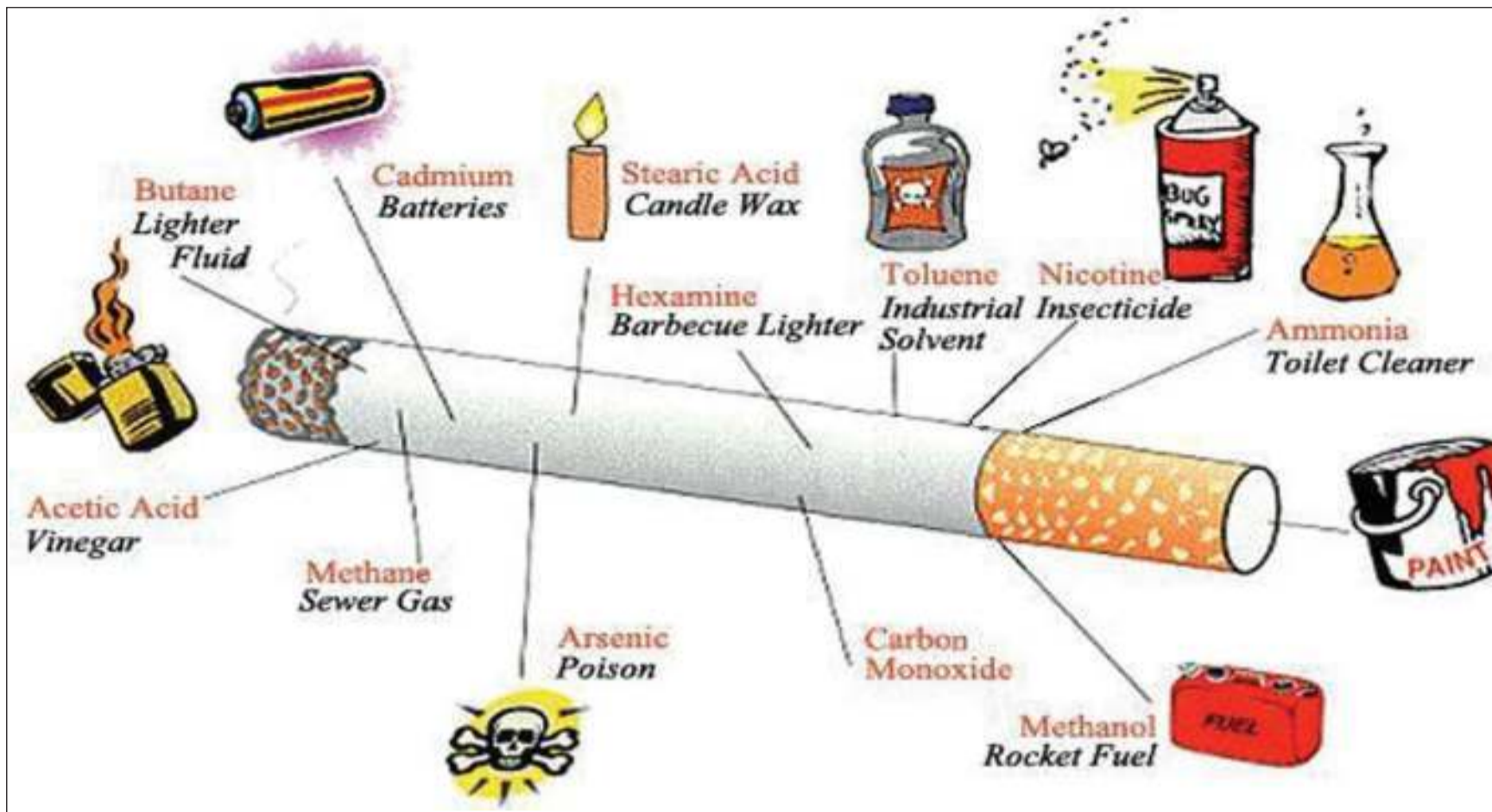
- In 2017, WNTD focused on tobacco as a threat to development. The campaign aims to demonstrate the threats that the tobacco industry poses to sustainable development, including the health and economic well-being of citizens in all countries.

- In 2018, WNTD focused on its theme on "Tobacco Breaks Hearts: Choose health, not tobacco" NoTobacco.

Each year, the WHO selects a theme for the day in order to create a more unified global message for WNTD. This theme then becomes the central component of the WHO's tobacco-related agenda for the following year. The WHO oversees the creation and distribution of publicity materials related to the theme, including brochures, fliers, posters, websites, and press releases.

In many of its WNTD themes and related publicity materials, the WHO emphasizes the idea of "truth." Theme titles such as "Tobacco kills, don't be duped" (2000) and "Tobacco: deadly in any form or disguise" (2006) indicate a WHO belief that individuals may be misled or confused about the true nature of tobacco; the rationale for the 2000 and 2008 WNTD themes identify the marketing strategies and "illusions" created by the tobacco industry as a primary source of this confusion. The WHO's WNTD materials present an alternate understanding of the "facts" as seen from a global public health perspective. WNTD publicity materials provide an "official" interpretation of the most up-to-date tobacco-related research and statistics and provide a common ground from which to formulate anti-tobacco arguments around the world. The theme for World No Tobacco Day 2017 was "Tobacco - a threat to development." In 2018, it is "Tobacco breaks hearts".

The WHO serves as a central hub for



fostering communication and coordinating WNTD events around the world. The WHO website provides a place for groups to share news of their activities, and the organization publishes this information online by country.[15]

Since 1988 the WHO has presented one or more awards to organizations or individuals who have made exceptional contributions to reducing tobacco consumption. World No Tobacco Day Awards are given to individuals from six different world regions (Africa, Americas, Eastern Mediterranean, Europe, South-East Asia, and Western Pacific), and Director-General Special Awards and Recognition Certificates are given to individuals from any region.

Medical students in Jakarta demonstrate against tobacco, Sunday, 30 May 2010, a day before World No Tobacco Day. The action was meant to raise public awareness on negative effect of smoking. Bundaran Hotel Indonesia, Central Jakarta, Indonesia.

Groups around the world – from local clubs to city councils to national governments – are encouraged by the WHO to organize events each year to help communities celebrate World No Tobacco Day in their own way at the local level. Past events have included letter writing campaigns to government officials and local newspapers, marches, public debates, local and national publicity campaigns, anti-tobacco activist meetings, educational programming, and public art.

In addition, many governments use WNTD as the start date for implementing new smoking bans and tobacco control efforts. For example, on 31 May 2008, a section of the Smoke Free Ontario Act came into effect banning tobacco "power walls" and displays at stores in this Canadian province, and all hospitals and government offices in Australia became smoke-free on 31 May 2010.

The day has also been used as a springboard for discussing the current and future state of a country as it relates to tobacco—for example in India which, with 275 million tobacco users, has one of the highest levels of tobacco consumption in the world.

For some, WNTD is seen as a challenge to individual freedom of choice or even a culturally acceptable form of discrimination. From ignoring WNTD, to participating in protests or acts of defiance, to bookending the day with extra rounds of pro-tobacco advertisements and events, smokers, tobacco growers, and the tobacco industry have found ways to make their opinions of the day heard.

There has been no sustained or widespread effort to organize

counter-WNTD events on the part of smokers. However, some small groups, particularly in the United States, have created local pro-smoking events. For example, the Oregon Commentator, an independent conservative journal of opinion published at the University of Oregon, hosted a "Great American Smoke-in" on campus as a counter to the locally more widespread Great American Smokeout: "In response to the ever-increasing vilification of smokers on campus, the Oregon Commentator presents the Great American Smoke-in as an opportunity for students to join together and enjoy the pleasures of fine tobacco products." [21] Similarly, "Americans for Freedom of Choice", a group in Honolulu, Hawaii, organized "World Defiance Day" in response to WNTD and Hawaii's statewide ban on smoking in

Historically, in America the tobacco industry has funded state initiatives that provide resources to help smokers quit smoking as per the Master Settlement Agreement regulated by the U.S. government. For example, Phillip Morris USA operates a website that acts as a guide for those who choose to quit smoking.

World No Tobacco Days have not induced a positive vocal response from the tobacco industry. For example, a memo made publicly available through the Tobacco Archives website was sent out to executives of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company in preparation for the third annual World No Tobacco Day, [25] which had the theme of "Childhood and Youth Without Tobacco". The memo includes a warning about the upcoming day, a document that explains the arguments they anticipate the WHO making, and an explanation of how the company should respond to these claims. For example, in response to the anticipated argument that their advertisements target children, the company's response includes arguments that claim their advertisements are targeted towards adults by using adult models, and that advertisements lack the power to influence what people will actually purchase. In Uganda, since the World No Tobacco Day is the one day that the media is obligated to publicize tobacco control issues, the British American Tobacco company uses the eve of the day to administer counter-publicity. In 2001, their strategy included events such as a visit with the President of the International Tobacco Growers Association.

Unlike the tobacco industry, some major pharmaceutical companies do publicly support WNTD. For example, Pfizer was a large sponsor for many WNTD events in the United Arab Emirates in 2008. At the time, Pfizer was preparing to release its drug Chantix (Varenicline) into

the Middle Eastern market. The drug was "designed to activate the nicotinic receptor to reduce both the severity of the smoker's craving and the withdrawal symptoms from nicotine."

Many tobacco growers feel that anti-tobacco efforts by organizations such as the WHO jeopardize their rights. For example, the International Tobacco Growers Association (ITGA) argues that poor farmers in Africa may suffer the consequences if WHO anti-tobacco movements succeed. They also argue that these efforts may gang up on manufacturers of tobacco and be an attack on the industry, therefore hurting the growers.

As some traditions and ceremonies of a number of cultures and ethnicities of Native Americans in the United States and First Nations in North America have been based on tobacco since pre-Columbian times, some potential for unintended abrogation of such traditions may exist from authorities seeking to eliminate tobacco from worldwide use - traditions of non-combustive use of tobacco for some forms of indigenous American ceremonial purposes have begun to be used for cessation of cigarette use among indigenous tribal members, while members of the Oglala Lakota have had their struggles to retain important historic tribal artifacts used for tobacco's traditional role in their ethnicity's traditions, to prevent their illegal sale. It is possible that a 2015 survey from Health Canada concerning future tobacco control legislation in Canada, having a section requesting advice from indigenous peoples within Canada, showed the potential of concern over such issues.

Tobacco is a product prepared from the leaves of the tobacco plant by curing them. The plant is part of the genus *Nicotiana* and of the Solanaceae (nightshade) family. While more than 70 species of tobacco are known, the chief commercial crop is *N. tabacum*. The more potent variant *N. rustica* is also used around the world.

Tobacco contains the alkaloid nicotine, which is a stimulant, and harmful alkaloids. Dried tobacco leaves are mainly used for smoking in cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, and flavored shisha tobacco. They can also be consumed as snuff, chewing tobacco, dipping tobacco and snus.

Tobacco use is a risk factor for many diseases; especially those affecting the heart, liver, and lungs, as well as many cancers. In 2008, the World Health Organization named tobacco as the world's single greatest preventable cause of death.

Etymology

The English word "tobacco" originates from the Spanish and Portuguese word "tabaco". The precise origin of this word is disputed, but it is generally thought to have derived at least in part, from Taino, the Arawakan language of the Caribbean. In Taino, it was said to mean either a roll of tobacco leaves (according to Bartolomé de las Casas, 1552) or to tabago, a kind of L-shaped pipe used for sniffing tobacco smoke (according to Oviedo; with the leaves themselves being referred to as *cohiba*).

However, perhaps coincidentally, similar words in Spanish, Portuguese and Italian were used from 1410 to define medicinal herbs believed to have originated from the Arabic word reportedly dating to the 9th century, as a name for various herbs.

History

Tobacco has long been used in the Americas, with some cultivation sites in Mexico dating back to 1400-1000 BC. Many Native American tribes have traditionally grown and used tobacco. Eastern North American tribes historically carried tobacco in pouches as a readily accepted trade item, as well as smoking it, both socially and ceremonially, such as to seal a peace treaty or trade agreement. In some populations, tobacco is seen as a gift from the Creator, with the ceremonial tobacco smoke carrying one's thoughts and prayers to the Creator.

Popularization

Following the arrival of the Europeans to the Americas, tobacco became increasingly popular as a trade item. Hernández de Boncalo, Spanish chronicler of the Indies, was the first European to bring tobacco seeds to the Old World in 1559 following orders of King Philip II of Spain. These seeds were planted in the outskirts of Toledo, more specifically in an area known as "Los Cigarrales" named after the continuous plagues of cicadas (cigarras in Spanish). Before the development of the lighter Virginia and white burley strains of tobacco, the smoke was too harsh to be inhaled. Small quantities were smoked at a time, using a pipe like the midwakh or kiseru or smoking newly invented waterpipes such as the bong or the hookah (see *tu c liao* for a modern continuance of this practice). Tobacco became so popular that the English colony of Jamestown used it as currency and began exporting it as a cash crop; tobacco is often credited as being the export that saved Virginia from ruin.

The alleged benefits of tobacco also account for its considerable success. The astronomer Thomas Harriot, who accompanied Sir

Richard Grenville on his 1585 expedition to Roanoke Island, explains that the plant "openeth all the pores and passages of the body" so that the natives' "bodies are notably preserved in health, and know not many grievous diseases, wherewithal we in England are often times afflicted."

Tobacco smoking, chewing, and snuffing became a major industry in Europe and its colonies by 1700.

Tobacco has been a major cash crop in Cuba and in other parts of the Caribbean since the 18th century. Cuban cigars are world-famous.

In the late 19th century, cigarettes became popular. James Bonsack created a machine that automated cigarette production. This increase in production allowed tremendous growth in the tobacco industry until the health revelations of the late-20th century.

Contemporary

Following the scientific revelations of the mid-20th century, tobacco became condemned as a health hazard, and eventually became encompassed as a cause for cancer, as well as other respiratory and circulatory diseases. In the United States, this led to the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement, which settled the lawsuit in exchange for a combination of yearly payments to the states and voluntary restrictions on advertising and marketing of tobacco products.

In the 1970s, Brown & Williamson cross-bred a strain of tobacco to produce Y1. This strain of tobacco contained an unusually high amount of nicotine, nearly doubling its content from 3.2-3.5 pc to 6.5 pc. In the 1990s, this prompted the Food and Drug Administration to use this strain as evidence that tobacco companies were intentionally manipulating the nicotine content of cigarettes.

In 2003, in response to growth of tobacco use in developing countries, the World Health Organization successfully rallied 168 countries to sign the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. The convention is designed to push for effective legislation and its enforcement in all countries to reduce the harmful effects of tobacco. This led to the development of tobacco cessation products.

Biology

Many species of tobacco are in the genus of herbs *Nicotiana*. It is part of the nightshade family (Solanaceae) indigenous to North and South America, Australia, south west Africa, and the South Pacific. Most nightshades contain varying amounts of nicotine, a powerful neurotoxin to insects. However, tobaccos tend to contain a much higher concentration of nicotine than the others. Unlike many other Solanaceae species, they do not contain tropane alkaloids, which are often poisonous to humans and other animals.

Despite containing enough nicotine and other compounds such as germacrene and anabasine and other piperidine alkaloids (varying between species) to deter most herbivores, a number of such animals have evolved the ability to feed on *Nicotiana* species without being harmed. Nonetheless, tobacco is unpalatable to many species due to its other attributes. For example, although the cabbage looper is a generalist pest, tobacco's gummosis and trichomes can harm early larvae survival. As a result, some tobacco plants (chiefly *N. glauca*) have become established as invasive weeds in some places.

Alpha initiative closing gender gap and extending borders in sub-Saharan Africa

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

ZOETIS' African Livestock Productivity and Health Advancement (ALPHA) initiative is increasing access to animal health education and infrastructure in its second year.

Following the success of ALPHA in Uganda, Nigeria and Ethiopia, the initiative was extended by two years, and will now run until 2022. It was also geographically expanded into Tanzania. The initiative has also placed a special emphasis on providing equal access to animal health training for women.

"Animal health is extremely important in contributing to sustainable economic development goals and business opportunities in Africa," said Clint Lewis, EVP and Group President at Zoetis.

"Farming and animal agriculture are major forms of livelihood for people in sub-Saharan Africa. By improving access to critical veterinary products and services, and building an infrastructure for quality animal healthcare, we can make a positive long-term impact."

Sub-Saharan Africa is home to some of the largest livestock populations in the world - and the highest density of impoverished livestock farmers.

Livestock is an essential asset to rural communities: improving its

health, and the productivity of farmers are critical to achieving food security in areas of exceptionally high animal and human disease incidence.

Wider access to education for smallholder farmers and women

The initiative, which has been funded by a \$14 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, is helping farmers by providing training on animal nutrition, disease detection and other animal health issues. Because women play a key role in the region's small farms, ALPHA works to ensure gender balance in these trainings to transform the livestock sector and society more widely. In sub-Saharan Africa, women are often responsible for daily animal care, including feeding and cleaning, so training and educating them about animal nutrition and disease detection can improve farm productivity.

"The role of women is increasingly important for sustainable development in Sub-Saharan Africa. In Uganda, half of the people trained under the ALPHA initiative in Uganda are women," said Dr Baluka Sylvia Angubua, President of the Ugandan Veterinary Medical Association.

"This is in stark contrast to general ratios in veterinary classes in sub-Saharan Africa, where the majority are men, even though the number

of women participating in livestock is on the increase.

"On small farms in the region, women are usually the ones who must ensure the daily care of animals, including feeding and cleaning. Training them on animal nutrition, diagnosing diseases and other animal health issues, improves farm productivity and livelihoods, and ultimately the wider economy."

Over 1,000 farmers, 610 farmers' trainers, and 300 veterinarians and feed millers received specialised training. In Uganda, over half of the training participants were female. An estimated 97,500 smallholder farmers benefited from training thanks to a train-the-trainer approach.

Geographic extension to Tanzania This year, the ALPHA initiative expanded its scope to Tanzania, which is home to 11 percent of the African cattle population. The majority of farmers and animal keepers in Tanzania continue to operate in a very traditional way and this is also reflected in veterinary care. Although there is a well-established veterinary network and several veterinary colleges in Tanzania, the teaching approach and level of animal care has struggled to keep pace with technological and medical developments.



DTB-Tanzania customers in Tanga city fast breaking during an Iftar dinner held over the weekend at Tanga Beach Resort and Spa. The event which was attended by more than 300 customers was graced by the Chief Sheikh of Tanga, Alhaji Juma Luwuchu. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Community radio practitioners challenged on teen pregnancy

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

COMMUNITY radio practitioners have been called to use a social cultural approach to change the mindset of community members to reduce prevalence of child marriage, teen pregnancy and Female Genital Mutilation as the vices are to the detriment of girls' rights.

Tirso Dos Santos, head of UNESCO and representative to Tanzania made the call in Dodoma on Tuesday while officiating a five days training to 51 community radio practitioners from 25 community radios.

"The 2018 Educational Statistical Report indicates that in 2017, 6,483 girls dropped out of school due to pregnancies. Teenage pregnancy is a major health concern because of its association with higher morbidity and mortality for both the mother and child. Childbearing during the teenage years frequently has adverse social consequences, particularly for education attainment as women who become mothers in their teens are more likely to curtail their education," said Tirso.

For his part, Francis Msungu, Deputy Executive Secretary for NATCOM called upon community radio practitioners to utilize their radios to promote peace and development.

Commenting on the training, Therezia Thomas, a radio practitioner from Mazingira FM in Mara said it would enable her to use statistics in reporting on issues such as teen pregnancy in secondary schools.

"We have been taught on how to use data in our reporting. Using statistics in our programmes will enable the community to understand the magnitude of the problem and thus find means to mitigate it. The training will also help us to prepare quality programmes which address community issues more and we will not only use quotes as we will have

data to back up our programmes," said Therezia.

Furaha Hamad, a community radio practitioner from Triple A FM in Arusha said the training will increase her awareness in reporting on community programs inclusive of sexual reproductive health to girls.

"The training will enable me to prepare programs with approved statistics instead of only quoting medical practitioners with nothing to back up. I also believe that using the appropriate data will spare us the hassle of getting in trouble with authorities which have been occurring due to use of unapproved statistics as we will be in line with national approved data," said Furaha.

UNESCO in close collaboration with Dodoma FM and technical support from the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children is conducting the session to enhance knowledge of community radio practitioners in designing effective and interactive programs in Sexuality & Reproductive Health (SRH), HIV and AIDS, Gender based Violence (Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Girls Education).

Specifically, the training will focus on developing capacity of community radios in particular addressing sexual behaviors that elevate risk of HIV infection, Early & Unintended Pregnancy and Gender Based Violence amongst adolescents and young people in Tanzania through interactive radio programs in line with relevant national SBCC strategies. The list of UNESCO supported CRs under the SDC project in attendance with regions in brackets are Boma Hai (Kilimanjaro), Tripple A and Loliondo (Arusha), ORS (Manyara), Pangani (Tanga), Pambazuko (Morogoro), Nuru (Iringa), Kitulo (Njombe), Ileje (Songwe) and Chai (Mbeya). Others are Dodoma (Dodoma), Kahama (Shinyanga), Sen-

gerema (Mwanza), Storm (Geita), Mazingira (Mara), Kwizera (Kagera), Uvinza (Kigoma), Mpanda (Katavi), Jamii and Fadhila (M-

wara), Ruangwa (Lindi), Mtegani (Unguja South), Tumbatu (Unguja North), Mkoani (Pemba South) and Micheweni (Pemba North).

The capacity-building program has been made possible through funding from SDC, SIDA and KOICA.



A furniture vendor scouts the city's environs hunting for customers along Uhuru Street in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Selemani Mpocho

Chinese footfalls surged after Touchroad International's MoU with Tanzania, Zimbabwe

By Special Correspondent, Harare

TANZANIA and Zimbabwe have recently witnessed a boost in Chinese tourist traffic.

The two African countries welcomed a contingent of over 300 Chinese tourists that toured Tanzania, Djibouti and Zimbabwe respectively.

The Chinese delegation that included business people, journalists and leisure tourists, came to Africa following efforts by the Zimbabwean and Tanzanian governments to augment numbers of tourists from the Asian continent.

A partnership was recently signed between Touchroad International Holdings, a Chinese company and Tanzanian government in the previous year. This agreement is now helping to increase the Chinese footfalls into the East African country.

Alternatively, Zimbabwe also inked a similar agreement with the same Chinese company in April 2018. The two Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries are about to receive a total of 10,000 Chinese tourists within a period

of five years.

The first group among the 10 000 expected Chinese tourists arrived in Africa on May 14 and toured Tanzania, Djibouti then finished their tour in Zimbabwe, where they spent three days touring the country's most historical places as well as conducting a business conference with Zimbabwean business people and government officials, as reported by The Southern Times.

The relationship between the Chinese and the African states were set to yield great results that will not only boost the tourism sector but even economies, according to Prisca Mupfumira, Zimbabwe's Environment, Tourism and Hospitality Minister.

"This historic visit highlights the yield of tangible results from the strategic comprehensive partnership emanating from the MoU signed between the Ministry of Environment, Tourism and Hospitality Industry and the Touchroad International Holdings group from China. This is not a once off visit of such groups to Africa, we are expecting more groups coming to Zimbabwe, targeting about 10,000 Chinese arrivals through this initiative," Prisca Mupfumira said.

Mangu engages Rwandan tour operators on working together

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIAN ambassador to Rwanda Ernest Mangu is engaging tour operators from both countries to create synergies, in his latest efforts to pursue economic diplomacy.

The scope of economic diplomacy can encompass the all of the main international economic activities of a state including, but not limited to, policy decisions designed to influence exports, imports, investments, lending, aid, free trade agreements.

Rwanda with few tourist attractions, compared to Tanzania, is touted as the top destination in the region for conference tourism, targeting \$74 million this year, up from \$52 million earned a year

back.

"As an envoy with an economic diplomacy policy in my mind and heart, I saw this as a great opportunity. I'm talking with the tour operators from both sides to exchange tourists for mutual benefits," said ambassador Mangu.

The diplomat, who is the former Inspector General of Police (IGP), said that it is easier to convince delegates attending a conference in Kigali to visit Tanzania's flagship national parks like Serengeti, Mount Kilimanjaro and Ngorongoro Crater than from Europe or America.

Indeed, Tanzania tour operators and Rwanda recently agreed to jointly market the two countries as complementary destinations with an eye to offering

the tourist's conference package with an adventure in sprawling national parks.

The Tanzania Association of Tour Operators (TATO) and Rwanda Tours and Travel Association (RTTA) sealed the deal on behalf of the tour operators from both countries after familiarization trips to visit each nation's endowed tourist allures.

"The key objective of TATO and RTTA strategic partnership is to increase the length of stay of tourists visiting the two countries as we have the comparative advantage of the complementarity of tourist products", TATO CEO, Sirili Akko.

Recently, Tour operators from both countries engaged in a Business-to-

Business (B2B) networking event in Kigali, Rwanda, where they deliberated the opportunities, after Tanzania tour operators had visited various tourist sites. TATO members who were led by its Vice-Chairman, Henry Kimambo, visited Volcano National Park with mountain gorillas, did kayaking and boat riding on Lake Kivu and canopy walkway in the Nyungwe Forest, among other tourism spots visited, as part of their mission to explore tourist products in Rwanda.

"We are hopeful, it will be a fruitful partnership. Tourism is a new frontier to move the African continent out of poverty because it is a key employer and a sector with a very long value chain. East African countries, particu-

larly Tanzania and Rwanda, have a very key synergy because we do not have the same products which mean there is complementarity of the products," Sirili underlined.

The Vice-chairperson of Rwanda Tours and Travel Association (RTTA), Gina Chetan Karsan said that the partnership has become a reality since both tour operators have been able to visit either side as a way of familiarization of both countries and the tourism products.

"I have no doubt that Tanzania and Rwanda will witness positive results in the near future, thanks to the partnership aims at boosting tourism businesses between the two countries," Karsan said at the end of their fam trip in Tan-

zania recently.

Tanzania's earnings from tourism jumped 713 per cent in 2018, helped by an increase in arrivals from foreign visitors, the government has said.

Tourism is the main source of hard currency in Tanzania, best known for its beaches, wildlife safaris and Mount Kilimanjaro.

Revenues from tourism fetched \$2.43 billion for the year, up from \$2.19 billion in 2017, Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa said in a presentation to parliament.

Tourist arrivals totalled 1.49 million in 2018, compared with 1.33 million a year ago, Majaliwa said.

President John Magufuli's government said it wants to bring in 2 million visitors a year by 2020.

Resetting the Ebola response in Congo means trusting the people affected

After more than 1,240 deaths since the Ebola outbreak was declared in the Democratic Republic of Congo last August, international agencies and partners are calling for a reset in the Ebola response - requiring the adoption of a strengthened strategy centred on community ownership.

This is an important move, drawing on lessons from the 2013-2016 West African Ebola outbreak in which local community initiatives, learning, and action - supported by more respectful engagement from outside agencies - proved key to controlling it.

Yet how, in practice, to bring about this shift to community ownership is a pressing but unanswered challenge.

The affected provinces of North Kivu and Ituri have been subjected to years of conflict and escalating violence (including against response workers) - ongoing distrust and the circulation of mis- and dis-information are hindering efforts to bring the outbreak under control and avoid its spread to neighbouring countries.

Although some people in the affected areas still suggest that Ebola is not 'real', most do not question its existence but ask why it continues to spread. People see themselves as 'doing their part' to contain Ebola - washing their hands, agreeing to culturally sensitive but medically safe burials - and now question the motives of response teams. They view the significant financial and technical resources mobilised around Ebola

as being at odds with the progress of the response. Some question whether financial interests and political agendas dampen the response's commitment to ending the outbreak, and frustrations are expressed when response teams attribute the spread of the outbreak to a lack of community buy-in.

In the context of North Kivu, ownership must go beyond conventional understandings of 'community': the population is highly fragmented, with shifting allegiances to a range of state and local authorities and non-state actors. People in the affected areas repeatedly emphasise the need to avoid empowering certain individuals or population groups at the expense of others, and to build trust across the numerous different population factions, particularly by adjusting response activities in light of local feedback.

Critical roles for socio-cultural knowledge

The Social Science in Humanitarian Action Platform, a partnership between the Institute of Development Studies and Anthropologica with support from UNICEF, the Wellcome Trust, DFID and others, is mobilising networks of anthropologists, social scientists, and DRC experts to provide sociocultural and local context analysis that can be used in the design of effective and appropriate strategies to tackle the outbreak.

By understanding the origins of violent attacks against health workers and distrust in state authorities and international agencies,



responders are better placed to develop strategies to mitigate these risks. By understanding where, how, and from whom different social groups seek healthcare, the everyday social, economic, political, and livelihood interactions that are significant to different people, and who they turn to for advice and reassurance, the on-the-ground realities of 'communities' come into view, informing a more inclusive response.

Listening to communities

Across the response, an enhanced strategy of community engagement must deliver on repeated local requests for more

in-depth knowledge about Ebola, the response, and treatment procedures. Local actors continue to affirm that improved information flows can de-escalate more politicised views of Ebola. Communities suggest more (facilitated discussion) forums in which they can ask questions and receive further detailed information about the virus, its treatment, vaccination, and response activities. Actors both opposing the response as well as those supporting it call for greater civilian access to laboratories and treatment centres in order to build familiarity with procedures

used. Given the environment of distrust, granting more direct access will help to overcome 'fear of the unknown' and can constructively dispel misinformation.

Although the recent attacks are highly visible, communities continue to make repeated attempts to communicate peacefully with the government and national and international responders. Community members circulate announcements and situation reports from the WHO and other agencies via WhatsApp, demonstrating a determination to keep apprised of response

activities. This level of engagement is positive and should be maximised. It should be the basis for the reset.

Adopting a community-centred approach

As suspected Ebola cases continue to go under-reported, people continue to present late at health facilities and treatment units, and those who are untreated continue to die at home, it is only through strengthening community-based surveillance and locally led response actions that the outbreak will be controlled.

In emphasising local ownership, stakeholders have

suggested that positive incentives for community members to support the response would be welcome. These should not be in the form of individual financial remuneration, but suggestions include promoting a "best prevention prize" to award community groups, neighbourhoods, or villages who effectively support (and contribute to) the Ebola response. While such initiatives might appear marginal, their localised impact can be significant. During the earlier Ebola outbreak in Liberia, a similar initiative to provide communities with resources to implement their own projects for prevention and response was successful. In North Kivu, changing the approach to instigate broader community-level incentives may also help reduce suspicions regarding the perceived flow of Ebola money and power to the benefit of some individuals but at the expense of others.

Building capacities at the local level is, however, only part of the solution.

'Trust' works both ways. It is impressed on communities that they must trust the response, but it is vital that the response trusts communities. In North Kivu this is made more challenging due to the ongoing insecurity and attacks against response workers. But creating more space to enable meaningful community participation in this context is urgently needed.

This will not be an easy reset, but it is essential if the current outbreak is to come to an end.

Tanzania to send Kiswahili teachers to South Sudan

By Kylie Kiunguyu and Guardian Reporter

South Sudan and Tanzania have signed a five-year deal that will see Tanzania sending Kiswahili teachers to Africa's newest nation.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by Tanzania's Minister of Education, Science and Technology, Professor Joyce Ndalichako, and South Sudan's Minister of Education, Deng Deng Hoc Yai, in Dodoma City, Tanzania. The five-year deal will see Tanzania sending Kiswahili teachers to Africa's newest nation.

South Sudan joined the East African Community (EAC) in April 2016. The EAC has Kiswahili as its official language and member states have adopted Kiswahili as one of the official languages of their countries. Kiswahili is spoken in Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda. South Sudan's Minister of Education said, "Since South Sudan is part of East Africa, there is a need to teach Kiswahili in the country for easy communication with other member states."

South Sudan is not the only country that has shown an interest in adopting Kiswahili as part of its curriculum. In September 2018, South Africa incorporated Kiswahili as its first optional foreign African language in its school curriculum. Julius Malema, leader of the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), an opposition political party, also stated in August 2018 that there was a need for Kiswahili to be adopted as Africa's common language. According to newspapers in the country, Tanzania was ready to send teachers to teach Kiswahili.

Tanzanian teachers will fly to Juba to teach Kiswahili in the proposed deal. Professor Ndalichako said, "We are more than ready to help our East

African neighbours in their quest to master the language. As we speak, we are expecting our teachers to go to South Sudan." The minister added that Kiswahili textbooks from Tanzania will also be sent to South Sudan. At present, Tanzania is waiting for further communication from Juba on when to start sending the teachers.

In the same vein, Kenya and South Africa have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide a foundation for the introduction of Kiswahili as an elective language in the South African educational system. This is South Africa's next step in fully integrating Kiswahili as an indigenous language to promote unity and social cohesion with fellow Africans.

In 2018 South Africa's Minister of Education, Angie Motshekga, said that South Africa intended to teach Kiswahili in schools as an optional language to promote unity and "social cohesion with fellow Africans". This is part of a broader movement among many African countries who are looking to reform and critically assess their education systems when it comes to language teaching.

Indigenous languages have been phased out over time in favour of foreign languages. The reason given was to keep the African student "current" and capable of navigating on a global scale. Now governments are questioning the wisdom in dispensing of indigenous languages in school curriculums and inadvertently fuelling their extinction.

Among the African countries rectifying the situation and going on to embrace Kiswahili as a potentially continental language is South Africa. On behalf of her government, Minister Motshekga recently visited Kenya to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Kenyan

Education Cabinet Secretary George Magoha that Kenya will help facilitate the introduction of Kiswahili in South African schools.

According to a number of Kenyan publications, the agreement will provide a basis for the two countries to share technical capabilities in education and a mutual exchange of intellectual capital. This may mean availability of teaching jobs in South Africa for Kenyan educators in the coming years.

Following the signing, Motshekga said, "The MoU will make it possible for learners in South African to take up Kiswahili as an optional language besides French and Portuguese."

Motshekga also praised the steps Kenya has taken in digitising its education system. "Kenya's Digital Learning Programme has the potential to address gaps in skills between learners, apart from addressing the problem of teacher shortages," she said.

South African schools will teach Kiswahili alongside languages such as Mandarin, French and German. Should other African countries follow suit to incorporate Kiswahili into their school curriculum?

South Africa is the latest country on the continent to make Kiswahili a language that will be offered in public schools. Minister of Basic Education Angie Motshekga announced that Kiswahili has been approved as a second language that will be taught in South African schools. Although Kiswahili does not have the privilege of being listed as an official language in South Africa unlike Kenya, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo and Tanzania, it is a step forward in getting the language widely spoken.

Motshekga told Sowetan Live, "This was approved by the Council of Education Ministers (CEM). There are currently 15 nonofficial languages



South Sudan's Minister of Education Deng Deng Hoc Yai (L) and Tanzania's Minister of Education, Science and Technology, Professor Joyce Ndalichako signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that will see Tanzania sending its teachers to teach Kiswahili in South Sudan

listed in the national curriculum statement as optional subjects. These include French, German and Mandarin. There is unfortunately no African language in the list of languages. Kiswahili is a bantu language with lexical and linguistic similarities with many African languages spoken in the continent. Kiswahili, like Zulu and many other South African languages, is an agglutinating language and shares many similar features in word formation, and grammatical structure. Kiswahili has a large Bantu lexicography, similarly found in iZulu, iXhosa and other languages. Words like awethu have the Kiswahili equivalent of wetu.

Recently, South African politician and leader of the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) Julius Malema called for Kiswahili to be made Africa's common language. The reaction to that suggestion was mixed, some opposed, but many seemed to go with it. The minister further said, "Kiswahili has the power to expand to countries that never spoke it and

has the power to bring Africans together. It is also one of the official languages of the African Union. We are confident that the teaching of Kiswahili in South African schools will help to promote social cohesion with our fellow Africans."

With such positive steps in the education sector, Kiswahili could gain ground on the continent and become the continent's lingua franca.

Swahili, also known as Kiswahili, is a Bantu language and the first language of the Swahili people. It is a lingua franca of the African Great Lakes region and other parts of eastern and south-eastern Africa, including Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Mozambique, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Comorian, spoken in the Comoros Islands is sometimes considered to be a dialect of Swahili, though other authorities consider it a distinct language.

The exact number of Swahili speakers, be it native or second-language speakers, is unknown and a matter of debate. Various estimates

have been put forward and they vary widely, ranging from 50 million to 100 million. Swahili serves as a national language of four nations: Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, and the DRC. Shikomor, the official language in Comoros and also spoken in Mayotte (Shimaore), is related to Swahili. Swahili is also one of the working languages of the African Union and officially recognised as a lingua franca of the East African Community. In 2018 South Africa legalized the teaching of Swahili in South African schools as an optional subject to begin in 2020.

A significant fraction of Swahili vocabulary derives from Arabic, in part conveyed by Arabic-speaking Muslim inhabitants. For example, the Swahili word for "book" is kitabu, traceable back to the Arabic word kit b (from the root k-t-b "write"). However, the Swahili plural form of this word ("books") is vitabu, rather than the Arabic plural form kutub, following the Bantu grammar in which ki- is realigned as a nominal class prefix, whose plural is vi



Thursday 30 May 2019

Stanbic IBTC launches Africa-China Agent Value Proposition

LAGOS

Stanbic IBTC Bank has launched an Africa-China Agent Proposition (ACAP) which aims to assist Nigerian importers source and validate quality goods, safely and efficiently, from the most competitive suppliers in China.

The ACAP offering is expected to revolutionise African importers' view of China's supplier universe. It will also ease the cash flow of African importers by providing access to financing while empowering importers with sight and control of the entire importing and logistics process.

The offering, which is expected to connect African importers and Chinese exporters and open China to Africa, was officially launched in Nigeria on Tuesday and will also be launched in Ghana and South Africa with other markets in Standard Bank's African footprint to follow before the end of 2019.

Currently, Nigerian importers order from only a handful of trusted Chinese suppliers. This limits the negotiating power of African importers while stacking the terms of trade against them. While ordering online provides access to a wider range of suppliers, online imports cannot guarantee the quality of goods.

In most cases too, advance payments for goods are required. This is often demanded in cash, without reciprocal guarantees of delivery or quality. This means that Nigerian importers often carry a disproportionate burden of risk in most transactions. Language and cultural barriers are also a challenge for African importers when traveling and negotiating supplier agreements in China.

In response to these challenges, and in light of the vast opportunity that China presents as a trading partner, Standard Bank, the biggest bank in Africa, has leveraged its partnership with the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), the biggest bank in the world, to connect African importers with a dedicated trade agent in China.

"The ACAP offering- underpinned by a letter of credit- will deepen trust in Africa-China trade relationships, guaranteeing African importers access to the best suppliers in China, the best payment terms and the best quality," said Dr. Manessah Alagbaoso, Head, Africa China Integration, Standard Bank.

If any of the terms of the letter of credit are not met, payment will not be made. As such, the offering will, "place African importers in a much stronger negotiating position when it comes to the price, quality and efficiency of importing Chinese goods," stated Dr. Alagbaoso. At the same time, "Chinese suppliers can be confident that once the terms of the letter of credit have been met, payment will be made in full and on time - guaranteed by Stanbic IBTC Bank or Standard Bank and ICBC," added Dr. Alagbaoso.

In his remarks, Chief Executive, Stanbic IBTC Bank PLC, Dr. Demola Sogunle, reaffirmed the bank's objective of constantly exploring opportunities of adding significant value to the businesses of its customers. "Stanbic IBTC has established market leadership in several financial services segments, and our ultimate goal is to continually leverage on our connections, knowledge and experience in delivering impeccable service and value that would similarly make our customers not just get ahead but emerge leaders in their respective business segments and ACAP is another of such enablers", said Sogunle.

Zhejiang International Trading Supply Chain Co. Ltd (Guomao) is the first Chinese Trade Agent nominated by ICBC to partner with Standard Bank to assist African importers trade seamlessly with China. "Guomao currently has almost 10 000 suppliers that meet the import needs of our clients," says Dr. Alagbaoso.

Where the need of a client falls outside of the supplier base that Guomao currently has, they will source new suppliers for that need after going through a process of new supplier validation and verification.

Guomao will assist Nigerian importers with services such as source the right suppliers, negotiate the best prices and trade conditions, arrange for African importers to travel to China and meet with a broad range of suppliers, provide translators to facilitate trade negotiations and discussions and source and validate the quality of goods.



DCB Commercial Bank Plc's Business Director, James Ngaluko (3rd L) addressing journalists during the launch of the bank's upfront fixed deposit product dubbed 'DCB Lamba Kwanza' in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Looking on from left are: Temeke Branch Manager, Anna Kasyupa, Head of Marketing and Communications, Rahma Ngassa, Digital Accounts Manager, Fredrick Mwakitwange and Magomeni Branch Manager, Fortunata Benedict. Photo: courtesy of DCB.

DCB's fixed deposit account to pay 14pc interest monthly

By Francis Kajubi

A new fixed deposit account paying 14 percent interest rate per annum which can be claimed every month by holders has been introduced in the market by DCB Commercial Bank Plc.

Christened DCB 'Lamba Kwanza,' the account, the first of its kind in the market

is a special product that covers between three to 24 months with options to get interest monthly, annually or at the end of the two year period.

"The account allows you to receive interest at your convenience as it is broken down into monthly installments to enable you have it at the beginning of every month." DCB's Director of Business,

James Ngaluko said in Dar es Salaam earlier this week when the account was officially introduced. According to him, the bank's existing customers are also invited to open the account.

"The account is free from monthly charges and no cost is incurred in opening it and with monthly interest payment it's like we are paying you a monthly salary. This is a no stress account

as holders shall be paid as employees," Ngaluko added. DCB Commercial Bank Plc is a listed company with an additional 36.6 million rights issue shares added to its stock at Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) two weeks ago. DCB Bank Plc started selling its shares to its shareholders and the public in November 2018 seeking to increase its capital.

Ngaluko said the new fixed deposit account is one of the many products that the bank will introduce in the market this year as it leverages on its increased capital based and new found momentum which saw it post a 1bn/- net profit last year.

The bank which is jointly owned by Dar es Salaam's municipalities and the public plans to increase its

customer base from the current 175,204 to 300,000 customers by 2022 with targeted gross profit of 1.6bn/- in 2018.

The bank said in its annual report dated March 2019 that the success from the previous year's loss was a result of reduced operational costs, improved efficiency and reign in bad loans.

Barclays CEO's annual pay hits Sh100 million

NAIROBI

Barclays Bank of Kenya CEO Jeremy Awori's earnings jumped 12.9 percent to Sh101.1 million in the year ended December, partly driven by a higher cash bonus payout.

The Nairobi Securities Exchange-listed firm made the disclosure in its 2018 annual report, which shows Mr Awori's pay increased from Sh89.5 million earned in 2017. "The total executive directors' remuneration adjustments in 2018 were informed by the overall performance and external market competitiveness," stated the lender in its annual report.

Mr Awori's pay in the review period comprised Sh34.26 million salary; pension and other benefits (Sh29.8 million); cash bonus award (Sh24.6 million) and a deferred cash

and share value plan worth Sh12.4 million.

While fixed remuneration grew by 2.7 percent to Sh64.11 million, variable remuneration - mostly from cash bonus - grew 36.4 percent to Sh36.95 million. The Sh24.6 million non-deferred cash award paid to Mr Awori translated to 32 percent jump from Sh18.6 million paid the previous year.

The bank's profit after tax grew by 7.1 percent to Sh7.4 billion during the period. The company says that the eight percent jump in operating profit booked last year was the fastest in eight years. Even though Mr Awori has not been offered any shares in Absa Africa as was the case in 2017 when he was given shares worth Sh18.3 million, he has been offered a special incentive of Sh9.32 million.

During the period under review, earnings of chief financial officer Yusuf Omari rose 9.9 percent to Sh50.73 million. His basic salary jumped from Sh20.1 million to Sh22.88 million sending his fixed remuneration to Sh32.6 million, a 10 percent growth from the previous year.

Mr Omari received a cash bonus award of Sh14.75 million and a deferred share value plan award valued at Sh3.38 million. Barclays is set for its AGM tomorrow where shareholders are expected to endorse a Sh0.90 final dividend per share amounting to Sh4.89 billion.

It had paid Sh0.20 interim dividend worth Sh1.08 billion. The final payout will bring the dividend for the year to Sh5.97 billion, up from Sh5.43 billion paid the previous year.



Barclays Bank of Kenya CEO Jeremy Awori.



Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan speaks with NMB Managing Director Albert Jonker during an iftar that she organized at her residence over the weekend. Photo: courtesy of NMB.

The PIC's \$250m investment in Ecobank was 'highly speculative'

JOHANNESBURG

A former executive of West Africa's Ecobank who was suspended for blowing the whistle on alleged accounting irregularities within the organisation has questioned the soundness of an investment made by the Public Investment Corporation (PIC) in the bank.

The pan-African bank, which is based in Togo, operates in 36 African countries and four other countries outside of Africa. It has the largest footprint among all banks on the continent.

Nedbank holds the biggest share in Ecobank, with a 21.1% stake, while the PIC holds 13.5%. Former PIC chief executive Dan Matjila was the PIC's non-executive director on the board. Altu Sadie, former chief financial officer in the cards and electronic banking division at Ecobank, told the judicial inquiry into issues of misconduct at the PIC on Tuesday that the state asset manager's equity investment of \$250 million had depreciated by approximately \$85 million since April 2012.

The PIC, which has recently

been under scrutiny by the inquiry and general public, looks after R2 trillion in South African civil servants' pensions and other state assets.

Investment close to R2bn mandate cap

Evidence leader advocate Jannie Lubbe said he confirmed with the Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF) that, at the time of making the investment, the PIC had a mandate to invest in the continent, capped at R2 billion. The PIC's investment at the time was just shy of this, coming in at R1.9 billion.

PAET, TPDC in major gas sales deal to sustain power generation

By Francis Kajubi

IN a bid to ensure sustainable natural gas supply to generate electricity fed to the national grid, Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation has sealed 20 million standard cubic feet per day (MMscf/d) gas sales agreement with PanAfrican Energy Tanzania which operates Songo Songo gas fields in Kilwa district.

PAET Managing Director, Andrew Hanna said in Dar es Salaam this week that the landmark agreement allows his company feed TPDC operated national natural gas infrastructure on Songo Songo Islands with the commodity to be processed and transported to Dar es Salaam for power generation.

Hanna said the new agreement replaces the 35MMscf/d recently sold by PAET under a short-term sales agreement established with TPDC and TANESCO in December 2018 of which 20MMscf/d has been delivered.

"Through foresight, flexibility and cooperation, PAET is today in prime position to meet immediate and near-

term future energy needs of Tanzania," the PAET chief said

"The degree of effort that has gone into establishing this gas agreement by all parties, cannot be underestimated. It demonstrates what can be achieved here in Tanzania when we work together in a transparent and cooperative way," he added.

He asserted that the balance sold by PAET under the short-term agreement will continue to be supplied through the TPDC infrastructure alongside the new 20MMscf/d until completion of the installation of refrigeration on the Songo processing plant by mid this year.

"On completion of the refrigeration project, the 15MMscf/d will revert to be sold by PAET to TANESCO through the Songo processing facility and the short-term agreement will conclude," he stated.

Hanna further noted that signing of the new agreement allows PAET to continue meeting recent increases in demand on a long-term basis, ensuring TPDC is able to support TANESCO in sustaining progressively stable

and more widely available power generation.

"With spare productive capacity from the Songo Songo field already established, PAET has volumes of gas immediately available to meet imminent increases in demand as TANESCO continues to expand its power generation capacity, TPDC continues to develop its downstream gas sales and supply business, and as industrial use of gas accelerates," he pointed out.

Under the short-term agreement PAET achieved average additional gas sales of 61MMscf/d through the first quarter of 2019, compared to an average of 40MMscf/d for 2018. Under the new agreement, gas will be supplied initially through PAET's SS-12 well, drilled in 2016 as part of a wider development of the Songo Songo field.

The field development and tie-ins have ensured PAET to have volumes of gas available today to instantly meet future demand. The company is however in the final stages of installing refrigeration on the Songo processing facility on Songo Songo Island.



PAET Managing Director, Andrew Hanna.



CBK governor Patrick Njoroge.

I'll not wait by the phone over new term, says CBK boss

LAGOS

MTN Nigeria has received approval to list on the Premium Board of The Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE). According to a statement released by the company the listing is set to proceed on 16 May 2019 and will be done by way of an introductory listing.

This means that the shares of existing MTN Nigeria shareholders will be listed NAIROBI

Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) governor Patrick Njoroge has played down speculation on whether he will be reappointed for a final four-year term, saying "he is not spending all day by the phone" waiting for a call from the President.

Dr Njoroge, while addressing his last post-Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) media briefing of his first term yesterday, said he will focus on implementing monetary policy in case he is re-appointed. "I think all those that are asking me about whether the job offer is coming and all that, my view is simple. If it comes, it comes," Dr Njoroge said in response to questions from reporters.

The four-year tenure of Dr Njoroge and his deputy, Sheila M'Mbijewe, are set to end next month. This has turned the spotlight on the appointing authority, President Uhuru Kenyatta. Dr Njoroge, 58, was appointed on June 26, 2015 and his four-year renewable term is set to end on June 19.

"I never worry about these things. You cannot worry about things that you can't change. I worry more about the things that are in my control. That is the only

thing that matters, and in effect in terms of speculating, I have learnt that speculation doesn't always lead you anywhere. If anything, it raises your anxiety level and I do want my blood level to be sort of more or less same, not spiking every now and then," he told reporters.

State officials have remained mum on a new appointment or renewal of the governor's term, which is critical for policy predictability. The governor's term is renewable only once, in line with the law.

"You know I could spend all my day on the phone waiting for a phone call; that doesn't help. Let me get the work done. There is so much to be done and if on that day I have to walk away from the job, that's fine. It's not the end of the world, the institution will remain," said Dr Njoroge.

Analysts say sending a clear signal on who the next head of CBK will be always helps to build policy certainty and stability in the financial markets. "I do believe the market for the Kenya shilling would be affected. This governor is synonymous with a strong shilling.

"Uncertainty might make currency traders apprehensive," said Deepak Dave, a risk management expert with Nairobi-based Riverside Capital Advisory in an interview last week. Dr Njoroge, a former International Monetary Fund adviser, assumed the governor's office amid a currency slump and inflation risks.

Under his reign, inflation has averaged at 6.2 percent over the period, which falls within the government's target band of 2.5 to 7.5 percent. The shilling has also remained fairly stable at an average of Sh101.97 to the US dollar over the period.

MTN to open 'market place' in step towards Africa's biggest bank goal

JOHANNESBURG

South Africa's MTN on Tuesday revealed plans to build a "market place" app where customers will be able to buy everything from insurance to washing machines as it seeks to build its mobile money platform MoMo into Africa's biggest bank.

MTN, whose 233 million telecoms subscriber base spans Africa and the Middle East, is also trying to simplify its portfolio, reduce risk and realise R15 billion (\$1 billion) worth of capital over the next three years as it transforms its model.

As part of this process, MTN said on Tuesday it would sell

its interest in investment fund Amadeus to private equity firm HarbourVest for around R1.2 billion. In presentation slides for a capital markets day in Johannesburg, MTN revealed it wanted to first enable payments to merchants and companies via MoMo and then build the app into a "financial services market place" selling MTN and third party products.

MTN's move is part of a shift by financial services firms to turn their banking apps into platforms, allowing third parties to build-in their products and access their customer bases. Its slides showed a mock-up of an app offering insurance, banking

products like loans, savings and investments and fashion, electronics and appliances.

With new digital-only banks and fintech firms enjoying growing popularity with cheap offerings and slick apps, major lenders are scrambling to adapt their traditional models.

Across Africa banks have also rushed to digitise their offerings and make them more accessible but largely to fend off mobile operators like MTN, which have successfully tapped into large sectors of the population who did not have bank accounts. Some, like South Africa's FirstRand, have signalled plans to turn their app into a platform

where customers can access other services.

MTN, which has branched out from telecoms into music streaming and messaging, estimates the total addressable market for MoMo's traditional products combined with incoming ones like payments and its marketplace to be worth R90 billion.

It was targeting 60 million active MoMo users, up from 27 million users, and wants to be the number one fintech in Africa. This is in addition to plans to grow in voice, data and its enterprise and infrastructure segments, the presentation showed.

KCB Chair touts diversity as it organizes iftar for Moslems

By The Banker Reporter

KCB Tanzania will continue serving diligently all of its clients regardless of their ethnicity and religious following in the domestic market.

Speaking during an iftar organized by the bank in Dar es Salaam this week, Board Chairperson, Zuhura Muro said management decided to break the fast with its loyal customers to show solidarity with Moslems as they observe the month of Ramadan.

"At KCB Bank, we value our social responsibilities whose main priorities

hinge on education, environment and entrepreneurship but also solidarity," Muro said adding that the bank's social investment has been at the core of its operations since it opened its doors in 1997.

She noted that the bank respects the month of Ramadhan and appreciates the fact that this is the period when mankind goes through soul-searching in obedience to God's law on fasting as one of the main pillars of Islam.

"The Holy Month of Ramadhan is a call to us to embrace soul-searching, repentance and humility in the presence of God. It also

reminds us to do what is right in God's eyes and that's why, we at KCB have decided to meet here for this glorious iftar," the Board Chair added.

She further explained that the financial institution has a department dedicated to customers of

Islamic faith called, "Sahl Banking" services at all its 14 branches countrywide noting that KCB was one of the first banks to introduce Shariah banking in the country.

"KCB Bank has constantly been improving and strengthening its services in response to various customers' needs," she asserted.



KCB Bank Tanzania Board Chair, Zuhura Muro.

Banks working towards continued decline in lending rates backed by Central Bank action

By Tusekele Jeune Tanzania
Bankers Association CEO

The banking sector in Tanzania has expanded rapidly following government reforms implemented beginning 1991. The reforms, which opened doors for privately owned banks to do banking business in Tanzania, aimed at increasing competition and efficiency of the sector.

Since then, the number of banks grew from only two then to 52 banks at the moment. Correspondingly, the number of bank branches has also increased quickly from a dozen or so to 884 branches currently while agency banking as well as mobile banking services is also growing rapidly. Banks are now boasting of more than 17,000 agents providing basic banking services across the country.

Banks are transforming quickly and coming up with new products as witnessed recently when several new products have been developed while specialized institutions are entering the market offering diverse products. We now have five microfinance banks providing loans to small borrowers at reasonable rates.

Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) providing long term loans to various development projects have also entered the market, while three financial leasing companies, which use assets to lend as collateral are also licensed to do business in the market. Seven community banks serving those in rural areas continue to do well despite challenges associated with this niche of business.

A mortgage refinance company, Tanzania Mortgage Refinance Company Limited (TMRC) which supports banks to do mortgage lending by refinancing their mortgage portfolios is now in place. It is evident therefore that the banking sector is now becoming more diversified both in terms of products as well as in terms of the range of services offered.

Lending rates a major challenge

Despite these achievements, the industry has faced several challenges, highest on the list being complaints about high lending rates. The problem of high lending rates in Tanzania is historical. There are several factors

which have contributed to high lending rates in Tanzania. One is the risk profile of our borrowers, caused by factors like lack of proper identification, lack of proper addresses and also lack of credit information on borrowers.

During a brief survey and discussions with Chief Executives of commercial banks on the current state of commercial banks' lending rates, Viju Cherian of Diamond Trust Bank, voiced his concern on the current high risk among potential borrowers from banks and also the high cost of funds. Cherian emphasized the need to deal with these factors, in order to ensure that going forward, lending rates will continue to decline and allow for increased borrowing from banks.

Lack of credit education has also been another factor, and this has made borrowers unable to manage their loans, leading to increased credit default which also relates to lack of a culture to repay loans. Loan non-repayment culture among borrowers has been there for many years and was built on a mentality that borrowed funds are government money or subsidy which need not repay. There is also culture of resource diversion, where borrowers used borrowed funds for completely different use, including for conspicuous consumption.

Measures bearing fruit

However, gradually, things are changing as efforts to educate borrowers, improve banking sector performance and step up economic efficiency continue to be implemented. We have recently witness a downward trend in lending rates from many commercial banks in the market, which is a signal that most likely this problem appears to be ending.

We have recently witnessed major banks cutting down their lending rates. CRDB bank has recently cut down its lending rate from 22 percent to only 16 percent, while NMB has joined the pack by cutting its rate from as high as 19 percent to only 17 percent. Bank of Africa has also cut its lending rate to only 11 percent.

According to BOT reports, overall commercial banks' lending rate has declined from 18.65 percent in September 2017 to 17.42 percent in September 2018. Similarly, the average negotiated lending rate (prime lending rate) has declined from an average of



17.61 percent in September 2017 to only 14.90 in October 2018.

These developments have come with increased credit to the economy. Total domestic credit grew by 9.5 percent in November 2018, compared to a decline of 4.6 percent recorded a year before. We can identify five major reasons to explain the declining trend in interest rates. These can be grouped as short term and long term factors:

Monetary Policy loosening by the Bank of Tanzania (BoT)

One of the short term factors which

has contributed to the recent decline in interest rates is monetary policy loosening by the BoT. Following the temporary liquidity crunch that the economy experienced in 2017, the Central Bank implemented several measures aimed at injecting liquidity into the economy to lubricate or support economic activity.

Prior to these measures, lending interest rates had gone up and loans to the private sector were on a declining trend. The BoT relaxed its monetary policy stance by first enhancing its reverse repo operations through

increased purchase of government paper from commercial banks thereby injecting liquidity into the economy.

Secondly, the Lombard rate which is the BoT's overnight lending rate to commercial banks was lowered from 15.10 percent in January 2017 to only 3.0 percent in March 2018 before rising slightly in July 2018 to 3.56 percent and up again to 4.10 percent in September 2018 as liquidity in the economy started to normalize.

Thirdly the BoT also cut the discount rate from 16.0 percent in January 2017 to 9.0 percent in August 2017 and further down to only 7.0 percent in August 2018, the level which has been maintained to date. This accommodative monetary policy stance adopted enabled commercial banks to also lower their lending rates.

In the medium to long run, we have also witnessed the following: growth in customer-centric banking; enhanced efficiency in the banking sector has enabled banks to cut their costs and reduce their lending rates. It is noteworthy that banks are now becoming more customer-centric and digital transformation is taking root quickly. This transformation is assisting banks in reducing their operational cost and allowing for space to cut down interest rates.

Following the liquidity pressure and also an upward trend in non-performing loans, most banks implemented measures to tighten credit control and enhance loan follow up. Similarly, several banks took deliberate measures to improve asset quality, which resulted in lower non performing loans (NPLs) and a reduction in lending rates to align them with the new reality.

Declining risk profile of borrowers

The introduction of National Identity cards, registration of credit information bureaus, namely Credit Info Ltd and Dan and Bradstreet Ltd has contributed positively in lowering the risk profile of borrowers, hence an incentive for banks to lower their lending rates. Banks now can easily get information on borrowers without incurring much cost.

Going forward

The rapidly expanding economy, supportive infrastructure and policy

framework will continue to support the decline in lending rate. Similarly, technological developments in banking, including e-banking, mobile phone based financial products and improvements in national infrastructures in road and telecoms is reducing significantly the cost of doing business in the economy.

The banking industry is ready to grab these opportunities, to create industry-wide efficiencies without prejudicing or undermining competition between them. This will provide a conducive environment for banking sector growth, hence an opportunity for even lower cost of capital. When asked about his banks view on the future trend of interest rates in Tanzania, Managing Director of Barclays Bank (Tanzania) Ltd, Abdi Mohammed, responded that "Our medium term outlook on interests rates, is a continued downward trend driven by a supportive monetary policy, internal efficiencies in the banking industry and improvements in the overall credit profile in key sectors of the economy."

Credit education important

There is need for all stakeholders to continue to implement measures that promote credit education to potential borrowers. We welcome the borrowers' education campaign being spearheaded by the Bank of Tanzania, with support from the Tanzania Bankers Association (TBA) and the World Bank. TBA is also teaming up, including with the media, to try to educate their borrowers on how to manage their borrowed funds.

Need for concerted efforts on lending rates

Stakeholders, including commercial banks, our tax authorities and government in general need to continue to work together to ensure that our tax laws are friendly to business including low cost of capital. We need to ensure that commercial courts are well equipped so as to ensure that disputes are resolved expeditiously and reduce the cost associated with delayed resolution.

With the implementation of these measures, we are confident that commercial banks' lending rate will continue to decline and support a healthy Tanzanian economy.



Benjamin Wong, co-chair of the Financial Literacy and Inclusion Committee at the FinTech Association of Hong Kong.

Hong Kong's HSBC-dominated banking landscape is set for a virtual revolution

HONG KONG

In central Hong Kong, anyone can enter HSBC's headquarters via an escalator. Rising through an opening, visitors will find themselves in the impressive atrium of the Norman Foster-designed building.

The bank, which was founded in 1865, is a legacy of British colonialism in the Far East and is a major global financial player. But its history is tied to a 19th century war that pit the Qing Dynasty against Britain's increasing demand for more trade with the reluctant Chinese.

Britain was granted a 99-year lease for the rocky island following the aftermath of the First Opium War and the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) was created to provide financing for the British Empire's growing trade between China

and British India.

Since then, HSBC has built a dominant business in Hong Kong, enjoying a market share of more than a third of consumer bankers in a city of 7.5 million, a metric few other major financial institutions can rival anywhere.

The city accounted for around 60 per cent of HSBC's pre-tax profit in 2018 and operates around 100 branches and over 300 express banking centres in Hong Kong. But the morning queues for these bank branches, and the dominance that HSBC enjoys, might become a thing of the past with the rise of a host of virtual banks.

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) has issued full banking licenses to these FinTech challengers in what is seen as the biggest shake-up in the city's banking market in decades. It is already driving a rare recruitment spree as these new

ventures seek to snap up talent.

"It's very significant," says James Lloyd, who specialises in FinTech and payments at Ernst & Young in Hong Kong. "Hong Kong is one of the top finance centres and has heavy regional concentration. Issuing new licenses to digital banks is a big deal."

Digital or virtual banks, as they are known, operate like traditional banks in terms of product offerings like checking and savings accounts, car loans and mortgages, except they forego a physical retail presence such as a bank branch.

"The digitisation of banking has already been happening for a long time," says Benjamin Wong, who has over 15 years experience in banking and finance in Hong Kong, the UK, Australia and the Middle East. Mr Wong, who also co-chairs the Financial Literacy and Inclusion Committee at the FinTech Association of Hong Kong, says virtual banks are a "no brainer" as the banking customer experience will become all digitised and the need to go to a bank will be dramatically reduced.

"There will be zero human-to-human contact. No more paper, no more branches. It's an actual step for Hong Kong, which hasn't had as much [bank] branch shrinkage as elsewhere," he says.

So far, eight ventures have been granted virtual banking permits, and a few are joint ventures with major firms at the helm. These include SC Digital, a tie-up between Standard Chartered and PCCW, HKT, and Ctrip Hong Kong. PCCW is the owner of HKT, one of the dominant telecommunications companies in Asia, while Ctrip is a Chinese travel

services provider.

Livi VB is a joint venture between Bank of China (Hong Kong), JD Digits and Jardines. The resulting company has been valued at HK\$2 billion (Dh935 million). JD Digits is a finance-focused digital tech company while Jardines is one of Asia's biggest conglomerates.

Insight FinTech is a joint venture between AMTD Group, a financial services institution, and Xiaomi, a Chinese tech company best known for its smartphones and IoT. Infinium was formed by Tencent, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing which operates the Hong Kong stock exchange, Hillhouse Capital, and local entrepreneur Adrian Cheng. Chinese tech giant Tencent operates e-wallet WeChat Pay in Hong Kong and on mainland China.

Syed Musheer Ahmed, general manager of the FinTech Association of Hong Kong, says virtual banks still have a long way to go before becoming mainstream. People in Hong Kong are still more culturally comfortable with using cash, he says, while Octopus cards, which allow payment for public transportation and in many convenience stores, is also a mainstay of daily life.

"Online purchasing is not big in Hong Kong. Retail is still big in Hong Kong. It's about trust. Trust is an important issue," he says. "Hong Kong traditionally has been strong in finance, it is Asia's largest [financial hub], but it is not a leader in tech yet."

Mainland China has led in FinTech innovation in the region, as its two giant tech companies Tencent and

Alibaba pioneered e-wallets, fusing e-commerce and retail spending in China to the extent that some call China a "cashless society."

"The leading centre of FinTech innovation is mainland China," says Mr Lloyd, who also believes cross-border collaboration and cooperation will be very significant, especially in the Greater Bay Area, which is a geographic and economically significant region in southern China very close to Hong Kong.

Big data will play a part in the future of these digital banks, as Mr Ahmed and Mr Lloyd notes. "It's about touchpoints," says Mr Ahmed, "understanding of data. The more touchpoints you have, the more understanding you have of customers. Service providers can use the expertise to drive certain products."

Traditional banks aren't sitting still. HSBC has a peer-to-peer payments service called PayMe that boasts over 1.5m users. Overall, the disruption will be good for consumers, says Mr Lloyd. "We will see greater incorporation of financial services into customers' everyday life, more offerings of genuinely differentiated services, and all-around better service," he says.

"Certainly in 10 years time, queuing at a bank will be gone," says Mr Lloyd, referring to the common sight of morning bank queues in Hong Kong. "Nobody will be expecting to queue. Although bank branches will continue to serve a social function, particularly in outlying areas."

WORLD

War of words as 10 politicians join race for UK PM

LONDON

THE race for the keys to 10 Downing Street has started in earnest with a war of words between some of the contenders to replace Theresa May as prime minister.

May has announced her resignation as leader of the governing Conservative Party on June 7, with the process to choose her successor beginning three days later.

The party leader will automatically become Prime Minister while the Conservatives are the governing party. Before the start button is even pressed, 10 politicians, most of them members of May's cabinet of ministers, have announced they will be standing.

Housing Minister Kit Malthouse became the latest politician to join the race Tuesday. The fate of Brexit, Britain's plans to leave the European Union (EU), are already at the heart of early campaigning.

Britain is scheduled to end its membership of the bloc on Oct. 31, more than three years after people voted in

a referendum to leave the EU.

Some challengers are warning a no-deal Brexit – with Britain leaving without a future trading deal with the EU, could destroy the Conservative Party. Others want Britain to return to Brussels to renegotiate a deal, even though the EU has so far refused to make changes to the draft agreement already on the table.

The bookies favorite to win, former foreign secretary Boris Johnson, has already expressed he is willing to crash out of the bloc with no deal if Britain and the EU fail to agree an accord on a future relationship.

Media reports in London said Johnson supporters have launched a campaign to ensure he is one of the two contenders to make the final list that will be put to more than 140,000 grassroots party members across the country.

Johnson's successor as foreign secretary Jeremy Hunt, who is also a contender, said Tuesday that a policy of seeking to take Britain out of the EU without a deal would be political sui-



Housing Minister Kit Malthouse



Britain's Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt

cide.

Hunt has called for a statesmanlike and robust approach to trying to renegotiate the withdrawal agreement, despite the insistence that re-opening the deal already agreed by the EU council is not up for re-negotiation.

The London Evening Standard said Hunt and International Development Secretary Rory Stewart have torn into the headline approach being pursued by Johnson and other leadership contenders, former ministers Dominic Raab, Andrea Leadsom and Esther McVey. In an interview with the Standard, Stewart attacked the no-deal Brexiters for "Wizard of Oz" thinking.

McVey responded to the attack on her social media site, saying: "Political suicide actually lies in not having a clean break from the EU and not leaving on Oct. 31." Raab, who resigned earlier this year as Brexit Secretary, set out his leadership campaign, saying he would get a fairer Brexit deal, and cut taxes.

He cited his experience as an international lawyer, family man and karate champion to win support from Conservative members.

In an exclusive interview with Xinhua, a leading British political expert warned that the break-up

of the United Kingdom will come closer to happening if Johnson wins the race to be next prime minister.

Professor Anthony Glees from Britain's University of Buckingham, said: "If Johnson drives a no-deal agenda he'll either have to stage a coup d'etat against the current parliament which has voted against a no-deal, or delay Britain's departure from the European Union for 12 months to prepare or try to win a general election."

"The polls suggest he'd lose. I suspect Johnson might think he could win a general election. I just don't think he would get no deal through without a majority in Parliament."

The Daily Telegraph reported Tuesday that Downing Street may shelve the three-times defeated Brexit Withdrawal Agreement put forward by May.

The bill, which would enshrine the Brexit deal in British law, had been due to be published early June, but May's resignation announcement is prompting a rethink. May's official spokesman is quoted in the Telegraph saying: "We now have to reflect on the fact that we are in a different position."

Xinhua

Huawei files fresh legal suit in US

BEIJING

HUAWEI Technologies Co filed a motion for summary judgment yesterday Beijing time, as the Chinese tech company aims to speed up its lawsuit against the US government over a ban that bars federal agencies from using its products.

The Chinese tech heavyweight asked a court in Plano, Texas, where it filed the case, to declare the US ban on its products unconstitutional. It also called on the US government to halt its state-san-

ctioned campaign against Huawei over alleged cybersecurity fears.

Banning Huawei using cybersecurity as an excuse "will do nothing to make networks more secure. It provides a false sense of security, and distracts attention from the real challenges we face," said Song Liuping, Huawei's chief legal officer. The company sued the US government in March.

"Politicians in the US are using the force of an entire nation to go after a private company," Song noted. "This is not normal. It's almost never seen in history."



Huawei's chief legal officer Song Liuping

"The US government has provided no evidence to show that Huawei is a security threat. There

is no gun, no smoke. Only speculation," Song added.

The US has launched a crackdown on Huawei, including adding the Chinese company to a trade blacklist which banned Huawei from accessing any US technologies without special approval. It accused the company of posing risks to its national security. Huawei has repeatedly denied the accusations and said these charges were not supported by any factual evidence.

Song also said adding Huawei to the trade blacklist "sets a dan-

gerous precedent. Today, it is telcoms and Huawei. Tomorrow, it could be your industry, your company, your consumers," he said.

Huawei filed the lawsuit against the US government in a district court in Plano, Texas, where Huawei has its American headquarters. Huawei said that part of the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act is unconstitutional because it singles out Huawei. The act bans government agencies from contracting with Huawei or companies that use the company's equipment.

Xinhua

Pan-Africa trade zone to give Africa larger role in economic globalisation

By Guo Jun

WITH a long-awaited regional trade zone agreement coming into effect at the end of this month, Africa is set to take a big stride in economic integration, and the continent is expected to deepen its involvement in economic globalization.

For the past decades, Africa has been regarded as one of the least integrated regions of the world in terms of trade, and often singled out as an exception to the story of globalization. Statistics show intra-African trade accounts for approximately 15 percent of the continent's trade, and only 2 percent of global trade.

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) means a lot for the continent with strengthening growth prospect. It will remove duties and bring down non-tariff

barriers such as poor infrastructure and inefficient border posts, facilitate flow of goods, talents and funds within the region, and enable business growth by linking the continent's fragmented economies in an integrated market of more than 1 billion potential customers.

It will also accelerate the process of urbanization as more investments are drawn to the continent in pursuit of great economic benefits that can be offered by an integrated market.

This urban expansion, supported by a young population and a growing labor force, will contribute to rapid growth in consumption by households and businesses, ensuring more sustainable and diversified economic growth.

The AfCFTA accord comes at a right time as the continent is partnering with countries around the world, including China, for com-



The African Union Chairperson and Rwandan president Paul Kagame (R) signs an agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in Kigali, Rwanda on March 21, 2018 (Xinhua)

mon development.

China and Africa have now been close partners for cooperation in infrastructure and industrial capacity under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative.

Intra-Africa trade faces a lot of challenges partly due to the high cost of transporting goods across

borders. The next few years will see China play a crucial role in helping unlock AfCFTA's business potential by helping the region bridge the huge infrastructure deficit in an affordable way.

The blossoming of China-assisted industrial parks in Africa will also see more "Made-in-Africa" goods

gain entry into the world market.

Effective implementation of the AfCFTA agreement means a lot for the world. An integrated Africa will secure a better position in the global trading system and contribute to the process of globalization.

The last years have been marked by a growing headwind against globalization, with some narrow-minded politicians attacking globalization for widening wealth gaps and unbalanced economic growth among different countries and regions.

Projected to be a fast growing region in the world in the coming years, the progress in economic integration will further unlock Africa's potential for economic development and facilitate its march towards prosperity. An emerging market of this scale will definitely help boost globalization.

Xinhua

EU divided over top jobs after polls redraw political map

BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN Union leaders stood divided Tuesday over who to name to the bloc's top jobs, after elections shredded comfortable old political alliances and raised troubling questions about the future of the European project.

At a summit in Brussels, major powers France, Germany and Spain all differed over who is best suited to lead the EU's powerful executive arm, the European Commission, for the next five years. Former Luxembourg Premier Jean-Claude Juncker heads the commission, which proposes EU laws and ensures they are respected, until Oct 31.

After voters turned out for last week's European Parliament elections in numbers not seen in 20 years, the leaders want to show they can respond quickly to people's concerns.

The aim is to name all four top jobs – the commission chief, a replacement for Donald Tusk as European Council president, a new foreign policy chief and head of the European Central Bank – at a summit June 21-22.

Avoiding any mention of the differences or candidate names, Tusk said the leaders hope "we can provide clarity on all these posts already in June," but he said that "this depends not only my good will but also on the good will of everyone involved."

French President Emmanuel Macron, whose party is joining forces with a new pro-business liberal group in the EU parliament for the first time, insisted the choices should represent the new political project that European voters are demanding.

"The new order means one thing: It's that we cannot just repeat the old habits," Macron told reporters.

"It is important to me that these nominations have parity, that we have two men and two women. It is important for me to have the best profiles possible," he said, noting that there must "be balance in terms of political leanings and in terms of geography."

Other leaders, too, said the aim is to have two women in top posts.

Last week's elections saw Europe's mainstream center-right and center-left parties lose seats in the European Parliament.

The conservative European People's party, which has been the largest group in the assembly, and the Socialists and Democrats have held a majority in the body for 40 years. But voters concerned about climate change, migration or security turned instead to the Greens, the pro-business ALDE group or far-right parties.

As a result, it is unclear what workable majority will emerge in the assembly, which sits in Brussels and Strasbourg, France, when lawmakers gather in July, especially as the leaders and party groups jockey for position.

Still, German Chancellor Angela Merkel described the summit as "good and harmonious," even though Macron virtually ruled out the prospect of her favorite, Manfred Weber, replacing Juncker. He suggested that the former Bavarian lawmaker lacked solid experience.

Weber has never served in government or at a major institution like the European Commission. He has led the European People's Party since 2014, but the group suffered major losses at the polls.

Macron said Denmark's Margrethe Vestager, who is now the EU's competition commissioner, would be a suitable replacement as would Michel Barnier, the Frenchman who has led the EU's Brexit negotiations with the United Kingdom. Getting Barnier to head the commission would mark a fillip for Macron following the strong showing of the French far-right in Sunday's elections.

Meanwhile, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez threw his political weight behind the Socialists' candidate, Frans Timmermans, who is a former Dutch foreign minister and currently Juncker's right hand man at the commission.

"We will support Frans," Sanchez said. "He has the experience not only at the national level but also at the European level to lead the commission."

After Tuesday's summit it appeared clear the process will take some time, amid signs of a power struggle between the EU Council, which represents national governments, and the parliament.

No clear candidate for Juncker's post emerged from a meeting Tuesday morning among party group leaders at the parliament, whose members must endorse the new commission president.

Instead, they insisted only that the person be chosen from among the candidates put forward by the parliamentary blocs. This puts them at odds with Macron, who wants EU leaders to decide who will head the commission.

Agencies

Islamic State suspects sent by US from Syria to Iraq

BAGHDAD/BRUSSELS

U.S. forces have quietly sent at least 30 suspected foreign Islamic State fighters captured in Syria last year and in late 2017 to stand trial in Iraq, interviews with the men, Iraqi sources and court documents show.

Three of the men have been convicted of IS membership and sentenced to death by Iraqi courts, while five have been given life sentences. Four of them told Reuters they were tortured in prison, a claim Reuters was unable to verify.

Iraq's Counter Terrorism Service (CTS) denied that detainees were transferred to their custody from Syria in 2017 and 2018, and denied the detainees' claims of torture.

While the fate of thousands of IS fighters captured in Syria remains unresolved, the roughly 30 suspected foreign jihadists were transferred to Iraq in 2017 and 2018 after they were captured by the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), according to Iraqi court files, U.S. detention records, intelligence and judicial sources as well as people familiar with the matter.

The U.S. military's Central Command, which oversees U.S. forces in the Middle East, declined to comment on Reuters' findings, but acknowledged the challenges posed by detainees captured by Kurdish militias, whose authority is not internationally recognized.

"The issue of foreign terrorist fighters in SDF custody in Syria is an extremely complex problem," spokesman Bill Urban said.

The United States wants countries to take responsibility for their foreign fighters through "prosecution, reha-

ilitation programs, or other measures that sufficiently prevent detainees from re-engaging in terrorism", he said.

"We remain engaged with a wide range of international partners to ensure that these foreign terrorist fighters never threaten anyone again."

Eight men convicted for their role in IS - from Belgium, France, Germany, Australia, Egypt and Morocco - were interviewed by Reuters during their appearances in Iraqi courts.

They said that after being captured in Syria by U.S.-backed SDF forces they were interrogated about their roles in

Islamic State by the SDF and U.S. forces. They said they were then held, mostly in solitary confinement, at U.S. military bases in Iraq's Kurdistan Region or in Jordan before being handed into Iraqi custody.

The SDF declined to comment on the question of prisoner transfers, referring Reuters to Iraqi authorities. The SDF has said it wants to get rid of foreign fighters because it is not in a position to put them on trial.

U.S. President Donald Trump is pressing European nations to take back their nationals from among more than

2,000 suspected foreign fighters captured during the final battles to destroy the group's self-declared caliphate in Syria earlier this year.

The U.S. and European allies have held talks with Baghdad on a possible bulk transfer of prisoners from Syria to be prosecuted in Iraq since the start of the year, Western diplomats, Iraqi and U.S. officials say.

While there is no common European policy on how to handle detained foreign fighters from Europe, Iraq has shown it is willing to prosecute.

Agencies



Chinese President Xi Jinping holds a welcome ceremony for Nigerien President Mahamadou Issoufou at the square outside the east gate of the Great Hall of the People before their talks in Beijing on Wednesday. (Xinhua)

Xi holds talks with Nigerien President, vowing to boost ties

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping held talks with Nigerien President Mahamadou Issoufou on Tuesday.

Calling China and Niger good friends, partners and brothers, Xi hailed the constantly strengthening political mutual trust and fruitful pragmatic cooperation between the two countries.

Xi said China stands ready to work with Niger to implement the outcomes of the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) to boost strategic cooperation and benefit the two peoples.

He called on the two countries to understand, trust and support each other on issues of core interests and major concern, and continue their exchanges in governance and development experience.

China and Niger should deepen synergy within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative and FOCAC, Xi said, stressing the importance of carrying out key projects in infrastructure, people's livelihood, energy and agriculture.

He said China will continue to support Niger in fighting terrorism for regional peace and stability, and promote the UN support for the Group of Five Sahel joint force.

Calling for more communication and collaboration on major international affairs, Xi promised China will help Niger improve people's livelihood in such field as medical care.

He also voiced his hope that China and Niger would expand exchanges in culture, youth, women and think tanks, so as to enhance the two peoples' mutual understanding.

"As long as all countries follow a development path suited to their own national conditions, cooperate in jointly building the Belt and Road, and move toward the goal of building a community with a shared future for humanity, we will surely achieve suc-

cess," Xi said.

Issoufou congratulated on the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and the great achievements the Chinese people have made in building socialism with Chinese characteristics under the leadership of the Communist Party of China.

China's development has contributed greatly to human society, Issoufou said, adding that China's inclusive economic growth has lifted a large number of people out of poverty and accelerated realization of the UN millennium development goal.

Niger speaks highly of China's adherence to the five principles of peaceful coexistence in international affairs and its long-term commitment to world peace and development, he said, adding the country supports the goal of building a community with a shared future for humanity.

The Belt and Road Initiative proposed by Xi embodies the concept of win-win instead of zero sum and it will benefit the whole world, the Nigerien president said.

As for China-Africa cooperation, Issoufou said African countries appreciate China's adherence to the principles of sincerity, real results, affinity and good faith, as well as the eight major initiatives put forward by Xi at the 2018 Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation.

Saying Niger would work closely with China in Africa's cause of peace and security and the process of modernization, Issoufou said Niger always sticks to the one-China policy and is willing to participate in the joint construction of the Belt and Road.

After their talks, the two heads of state jointly witnessed the signing of several bilateral cooperation documents.

Prior to the talks, Xi held a welcoming ceremony for Issoufou, who is paying a state visit to China from May 26 to 30. *Xinhua*

Egypt dismisses human rights group's report on army's abuses in Sinai

CAIRO

THE Egyptian army denounced on Tuesday a report by the Human Rights Watch accusing the army of alleged human rights violations during anti-terror operations in the North Sinai province.

Egyptian military spokesman Tamer al-Refae told the official news agency MENA that some politicized organizations seek to tarnish the image of Egypt and its army through "fabricating" such reports.

Refae said the Egyptian army takes into consideration the international human rights standards on protect-

ing civilians during the operations, by carrying out airstrikes on targets outside residential areas.

He said the establishment of a buffer zone on the border belt took place in line with a cabinet resolution, adding "those who were harmed by the decision were compensated and received housing units."

In a 134-page report issued Tuesday, Human Rights Watch accused Egypt's army and police forces of committing "serious and widespread" abuses against civilians in North Sinai during anti-terror operations.

Xinhua

Newly-elected Malawian president sworn in, calls for unity

BLANTYRE,

NEWLY-ELECTED Malawian President Peter Mutharika on Tuesday was sworn in for his second and last term in office, and he called on the nation to unite in order to achieve the country's aspirations.

Mutharika and Vice President Everton Chimulirenji were sworn in by Chief Justice Andrew Nyirenda during a ceremony conducted at the Kamuzu Stadium attended by hundreds of his supporters as well as second President Bakili Muluzi. "The election is over. There is a time to fight, there is



a time to unite. There is a time to argue, there is a time to agree. There is a time to pursue personal interest, there is time to pursue national goals," Mutharika said as his supporters clad in party colors roared in support.

The Malawian leader urged his opponents to accept his victory as there can only be one winner and thanked Malawians for voting for

him, adding that his victory is the victory of the people, the rule of law and democracy.

He further commended the country's electoral body for the way it managed the elections, adding that the elections were conducted in a way which reflects the will of Malawians. Mutharika won by 38.57 percent of the votes against his closest rival Lazarus Chakwera, the country's main opposition leader of the Malawi Congress Party (MCP) who had 35.41 percent of the votes, while Vice President Saulos Chilima was the third with 20.24 percent of the votes, in the tightly contested election.

China-Africa digital financial inclusion summit focuses on experience sharing, opportunities

NAIROBI

FINANCIAL policymakers and experts drawn from institutions and enterprises in China and Africa met in Nairobi on Tuesday to discuss how to accelerate investment and collaboration for financial inclusion in Africa.

At the "2019 China-Africa Digital Financial Inclusion Summit," which followed a similar event held in Beijing in September 2017, the professionals are discussing how to promote the global development agenda of digital financial inclusion (DFI) by building a collaboration platform between China and Africa to facilitate knowledge sharing, partnerships, and investments.

The event, which touches on DFI innovation and development in Kenya and Africa in general, saw leading Chinese digital financial inclusion organizations displaying cases in DFI in China.

In his opening remarks, Bei Duoguang, president of Chinese Academy of Financial Inclusion (CAFI), which is one of the organizers, said the meeting will build a platform for dialogue, communication and cooperation.

Financial inclusion in countries along the Belt and Road can provide funding to small and medium-sized enterprises and microbusinesses to stimulate economy and improve people's living standards, Bei said.

"By providing financing to individuals, financial inclusion can make people actively involved in economic activities, enhance their sense of involvement and level of happiness," he added.

He said in CAFI's study of financial inclusion in countries along the Belt and Road, the average account ownership for low income countries stands at 35 percent, whereas only 2 percent of population in the same countries has credit cards.

"Thanks to technology innovation, digital financial inclusion tools such as mobile banking are speeding up the



pace of middle and low-income countries to catch up with the rest of the world," Bei noted.

During the conference, Chinese policymakers also expect to gain a deeper understanding of the financial inclusion landscape in different African countries to explore business and investment opportunities and serve as an innovative and influential platform to advocate financial services for social development.

Li Dongrong, President of National Internet Finance Association of China, said China and African countries have common aspirations and willingness to develop inclusive finance and promote broad growth.

Li said in 2012, China proposed the concept of promoting the realization of inclusive finance with mobile finance and has actively explored innovative models such as mobile payment, mobile lending, and mobile wealth management.

"African countries have also explored a lot in this field, such as mobile payment and correspondent banking. It is of great realistic significance for experts and scholars from China and Africa to gather here in Africa, exchange perspectives and learn from each other on digital inclusive finance," Li said.

Li said since the World Bank formally

proposed the concept of "inclusive finance" in 2005 with the joint efforts of international organizations and different countries, the development of global inclusive finance has achieved great progress, adding that China's inclusive financial development ranked high, with the account ownership rate at 80 percent and digital payment usage standing at 68 percent.

Zhao Xiyuan, minister counselor at the Chinese Embassy in Kenya, told the experts that the deliberations of the forum will go a long way in coming up with solutions and ways in which China and Africa can collaborate in the field of digital financial inclusion, which is key to development.

China has achieved remarkable development progress in the past decades. Africa, too, has made great advance and during the process of common development, China and Africa have strengthened their relationship dramatically where they enjoy growing mutual trust and exchanges at all levels, Zhao said.

The envoy said in recent years, people with access to formal financial services have increased unprecedentedly owing to the launch and growth of digital financial services in Africa. *Xinhua*

Canadian lawmakers blast Facebook's execs for snub

OTTAWA

CANADIAN lawmakers voted Tuesday to serve a summons on Facebook executives Mark Zuckerberg and Sheryl Sandberg that would compel them to appear before them the next time either visits Canada.

The decision comes after Zuckerberg and Sandberg failed to appear before the international grand committee on big data, privacy and democracy, which is being hosted by Canada's parliament this week, despite being called on to testify. The panel of international politicians is examining the role of tech giants in safeguarding privacy and democratic rights.

New Democratic party lawmaker Charlie Angus said Tuesday the Facebook executives were showing disrespect to legislators around the world. "Facebook has serious responsi-

bilities in terms of the misuse of the platform that has led to mass killings in Myanmar, the undermining of electoral systems around the world, the attack on private rights and citizen rights," Angus said.

Conservative lawmaker Bob Zimmer said if the Facebook executives refuse to appear, they will be held in contempt. It was not clear exactly what consequences that might have.

"As soon as they step foot – either Mr. Zuckerberg or Ms. Sandberg – into our country they will be served and expected to appear before our committee," said Zimmer.

The committee set up two chairs at a table with the pair's names on cards. The chairs sat empty.

Kevin Chan and Neil Potts, two of Facebook's global policy directors, did appear.

Potts said they were appearing as subject matter experts for their com-

pany. The committee is made up of politicians from Canada, the United Kingdom, Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, France, Ireland, Latvia and Singapore.

"We are grateful to the Committee for the opportunity to answer their questions today and remain committed to working with world leaders, governments, and industry experts to address these complex issues.

As we emphasized, we share the Committee's desire to keep people safe and to hold companies like ours accountable," Facebook said in an email to The Associated Press.

Jim Balsillie, the former chief executive of Research In Motion, which invented the BlackBerry smartphone, testified earlier Tuesday that a "toxic" social media business model is a threat to democracy.

Balsillie, now the chair of the Ontario Centre for International Gov-



Scott Morrison sworn in as Australia's prime minister

SYDNEY

SCOTT Morrison was sworn in as Australia's prime minister yesterday, 11 days after retaining the position in the country's general election.

Along with Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack, Morrison (pictured) was sworn in by Queen Elizabeth's official representative in Australia, Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove, at a ceremony in the capital, Canberra.

Also sworn in was Morrison's revamped Cabinet, which includes an equal-record seven women, and Australia's first Aboriginal federal cabinet minister, Ken Wyatt.

Wyatt, the new indigenous affairs minister, received a standing ovation from the small gathering at the ceremony when he stepped up to be sworn in. He wore a traditional kangaroo skin, called a "booka", given to him by indigenous people from his home state, Western Australia.

Morrison became Australia's 30th prime minister through an internal party vote last August in which he replaced Malcolm Turnbull as chief of the ruling Liberal Party.

It was the fourth switch of Australia's leader through an internal party vote in just eight years, sparking heated criticism from many voters. Yet Morrison was returned to his post in the May 18 election, and with an increased majority for the conservative Liberal-National party coalition.

With voting continuing in two close seats, the coalition was ahead in 77 seats, with the opposition Labor Party leading in 68, and with six seats having been secured by independent candidates and minor parties. A total of 76 seats is needed for majority government.

Ahead of the swearing-in ceremony, Morrison said his "hungry, committed and united" team would focus on the aspirations of ordinary Australians during this coalition government's third successive term in power.

"They are the reason we have the opportunity and the great privilege to serve them each and every day," he told colleagues on Tuesday, at coalition lawmakers' first meeting since the election. *Agencies*

Indonesian rallies were coordinated to cause chaos, says president's chief of staff

JAKARTA

INDONESIAN authorities believe different groups coordinated plans to exploit political rallies last week to cause chaos, which included a bid to create "martyrs" by shooting protesters, President Joko Widodo's chief of staff said.

Eight people were killed and more than 900 wounded in some of the worst civil unrest in the capital in decades last week after rallies by supporters of defeated presidential candidate Prabowo

Subianto descended into clashes with security forces.

Security officials suspect the violence, which broke out after Widodo was confirmed the winner of last month's poll, was organized by a number of groups, including one linked to Islamic State and another to a retired special forces general accused of smuggling weapons to Jakarta.

"There was a correlation between them from our intelligence information," Presidential Chief of Staff Moeldoko, a retired

armed forces chief, told Reuters.

"We already know the field coordinators," he said, adding that investigators were trying to pinpoint the masterminds behind the plans and financial backers.

Police have said that envelopes of cash carried by some arrested rioters indicated mobs were paid to cause trouble.

Ahead of last week's unrest, police rounded up dozens of suspected militants, some of whom authorities said planned to detonate bombs during political pro-

tests. Police have also arrested six people suspected of plotting to assassinate state officials and at least one opposition figure on treason charges and for spreading fake news.

Prabowo's political party, Gerindra, has denied any links to the violence and complained that authorities were trying to pin the blame for the riots on him.

Moeldoko, who uses one name, described one of the groups planning attacks as being "well trained" and said police had

found guns including a sniper rifle that they believed were intended to be used to kill protesters so police would take the blame.

In response, he said authorities had deliberately ensured that police and the army were not equipped with live ammunition.

"This was to counter if something (happened), to show it doesn't come from us," said Moeldoko. Fadli Zon, deputy chairman of Gerindra, last week accused police of initiating an

attack on protesters and said he found 171 bullets, including live rounds, when he visited the area where most deaths occurred last Wednesday.

Moeldoko said autopsies were still being conducted but said an early indication from the laboratory suggested that the rotation of a bullet that hit a victim was to the right and the mobile police brigade used weapons with bullets that spun in the opposite direction.

"It could mean that there are

other armed groups that have not been detained. Because from the beginning they wanted to create martyrs," he said.

Moeldoko denied that government actions, which included for the first time in Indonesia temporary curbs on social media aimed at stopping hoax stories being spread, were repressive.

"I have a strong belief that if democracy is not guarded by strong laws, constitutional instruments, then the tendency for anarchy is very high," he said. *Agencies*



Britney Spears

Britney Spears' restraining order on ex-manager extended

LOS ANGELES

BRITNEY'S Spears' restraining order against her former manager will stay in place for roughly two weeks after a judge on Tuesday suspended a court hearing where he fought the restrictions as overly broad and unconstitutional.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Brenda Penny ruled that the order against Sam Lutfi will stay in effect until June 13, when a hearing will resume on whether it can be extended for several years.

The restraining order alleges that Lutfi harassed and disparaged Spears and her family via social media and text messages. Lutfi has been critical on social media of a conservatorship that has left the singer under the control of the court and her father, adding his voice to a chorus of fans who want her "freed" from the arrangement.

The singer did not appear at the hearing. She was represented by the court-ordered conservatorship that is run by her father, Jamie, and has controlled most of her affairs for 11 years following a mental breakdown.

Lutfi testified Tuesday and Jamie Spears began testimony that will continue at the next hearing.

The courtroom was sealed from media and other members of the public for nearly the entire hearing after attorneys for Spears and her father argued that private details could be revealed that would emotionally harm the singer in a moment of serious vulnerability.

"The anxiety caused would be great," said Samuel D. Ingham III, an attorney for Britney Spears.

The restraining order issued May 8 demands that Lutfi stay at least 200 yards (183 meters) from Britney Spears, her parents and her two sons and to refrain from contacting or disparaging them.

Lutfi and his attorney argued in documents opposing the order that it is "an unconstitutional prior restraint on speech" to prohibit him from making disparaging

comments about the singer or her family.

"Would Mr. Lutfi face criminal prosecution if he publicly states that he does not like one of Ms. Spears' songs?" attorney Marc S. Gans says in the documents.

The papers also say that Lutfi, 44, has not contacted Britney Spears in 10 years and that her lawyers had not shown that he caused her harm.

"There has been no psychological or other evidence offered by Ms. Spears that she has actually suffered any distress," the documents said.

Lutfi acknowledged that he had sent several text messages to Spears' mother, Lynne, and called her once.

The courtroom is commonly cleared for hearings on her conservatorship, when private financial information and details about Spears' minor sons are discussed, but the media was barred Tuesday based almost entirely on the mental effects that airing the testimony would have on the singer.

Jamie Spears had reportedly been in such poor health in recent months that his daughter put her career on hold to be with him, but there were no outward signs of illness as he appeared in court with a team of lawyers.

Last week, he notified the court that he is seeking to extend the conservatorship from California to Louisiana, Hawaii and Florida. Conservatorships, known in many states as guardianships, are normally reserved for people in mental and physical conditions far more severe than that of Britney Spears.

But judges have allowed the arrangement to remain in place far longer than was expected when it was first imposed more than a decade ago.

Spears has made very few public comments about the conservatorship. But there have been signs the arrangement may change. She made a rare appearance earlier this month at a hearing on the conservatorship to speak to the court, along with her parents.

AP

Osaka flirts with early exit as top players struggle at French Open

PARIS

NAOMI Osaka's quest for a third consecutive Grand Slam title almost came to an abrupt end on Tuesday as a number of top players struggled to book their spots in the second round of the French Open.

On a windy and chilly day at Roland Garros, world number one Osaka, who won the U.S. and the Australian Opens, lost the opening set to love against Slovakian Anna Karolina Schmiedlova before rallying back for a 0-6 7-6(4) 6-1 victory.

Defending champion Simona Halep, Osaka's potential semi-final opponent, lost her way in the second set against Australian Ajla Tomljanovic in a 6-2 3-6 6-1 victory on a windswept Court Philippe Chatrier.

In the men's draw, German fifth seed Alexander Zverev was also pegged back during his match against Australian John Millman and needed five sets to progress after winning the first two.

Last year's semi-finalist Juan Martin Del Potro also huffed and puffed into round two with a four-set win against Nicolas Jarry of Chile.

Victoria Azarenka avoided the fate of fellow former world number ones Angelique Kerber and Caroline Wozniacki, who were knocked out in the first round, when she beat 2017 champion Jelena Ostapenko in straight sets.

Osaka had the biggest scare, however, as spots of rain and swirling winds disrupted her game with the Japanese failing to put a mark on the scoreboard in the first set.

Schmiedlova twice served for the match, only for Osaka to raise her game and force the contest into a decisive third set during which her variety of shots and power proved too much to handle for the world number 90.

Croatia's Ivo Karlovic became the oldest man to win a match at the French Open for 46 years as he beat Spain's fellow veteran Feliciano Lopez in the first round.



Japan's Naomi Osaka in action during her French Open first round match against Slovakia's Anna Karolina Schmiedlova at Roland Garros in Paris, France on Tuesday. REUTERS

Karlovic, who turned 40 in February, won a match featuring players with a combined age of 77 – the oldest in a Grand Slam in the professional era. He became the oldest male player to win a Grand Slam match since Ken Rosewall, aged 44, did so at the 1978 Australian Open.

Meanwhile, the 21-year-old Japanese won only nine points as she struggled to control her powerful game in a first-set horror show on her Court Philippe Chatrier debut.

But she displayed immense fighting spirit to roar back for a 0-6 7-6(4) 6-1 victory and set up a seismic second-round clash with former world number one Victoria Azarenka of Belarus.

"For me I think this is the most nervous I have ever been

my entire life during a match," Osaka told reporters. "I think you could see that in the first set.

"I was literally not hitting any balls in the court. It was weird because usually the nerves go away, but it kind of stayed the entire match. Then it was a fight of willpower."

Nothing she tried came off in the opening set and it looked as though the women's draw was about to lose another big name following the exits of former world number ones Caroline Wozniacki, Angelique Kerber and Venus Williams.

But Osaka, who is the number one seed at a Grand Slam for the first time, proved she is made of sterner stuff.

"Today was a bit tough, it's one of those matches where

you're not playing well, but have to find a way to win."

Mats Wilander, commenting for Eurosport, said it was reminiscent of some matches played by 23-times Grand Slam champion Serena Williams when the American has appeared out of kilter before turning things round.

FIGHTING SPIRIT

"Osaka's fighting spirit is up there with the great champions and that's what I think we're going to see from her for the rest of her career," twice French Open champion Wilander said.

"Her first set was horrendous just like Serena yesterday but somehow she turns it around and keeps going for her shots. She is similar to Serena is so many ways."

Healthy Woods will likely break my majors record-Nicklaus

OHIO

JACK Nicklaus reckons his record of 18 major championships will probably be broken by Tiger Woods as long as the former world number one stays healthy through the later stages of his career.

Nicklaus, who is hosting this week's Memorial Tournament at Muirfield Village in Ohio, said on Tuesday that Woods, who won his 15th major at last month's Masters, will likely have to manage the aches and pain that affect athletes in their 40s.

"Who knows how long his body is going to stay together?" Nicklaus told a pre-tournament news conference. "When you've had as many operations as he's had, he may be solid enough that

it's alright. And if he is I think he probably will break my record."

Nicklaus, 79, said he played a round of golf with Woods about a month before the Masters and that the 43-year-old looked great but afterwards complained about a neck problem.

Woods, who will tee off in Thursday's opening round with Englishman Justin Rose and Bryson DeChambeau at 8:26 a.m. ET (12:26 GMT), can expect a lot more of those types of problems for the rest of his playing days, according to Nicklaus.

"When you get to be 43 years old you start getting a little creak here and another creak there," said Nicklaus. "We all have a lot of those problems. But if you manage them and you know how

to pace yourself you can do that.

"He's at the age where he needs to pace himself and he can't just do everything everybody asks him to do. He's got to be a little selfish."

When Woods won at Augusta National, it not only proved many doubters wrong but revived talk about whether he would catch a record many considered safe, especially given the many false starts and setbacks he has endured over the years.

Nicklaus admitted he wanted to see his record stand the test of time but added that he hoped it was not because injuries ultimately prevent Woods from giving it a proper chase.

"I don't want him to break my record but I don't want him to

not be able to play," said Nicklaus. "If he is physically sound... and breaks it then well done, that's what it should be. That's what sports is all about to me."

Nicklaus, who figured Woods has 10 years left competing in golf's four majors, said winning the blue riband events later in his own career was "just as easy" as during his younger years.

"The only difference was that I knew what I was doing at 40 and I wasn't sure what I was doing at 20," said Nicklaus.

"I got lucky when I was 20 because talent carried me through there. At age 40 I had to be a little smarter because I didn't have the talent I had at 20."

REUTERS

Durant travels with the Warriors to Toronto ahead of finals

OAKLAND, CALIF.

KEVIN Durant is traveling with the Golden State Warriors to Toronto for the first two games of the NBA Finals, leaving open the chance he could be ready to return from a strained right calf in time for Game 2.

Durant, the two-time reigning Finals MVP who has missed the past five games since getting hurt in Game 5 of the Western Conference semifinals against Houston, has already been ruled out for Game 1 on Thursday night.

As of Tuesday, when Golden State held an optional practice before flying, he had yet to do any full-speed work on the court. He has done some shooting, coach Steve Kerr said.

"If he did anything on the court, it would have been pretty light," Kerr said.

Warriors spokesman Raymond Ridder confirmed Durant was on the two-time defending champions' team plane that took off early afternoon West Coast time and landed late in Canada.

There will be two full days off before Game 2 on Sunday, giving Durant time to get further on-court work done that the Warriors would need to see before he is medically cleared.

"We'll see where it goes from here," Kerr said Monday. "This is where the fact that there's a lot of days in between games during the finals helps us, so we'll see."

Durant didn't travel to Houston for Game 6 of that round or to Portland for the two road games against the Trail Blazers in the Western Conference finals. He remained in the Bay Area to rehab, and the Warriors are unbeaten without him.

An impending free agent this

summer, he was hurt May 8 when he landed awkwardly on his right foot following a baseline jumper late in the third quarter of a 104-99 victory over the Rockets at Oracle Arena. Durant is averaging 34.2 points per game this postseason.

Kerr said Durant has been spending countless hours rehabbing to recover – hoping to get back soon to what he loves most.

"You get that fear of missing out on stuff, like practices and shootarounds and new game plans and stuff like that. That's what I miss the most, obviously, grinding on the court individually and with my team. But that's out of my hands. Out of my control," Durant said Friday.

"My task is to try to conquer this, and I think that's the journey (we're) on as basketball players. So I'm pretty much down for

anything but I'm excited that I'm making progress."

Center DeMarcus Cousins, out with a torn left quadriceps muscle he injured in Game 2 of the first round against the Clippers, hadn't been ruled out for Game 1 though Kerr mentioned the magnitude of coming back on the finals stage after so much missed time.

Cousins – in his first career postseason – scrimmaged Saturday and again Monday, a sign of progress he is closer to being ready.

"I feel better each and every day. That's my whole goal, to make sure I get better with each day that comes," Cousins said last week. "Hopefully, that opportunity comes, and I'm able to get on the floor and help my teammates and try to help them win a championship."

AP



Kevin Durant

AC Milan coach Gattuso leaves after missing out on Champions League

MILAN

AC Milan coach Gennaro Gattuso parted company with the club on Tuesday, two days after his team narrowly missed out on qualifying for next season's Champions League to extend their absence from the competition to six seasons.

Milan confirmed in a statement that the 41-year-old, a combative former midfielder who spent 13 seasons of his playing career at the club, had left with two years to run on his contract.

"AC Milan announces Gennaro Gattuso will leave his role as the club's first team manager by mutual agreement with immediate effect," said the statement.

"A true Rossoneri (red and black) legend, Gennaro stepped into the role during what was a difficult period for the club and has performed admirably, securing the club's highest league points total since 2012/13."

The club also announced that its sporting director, former Brazil international Leonardo Araujo, had resigned.

Gattuso took charge of Milan, his first job coaching a Serie A side, in November 2017. Since then, U.S. hedge fund Elliott Management has taken control of the indebted club from Chinese businessman Li Yonghong.

Failure to qualify for the Champions League is expected to cost the club at least 50 million euros (\$55.85 million) next season in revenue they would have received for participation and television rights.

Last June, UEFA handed Milan a one-season ban from European competition for failing to comply with its breakeven rule known as Financial Fair Play.

REUTERS

Milan won an appeal against the punishment at the Court of Arbitration for Sport and, in a new ruling in December, was given until 2021 by UEFA to comply with the rules or face a ban.

In April, UEFA opened a fresh case against Milan for again allegedly failing to comply with the rule in its most recent monitoring period.

Gattuso led Milan to sixth place in Serie A last season and the Coppa Italia final, where they lost 4-0 to Juventus. This season they were beaten by Lazio in the Coppa Italia semi-finals and were knocked out of the Europa League in the group stage.

They finished fifth in Serie A, one point and one place outside the top four who qualified for the Champions League.

UNBALANCED SQUAD

AC Milan averaged 1.81 points per game in Serie A under Gattuso, less than Juventus (2.44), champions for the last two seasons, and Napoli (2.13), runners-up for the last two seasons, over the same period.

Overall, he was in charge for 82 matches in all competitions with 40 wins, 22 draws and 20 defeats.

Observers felt that he did the best with an unbalanced squad which had been cobbled together and there was more to his team than merely the grit and determination he was associated with as a player.

After Sunday's 3-2 win at SPAL turned out to be in vain, Gattuso said that coaching the team had taken its toll.

"During this time, I haven't slept much and mentally, I'm in pieces," he said. "Because of my past, I feel great responsibility in coaching this club." (\$1 = 0.8953 euros)

Barca president puts Valverde rumours to rest

BARCELONA

BARCELONA president Josep Maria Bartomeu has told ESPN FC that Ernesto Valverde will remain as the club's manager next season despite reports he was set to be sacked on Tuesday.

Bartomeu explained that he "already said as much last weekend, after the Copa del Rey final" defeat to Valencia, when he said that Valverde would move into his third year with the Spanish champions after extending his contract in February.

Barca had not planned to comment on Valverde's future until after a series of internal meetings this week following a disappointing end to the season. However, they have changed tack in a bid to reduce the noise surrounding the coach's position.

Valverde, 55, has been under extreme pressure since Saturday's cup final defeat to Valencia. His job was already under threat following the 4-3 aggregate loss to Liverpool in the Champions League semifinal earlier this month. It was the

second time in as many years that Barca had surrendered a three-goal, first-leg lead in a European tie after losing to Roma in the quarterfinals in 2018.

Working in Valverde's favour, though, is the fact that he has steered Barca to back-to-back La Liga titles since taking over in 2017. He also won the Copa del Rey last season and the Spanish Super Cup at the start of this campaign.

Bartomeu excused him of the blame for the weekend's loss to Valencia and high-profile players, including Lionel Messi and Gerard Pique, have publicly backed him, too. Sources close to Bartomeu have told ESPN FC that he is not someone who rushes into decisions and that he was always keen to keep Valverde on despite pressure from elsewhere.

"The president is someone who doesn't like to rush into things and won't be influenced by others," a source said. "He won't make drastic decisions in the heat of the moment. That's not his style."

(AGENCIES)

Neymar limps out of Brazil training before Copa

RIO DE JANEIRO

NEYMAR is undergoing treatment for a knee injury after pulling up during training with Brazil on Tuesday.

The Paris Saint-Germain forward limped away early from the Selecao's session at their training base in Teresopolis as they were preparing for next month's Copa America which takes place in Brazil.

The former Barcelona player passed initial tests which did not detect any serious injury but will remain under observation according to Brazil's Football Confederation (CBF).

Neymar appeared to be in pain after attempting a shot under pressure from defender Thiago Silva and limped away before crouching down and holding his knee. He left the field soon after alongside Brazil's team doctor Rodrigo Lasmar.

(AGENCIES)

Liverpool, Tottenham's secret to Champions League success? Systems over stars

BY MUSA OKWONGA, ESPN.COM WRITER

IT is difficult enough to face Barcelona and Manchester City in the late stages of the UEFA Champions League, with both sides desperate for success in a tournament in which victory would define them for an era. To not only face them while missing your talismanic forwards, as Liverpool and Tottenham

Hotspur did, but to overcome them, is therefore a feat for the ages. When Spurs beat City without the aid of Harry Kane, and Liverpool came back at Anfield even though Mohamed Salah and Roberto Firmino were not in the lineup, they taught us something important about these teams: that the philosophy guiding them is more important than any individual player.

This seems like a straightforward-enough point, but until recently we have not been living in straightforward times. We are slowly emerging from a decade dominated by Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi, individuals around whom entire teams have been built; a period we could almost call The Age of No Plan B, where the Plan A of using Ronaldo or Messi to best effect was so successful that no alternative was needed.

The arrival of Spurs and Liverpool, whose coaches both had to make sharp tactical adjustments, in the Champions League final thus feels strongly symbolic. At one point, it seemed that Messi and Ronaldo would bring Barcelona and Juventus to the final by sheer force of will, only to be undone by some of the most thrilling attacking football that Europe has seen in a generation.

The key to the versatility of most modern sides, and their ability to win



Mauricio Pochettino

Jurgen Klopp

games even when their best options may not be available, is of course fluidity; of using systems where players can perform multiple roles if needed.

The most extreme example of this is Georginio Wijnaldum, a sort of footballing Swiss Army knife who was deployed by Jurgen Klopp against Barcelona as a centre-forward, despite being mostly known as a midfielder.

Wijnaldum responded with a performance for the ages, scoring twice in three second-half minutes, and essentially doing the job of a world-class target man. It was a deserved and overdue place in the spotlight for Wijnaldum, who has spent much of the past year quietly restoring the fortunes of his club and country to supreme shape.

That is the compelling thing about this year's Champions League finalists: the spotlight so often alternates, so many players have come forward to play starring roles. Son Heung-Min has been magnificent, taking up Kane's goal-scoring mantle with

aplomb, but Moussa Sissoko has arguably been even more effective this season, taking on responsibilities far beyond those once expected of him.

That these players have felt empowered to do so is great credit to both Klopp and Mauricio Pochettino. It also suggests that while we may be leaving the era of the superstar player, we may be returning to the era of the superstar coach, when tactical innovation rather than individual brilliance is decisive at the highest level.

The superstar coach is by definition rare, and is someone who can take good or very good players to extraordinary levels. What is remarkable about Klopp and Pochettino is that several of the footballers they have elevated to prominence -- and, in one or two cases, greatness -- probably could not have imagined such a grand fate under most other managers.

Virgil van Dijk was undoubtedly a very fine player at Celtic and

Southampton, but few could have predicted the speed or height of his rise even two seasons ago. Even in a time of exorbitant transfer fees, his price tag attracted much scorn, but there is little laughter when it is mentioned now. As promising of a youth prospect as he was, few could have expected that Dele Alli would blossom to such effect, but under Pochettino he has become elite.

It is this quality -- this ability to bring barely imaginable brilliance from everyone in their squad -- that enables Liverpool, and to a lesser extent Spurs, to adjust so well when their leading players are missing through injury. That is why, when Messi arrived at Anfield for that second leg and people were asking who would stop him, Klopp could have answered, without the merest hint of irony: "Divock Origi."

That is why, when three goals down to Ajax in the second half of a Champions League semifinal, Pochettino could look at Fernando Llorente on the bench -- a 34-year-old forward who had barely found form since his arrival at Spurs nearly two years ago -- and say, in the style of U.S. senator Elizabeth Warren, "I have a plan for that."

The rest, of course, is glorious history. Origi scored twice, at either end of the match, while Llorente gave one of the most disruptive centre-forward displays in recent memory, winning almost every aerial duel in sight against Ajax's defenders and providing Lucas Moura with the room to score a second-half hat trick.

And in the near future, we can celebrate whoever wins in the final -- despite the resources at the disposal of both teams -- as a triumph for tactical mastery.

Record security in Madrid for Champions League final

MADRID

MADRID will deploy a record number of police and security personnel for Saturday's all-English Champions League final, barring trucks and using drones to counter a high threat of terror and prevent any fan trouble, officials said on Tuesday.

Madrid authorities expect around 67,800 fans to attend the clash between Tottenham Hotspur and Liverpool at the Wanda Metropolitano stadium.

Some 4,700 police, aided by drones to help coordination, will keep watch over what the authorities deemed as a "high risk" event. They will be reinforced by civil protection, fire corps and other personnel, altogether representing the largest security operation for any sporting event in the city.

Heavy vehicles will be barred from driving near the stadium and designated fan zones for 24 hours starting at 0800 local time on Saturday.

The level of anti-terrorism alert in Spain is four on a scale of five, which implies a high risk of an attack.

"Security forces and corps have done an enormous, exhaustive and excellent job so that we can all enjoy (the match)," Maria Paz Garcia-Vera, representative of the Madrid regional government, told a media briefing on Tuesday.

She said it was important to separate the fans of each team at all times. Fans will therefore arrive at different airport terminals and take different metro lines to the stadium from their separate meeting places in the city - the Colon Square for Spurs fans, and the Felipe II Square for Liverpool supporters.

The security operation will end when the majority of fans have left.

Police Director Francisco Pardo said aerial control of the surroundings and coordination in real time via a drone was this year's novelty. In a joint effort with UEFA, Spanish police will also launch the so-called Fan Information Teams to advise fans.

"The Champions final is a world showcase, they will be looking at us from all over the world and the Spanish police want to be there to



Atletico Madrid's Wanda Metropolitano stadium in Madrid, Spain.

offer a good image of Spain as a safe, hospitable and friendly country," Pardo said.

Meanwhile, Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp has said Brazilian striker Roberto Firmino should be fit to face Tottenham Hotspur in Saturday's Champions League final in Madrid.

Firmino missed Liverpool's memorable semi-final win over Barcelona and the final game of the Premier League season against Wolverhampton Wanderers with a muscle strain but he has responded

well to his return to training said Klopp.

"Bobby was part of training last week then we took him out and will be in training from tomorrow again. From what we saw so far he looked good. He will be fine, I'm sure," the German told a news conference on Tuesday.

Dutch midfielder Georginio Wijnaldum said Firmino was crucial to Liverpool's way of playing.

"Really important, he sets the pressing from the front. We try to follow him. When we have the ball

he is like an extra midfielder so we try and follow him in both ways. He is also an extra defender," Wijnaldum said.

The 28-year-old stepped into the Firmino role during the second half of Liverpool's stunning 4-0 win over Barcelona, scoring twice. While he would be willing to take on that duty again, he said he was more comfortable in his usual central midfield position.

"I prefer to play in the midfield but if the manager needs me I will play anywhere. That is a really difficult position to play. I think Divock (Origi) or (Daniel) Sturridge is a better option but if the manager needs me..." he said.

Guinea midfielder Naby Keita is recovering well from his thigh injury but Klopp said he had no chance to be involved.

Liverpool return to the final following their defeat to Real Madrid in last year's showpiece in Kiev. Klopp said they were fired up for the occasion but played down talk of them having more big-game experience than Spurs.

"We are all very excited about having a chance again. We are probably the more experienced, but it doesn't really make a difference," he said.

"It's about using the things that brought you to the final. So far we have controlled our emotions in a really good way."

REUTERS

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Liverpool, Tottenham's secret to Champions League success?
Systems over stars

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TODAY @ 18:00

EATV

THURSDAY

11:00 GADABE (Rw) 12:00 Moya 14:00 FUNKUA 16:00 Bunge Hls 18:00 #HASTAG 19:00 SELEKT 17:55 Kurewa 18:00 eNews 18:30 Music 19:00 EATV SAA 1 19:30 MIADALA 21:00 Bunge Hls

eNews is your one stop show for everything entertainment. It covers celebrity interviews, gossip, what's hot, what's not, trending online and offline and what happened in history.

eastafrica RADIO

05:00 EA Breakfast 09:00 Supamix 12:00 Kipenga Xtra 13:00 Planet Bongo 15:00 EA Drive 20:00 Kipenga 21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

Malawi make it to 2019 COSAFA Cup last eight

DURBAN

GABADINHO Mhango scored a stunning goal as Malawi sealed their place in the quarterfinals of the 2019 COSAFA Cup with a 2-1 victory over Namibia at a wet King Zwelithini Stadium on Tuesday.

Gerald Phiri was also on target for The Flames as they set up a knockout fixture against Zambia on Sunday, though they still have to play their final Group B fixture.

The 0-0 draw between Seychelles and Mozambique earlier on Tuesday helped to ensure Malawi's passage as they now head the table with six points.

Second-placed Namibia have three, but even if they win their final clash against Seychelles and Malawi lose, The Flames will still advance via a better head-to-head record over the Brave Warriors.

It means Malawi reach the quarterfinals for the first time since they won the Plate competition in 2015.

Mhango was denied by a last-ditch tackle from Namibia defender Charles Hambira when he seemed destined to score early on, with Malawi making the brighter start of the two sides.

But it was Namibia who grabbed the lead, Hambira ghosting in at the near post from a corner to head the ball into the back of the net.

That seemed to stun Malawi and the Brave Warriors might have been 2-0 up when Joslin Kamatuka found himself in acres of space on the edge of the box, but he delayed his shot too long and allowed the Malawian defense to scramble back and close him down.

Malawi attempted to find a way back into the game, but the Namibian defense held firm and created very little in the way of space in which they could play.

It took a moment of brilliance from Mhango to bring The Flames level as he powerfully hooked the ball into the back of the net from a tight angle, leaving Namibia goalkeeper Loydt Kazapua with no chance.

Malawi seized the initiative shortly after the break when they won a penalty after a foul on Richard Mbulu by Vitapi Ngaruka, referee Antonio Dungula from Angola pointing to the spot after consulting with his assistants.

It was the correct call and Phiri Junior expertly slotting the spot-kick in the corner of the net.

Seychelles held Mozambique to a goalless draw in the first Group B game on Tuesday.

It was a match of few chances, but Mozambique saw much more of the ball and dominated the game in terms of territory as well.

Seychelles keeper Ian Ah-Kong was by far the busier of the two glove men but The Mambas could not force a winner.

The action continues on Wednesday when Comoros take on Mauritius in the deciding fixture in Group A at the same venue. Eswatini lead the pool with two points, but have completed their matches, creating a winner-takes-all scenario between the two island nations.

The various scenarios are complex if the game ends in a draw, with the COSAFA Cup using the head-to-head system to separate teams, or failing that goal-difference and goals scored.

A 0-0 or 1-1 draw would leave all teams on two points, but see Eswatini advance based on their number of goals scored (4) in the pool stages.

If the match finishes 2-2 then all three teams will have two points, an even goal-difference and the same number of goals scored (4).

The teams would then be separated by Fair Play, based on the number of yellow and red cards they have received. Going into the fixture, the teams have as follows: Eswatini have two yellows, Comoros have one yellow and Mauritius have two yellows.

Ndugai requests MPs to cheer Stars in Egypt



Senior national soccer team, Taifa Stars.

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

NATIONAL Assembly Speaker, Job Ndugai, yesterday renewed his appeal to Members of Parliament to register in big number for a trip to Cairo, Egypt to cheer the senior national team, Taifa Stars, in the Africa Cup of the Nations (AFCON) finals.

He said preparations for

the legislators to travel to Egypt to watch the continental tournament is at an advanced stage.

He added that the MPs' presence in Egypt will motivate the players to play their hearts out and get good results.

He said Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa, has confirmed he will be in the entourage.

He, for that matter, called on all of the lawmakers from different political divides to unite and

cheer the national team.

"Let the AFCON tournament join us together and see to it we forget about political party affiliations and cheer our own young stars that have made it to the continental tournament," he said.

Ndugai, on a light touch, observed that it would be strange if the official opposition leader in the parliament, Freeman Mbowe, and the opposition chief

whip miss the trip.

He added the government chief whip, Jennister Mhagama, has confirmed she will make the trip to Egypt.

While clarifying on the total cost for the trip, he said at least \$1,500 per person is enough for footing travel and accommodation expenses.

He reminded them that AFCON tournament provides an opportunity for the lawmakers

to tour the historic country.

"I would like urge my fellow MPs to use the opportunity and tour the historic sites in Egypt such as the pyramids, among other things," he added.

Taifa Stars will confront Senegal in the first match in the AFCON showpiece on June 23 this year.

Taifa Stars are in Group C of the continental showpiece with Algeria, Senegal and Kenya.

Dar volleyball team set for Zone Five Championship

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S men's national volleyball team is expected to head to Kenya on Saturday to compete at this year Africa Zone Five Championship which will take place next week.

The delegation's leader, Dismas Dick, said the team is made up of 14 players, two coaches and himself.

He mentioned the players as Ezekiel Robson, Fred Masinga, Kelvin Peter, Jackson Mmari, Abdulrahman Yusuf, Johannes Mwadika and Elisha Ezekiel.

Others are Jaban Julius, Ford Edward, Hamis Sadara, Mucksin Muhinga, Rashid Mustafa and Ramadhan Kassim while the coaches are Alfred Selengia and Mohamed Ali.

He said the team is ready and well prepared for the tournament.

"The team will be departing for Kenya on Saturday to compete at this year's Zone Five tournament, I'm sure the team will perform well at the tournament," he said.

Dick issued the statement in Kibaha, Coast Region, at the opening of a two-week FIVB Level One International Coaching Course yesterday.

The course that has attracted 30 participants is funded by the Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC), through the International Olympic Committee (IOC) solidarity fund.

Filbert Bayi, TOC secretary general, said this is the third time that his committee is organizing the course, which is aimed at equipping the coaches with modern skills.

"This is the third time that we are organizing this course, the first time took place in 2006 with 30 coaches attending, the second took place in 2013 and saw 38 coaches attend, both were held in Tanga and now 30 coaches are attending," he



Dar es Salaam volleyball players battle it out in a recent regional league's match that took place in the city.

disclosed.

"This course is very important as it will help the coaches learn modern techniques of the game, I thank the IOC, through its solidarity fund, for this important course."

Meanwhile, Bayi said the

national beach volleyball team will compete at the maiden Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA) senior women games in Cape Verde next month.

The games will be used as qualifiers for the FIVB World

Beach Volleyball tournament which will take place in San Diego, USA.

The players, who will depart for Cape Verde on June 13, are Yasinta Remy and Hellen Mgoa, and will be led by coach Alfred Selengia.

"This is the first time that ANOCA is organizing the beach volleyball tournament, and the country will send two players for senior ladies' event, I'm sure they will perform well at the event," he said.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

