



### HEALTH



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## EAC, EU team up for 25bn/- cross border threats drive

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community (EAC) and the European Union have launched a 10 million euros (25.38bn/-) joint programme to address regional and cross border security threats in the region.

The EAC secretariat said in a statement on Wednesday that the accord was signed by the EU envoy to Tanzania and the EAC Manfredo Fanti, and EAC Secretary-General Libérat Mfumukeko (pictured).

The programme is a regional response to the various and growing security threats across the EAC region, the statement noted, elaborating that it will work both on enhancing technical capacities and building trust between law enforcement agencies in the EAC partner states.

Without mutual trust, data and information will not be shared, while the shared aim is to intercept those engaged in transnational organised crime, it specified.

The 45-month programme will be implemented by the EAC Secretariat

**“The project being launched today will seek to reduce opportunities for transnational and cross border threats to the integration process through support to policy development and implementation**

and the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), complementing several other initiatives to ensure peace and security in the EAC zone.

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# MNH unveils 5bn/- ICU for infants, children under 15

**NEWBORN** children die due to lack of high-tech support services... But the challenges will be addressed with these new facilities

By Getrude Mbago



Arab Council ambassadors (from-L) Ali Abdullah Almahruqi (Oman), Hamdi Abu Ali (Palestine), Mohamed bin Mansour Almalik (Saudi Arabia) and Mohamed Jaber Abulwaf (Egypt), Mubarak Alshahjan (Kuwait) and Bacar Salim (Comoro) on a visit to Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) in Dar es Salaam yesterday led by MNH board chairman Prof Charles Mazinge (C) and MNH acting executive director Dr Hedwiga Swai (2nd-R). They are being briefed by the head of six of specialised paediatric surgeons from Saudi Arabia, Prof Emad Bukhari (R) who is also Albalsam International CEO, following the performing of 24 complicated surgeries including one on ambiguous genitalia at a one-week camp at the hospital. Story on Page 3. Photo: John Badl.

**M**UHIMBILI National Hospital (MNH) yesterday launched two Intensive Care Unit (ICU) sections costing 4.9bn/- to cater for infants under one month and for children under 15 years.

Speaking during the launch of the facilities at the hospital yesterday, acting MNH Director General Dr Hedwiga Swai said the hospital intends to improve care and reduce mortality amongst the two groups, as earlier there were no dedicated facilities for them, thus they were being mixed with adult patients.

She said the project has been implemented by MNH and Tumaini La Maisha (TLM) Foundation with funds from the Queen of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The two sections, the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) are built to international standards with modern equipment and experts, she stated.

She expressed gratitude to the Queen of Sharjah and TLM for their generous support and enthusiasm in improving children's health care in the country.

“MNH is also implementing its neo-natal and paediatric guideline in a move aimed to further cut down the children mortality rate,” she told the gathering.

Implementation of various programmes to improve health care for infants and children has seen an improved situation as the mortality rate among the group has gone down to 30 cases from 70 cases a few years ago, of deaths that were happening within 24 hours.

Cases of premature delivery and deaths at the hospital have also decreased to 16 percent in the year 2018/19 from 19.2 percent in the year

**“We also express our gratitude to the Queen of Sharjah and her family for their generous support. This shows how she is keen to seeing that the lives of children are saved and live a happy life**

2017/18.

“Statistics indicate that 13 per cent of newborn babies were born underweight, pushing up the rate of newborn deaths...So with the continued investments, healthcare of the group will be improved and we will save more lives,” she said.

Dr Swai further noted that the need to invest adequately in newborn babies' health service delivery should not only include standardised care but quality care to sustain the lives of newly

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## ‘Clients in online business not protected by the law’

By Henry Mwangonde

AS more Tanzanians buy products and services online, it has emerged that such consumers are not protected by laws and policies shielding traditional transactions.

The Fair Competition Commission (FCC)—the watchdog mandated to oversee level ground in trade—yesterday said that existing laws and policies were designed for pre-digital



**“We will dwell on how to devise robust approaches that will foster healthy competition and safeguard the interest of online consumers**

trade and therefore do not protect online consumers.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday ahead of the World Competition Day on Thursday next week, FCC Board Chairman Prof Humphrey Mushi said the day will be marked in the country by focusing on resolving the matter.

“We will dwell on how to devise robust approaches that will foster

## Zanzibar inaugurates policy on people with disabilities

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR yesterday launched a policy aimed at improving the lives of people with disabilities both in a practical sense, and also in creating the best possible opportunities for people with disabilities to fulfil their potential.

Speaking at the official launch of the long-awaited policy, Zanzibar's Minister of State in the Second Vice-President's Office, Mohammed Abood (pictured) described the policy as key



for the well-being of PWDs.

He said among other things the policy has spelled out national agendas incorporating people with disabilities, relating to the country's sustainable development goals by removing obstacles that prevent incorporation of disabled people in the quest for better social services.

He said the Isles government, through the policy, recognizes the importance of people with disabilities in the country's development

process and the responsibility for their incorporation in sustainable development.

He however warned people who demean people with disabilities saying the government will take stern measures against them.

He also warned people who hide people with disabilities in their homes without registering them to get appropriate social services, saying that steps will be taken against them.

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## 'Clients in online business not protected by the law'

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healthy competition and safeguard the interest of online consumers," he said.

Prof Moshi said online business poses challenges to all economies, but more so in developing economies like Tanzania because they change the mode and manner of business to business interactions, business to government interactions as well business to consumer interactions.

"These new modes of interaction are different from what existing competition policy and laws envisaged. Even though these modes did not require changes in the basics of competition law, they have implications on analytical steps and instruments used in defining the market, assessing market dominance and approaches to market dominance," he explained.

He said the commission aims to work on an effective competition framework in an increasingly online world because the growth of the internet has changed the society in many ways.

"The way we communicate and even shop is unrecognizable to what we did 20 years ago. The growth of the internet has also changed the business world and many entrepreneurs are finding that launching an online business is the ideal way to follow their dream of becoming self-employed," he said.

It is important for Tanzania as a nation to embrace the digital economy to enhance productivity, harness global market integration and promote research and development commercialization, the don underlined.

The day is an annual occasion for competition agencies across the globe to advocate the benefits of competition, as a reminder to humanity that competition is healthy and vital for the prosperity of societies and economies in general, he stated.

In making this year's event more valuable, FCC has prepared a range of activities like a stakeholders' exhibition from Tuesday next week and a half-day symposium with paper presentations, discussions and media briefings, he added.

## Tanzania advised to revisit law on capital punishment

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

The Tanzanian government has been called to revisit its laws regarding the capital punishment.

President of the African Court on Human and People's Rights, Justice Sylvain Ore made the call yesterday when giving judgment on appeal by one Ali Rajab and five others against the government of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The murder case involving Ali Rajab and others is among several cases that were heard by the African Court that sat in Zanzibar to deliberate on the eight appeals, out of judgments were given on seven.

The case against capital punishment was the that attracted many people at Kariakoo Zanzibar because anti-capital punishment activists all over the world want to see the punishment abolished claiming that it is against the rights of a human being as well the country's Constitution.

The appellants Ali Rajab at others who were sentenced to death 12 years ago claim they were not given enough opportunity by the courts to listen to them and also the sentence is against human rights, the claims which in large measure the judges of the African Court on Human and People's concurred with.

Others who were sentenced to death in the said case were Angaja Kazeni, Geoffrey Stanley, Emmanuel Michael and Julius Michael all of whom have been in jail for eight years.

In the 45-minute judgment the court which for the first time ever sat in Zanzibar has given directives to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to revisit the law it uses to mete out death sentence because it goes against African as well as international agreements and protocols and that it does not give judges freeway to mete out alternate punishment.

In addition the court has given directives to the Government to pay 4m/- to each appellant for all the time they have been in jail as one way of mitigation from the pangs they have undergone for 12 years.

Five out of the eight cases that were referred to The African Court on Human and People's Rights and rulings given thereon involves the government of the United Republic of Tanzania and others concerned the countries of Benin, Ghana and Rwanda.

It was the African Court on Human and People's Rights 55th session since its establishment in 2006 in Ethiopia and later moved to its permanent residence in Arusha, Tanzania.



National Assembly Speaker Job Ndugai (R), Chief Secretary John Kijazi (L) and Registrar of Political Parties Judge Francis Mutungi share a light moment at the Dodoma Airport VIP lounge yesterday as they waited for a flight to Dar es Salaam. Photo: National Assembly.

## EAC, EU team up for 25bn/- cross-border threats drive

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"Cooperation in this area can work only if there is mutual trust among law enforcement agencies and this is what the programme aims at," the EU envoy noted.

In his remarks Amb. Mfumukeko hailed the long standing partnership between the EAC and the EU in the peace and security sector, which he said was a key enabler to the integration process in East Africa.

"The current phase of EDF11

has set aside 85 million euros for a variety of interventions supportive to various integration initiatives, among them peace and security. The EAC is also a beneficiary of 528 million euros through a regional envelope that covers IGAD, COMESA, IOC and SADC," he stated.

Since 2007, the EU has extended support to the EAC through various initiatives including the APSA support project (about euro 10 million cumulative to date) whose 4th phase is still under negotiation.

There is also the Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution Project whose implementation ended in 2012 billed at 4.8 million euros, and the Eastern and Southern Africa Indian Ocean (ESA-IO) Maritime Security Project whose implementation ended on 14th October 2019 and took up 11.6 million euros, the EAC secretariat head noted.

"The project being launched today will seek to reduce opportunities for transnational and cross border threats to the integration process through support to policy development and

implementation," he stated.

It will also focus on enhanced political accountability, structured and institutional information exchange mechanisms, consolidation and extension of ballistic examination capacity, and extension of round the clock connectivity to as many One Stop Border Posts as possible, he said.

Efficient implementation of the proposed interventions will enable law enforcement agencies at the regional level to implement information sharing mechanisms.

Such mechanisms will facilitate rapid and timely response to threats and enhance security as greater gains are made in the implementation of the EAC Customs Unions and Common Market protocols, the statement underlined.

The project will also assist the EAC in the implementation of the recently adopted Peace and Security Protocol and feed into the broader African commitment of "silencing the guns in Africa by 2020," it added.



Media Council of Tanzania vice president Hassan Mittawi opens the council's 21st National General Convention in Dar es Salaam yesterday on behalf of MCT president Judge (rt) Thomas Mihayo. Participants included representatives of media training institutions, regional press clubs and media houses from across the country. Right in the council's executive secretary, Kajubi Mukajanga. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala.

## MNH unveils 5bn/- ICU for infants and children under 15

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born babies.

"We are calling on the government to increase investments which include improved or special care in regional and referral hospitals, increasing specialists in the hospitals in tandem with our newly launched ICUs," the Acting Director emphasized.

For his part, Tumaini La Maisha board chairman Gerald Mongella hailed the MNH management for the close supervision leading to the completion of the two essential units.

The construction of the ICUs means that many more children will gain access to quality lifesaving treatment services thus providing smiles on peoples and families, he stated.

"We also express our gratitude to the Queen of Sharjah and her family for their generous support. This shows how she is keen to seeing that the lives of children are saved and live a happy life," he declared.

Tumaini La Maisha is a local NGO dedicated to providing free and curative care for all children with cancer in Tanzania.

Prof Charles Majinge, chairman of the MNH board said that with the construction of the two wards, newborns and children with various health challenges will be able to undergo major surgeries following installation of modern equipment to support such operations.

"Newborn children die due to lack of high-tech support services...But the challenges will be addressed with these new facilities," he added.

## Zanzibar inaugurates policy on people with disabilities

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Similarly, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Resident Representative Dr Wilfred Ochan explained that the policy aim is to assist the Zanzibar government in the implementation of its various projects to help people with disabilities.

This is especially when it is clear according to available data that many people in this group live in poor families.

The Director of the Department for People with Disabilities, Abeda Rashid Abdallah praised UNFPA for enabling various projects to assist disabled

people in their development.

This includes the formulation of the policy that was amended in 2004 as it earlier did not go in tandem with international agreements governing these issues, the director stated.

The new policy aims to increase incorporation of various policies and

has touched women's issues, health services, friendly infrastructure and others.

The launch of the policy on people with disabilities has taken place simultaneously with its distribution to representatives of various institutions and government departments like

the Police Force and Immigration Department.

It features tablets with special programmes to enable the collection of data on people with disabilities in the Isles.

The national disability survey in 2008 indicated that 3.2 million Tanzanians

(7.8percent) of the population aged 7 years and above have some form of disability, and up to 5.4 million (13.2 percent) are affected by disability.

Tanzania Mainland has slightly higher prevalence of disability (13.3 percent) than Zanzibar (9.3 percent), the survey highlighted.





Serengeti Breweries Ltd managing director Mark Ocitti (2nd-R) speaks during panel discussions forming part of the East African Business Council meeting held in Arusha on Thursday. Others are East African Community Customs and Trade director general Kenneth Bagamuhunda (2nd-L), Coca Cola regional franchise manager Artur Miranda (L) and PwC Tanzania Country senior partner David Tarimo. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

## Saudi specialists perform 24 successful complex surgeries

By Felister Peter

A DELEGATION of six specialized pediatric surgeons from Saudi Arabia has in collaboration with their counterparts at Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) conducted 24 successful complicated surgeries including ambiguous genitalia operations.

This is the 8th time doctors from Saudi Arabia's Al-Balsam International Organization are conducting such surgeries with support from the Arab Diplomatic Corp in Tanzania which include the Sultanate of Oman, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Palestine and Egypt.

MNH Director of Medical Services, Dr Hedwiga Swai commended the doctors saying the hospital has been cooperating with the Saudi Arabia pediatric surgeons since 2015, and that more than 100 complicated surgeries including separation of twins have been locally performed.

"We are grateful to the doctors because they are also teaching our local experts on how to handle complicated surgeries", said Dr Swai when speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly after Ambassadors from the Arab Diplomatic Corp visited MNH.

Dr Petronila Ngiloi, Pediatric Surgeon at the national hospital said in just one week they have conducted three ambiguous genitalia operations. Dr Ngiloi noted the hospital receives between 15 and 20 cases of ambiguous genitalia per year.

Ambiguous genitalia are a condition in which an infant's external genitals don't ap-

pear to be clearly male or female, she said calling upon parents to ensure babies with the complication undergo surgery before adulthood.

"We are grateful to the doctors because the surgeries are conducted in manner that we learn how to perform them independently. We have also conducted Laparoscopic and Choledochal surgeries", she noted urging the government to enhance existing cooperation with the diplomatic corps.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Al-Balsam International Organization, Dr Emad Bukhari, said apart from sharing experience and skills with senior surgeons, more than 150 doctors from Muhimbili and Mloganzila hospitals have also benefited with specialized training offered by the foundation.

"We have been working with our counterparts in Tanzania for years. Of recent, we also conducted 15 successful operations, all were complicated", said Dr Bukhari adding the under the foundation they have conducted over 1,000 open heart surgeries in various African countries.

MNH Board Chairman, Dr Charles Majinge said: "Africa countries including Tanzania need advanced high-tech medical services since the nations face a number of disease challenges"

Speaking on behalf of the delegation of Arab Ambassadors Council, Oman Ambassador to Tanzania, Ali Abdullah Almahruj said they are happy to have supported the surgeries at MNH promising continue cooperation

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

## UTSS donates twenty laptops to students with albinism

TWENTY students with albinism from various higher learning institutions have been empowered with new laptops to promote their academic excellence as well as support them in exploring employment opportunities.

Donated by a non-governmental organisation that supports persons with albinism—Under The Same Sun (UTSS) through Vivian Grace Ash project.

Speaking to reporters yesterday in Dar es Salaam UTSS

executive director Berthasia Ladislaus said the laptops were handed to first year students pursuing their studies on certificates, diploma, degree and master's degree levels in various universities in the country.

She said that the handover of the machines went along with required training to the young students on how to use the laptops.

Berthasia said the initiative is mainly to ensure that people

with albinism are getting equal social and cultural opportunity in their respective communities," she said.

She said that through the support, a total of 73 students with albinism from various universities has benefited and they have managed to perform well in their studies.

"The laptops will also help them to easily prepare presentations, reports, research, practical training and to access online

studies through literature review," she said.

She noted that: "We believe the tools will help them in their learning process while in the university especially in this digital age where a lot of things are available in the internet."

The director further said that the tools are also essential for them to help apply for job employment in different offices.

She reminded directors and

company owners to give chance to people with albinism because they are able to perform office responsibility like normal people.

The UTSS director added that the organisation has been providing scholarships to 100 students with albinism together with supporting them with learning facilities including monocular and others.

Meanwhile, coordinator of the training Omari Mfaume said the

aim of providing them with laptops is to keep them more safe from the risks of being violated when asking for laptops from friends.

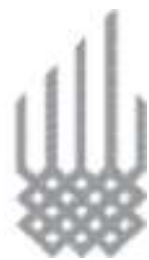
He added that the initiative is part of the efforts to support people with albinism with more access to learning facility as well as regular training.

Mfaume explained that there are lot of people with albinism who missed out the opportunity to access education because of

violence done to them, therefore, the support is a continuing process.

Elizabeth Senkondo a first year student pursuing computer engineering and information technology in the college of information and communication technology (CoICT) applauded UTSS for the support they gave her saying it will simplify her works earlier in the college and even after college.

She promised that she will use it effectively for her betterment adding that she will protect the tool from being stolen.



### AGA KHAN FOUNDATION TANZANIA

## INVITATION TO BID FOR A USED MOTORVEHICLE

The Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) is a private, non-denominational, international development agency promoting creative and effective solutions to selected problems that impede social and economic development in parts of Africa and Asia. AKF-Tanzania is part of the AKF-East Africa regional structure that supports programmes in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. The Aga Khan Foundation Tanzania invites interested bidders to buy a used Vehicle which is located at Mtwara, Aga Khan road (Maduka Makubwa) area:

SN	DESCRIPTION	REGISTRATION NO.
1	Toyota Hilux Double Cabin Pick-Up	T 230CEU

This vehicle may be inspected at Aga Khan Foundation, Mtwara Office, Aga Khan road (Maduka Makubwa) area from 2nd -6th December 2019 from 09:00 am to 04:00 pm working days only.

#### BIDDING CONDITIONS

- Bid forms are available at Aga Khan Foundation Offices at Mtwara and Dar es Salaam offices
- Bids will be opened on 10th December 2019 at Mtwara Office at 11:00 am.
- Winning bidder is required to pay full amount within fourteen days to Aga Khan Foundation-CRSPT bank account as may be directed.
- The Aga Khan Foundation reserves the right to re-allocate the vehicle without notice to another bidder if the successful bidder fails to pay the full amount within fourteen (14) days.
- The said vehicle is sold on "as is" basis without any guarantee.
- All bids must be accompanied by bid form and sent to PROGRAMME DIRECTOR, AGA KHAN FOUNDATION-CRSPT P.O Box 1105 Mtwara on or before 6th December 2019
- Duty and taxes are the responsibility of the buyer.
- The successful Bidder will take the vehicle after all payments and duties have been cleared
- For further information contact Mr. Daniel Mwakilembe through +255 23 233 3557.

### WAKULIMA TEA COMPANY LTD



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY. 27/11/2019

Position Title: Health, Safety & Environmental (HSE) Officer (1 Post)

Term of contract: Permanent

#### Responsibilities:

- Manage the HSE programs in the company to world class standards and drive a culture change;
- Monitor and report on the performance and compliance of the company and its suppliers to relevant safety, health and environmental and social standards;
- Oversee close-out of non-compliances to HSE and Social policy standards within the company and amongst the company's supplier base, including its smallholder suppliers.

#### Duties:

- Design, implement, and manage the HSE program in line with the company's Environmental & Social Management System (ESMS);
- Review compliance, carry out hazard analysis and perform risk assessments to support Health, Safety, Environmental and Social Policy management;
- Prepare regular reports on compliance status across QSE and Social policy activities;
- Prepare regular reports on activities and progress within HSE program;
- Participate in detailed incident investigations and root cause analysis;
- Assist in the development and presentation of relevant HSE training;
- Be an active champion of safe practice;
- Conduct HSE meetings/training and schedule as needed;
- Perform facility HSE Inspections;
- Be the point of contact for any ESMS related reporting to and inquiries from the company's investors;
- Make sure files are being recorded and maintained up to date at all times;
- Perform other work related tasks as required as assigned.

#### Qualifications/Requirements:

- Must possess a high school diploma or equivalent and be computer literate including ability to work with MS Office package);
- Prefer Associate Degree in Occupational, Health & Safety sciences or minimum of 3 years' experience in an HSE position for a manufacturing or large agricultural company;
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills;
- Knowledge and experience of ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements (eg OSHA, EMA, ISO: 22000:2005, IFC Performance Standards, World Bank EHS Guidelines and Rainforest Alliance) would be preferred;
- Ability to work with employees and achieve cultural change in the face of potential resistance;
- Technical writing a plus.

#### APPLICATION AND DEADLINE.

The closing date for applications is 16th December 2019

Application including a covering letter, curriculum vitae, relevant testimonials, phone and email contact details, and two references should be sent with confidence to:- [healthsafetyofficer.wtc@gmail.com](mailto:healthsafetyofficer.wtc@gmail.com) or

Operations Director,  
Wakulima Tea Company Ltd,  
P.O. Box 700 - Tukuyu.



## Tamwa proposes creation of special courts to handle GBV cases in Isles

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Media Women Association (Tamwa)-Zanzibar has proposed the need for the creation of specialised courts that will guarantee timely and efficient handling of gender-based violence (GBV) cases in Isles.

Tamwa Zanzibar's Policy and Advocacy Manager Hawra Shamte made the proposal earlier this week when speaking ahead of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence—an annual international campaign that kicks off on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until 10 December, Human Rights Day. This year's global theme is "Orange the World: Generation Equality Stands against Rape!"

She said that the proposal came after realising that there are heaps of cases in the ordinary courts which are yet to be dealt with, the situation that denies justice to the GBV victims.

She said having specialised courts provide a stronger possibility that court personnel will be gender-sensitive, experienced in the unique characteristics of violence against women cases, and may be able to process cases more quickly, reducing the burden on victims.

Citing some of the rape cases in Zanzibar, Hawra said that between July 2018 and June 2019, Mfenesini Regional Court registered 21 cases, but nine were worked on and only one person received seven years imprisonment. She said during the same period Vuga court worked on 21 cases, but only one received one-year imprisonment and 500,000/- compensation.

According to Hawra, at Mwera Court 25 cases were recorded and ten were judged and seven out of the ten cases were nullified. At Wete Court in Pemba 23 cases were registered and only four were worked on and the rest were nullified and Chake Court recorded 42 cases and only four were judged and the rest were annulled.

The official said that during the period a total of 192 were recorded in the courts, and 68 cases were judged, which is only 28 percent of total cases for the past one year.

"And out of the 68, 43 cases were annulled."

She however said that data show that perpetrators of rape cases get few years of sentence despite the fact that regional courts have the room of providing a sentence of between seven and 14 years.

Citing other challenges facing the fight against GBV in Isles, Hawra said that cases take long time, with the pre-text that police investigation were yet to be completed and most of the time case files get to the office of Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) with a number of shortfalls, hence go back to police.

"This also denies GBV victims to get justice as at the end of the day the victims become discouraged and in turn the case are annulled," she said.

She further said: "There are some magistrates who fail to complete GBV cases for different excuses, hence transfer



Zanzibar Second Vice President Seif Ali Iddi (L) exchanges greetings with pupils and teachers of True Vision International Community School, located at Mbweni in Zanzibar, as they toured the Zanzibar House of Representatives yesterday. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

## UN appeals to Africa to adopt green business development in agriculture

NAIROBI

AFRICAN countries have been urged to adopt green business development in agriculture due to its potential in providing economic opportunities.

Director of Regional Office for Africa at UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Juliette Biao Koudoukpo, said that the concept has growth potential for Af-

rican economies that highly depend on natural resources.

"Green business development is instrumental in sound management of Africa's natural resources," Koudoukpo told African delegates attending a SWITCH Africa Green regional sector meeting on sustainable agriculture in Nairobi.

The EU-funded SWITCH Africa Green Programme supports Afri-

can countries in their transition to an inclusive green economy and in promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) practices and patterns.

Koudoukpo noted that since it was introduced in some countries in the continent, SWITCH Africa green has created a multiplier effect to improve the livelihood especially of women-led enterprises and youth in the region.

"Transforming agriculture by improving the productivity of small-scale farmers and connecting them to markets has the highest potential for increasing food production and significantly increase incomes of farmers," she added.

"The program has improved the livelihood of the Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Kenya, Uganda, Mauritius, Ghana,

Burkina Faso and South Africa," she said.

During phase one of the program, over 3,000 MSMEs have been supported in the uptake of sustainable consumption and production practices in agriculture, manufacturing, tourism and waste management sectors through funding from the European Union.



STUCK: A truck lies in floodwaters by the side of Tirina Bridge, which is a crucial link between Bunda and Serengeti districts in Mara Region, on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## Minister calls on Kyerwa and Karagwe residents to protect national reserves

By Guardian Correspondent, Kyerwa

THE Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Hamisi Kigwangala has called on Kyerwa and Karagwe districts residents in Kagera Region to preserve the national reserves for future generations to benefit from the resources found in them.

Speaking at the inauguration of Ibanda Kyerwa Game Reserve at Murongo village in Murongo and Rumanyika Wards in Karagwe which historically were property of traditional rulers, Kigwangala said the reserves have many benefits to the people because various institutions under his ministry have been giving dividends to the government coffers the money of which is allocated to strategic development projects.

He said the projects are run from revenue obtained from foreign and local tourists who visit the reserves that have wildlife attractions.

He said in addition to giving dividends to the government, the institutions also contribute to local residents near the reserves via

various groups that mobilise themselves for their own development including social services such as building of health centres, schools and others.

He said the decision by President John Magufuli to establish six national reserves is within the overall plan in the Five Year Development Plan passed by Parliament in 2015 for the period of 2016-2021.

He said currently there are 22 national game reserves in the country from the 16 that were Reserved Forest Areas which also benefit the wananchi.

Meanwhile, Commissioner from National Conservation Authority (NCA) Dr Allan Kijazi said NCA places its efforts in controlling logging, charcoal burning and putting in place special five year plan for this.

Kijazi said strategic plans were underway in respect of ten reserves including Ibanda Kyerwa Game Reserve to install spots for attracting tourists including hotels.

He said they will also implant wildlife from other reserve areas to increase attractions that they were once famous for including apes and chimpanzees.

## CSOs in HECA increasingly inhibited despite some progress, says Oxfam

By Guardian Reporter

DESPITE some progress, civil society organisations are witnessing increasing inhibitive legislations and media censorship in the Horn, East and Central Africa (HECA) region.

This was revealed by Oxfam and the East African Civil Society Organisations' Forum (EAC-SOF) at the Horn East and Central Africa Region Annual Civil

Society Symposium named 'navigating the shifting civic space in the HECA region', held between November 27 and 29.

"In Tanzania, the media has been effectively subdued through legal as well as administrative measures which have led to self-censorship and important public interest stories not being told," says Pili Mtambalike a veteran journalist and press free-

dom activist.

"Being in the media for the past 30 years, I have noted the rapid deterioration of press freedom and freedom of expression in the last few years than at any other time in Tanzania's history," she adds.

The symposium came at a time when the East African Community (EAC) is celebrating its 20th anniversary and when the

East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) is best suited to lead the development of a regional Civil Society (CSO) Bill to harmonise the national legislations at the EAC region. Development of the Bill is considered a step in the right direction to address the shifting and most often alarming backslide on human rights.

"Introducing a regional bill could be the hope to safeguard

the rights and responsibilities of civil society organisations. This symposium provided a space for civic organisations and media and other civil society actors to assess the state of human rights relating to civic space around freedom of assembly, association and expression. At a time when regional governments are seeking to accelerate economic progress and regional integra-

tion, the region is still dogged by conflict and fragility, as well as an alarming trend of restrictive policies and laws," said Lydia Zigomo, Oxfam's Regional Director in Horn, East and Central Africa.

The symposium, which brought together legal experts and civil society organisations from Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan,

Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Nigeria and Botswana, discussed the shifting trend of civic space in the region. Civic space in most of these countries is facing an uncertain future due to the formulation of 'inhibitive legislation', media censorship, widespread harassment, physical violence and incarceration of activists.





African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights President Justice Sylvain Oré chairs the court's 55th conference in Zanzibar on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Martin Kabemba

## Sadc to team up with ECHO on management of disasters

By Guardian Reporter

THE Southern African Development Community is set to cooperate with the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operation (ECHO) regional disaster preparedness and response capacities.

SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Tax said in recent talks with delegation from ECHO they agreed to enhance collaboration with regional and international partners to strengthen its regional disaster management.

The parties also agreed to identify areas of convergence and complementarities between SADC and ECHO in strengthening regional and national emergency and humanitarian response and resilience building.

She highlighted on climate challenges and increasing trend in disaster occurrences in SADC such as the frequent drought and flood events, harsh climates affecting water resources, veld fire outbreaks, agricultural and food security impediments, loss of protective reef barrier, and El Niño induced droughts.

She said the disaster elements can seriously cause socio-economic downturn to the region, if not managed effectively and timely.

Dr Tax emphasized the urgency of developing instruments and systems to support the operationalisation of the SADC Regional Disaster Preparedness and Response Strategy.

ECHO Technical Assistant, for Southern Africa and Indian Ocean (SAIO), Alexandra Castellano, outlined the role played by ECHO in supporting SADC member states in disaster risks activities and initiatives by establishing minimum standards for disaster risk management and civil protection.

He added that ECHO maps comparative and complementary technical capacities between SADC and ECHO in strengthening regional and national emergency and humanitarian response and resilience building.

Castellano added that the organisation provided humanitarian assistance during the Tropical Cyclone IDAI in 2019 which affected an estimated 3 million people in three of the SADC member states, particularly, in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

"SADC region requires concerted efforts and a coordinated approach that will capitalise on existing capacities and competence by various stakeholders and partners," he noted



**SADC region requires concerted efforts and a coordinated approach that will capitalise on existing capacities and competence by various stakeholders and partners**

## NBS told to do countrywide study to have proper data on GBV cases

By Beatrice Philemon

THE National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) has been challenged to conduct countrywide research to have appropriate data on Gender Based Violence (GBV) to enhance human rights and prevent violence at work places.

Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP)'s Executive Director, Lilian Liundi made the remarks on Thursday when speaking at an event to mark

the 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence which involved participants from Tanzania Union of Industrial and Commercial Workers (TUICO), civil society organizations and individuals across the city.

"There is need to conduct a research on GBV incidences within the community since its adverse effect derails national development. Research should be conducted in industries, homes, public and private institutions because the incidences

are all the country", said Liundi adding most GBV cases are not reported.

She noted that in most cases people do not report GBV cases to police because they feel ashamed of what has happened to them. She said such acts undermine the dignity of victims but also results into them suffering from psychological consequences including loss of self-confidence, depression and panic.

"The 16 days of Activism

against gender based violence give us an opportunity to see how we can combat GBV, discuss main challenges facing people at the workplaces, homes and how to solve them", Liundi asserted.

Commissioner for Human Rights and Good Governance, Nyanda Shuli called on people across the country to raise their voices on the main challenges they encounter at workplace because the incidences have negative effects to individuals and the nation as well.

"Let us treat women accordingly being it at the workplaces or homes, women has similar rights with men including the right to work, education and to be appointed at various positions", he said.

He said Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance will continue working closer with stakeholders to prevent gender based violence that violate human rights for women, girls and even men across the country.

"We need to take measures to control GBV because it undermines the dignity, health, security, confidence and contributes into spread of diseases and suicide attempts", he noted.

Shule urged victims to report violence incidences to police so that legal measures are taken against the proprietors. He said most GBV cases are resolved at family level, the thing that hampers efforts to end gender based violence.

He added: "When we talk of

sustainable development we need to ensure our community is free from gender based violence. We need to ensure a community where women and men have similar rights at workplaces and home".

According to him, girls aged between 15 and 49 years experiences more physical or sexual violence.

More than 500 gender desks have been set up by police across the country to help people report gender violence cases.

## HIV infections among youth on the increase, warns deputy minister

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

HIV infections in the country for young people in the 15 - 24 age group are fast raising due to several reasons including disregarding or non use of antiretroviral (ARV) drugs soon they reach puberty age.

Speaking here when opening a scientific conference organized by UN Women and Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS), Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs Women, Labour and Employment, Youth and Disabled Antony Mavunde said currently the situation is alarming for the youth over HIV infections.

Mavunde said in the last ten years statistics on HIV infections show that there were 100,000 new infections per year but nor the figure is 72,000 new infections - equivalent to 200 new infections per day out of whom 40 percent are young people and 64 percent are girls of 15 to 24 age group.

"New infections especially to young people who, according to statistics, have very high rate, the main aim of this national conference is to evaluate success, challenges and the trend of our nation, hence every one of you should ensure more efforts are done to eradicate the disease by 2030," Mavunde said.

Mavunde said the theme for this year "The society is ready for change, unite to percent new HIV infections" has come at the right time when as a nation it needs to mobilize the society and individuals to ensure he contributes in attaining the goal - the eradicating of the disease.

TACAIDS Director Dr Leonard Maboko said new infections are a result of the society forgetting the whole HIV/AIDS issue and parents and guardians failing to sit together with their children to explain to them the hazards of casual sex.

He said: "The society has great responsibility in strongly shouting down all habits, customs, under age sex and general society decay that contribute to new infection."



Dodoma city director Godwin Kunambi addresses CCM's newly elected local government chairpersons and other officials shortly after they were sworn in on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

## WHO launches social media Aids awareness drive targeting African youth

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

THE World Health Organization (WHO) yesterday launched a social media campaign to raise awareness about HIV and Aids among African youth amid their vulnerability to the disease.

Senior officials said the campaign dubbed #TheTeaOnHIV aims to reach out to one million adolescents and youth in Africa with information on how they can prevent themselves from contracting HIV and how to live positively with it.

"This social media campaign aims to equip young Africans

with the right information to start breaking the barriers that prevent them from getting support," said Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa.

Nearly 1.5 million out of the 1.6 million adolescents living with HIV globally by 2018 were in the Sub-Saharan African region, according to the data from WHO.

Moeti said that investment in youth-friendly reproductive health services are key to revitalize war against HIV and Aids in Africa that accounts for more than 70 percent of 30 million people living with the disease globally.

According to the UNAIDS data, only one in three young people globally has comprehensive knowledge about HIV and seven out of 10 young women (aged 15-24 years) in sub-Saharan Africa do not have comprehensive knowledge about HIV.

Frank Lule, medical officer HIV/Aids treatment at WHO Regional Office for Africa, said that 4 out of 10 new HIV infections are concentrated in the 15 to 24 years age bracket in the continent thanks to vulnerabilities linked to poverty and limited information about the disease.

"There has been inadequate

awareness about HIV and Aids among adolescents and youth in this region and the new campaign will ensure they have access to knowledge on prevention and management of the disease," said Lule.

He said that the social media-fueled HIV and Aids awareness campaign will provide a platform for African youth to share knowledge, experience and best practices geared towards the elimination of the disease by 2030.

Catherine Ngugi, head of programs at Kenya's National Aids and STIs Control Program (NAS-COP), said that robust interven-

tions that include awareness campaigns and economic empowerment is key to reduce HIV infections among the youth.

"We need to look at the other drivers of higher infections among the youth that include lack of access to education, quality health care and jobs," said Ngugi.

She said that Kenya has developed youth-friendly HIV and Aids interventions as government data indicate that this demographic accounted for more than 51 percent of new infections in the recent past.

**New infections especially to young people who, according to statistics, have very high rate, the main aim of this national conference is to evaluate success, challenges and the trend of our nation, hence every one of you should ensure more efforts are done to eradicate the disease by 2030**



## Forest stakeholders decry 'vague' national policies on conservation

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

ENVIRONMENTAL stakeholders have stressed for the need to put up action and policies to limit conversion of forests and wood land to agricultural land, particularly in ecologically sensitive areas such as river banks, land with steep slopes and biodiversity hot spots.

Having clear policy objectives in the national forest policy and national environment policy to protect forests from conversion to agricultural land, would provide a sound basis for addressing deforestation.

The recommendation was made in a report dubbed 'what is driving deforestation in Tanzania' conducted by Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG).

Presenting the report to journalists during the training held recently in Morogoro capacity building officer for TFCG Saimon Lugazo said the existing policy tools, particularly community-based forest management could play a more significant role in addressing deforestation with more backing from the government.

He said study shows that deforestation in the country is contributed by agricultural activities to 89 percent unlike other human activities.

"Among others, maize, sesame and cowpeas were the most popular crops which were frequently observed in areas of deforestation," the officer added.

Fire, livestock grazing and fuel wood collection were also widely prevalent and were recorded in 77 percent, 69 percent and 41 percent plots respectively.

The study involved surveys in 119 points where deforestation occurred between 2010 and 2017.

The study was meant to generate quanti-

tative assessment of the relative contribution of different drivers of deforestation, across Tanzania.

Launched this year, the survey involved a combination of survey plots, informant interviews and panoramic photographs of each point. Informants included farmers and land owners of the cleared sites, neighbours, village council representatives and local government staff.

Lugazo said that deforestation in Tanzania is largely about demand for land, rather than demand for woody biomass.

The study corroborate the findings of other studies that have found agriculture to be the main driver of deforestation in the country, a study team from Global Forest Watch found that 93 percent of tree cover loss in Tanzania in 2015 was due to shifting cultivation.

The survey was financed by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) with fundamental goal of ensuring civil society is engaged in biodiversity conservation.

TFCG is implementing the reducing charcoal's threat to biodiversity project in 2018/19 the project objectives included an objective that policy and decision makers at national level in the energy, forest and agricultural sectors have access to information through the results of a robust study about the relative impact of different deforestation drivers.

Tanzania has 48 million ha of forest, but every year approximately 469,000 of forest and wood land are cleared, equivalent to almost three times the size of Unguja Island.

The report further recommend that the public needs to recognise the role for agriculture in deforestation, particularly from key ministries such as Ministry for Natural Resources and Tourism.



NBC Ltd chief financial officer Waziri Barnabas donates blood in Dar es Salaam yesterday at an event organised by the bank for its staff and other volunteers to the National Blood Transfusion Service. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## EAC, COMESA, ECOWAS launch digital platform to empower women

By Guardian Reporter

AFTER a one-year-long work of platform construction and information upload, the new continental women's platform was launched on Tuesday during the Global Gender Summit in Kigali, Rwanda.

The platform is intended to connect 50 million African women in business across 38 African countries.

The portal and mobile application (50MAWSP) come to solve the information issue that African women in business face when it comes to accessing available information on financial and non-financial services.

In a joint media address that followed the launch of the platform, the Tripartite EAC-COMESA-ECOWAS told journalists that sub-Saharan Africa hosts close to 13 million formal and

informal, small and medium-sized enterprises with one or more women owners, but only 16-20 percent of the women entrepreneurs are able to access long-term financing from formal financial institutions to scale up their businesses.

The platform hosts information on where to access capital, how to run a business, access training resources, get mentorship, access markets and many

more relevant categories of information.

"This information is expected to help women create business opportunities and thus empower them economically", press conference panel said.

This initiative is funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB) and implemented by the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community

(EAC) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

The audience appreciated the initiative but expressed concerns about who was the target group of the platform since it is technology-based and many women in Africa don't have access to smartphones.

"I don't think we need to have everything in place to dream big in Africa," Vanessa Moun-

gar, Director of Gender, Women and Civil Society Department in the African Development Bank said. I know many projects that are running well in Africa from which the world can learn from, she added.

Christophe Bazivamo, the EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of the Productive and Social Sectors, disclosed that the implementing partners were executing many other projects in

parallel.

"This platform is one project among many others. As we work towards women empowerment, we are also working in energy, infrastructure, industry, health, and many other sectors to ensure the effectiveness of our interventions," said Bazivamo.

The 50 Million African Women Speak platform is now up and running; it initially uses English, French and Arabic languages.



A motorcyclist appears to have run out of options while sandwiched between two motor vehicles at Mabibo in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: John Badi

## Mweka wildlife college, Manchester University planning joint wildlife ecology degree course

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

THE College of African Wildlife Management (Mweka) is set to start offering Masters Degree in Wildlife Ecology in collaboration with the Manchester University in 2020.

Speaking recently during the 55th graduation ceremony which Speaker of the national Assembly, Job Ndogai was the guest of honour, CAWM-Mweka Rector Prof Jafari Kideghesho said the college has also introduced new Geographical Information System (GIS) training gearing to improve student's ability to ease information.

He said the new study is funded by United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Speaking recently when handing over 35 computers donated by USAID to CAWM-Mweka, Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Dr Hamisi Kigwangalla explained that introduction of Geographical Information System (GIS) training is inline with the rapid development of science and technologies hence help the college to produce students with more capacity to know what is going on around the national

parks and other conservation areas.

According to the minister, USAID has been supporting the college in various projects including construction of two students dormitories, sponsoring some students to acquire their high education studies at the college and abroad, among many others.

Deputy Mission Director at USAID Tanzania David Thompson explained that they have provided 35 computers (20 desktops and 15 laptops) connected with the high technical internet in their computer labs including GIS Lab for e-learning, a move aims at promoting wildlife protection and conservation, among many others.

He added that the computer labs will also improve various research at the college, thus improving wildlife conservation and tourism in the country and in the world at large.

The CAWM-Mweka Rector, Prof Jafari Kideghesho explained that, apart from 35 computers that are connected with the internet and GIS all worth 98.5m/-.

He also thanked USAID for facilitating the college to prepare its strategic and business plans.

## Govt planning to employ fisheries officers at village, ward levels

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has suggested the need for fisheries officers to be employed at village and ward levels to enhance performance of the sector.

He was concerned that some

rivers and lakes pass through villages but residents are yet to utilize the available resources over lack of proper supervision.

"We need to have fisheries officers at village level to help fishermen to properly utilize the opportunities. The officials will help educate them on how

to ensure sustainable fishing and modern fish preservation methods", the Premier said on Thursday shortly after visiting the University of Dar es Salaam's College of Agricultural Sciences and Fisheries Technology (CoAF) at Kunduchi.

PM said the government is

working to improve the fishing sub-sector at different levels by ensuring availability of enough fisheries officers at all the regions with Lakes, Rivers and Ocean. He said the government is also putting emphasis on establishment of fisheries colleges to generate a good number of

officers to be employed in the constructed industries.

Majaliwa noted that the government recognises all the professional fisheries officers graduating from different universities and colleges including the University of Dar es Salaam's College of Agricultural Scienc-

es and Fisheries Technology (CoAF) at Kunduchi.

The college also offers trainings in the areas pertaining to postharvest technologies, processing, value addition, biotechnology, nanotechnology and innovations.

He was optimistic that the use

of local researches in conducting research would help boost the sector. He said the recent directive by President John Magufuli to Livestock and Fisheries Minister, Luhaga Mpina to work on research findings has started to bear fruits as the sector is improving.



## Stakeholders urge for fairness in local government elections

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

ELECTION stakeholders have recommended for continued meetings and discussions between leaders of political parties and officials responsible for election so as to improve participation of the political parties in the country's elections.

According to them, it is high time for the leaders to have roundtable discussions that will enable them reach consensus on how best to improve local government election in a fair environment.

Executive director for Mwanza foundation Joseph Bahebe said there is need for leaders to understand the importance of elections for the country's development.

He made the call following last local government elections that took place recently featured with technical and human faults which forced several political parties to withdraw from election process.

"Local governments election is important to citizen as it gives them chance to decide the kind of leaders they want, a leader who will influence changes in their community," he said.

"We need to understand that what we are doing is preparing the youth of tomorrow who will need to inherit good practices for democracy including having free and fair election," Bahebe insisted.

He explained that there is a need for both political parties and officials responsible for election to meet and have a common consensus on how best they can conduct election.

According to him, leaders have the responsibility of making sure that they provide the way for citizen to access their political rights but not to be the source of confrontation.

For his part, head of campaign and election for NCCR party Martin Mung'ong'o said the last local government elections went contrary to election regulation as some election contestants were denied election forms without valid reason.

Mung'ong'o added that there is a need for leaders of both political parties to meet and reach consensus on how to improve the mistakes happened in the last local governments' election.

"If such errors will not be eradicated, it will paint a seed of hatred in peoples' hearts and might cause chaos in future.

He added that elections are constitutional processes which are guided by laws and regulations, meaning that everyone has to respect them accordingly. "We need to have a common consensus and standards for local government elections which will not involve politics and personal interests," he insisted.

Earlier, civil society organisations recommended the government through the minister responsible for supervision of election to issue report to the public concerning the involvement of special groups in election including youth, women and people with disabilities.



Fair Competition Commission director general Dr John Mduma briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the commemoration of this year's World Competition Day - as always, on December 5. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## 58th Uhuru celebrations to be held in Mwanza

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

FOR the first time this year's 58th Independence Day Celebrations and 57th Republic Day Celebrations will take place in the Lake Zone in Mwanza Region on December 9 2019 at CCM Kirumba Stadium where President John Magufuli will be the guest of honour.

Speaking to reporters here on

the celebrations, the Mwanza Regional Commissioner John Mongella said the historical event will involve various activities including a parade by the country's security and defense forces.

He said: "Since we attained our independence this event took place only once outside Dar es Salaam - in 2017 in Dodoma and God's willing, this year it

will take place in Mwanza."

He said in the week of the celebrations' climax starting December 2 up December 8 there will be various activities in the Lake Zone involving Kagera, Mara, Geita, Simiyu, Shinyanga, and Mwanza regions including a conference of students from higher learning institutions that will take place on December 6 at St Augustine

University, Mwanza Branch.

Mongella mentioned other activities in the week proceeding December 9 including singing competition, drama, choir and poems recitals for both primary and secondary schools from Ilemela Municipality and Mwanza City and canoe race on December 6 at Kirumba Mwaloni.

Other activities are Sports

Bonanza involving basketball, Netball and volleyball at Sabasaba grounds on December 5, 'bao' game contest involving teams from Ilemela Municipality and Mwanza City at Nyamagana Primary School and soccer match pitting 'Mwanza region Amani Committee and government officials at Nyamagana stadium on December 6.

Mongella asked Mwanza residents to line up the City's streets on the day the guests will be arriving to show their Lake Zone hospitality as well as ensuring the city is clean and also asked service providers, traders and other business people to serve the guests well.

Among expected guests are the Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan, Prime Minister

Kassim Majaliwa, Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein, as well as retired national leaders - former presidents and prime ministers, leaders of various institutions and others.

The theme for the celebrations is "58 Years of Independence. Patriotism, Accountability, Innovation are the basis for the Nation's Economic Development."



Expansion of the Morogoro Road stretch into a six-lane dual carriage way from Dar es Salaam's Kimara suburb to Kibaha well in progress, as found at a spot at Mbezi in the city yesterday, amid reports of endless traffic jams on the road due to the work. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## Activists call for collective action targeting sextortion

By Henry Mwangonde

GENDER activists have called for collaborative efforts to facilitate availability of information and data on sextortion which remains hard to find due to the secrecy surrounding the malpractice in the society.

They say despite the efforts by the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) conducting research on gathering the information on the matter, collaboration and change of tactics is needed amongst stakeholders.

Speaking at a forum which is part of commemoration of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence yesterday Women Fund Tanzania (WFT) director Mary Rusimbi said the war against sextortion has to be led by research to know which are the areas of intervention.

"So far there is almost 28-percent of Gender Based Violence, therefore it is very important to involve as many people as possible including at family level so

that the culprits are brought to book," she said.

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence is an international campaign to challenge violence against women and girls. The campaign runs every year from 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December, Human Rights Day.

In her remarks, Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA) Executive Director Rose Reuben said forcing to have sex with a woman or girl without her consent was a criminal offence.

"Things are changing, so is technology, therefore there is need that the war against sextortion and violence against women should involve all," she said. A representative from the Tanzania Police's gender desk Janeth Magomi said the law enforcers have been visiting colleges, schools and offices to sensitize the public on the dangers of the malpractice.

For her part Canadian

High Commissioner to Tanzania Pamela O'Donnell said Tanzania is among countries which has good laws to protect women saying it is time the laws are used to protect women victims of GBV to end stigma.

She said GBV affects young girls to a large extent and called for all stakeholders to ensure they play their part.

The campaign calls on participating states to step up efforts to end gender-based violence in all spheres of life, including violence and harassment at home and in the workplace.

**Things are changing, so is technology, therefore there is need that the war against sextortion and violence against women should involve all**

## Research findings on crops should reach farmers, says RAS

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

HIGHER learning institutions have been advised to make use of experts in various researches on agricultural crops so that their results reach small holder farmers for higher productivity.

Singida Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) Angelina

Lutambi gave the advice recently when opening a two-day workshop that evaluated the effects of climate change read on her behalf by Assistant RAS Lucas Mkuki.

Angelina explained that among the issues that are missing from the agricultural sector is the research findings that fails to reach down to farmers.

"I have also been told that in the implementation of this project you will cooperate with research colleges as well as research areas that would bear fruits," she said.

According to her, many research finding on crops are known to agricultural experts by mere reading them, but are missing among the farmers and called

on the agricultural experts to strike close relationship with the researchers to ensure the results of their researches reach down to farmers.

Senior Agricultural Development Officer from SNV Tanzania - an NGO, Godfrey Kabuka explained that in 2018 the institution did various researches on

challenges of climate change, and one challenge was the decrease in the production of many crops.

Kabuka said the crops that were found to withstand drought included millet, beans, sunflower and potatoes, hence the conducted research in partnership with Netherlands' Wageningen Agricultural Institute.

He said after the research they evaluated the effects of climate change for 2030 and 2050 and discovered there will be decrease of harvests per acre for the two crops.

A scientist and researcher on issues of climate change and effects on agriculture in the Eastern, Central and Southern Africa Dr John

Recha explained that in the period beginning 1900 up to 2000 there has been an increase of heat of 1 degree Celsius in the world.

He also said in the East Africa region since independence over 50 years ago, records have shown that there have also been an increase of heat of 1 degree Celsius.



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Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## State property should not be turned into a private matter

THE National Housing Corporation is among the oldest parastatals whose operations have at times negated both the spirit and the legitimacy of their privatisation.

It is among the very first public corporation set up in the country, established by law in 1962.

The Act under which it was set up gave its principal aim as "to provide and facilitate the provision of houses and other buildings in Tanganyika and in particular to lend or grant money to local authorities for the purposes of an approved housing scheme to be undertaken by the said local authorities".

In 1993, a new piece of legislation in relation to NHC came into existence, placing under the corporation's jurisdiction the property and administration of the Registrar of Buildings - a government agency created in 1971 to oversee nationalised buildings across the country.

In the mid-2000s, the new-look NHC came into the glare of the public eye, as part of the government's resolve to leave no stone unturned in ridding itself of all manner of association with the corrupt and other abhorrent trends and practices.

In the particular case of the NHC of those years, manifestations of the rot included the practice of dishonest officials and other employees conniving with unscrupulous tenants minting big money by illegally leasing the corporation's quarters to other people.

The person directly charged with leading the 'house-cleaning' task was none other than Dr John Magufuli, who was by then Lands, Housing and Human Settlements minister.

The illegal transactions were so common and pervasive that people came to accept the goings-on as entirely legal. Moving into an NHC flat or shop as a tenant without adhering to procedures was often accorded legal status by the corporation's officials - at a price, of course.

Many of NHC's woes were inherited from the erstwhile Registrar of Buildings, which boasted a history dating back to 1971.

With minister Magufuli in command, the government went on to launch a countrywide verification on the legality or otherwise of all tenancy contracts - primarily, with a view to rooting out the malpractices and the people behind them.

Many later said the operation was never as successful as planned or expected, one of the explanations being that some of the 'verifiers' were in fact the very same NHC officials believed to be behind the mess.

The former Lands minister is now President, and his government has launched an operation much similar to the one he supervised, a move that is sure to win public support and appreciation.

Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister William Lukuvi last week directed the NHC leadership to begin verifying all tenancy contracts for completion by March 30, 2020. The minister has ordered that, this time around he suggested that the first-level initial verifiers, who will be NHC officials, should not come from the same region.

He has also directed the NHC management and board of directors to engage a digital system that will facilitate the reconciling of the names of all tenants with the tenants' national IDs as officially issued by the National Identification Authority.

Very good - though things will surely work much better with public support in that it is members of the public who best know which NHC buildings are legally occupied, which are lying unoccupied and so on.

Minister Lukuvi and the women and men under his command should by now be experienced enough to know better - and move better and faster. State property should not be used for the personal gain of the wrong people.

## Air travel stakeholders may need assistance, but they must be alert

THE freeing of skies, a vision that kind of took African countries by storm in the heyday of liberalisation in the 1990s, is still being pursued worldwide.

Institutionally, this demand is part of the very ethos of the African Union - which came into being in the early 1990s. It is now close to 20 years since the free skies pact meant essentially for inter-travel within the continent came up, but it is clear that major economies want global free skies.

Africa was being asked to liberalise its skies, and it accepted the condition as meant for intra-Africa travel.

The matter seldom comes up in routine government business but continental organs are following it up and, with a simple majority of AU member-states having ratified the 1999 protocol, it came into force in 2002. That is to say that Tanzania's current stance on the matter will be viewed as being in breach of an AU protocol.

There are often numerous protocols of this sort. For instance, there was a SADC protocol in the 1990s seeking the elimination of tariffs on sugar - just as there was a World Trade Organisation (WTO) protocol dating around 2007 on the elimination of tariffs on trade in clothing and garments around the world.

Countries usually ratify pacts at their own pace, but default on ratification often rattles other engagements with foreign countries.

That is basically what the Works, Transport and Communications minister Isack Kamwelwe was saying on the issue when launching an Air Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL) board of directors.

He stated that there has been a push from some countries with air companies for the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision, and that isn't very far to seek out.

The minister also declared that the government would not immediately endorse the use of what is technically known as the fifth freedom right. This relates specifically to the right to use another country's airspace liberally on the basis of accepted protocols.

In that Air Tanzania wishes to fly to other countries, failure or refusal to ratify the protocol could thus have some implications. So, the company and others ought to start thinking of a post-protectionism era, as an expanding airline needs reciprocal liberties.

While thinking about the matter, an auxiliary question relates to how long the protectionism can last and if indeed the solution is the length of time it may take for ATCL and similar companies to grow, or they shine at the start and start declining as initial capital layout wears thin.

It is a situation where an airline doesn't collect enough revenue to get going, and has to constantly call the Treasury up for subsidies.

Still, the reminder by President John Magufuli earlier in the week about subsidies will have sent the right message - that protectionism doesn't mean subsidies and all, thus making the government open to other solutions.

It is in this sort of view that the open skies declaration is relevant. Taking note of the fact that the AU protocol on open skies "also sought to eliminate restrictions on ownership of airlines and frequency limits on international routes between signatory states", the protocol is also of much policy importance.

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## 270 million people are migrants, sending home an annual \$689bn

By Special Correspondent

THE number of international migrants this year is now estimated at 270 million and the top destination remains the United States, at nearly 51 million.

This is according to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the UN migration agency. It says in latest global report, released on Wednesday, that the overall figure represents just a tiny fraction of the world's population, although it is a 0.1 per cent increase on the level indicated in its last report - published two years ago.

"This figure remains a very small percentage of the world's population (at 3.5 per cent), meaning that the vast majority of people globally (96.5 per cent) are estimated to be residing in the country in which they were born," IOM's Global Migration Report 2020 says.

The UN agency reports that more than half of all international migrants (totalling 141 million) live in Europe and North America. An estimated 52 per cent are male, and nearly two-thirds of all migrants are looking for work - which comes to around 164 million people.

India continues to be the largest country of origin of international migrants, with 17.5 million living abroad, followed by Mexico (11.8 million) and China (10.7 million).

Other findings indicate that the number of migrant workers declined slightly in high-income countries - from 112.3 million to 111.2 million - but increased elsewhere.

IOM says upper middle-income countries saw the biggest increase, from 17.5 million to 30.5 million. Linked to this, international remittances also increased to \$689 billion last year, the top beneficiaries being India (\$78.6 billion), China (\$67.4 billion), Mexico (\$35.7 billion) and the Philippines (\$34 billion).

The United States remained the top remittance-issuer, at \$68 billion, followed by the United Arab Emirates (\$44.4 billion) and Saudi Arabia (\$36.1 billion).

Although most migrants travelled to the US, the report confirms other important migration corridors from poorer countries to richer nations such as those to France, Russia, the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

"This pattern is likely to re-

main the same for many years into the future, especially as populations in some developing sub-regions and countries are projected to increase in coming decades, placing migration pressure on future generations", IOM notes.

In Africa, Asia and Europe, most international migrants stay within their regions of birth, but the majority of migrants from Latin America and the Caribbean and North America do not. In Oceania, finally, migration levels have remained about the same this year.

Focusing on the Middle East, data show that Gulf countries have some of the largest numbers of temporary labour migrants in the world, including the UAE, where they make up almost 90 per cent of the population.

Highlighting how ongoing conflicts and violence in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Myanmar, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen have led to massive internal displacement in the last two years, IOM's Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre says that a total of 41.3 million people were forced to flee their homes at the end of last year - a record since monitoring began in 1998.

Syria has the highest internally population of displaced people, at 6.1 million, followed by Colombia (5.8 million) and the DRC (3.1 million).

After nearly nine years of conflict, Syria is also the top refugee-originating country, at well over six million - dwarfing Afghanistan (at around 2.5 million) - out of a total of nearly 26 million.

Finally, turning to the impact of climate and weather disasters, the report notes that Typhoon Mangkhut in the Philippines contributed to the fact that 3.8 million people were newly displaced there at the end of last year, the largest number globally.

A UN agency meanwhile released a dispatch on June 16 this year to mark the second International Day of Family Remittances, observed every year in recognition of the fundamental contribution of migrant workers to their families and communities back home.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) elaborated on the "transformative power" of the remittances, which it referred to as "these often small - yet major

- contributions to sustainable development worldwide".

The agency said about one in nine people globally are supported by funds sent home by migrant workers and that, currently, about one billion people in the world - or one in seven - are involved with remittances, either by sending or receiving them.

Meanwhile, around 800 million in the world - or one in nine people - are recipients of these flows of money sent by their family members who have migrated for work.

What migrants send back home represents only 15 per cent of what they earn, according to the agency, and migrant workers send between US\$200 and \$300 home every one or two months on average.

Contrary maybe to popular belief, 85 per cent of what the migrant workers earn stays in the countries where they actually earn the money, and is re-ingested into the local economy, or saved.

The agency further noted that the international money transfers tend to be costly - that, on average, currency conversions and fees amount to 7 per cent of the total amounts sent globally.

To ensure that the funds can be put to better purposes, countries are aiming through global Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 10.C to "reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent by 2030".

Technical innovations, in particular mobile technologies, digitalisation and blockchain, can fundamentally transform the markets, coupled with a more conducive regulatory environment.

It was also noted that the money received is key in helping millions out of poverty - that it is often a major part of a household's total income in the countries of origin and, as such, represents a lifeline for millions of families.

"It is not about the money being sent home, it is about the impact on people's lives," explained IFAD President Gilbert F. Houngbo.

"The small amounts of \$200 or \$300 that each migrant sends home make up about 60 per cent of the family's household income, and this makes an enormous difference in their lives and the communities in

which they live," he said.

It is estimated that three-quarters of remittances are used to cover essential things: put food on the table and cover medical expenses, school fees or housing expenses. In addition, in times of crises, migrant workers tend to send more money home to cover loss of crops or family emergencies.

The rest, about 25 per cent of remittances - representing over \$100 billion per year - can be either saved or invested in asset building or activities that generate income, jobs and transform economies, in particular in rural areas.

Specifically, remittances can help achieve at least seven of the 17 global SDGs. When migrants send money back home, they contribute to several of the goals set in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

In particular: SDG 1, No Poverty; SDG 2, Zero Hunger; SDG 3, Good Health and Well-Being; SDG 4, Quality Education; SDG 6, Clean Water and Sanitation; SDG 8, Decent Work and Economic Growth; and SDG 10, Reduced Inequality.

If current trends continue, between 2015 and 2030, the timeframe of the 2030 Agenda, an estimated \$8.5 trillion will be transferred by migrants to their communities of origin in developing countries.

A quarter of that amount, which comes to more than \$2 trillion, would either be saved or invested, a key aspect of sustainable development.

"Governments, regulators and the private sector have an important role to play in leveraging the effects of these flows and, in so doing, helping nearly one billion people to reach their own sustainable development goals by 2030," Houngbo stressed in a statement.

Meanwhile, around half of global remittances go to rural areas, where three-quarters of the world's poorest and most food insecure people live. It is estimated that globally, the accumulated flows to rural areas over the next five years will reach \$1 trillion.

Remittances, a private source of capital, stands at over three times the amount of official development assistance (ODA) and foreign direct investment (FDI) combined.

As noted, last year saw over 200 million migrant workers sent \$689 billion back home to remittance reliant countries, of which \$529 billion went to developing countries.

IFAD reported that the amount of money sent by international migrant workers to their families in developing countries was expected to rise to over \$550 billion this year, up by some \$20 billion from last year.

The UN was understood to be working to facilitate remittances worldwide, with Houngbo noting: "It is fair to say that, in poor rural areas, remittances can help to make migration a choice rather than a necessity for so many young people and for future generations."

As such, migrant contributions to development - through remittances and investments - are one of the Objectives of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, adopted by the UN General Assembly last December.

With half of all flows going to rural areas in developing countries, IFAD is working to make the development impact of remittances even greater.

IFAD is the UN's agency mandated with agricultural development, and its Financing Facility for Remittances programme was designed to promote innovative business models in order to lower transfer costs and provide financial services for migrants and their families.

Through partnerships across several sectors, the programme runs initiatives meant to empower migrants and their families through financial education and inclusion, as well as migrant investment and entrepreneurship.

"Over the past decade, IFAD has invested in over 40 countries, supporting more than 60 projects aimed at leveraging the development impact of remittances for families and communities," said IFAD associate vice president Paul Winters at an event held at UN headquarters in New York earlier this year.

Agencies



# South Africa's military drills with Russia and China raise eyebrows

BY PETER FABRICIUS

THIS week's unprecedented joint trilateral sea exercise of the South African, Russian and Chinese navies has raised some eyebrows in Western embassies in Pretoria and defence think tanks back in their capitals.

They are asking if Exercise Mosi is a signal that Pretoria is switching its military allegiance from the West to the two nations the United States (US) regards as its greatest security threats. And could this be regarded as a 'BRICS-lite' military drill involving three of the five BRICS members (the other two being India and Brazil). In other spheres, BRICS often regards itself as being a counter to the West.

Exercise Mosi comes barely a month after another show of Russian military force in South Africa - the landing at Waterkloof Air Force Base of two Russian supersonic Tupolev Tu-160 Blackjack bombers, capable of carrying nuclear weapons. Escorted in by South African fighter jets, this marked the first touchdown in Africa of the Russian aircraft.

Why the sudden burst of military activity, particularly with Russia? The Blackjack bombers landed just as President Cyril Ramaphosa was taking off to attend the first Russia-Africa summit in Sochi, where defence and security cooperation were on the agenda.

Ramaphosa denied the two events had deliberately occurred simultaneously to send a message about South Africa-Russian military relations. Military experts confirm the visit was planned long ago. Nevertheless it's difficult to accept that all this military



activity is not meant to be sending a message to someone.

Russian military expert Captain Vasily Dandykin has presented the joint naval exercise as a sort of proto-BRICS manoeuvre. He noted that at the recent BRICS summit Russian President Vladimir Putin called for greater integration among BRICS countries in the military sphere (currently non-existent) and not only in economics and politics.

Dandykin suggested the cooperation was significant because of growing Russian and Chinese interest in Africa. There was also 'an element of diplomacy, a flag demonstration. Having sent Russian ships to South Africa, Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu, as it

were, demonstrated to the United States that the Russian fleet could act together with the Chinese anywhere in the world,' he said.

He was sure Western governments would take note of this. Indeed it seems they have and some Western analysts are warning of a switch in allegiance by South Africa from the West to the East.

That seems a bit of a stretch, at least in the short term. One former admiral points out that a full BRICS military exercise is unlikely because of the distrust between China and India, who still have border disputes to re-

solve. He also suggests Brazil could have been absent from this exercise because its current right-wing President Jair Bolsonaro wouldn't have wanted to do anything to offend his friend US President Donald Trump.

Darren Olivier, a director of South Africa's African Defence Review, cautions against over-interpreting recent events as indicating an ideological or strategic shift of Pretoria away from its predominant military partnerships with North Atlantic Treaty Organization (Nato) countries towards Russia - Nato's arch-rival - and China.

He says, for instance, that the

doctrine and logistics, not to mention equipment, of South Africa's navy are geared towards Nato. The navy has conducted exercises with Nato itself in the past but more frequently and more recently with individual Nato members like Germany, the US and France. Its biggest regular joint drill is Exercise Good Hope with the German navy, a logical partner given that South Africa's frigates and submarines are German-made.

Olivier also points out that Exercise Mosi is simulating 'low-hanging fruit', such as anti-piracy drills and joint disaster rescue missions. Exercise Good Hope, by contrast, regularly simulates real warfare. This, another defence source suggests, indicates a degree of mistrust or at least tentativeness on the part of South Africa - and perhaps Russia and China - about fully working together.

Olivier says one factor that might provoke suspicion that South Africa is switching allegiance is that joint military exercises with Western partners have become scarcer. But that's because of drastic cost-cutting in the South African National Defence Force, not because of any ideological or strategic decision by Pretoria, he says.

Like Dandykin, some South African military experts see Exercise Mosi as expressing Russia and China's interests in Africa as a whole, more than their interest in South Africa specifically. The Russian and Chinese ships involved were in African waters anyway, for other reasons, so it wasn't difficult to extend their journeys to visit Cape Town for the exercise.

For Moscow and Beijing this was also about demonstrating their ability to project power,

to travel to the other end of the planet to visit a country they don't have very deep military relations with, just to show they can do it, without jeopardising their normal operations,' one said. This expert saw the visit of the Tu-160 bombers as allowing Russia to boast the ability of the planes to fly the enormous distance to South Africa non-stop.

The visit may also have illustrated some tentativeness between the two sides. It was reported at the time that the Russian aircraft were escorted in by South African Air Force Hawk trainer fighters and Gripen fighter jets. But other reports say the Gripens were in fact never in the air at the same time as the Tu-160s because of suspicions on one or both sides that flying in close proximity would somehow reveal classified tactical information.

If this is true, it shows the limits to military cooperation between South Africa and Russia, perhaps because of the former's Nato-oriented military doctrine and culture. This would be hard to give up, the expert said, making it unlikely that South Africa would emulate Rwanda which recently reconfigured its entire military on the Chinese model.

A Western diplomat agrees that it's unlikely South Africa is switching allegiance, at least for now, noting that this would contradict the welcome tendency by new international relations minister Naledi Pandor to try to balance South Africa's relations between the West and BRICS. 'It's worth keeping an eye on for the future,' says Olivier. 'But I don't think there's any concern yet about a full-scale change in South Africa's military orientation.'

Peter Fabricius, ISS Consultant

## Foreign companies continue to benefit from China's further opening-up

SHANGHAI

CHINA has continuously cut the number of sectors and businesses that are off-limits for investment in its negative list for market access in recent years, providing huge opportunities for foreign companies and stimulating the vitality of market entities.

The country's latest negative list unveiled last Friday contains 131 administrative measures on investment, down 20 from that in 2018.

The list eases market access for the establishment of nursing homes and social welfare institutions. Industries, fields and businesses not on the list are open to all market players.

**INCLUSIVENESS AND OPENNESS**

"For foreign companies, the continuously narrowing negative list brings inclusiveness and openness," said Nanda Lau, a partner of Herbert Smith Freehills, one of the world's leading legal services providers.

"A shortened negative list means broader market access for foreign investors and more opportunities for companies, particularly in the newly opened sectors," she said.

On Nov. 22, the Japanese financial services group Nomura announced that its joint venture (JV) in Shanghai had obtained a license for securities business from the China Securities Regulatory Commission.

The approved business scope includes stock brokerage, securities investment consultation, proprietary trading and asset management, the company said.

With the easing of regulations for global banks, Nomura applied to set up the JV with a majority stake in China last year and the application was approved by China's top securities regulator in March.

The joint venture, Nomura Orient International Securities, was set up on Aug. 20, with Nomura holding a 51-percent stake.

The new company will initially focus on leveraging Nomura's expertise in face-to-face consulting to provide wealth management services in China, with an ultimate goal of growing its business into a full-fledged brokerage by providing wider financial services, according to Shigehiro Tomita, Shanghai chief representative of Nomura Securities.

"I'm so impressed by China's opening-up measures, especially in the



financial sector. As the market grows bigger, the opportunities here are more diversified," Shigehiro said.

**HIGHER-QUALITY GROWTH**

China's constant widening of opening-up not only benefits foreign companies but also promotes higher-quality growth.

Tesla officially unveiled its Model 3 electric vehicle manufactured in a Shanghai gigafactory last Friday in Shanghai and announced it would start delivering the made-in-China cars before late January.

According to the company, the

Staff members unveil a made-in-China Tesla Model 3 at a Tesla experience center in Shanghai, east China, Nov. 22, 2019. (Xinhua/Ding Ting)

made-in-China Model 3 vehicles have entered Tesla-run stores in the country.

China scrapped shareholding limits for new energy vehicles (NEVs) last year and is expected to phase out all equity caps in the automobile industry by 2022.

While some worry that domestic carmakers would be under threat by more foreign players, Titus von dem Bongart, a tax partner at the international accounting firm Ernst & Young Global Limited (EY), pointed out that the opening-up of the

automotive sector in China has brought big changes, which can push domestic carmakers to speed up their technological upgrading.

"Allowing higher investment ratios for foreign companies creates more competition in the market, which would stimulate growth and best practices," he said.

"Meanwhile, these opening-up measures will further deepen investment cooperation between China and other countries and regions, and facilitate more ex-

catalyst in terms of further developing the Chinese capital market," said Jackson Lee, China country head at Fidelity International.

**NEW FOREIGN INVESTMENT LAW**

With increasing beneficial policies, China continues to see an uptrend in foreign direct investment (FDI) inflow as investors remain bullish in tapping the market. FDI into the Chinese mainland expanded 6.6 percent year on year in the first 10 months of this year.

To open its doors wider, the country's national legislative session approved in March a new foreign investment law, paving the way for sharing China's market and opportunity with the world.

With unified provisions for the entry, promotion, protection, and management of foreign investment, it is a new and fundamental law for foreign investment in China.

"The new law, which has addressed major concerns of foreign investors in China, shows China's will and determination to follow through with further reform and opening-up. It gives people more confidence in the country," Titus said.

For most of the foreign companies in China, the new law is a big step forward and gladly welcomed.

"The new law sets an overarching legal framework, which provides a level playing field for foreign investors in China, offering broader market access and national treatment," said Nanda Lau, an advisor to many international companies operating in China.

"Practically, the enhanced protection of intellectual property rights and simplified registration process under the new law are very attractive," she said.

Lau said with the new law in place, "foreign investors can expect an even more transparent and equal investment environment in China."

Xinhua



# The limits of the European Central Bank

Yanis Varoufakis

**S**HORTLY after the Eurogroup meeting of Eurozone finance ministers on June 27, 2015, I bumped into a worried-looking Mario Draghi, the president of the European Central Bank (ECB). "What on earth is Jeroen doing?" he asked me, referring to Jeroen Dijsselbloem, the Eurogroup's then-president. "Damaging Europe, Mario. Damaging Europe," I replied. He nodded, looking concerned. We took the elevator to the ground floor and parted silently.

Journalists find it natural to assume that Draghi and I had a hostile relationship during the 2015 standoff between Greece, which I represented, and the ECB. But the impasse at which we had become stuck was not caused by a clash of characters, and it involved no mutual recrimination. Rather, it reflected an institutional failure for which I never held Draghi personally responsible. Hostility between us, being unnecessary, was absent.

My fleeting exchange with him came to mind as he recently vacated the electric chair amid much speculation about the ECB's future direction under his successor, Christine Lagarde. It reminded me of the unacknowledged powerlessness of the ECB president, who leads a mighty institution that is far less independent in practice than it is in theory. Lagarde will now have to reckon with that powerlessness as she steers the ECB in a sea of deflationary hazards.

During 2015, Draghi sometimes made decisions detrimental both to the Greek people and to Europe's common interest. One came on February 4. On that morning, following a meeting I had in London the previous day with fi-

nanciers to whom I presented my plans for a moderate debt restructuring, the Athens stock exchange index shot up by 13%, led by a gain of more than 20% for Greek bank shares.

With that wind in my sails, I flew to Frankfurt to meet Draghi for the first time. One might think that a freshly appointed eurozone finance minister who had just managed to boost his country's financial assets significantly would be helped by his central banker. Instead, the ECB's governing board decided the same day to sever Greek banks' access to euro liquidity. Unsurprisingly, Greek corporate and banking shares crashed, wiping out the previous day's gains.

In any other country, the position of the central banker would be untenable. The remit of a central bank is to aid the government's efforts to stabilise finance and support the economy. In the eurozone, however, political constraints force the central bank to inflict the kind of damage Draghi's ECB visited upon our stock exchange that February afternoon.

Under Draghi's leadership, the ECB violated the *raison d'être* of a central bank on other occasions. Between February and late June 2015, Draghi fuelled repeated bank runs in Greece. Whereas any central banker anywhere else would have pledged full support for the banking system in such circumstances, Draghi did the opposite: He intimidated his fear of bank closures and amplified speculation of imminent capital controls by regularly announcing tiny increases in liquidity provided to Greece's national central bank. It was akin to a fire captain yelling in a crowded hall: "You are about to burn. I am gradually reducing the water cannon's supply to a trickle. Run for your life!"

Given such calculated attempts by



European Central Bank headquarters. File photo

our central banker to engineer a run on bank deposits and stocks, it was easy to feel resentment toward him. I resisted that temp-

tation because I appreciated Draghi's constraints. I knew that, contrary to official propaganda, he was the least independent

central banker in the developed world.

He needed the Eurogroup's approval - essentially that of the German finance ministry - to lend to failing banks in Italy, Spain, and indeed France and Germany against collateral that the euro crisis had rendered worthless. To get that permission, he had to do as he was told regarding Greece. And that meant choking into submission a Greek government that insisted on discussing what the German government did not want discussed: a sensible debt restructuring.

Seen in this light, Draghi's decision to cut liquidity to Greece's banks appeared almost logical. It was the same with his stance a few months later, when he sat silently in the Eurogroup meeting, listening to the German finance minister dictate to the rest that expulsion from the euro was the price of refusing levels of austerity that, ultimately, would put the ECB's inflation target out of reach. It also explains why, on that Saturday in June, when Dijsselbloem violated every EU protocol, Draghi said nothing and expressed his anger to me only in private.

Going beyond Greece, under Draghi's leadership, the ECB adopted instruments that intentionally misdirected enormous sums of public money. Consider the quantitative easing (QE) that he launched in March 2015. Without QE, which involved creating approximately €2.7-trillion to help countries like Italy roll over their public debt and stay in the eurozone, the euro would not exist today.

Nonetheless, it is absurd that for every euro that Draghi's

ECB printed to buy Italian public debt, it created two euros to buy German public debt. There was no economic rationale for buying bonds once Germany's budget surplus rendered them scarce. By continuing to buy them in huge numbers, the ECB created a bond shortage, pushed interest rates into negative territory, and, in the process, inflicted a great deal of damage on German pension funds and insurance companies, not to mention Chancellor Angela Merkel's standing with conservative savers.

Was Draghi remiss? Of course not. He laboured within absurd political constraints imposed by institutions designed to make it impossible for the central bank to do its job properly. The sole purpose of the "capital key" rule, which forced him to buy German and Italian debt at a two-to-one ratio, was to allow politicians in Berlin to pretend that the ECB was not really financing the roll-over of stressed Italian debt - exactly what was needed to save the euro.

Draghi deserves neither hostility nor adulation for his stewardship of the ECB. He proved adept at working within ridiculous constraints that forced him to do things that no central banker should ever do - and not just against Greece. Maybe a more courageous man would have refused to do those things. But no one can feel anger toward another for not being a hero.

What matters today is that Lagarde will have to labour within exactly the same ridiculous constraints. Sensible Europeans should be very hostile to that reality. **BM**

## UN Climate Change Conference: Five things you need to know

**C**LIMATE change is happening—the world is already 1.1°C warmer than it was at the onset of the industrial revolution, and it is already having a significant impact on the world, and on people's lives. And if current trends persist, then global temperatures can be expected to rise by 3.4 to 3.9°C this century, which would bring wide-ranging and destructive climate impacts.

That's the stark warning from the international community ahead of the 2019 UN Climate Change Conference, known as COP25, which gets underway in the Spanish capital, Madrid, on 2 December. So, just two months after the Secretary-General convened a major Climate Action Summit at UN Headquarters in New York, what can be expected from COP25?

### 1. We just had the Climate Action Summit in New York. How is COP25 different?

The Climate Action Summit in September was the initiative of the UN Secretary-General to focus the attention of the international community on the climate emergency and to accelerate actions to reverse climate change. The Climate Conference (held in Madrid after the meeting was moved from Chile due to unrest there), COP25, is the actual Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Climate Change, UNFCCC, which is tasked with making sure that the Convention, (and now the 2015 Paris Agreement, which strengthens the Convention), are being implemented.

### 2. But why all the UN attention on the climate?

There is more evidence of the impacts of climate change, especially in extreme weather events, and these impacts are taking a greater toll. The science shows that emissions are still going up, not down.

According to the 2019 WMO Greenhouse Gas Bulletin, levels of heat-trapping greenhouse gases in the atmosphere have reached another new record high. This continuing long-term trend means that future generations will be confronted with increasingly severe impacts of climate change, including rising temperatures, more extreme weather, water stress, sea level rise and disruption to marine and land ecosystems.

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has warned, in its 2019 Emis-



sions Gap Report, that greenhouse gas emissions reductions of 7.6 per cent per year from 2020 to 2030 are needed to meet the internationally agreed goal of a 1.5°C increase in temperatures over pre-industrial levels. Scientists agree that's a tall order, and that the window of opportunity is growing smaller.

### 3. So what did the September Climate Action Summit achieve?

The summit served as a springboard ahead of crucial 2020 deadlines established by the Paris Agreement, focusing global attention on the climate emergency and the urgent need to significantly scale up action. And leaders, from many countries and sectors, stepped up.

COP25 is the final COP before we enter the defining year of 2020, when many nations must submit new cli-

mate action plans. Among the many elements that need to be ironed out is the financing of climate action worldwide

More than seventy countries committed to net zero carbon emissions by 2050, even if major emitters have not yet done so. More than 100 cities did the same, including several of the world's largest.

Small island states together committed to achieve carbon neutrality and to move to 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030. And countries from Pakistan to Guatemala, Colombia to Nigeria, New Zealand to Barbados vowed to plant more than 11 billion trees.

More than 100 leaders in the private sector committed to accelerating the green economy. A group of the world's largest

asset-owners, controlling \$2 trillion, pledged to move to carbon-neutral investment portfolios by 2050. This is in addition to a recent call by asset managers representing nearly half the world's invested capital, some \$34 trillion, for global leaders to put a meaningful price on carbon and phase out fossil fuel subsidies and thermal coal power worldwide.

### 4. Hang on: UNEP, WMO, IPCC, UNFCCC, COP...why all the acronyms?

It's true that the UN is a very acronym-heavy place. These ones all represent international tools and agencies that, under the leadership of the UN, were created to help advance climate action globally. Here's how they

fit together.

UNEP is the UN Environment Programme, the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment. WMO stands for World Meteorological Office, the UN agency for international cooperation in areas such as weather forecasting, observing changes in the climate, and studying water resources.

In 1988 the UN General Assembly asked UNEP and the WMO to establish the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which is made of hundreds of experts, in order to assess data, and providing reliable scientific evidence for climate action negotiations.

All three UN bodies publish reports that, in recent years, have frequently made international headlines, as concerns about the climate crisis have grown.

As for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), this document was signed at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. In the treaty, nations agreed to "stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere" to prevent dangerous interference from human activity on the climate system.

Today, 197 countries are parties to the treaty. Every year since the treaty entered into force in 1994, a "conference of the parties", or COP, has been held to discuss how to move forward. Madrid will hold the 25th COP, therefore COP25.

### 5. And what's important about this COP?

Because the UNFCCC had non-binding limits on greenhouse gas emissions for individual countries, and no enforcement mechanism, various extensions to this treaty were negotiated during recent COPs, including most recently the Paris Agreement, adopted in 2015, in which all countries agreed to step up efforts to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial temperatures and boost climate action financing.

COP25 is the final COP before we enter the defining year of 2020, when many nations must submit new climate action plans. Among the many elements that need to be ironed out is the financing of climate action worldwide.

Currently, not enough is being done to meet the three climate goals: reducing emissions 45 per cent by 2030; achieving climate neutrality by 2050 (which means a net zero carbon footprint), and stabilizing global temperature rise at 1.5°C by the end of the century.

Because the clock is ticking on climate change, the world cannot afford to waste more time, and a bold, decisive, ambitious way forward needs to be agreed.

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# Food fortification project key in curbing malnutrition in children

By Francis Kajubi

A 32-year-old Leticia of Misufini area in Morogoro Municipality is one of the beneficiaries of food fortification education offered by Sanku Fortification-Project Healthy Children (PHC).

The project is aimed at offering technology, tools and support for small-scale grain millers in Tanzania, enabling them to fortify their flour with life-saving nutrients as per the country's laws.

According to Leticia, the project was an eye-opener to me and other people in the area as we're trained on how to use fortified maize flour when preparing porridge for children.

"This was a golden chance to me as a mother, now I'm sure the food I give to my child has all the ingredients a child needs for proper growth," says Leticia.

A mother of two recounts that last year her child was on risk of dying due to malnutrition, "but thanks God she is alive due to the education I got from one of grain millers who are in food fortification project".

As it is to other people who have benefited from the project, Leticia is a happy mother as she is using fortified food for her children.

Celestin Mgoba, research scientist from Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre (TFNC) describes fortification and bio-fortification as key in reducing micronutrient deficiencies of public health significance among vulnerable population groups, especially infants and young children, and pregnant and lactating women through fortification of staple food with micronutrient.

He says that in 2010, 33 per cent of under 5 children were Vitamin A deficient, 37 per cent of lactating women lacked the same while 58 per cent of children under 5 and 45 per cent of women were anaemic



Msouth Extra Power (T) Company workers display a pink bag used in packaging fortified maize flour in Dar es Salaam recently. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

in 2015/16 due to iron deficiency.

According to him, fortification is done during production, but bio-fortification is increasing density of selected vitamins or minerals through plant breeding or agronomic practices.

"This technology is completely different with that of GMO foods as the latter involves change/modification of DNA" he says, encouraging more people to use fortified food.

Felix Brooks-Church, Sanku PHC, co-founder and chief executive officer says:

"As an organisation, we offer education on food fortification technology to small-scale millers, so that they can be able to fortify their flour with life-saving nutrients. And this has been successful as more people have started using fortified food."

According to him, millers add micronutrients that are scientifically proven to improve health and vitality into maize flour that 95 per cent of Tanzanians eat daily. The micronutrients added are vitamin and minerals, namely B12, Zinc, Folic Acid, and Iron. The fortification proportion-

ality of the micronutrients addition is 1 kilogramme of nutrient premix per 2,000 kilogrammes of maize flour (Sembe).

He says fortification is geared towards fighting hidden hunger as people eat processed staple foods that lack micronutrients leading to malnutrition to children aged zero to two years.

At least 30 per cent of Tanzanian kids are victims of malnutrition. Lacking key vitamins and minerals in diets made from starchy flour results in 130 Tanzanian children dying every day from preventable

sicknesses. This must stop," says Brooks-Church. According to him, the organisation installs a dosifier, a special machine that is used to add precise amount of micronutrient premix to the maize flour. Since the project started off in 2015 with support from the USAID, SANKU has installed 382 dosifiers as of November this year, reaching over two million people across East Africa with nutritious flour.

"We do enter a special agreement with millers in need of a dosifier that ranges from providing the dosifier equipment to millers via a grant, but in most cases offering use of the machines for free. We are also able to offset the cost of the nutrient premix by providing the millers empty pink flour bags for packaging the flour at a market price, whereby the revenue generated covers the cost of the millers' nutrients, essentially making fortification cost free" said the CEO.

He asserts that currently 1.5 million Tanzanians consume fortified maize flour in the 23 regions of the country where Sanku has reached. Brooks-Church added that with the data collected from small miller, agents of fortified maize flour and consumers, 3 million Tanzanians will be consuming fortified flour by the end of next year.

"It's not easy for a small miller to afford a dosifier that goes at US\$2,750 (about 7m/-). We work with all small millers regardless of the capacity of their production in both rural and urban areas hopping to reach 500 millers by the end of 2020.

"We also plan to reach another three regions by the end of this year. We purchase the pink bags through bulk procurement and print them in the names of the millers at our own cost," he explains.

Sanku monitors the miller's use of the dosifier remotely through a cellular link, developed in partnership with Vodacom, and visits the mill if the dosifier is not in

use or needs repair, as well as to restock their nutrients. Brooks-Church said that the dosifier is installed with a chip that helps in sending information about the machine's operating status after every five minutes.

The chip is connected to the mobile towers thus need no credit or data to function. The information sent directly to Sanku's server includes whether the machine is functioning correctly, if it is on or off, if the proportionality of maize flour and premix is accurate, and the overall quantity of flour produced. Sanku is working with Vodacom Tanzania for technology to facilitate this service.

Sanku is working on pilot fortification projects in Kenya, Rwanda, Malawi and Mozambique. It targets reaching 100 million people with fortified flour by 2025 in the East Africa region. Sanku finds the millers through its regional manager's surveys, but also in collaboration with SIDO, TBS, TFNC, Farmers and Millers co-operative unions.

Some of the small maize flour millers, which are benefiting from the food fortification project is the Dar es Salaam-based Msouth Super Sembe.

The firm's communication manager, Evod Sanga, lauds Sanku and the fortification technology, which has improved the business and people's healthy.

According to him, the company produces between 20 and 30 tonnes of fortified maize flour per week and it is currently holding negotiations with three boarding secondary schools in Dar es Salaam so as they sign contracts to supply them the product. It has four permanent and 15 temporary employees at its production facility in Dar es Salaam.

"The business is good. We have been also educating consumers on why they have to consume fortified flour through our agents and fliers," he added.

## Plea for urgent action to curb rise in GBV cases in Zanzibar

By Guardian Reporter

GENDER activists in Zanzibar are calling for swift measures to end gender-based violence if the country is to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the next ten years.

They made the call on Tuesday when speaking at the meeting aimed at discussing and adding key inputs on the recent survey on evidence-based media advocacy and follow up on GBV issues. The survey was organised by Tanzania Media Women Association in Zanzibar (Tamwa-Zanzibar).

The study, which involved young media fellows (YMF), was conducted in Zanzibar covering two districts - North "A" District in Unguja, and Mkoani District in Pemba.

Sheikh Mwalim Mwazini Jogoo, one of religious leader in Zanzibar says: "Our laws criminalise rape and other forms of gender-based violence (GBV), but the enforcement of such laws is often weak. Many rape cases are never brought to court and victims are frequently encouraged to accept reconciliation instead of prosecution of offenders. This is a challenge that needs to be dealt with if we're to end these barbaric behaviours."

"I think it is high time, law enforcers should work hard to ensure all people behind GBV are taken to justice. And if possible, the law on this matter should be reviewed for better results," he says.

Jogoo is of the view that GBV perpetrators need to be beaten with not less than 100 sticks before the public as one way offending the vice in Zanzibar.

National coordinator of One Stop Center in Zanzibar's Ministry of Health Farshu Khalfan Hafidhi suggests the

needs for more education on how people should report GBV cases to the responsible authorities such as police gender desks.

"It is true that many people are aware of GBV, but most of them are unaware on how to report such cases to the responsible authorities. So, this is the area we need to work on."

Ali Sultan, a Zanzibar-based senior journalist and researcher says: "As per the latest survey GBV cases are going high despite a number of interventions, which are in place including good laws and policies that criminalise gender-based violence."

He says the report shows, there are heaps of GBV cases in police stations, most are said to be under investigations. "I think it is high time for the government to provide a time frame for GBV cases to be taken to court after being reported," he suggests

Shifaa Said Hassan, Tamwa-Zanzibar board member calls for collective efforts to end GBV.

"We must continue to invest in the fight against GBV but also work in collaborations with all players such as governments, traditional and religious leaders, and communities to ensure our collective efforts have maximum impact," she suggests.

Asha Abdi, acting director of Tamwa-Zanzibar cites bureaucracy at police gender desk as a challenge thwarting the battle against GBV as it is a very long process for a victim to get her/his justice.

In turn, she says: "This demoralises people to go on with their cases, hence fail to get justice."

"Most cases are said to be under police investigation and this is caused by lack of commitments by police officers, and the culture of secrecy—which



is so serious here, which is a factor that fuel GBV," she says.

Abdi also says poor customer-care in police stations is another challenge that hampers the anti-GBV fight as victims are rudely treated when reporting their cases.

"To me, I see this as a challenge in the GBV fight."

Presenting the findings of the survey, Ali Haji Mwadini, said that GBV is perhaps the most widespread in both two districts—North "A" and Mkoani, despite the valuable efforts

taken by governmental and non-governmental institutions.

"Any type of violence is traumatic for men or women, but gender-based violence is traumatically inflicted by men on women and girls. The cost to the survivor, her family, society and the country as a whole is vast," says Mwadini, who is also a consultant of the study.

According to him, statistics indicate that one in five women will be a victim of rape or attempted rape in her lifetime.

"One in three will have been beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused, usually by a family member or an acquaintance."

Due to ineffective implementation of Criminal Procedure Act No 7 of 2018 and Evidence Act No 9 of 2017 GBV incidences as victims normally neglect provision of evidence before the court without being convicted in accordance to the law, he says.

"Based on the findings of this follow-up survey, it is clearly observed that GBV cases are fueled by some negative culture practices inherited from one generation to another and religious beliefs which portrays men as superior and powerful within a family. The trends show that GBV is a public cry as incidences are being reported every day, yet measures taken are not enough in winning this fight.

"The study further reveals that women, youth and children, as well as the people with disabilities particularly those with developmental disability become susceptible to abuse routinely as the rights of GBV survivors being compromised by case delays, cumbersome procedures, administrative bottlenecks, corruption and ignorance of laws

"There is a poor coverage of GBV in the media on the programmes and newspaper articles produced and published by young media fellows. Also, the choice on media was not strategically fit for advocacy especially in newspaper. The study further shows that the prevalence and magnitude of GBV incidences at targeted areas are alarming as cases being reported are prevalently higher," Mwadini says.

The findings call upon revised agenda on strategic advocacy and other interventions on the issues of GBV as the status of previous reported cases in term of fighting against GBV is not promising at all.

## One health approach is a two-for-one stop for healthcare in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

PROMOTING healthcare strategies that target both human and animal populations at the same time can save money, participant time and result in a two-for-one stop for health care services.

That's according to a new study by scientists at Washington State University's Paul Allen School for Global Animal Health.

The researchers treated roundworm infections in humans dur-

ing their regular dog vaccinations campaign to eliminate rabies in 24 Tanzanian villages.

Their findings indicate the utility of integrating the treatment of humans and animals together, a concept known as One Health.

"We found there was no difference between the proportion of households that participated in the combined and stand-alone events," said Felix Lankester, clinical assistant professor and lead researcher on the project.

"Suggesting that people were not put off from attending a combined intervention where their children received treatment alongside their animals."

One health delivery platforms like the one Global Animal Health researchers implemented in Tanzania could play an important role in the World Health Organization's global campaign to end the burden of neglected tropical diseases by 2030. The WSU study, funded by the Bill & Melinda

Gates Foundation Grand Challenges Award Programme, was recently published in BMC Public Health.

Eight villages were provided with clinics to treat roundworm, eight were provided with clinics to vaccinate against rabies in dogs, and eight others were provided with integrated clinics to do both at the same time.

The integrated health clinics saw 91.5 percent of households per village receive roundworm treatment, while 82.5 percent of households

attended clinics where roundworm treatments were provided alone.

For rabies vaccinations, the integrated health clinics saw 86.5 percent of households participate, compared to 90 percent of households when rabies vaccinations were offered alone.

During focus group discussions with clinic attendees, 85 percent said the integrated clinics result in "two for one" health treatments.

In addition to reducing time for those who would have to travel to

two health clinics, there were significant cost savings by combining the interventions for both diseases. The integrated health clinics cut transportation and advertising costs, lowering the cost of a deworming dose by an average of 12 cents and the cost of a rabies vaccination by an average of 66 cents.

By positioning the clinics outside of school grounds and offering treatment to the whole community rather than just children attending primary school, the study was also

able to reach thousands of people, outside of the 7 to 13-year-old age range, who would have otherwise not been vaccinated by the United Republic of Tanzania's National Schools Deworming Programme.

"We need novel, cost-effective and complementary control strategies to try to tackle these neglected tropical diseases," Lankester said. "This study is important because it shows a One Health approach can reduce costs and reach more people."



## Copper market shake-up makes waves in Zambia

Namibia's GDP growth, which has By Daily Maverick Correspondent

A senior executive who was privy to the discussions confirmed that the Anglo-Australian mining giant was looking at several options, including purchasing the entire company, that would put a brake on what many regard as a pending take-over by Jiangxi.

The discussions come amid a shake-up in the global copper market including a move by Chinese companies to take an effective lock on the strategically important central African copper-belt, which spans Katanga province in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia's Copperbelt province.

Via its Kanshansi and Sentinel mining operations, First Quantum Minerals (FQM) is the largest producer of copper in Zambia, a domain where Chinese companies are keen to increase their stake. The company also has operations in Panama, Argentina, Turkey, Spain and Finland.

The move by Rio, which is looking to increase its copper holdings, would be against the grain as a number of big western players on the Zambian and Congolese side of the copper-belt are exiting in favour of Chinese companies.

On 17 October shares in Toronto-listed First Quantum soared after the investment firm Pangea Investment Management Ltd, backed by Jiangxi, increased its stake in the company to



Copper is Zambia's biggest export. File photo

10.8% and entered a forward contract providing it with the option to buy another 40 million shares, which would bring Jiangxi's stake close to 20%.

In September, after disclosures in the media, FQM President G Clive Newell confirmed the sale of a minority interest in FQM's Zambian assets.

Though FQM denied that a compa-

ny takeover had been discussed, the sale of a significant block of shares to a Chinese company signalled that FQM could be ripe for a take-over. Twenty percent of FQM's equity in the Zambian mines is held by the state-owned ZCCM-Investment Holdings. Facing large debt repayments to Chi-

na, discussions have been held about selling the government's stake in Zambia's copper producers to Chinese companies.

Such a move would bring Jiangxi close to 40% ownership in FQM's Zambian operations and within striking distance of control.

Rio is a global player with operations in a number of base metals, uranium and diamonds but its portfolio remains heavily weighted toward iron ore. The

ZCCM-IH has already sought to liquidate KCM, owned by the Indian company Vedanta, claiming that it is lying about expansion plans and is paying too little tax. However, this move, which was reportedly intended to flip the asset to a Chinese company, has been held up by arbitration and the sale is on hold.

At the same time, at least three major Chinese mining companies – China Minmetals, Jiangxi Copper and Zijin – are bidding for Barrick Gold's Lunwana mine.

In the DRC, China Molybdenum has already acquired the largest producer, Tenke Fungurume, from Freeport McMoran; Zijin Mining are about to acquire control of Ivanhoe's Kamoakakula and Kipushi projects; and Eurasian Resources Group has announced that it wants to sell its Frontier copper mine and has been talking to a range of Chinese suitors.

The largest remaining western producers left standing on the copper-belt would then be Glencore and FQM.

Glencore, under investigation by the US Department of Justice for bribery and corruption in the DRC, recently mothballed its cobalt-rich Mutanda mine, and has also been reported to be gearing its assets in DRC and Zambia for a sale.

Rio is a global player with operations in a number of base metals, uranium and diamonds but its portfolio remains heavily weighted toward iron ore. The

company is a major producer of copper in Chile – where unrest has cut production – and the US. It also holds a stake in Oyu Tolgoi in Mongolia, reputed to be the largest copper and gold deposits in the world. But copper is a small part of the company's overall revenues.

Rio is said to be ready to accept a \$3.5-billion deal with Indonesia for its interest in the giant Grasberg operation, paving the way for an end to a protracted, three-way wrangle involving the Indonesian state mining company and Freeport McMoran over the world's No 2 copper mine.

Released from Indonesia, FQM could provide a significant buying opportunity for Rio.

One source who is close to the discussions said one option that has been discussed is a back-to-back sale of the company in which the assets are split between Rio and Jiangxi. Rio's portfolio of projects shows that it has a very light engagement in sub-Saharan Africa.

Rio would get FQM's Panama and Argentina assets and the Chinese would get Zambia, Turkey and Mauritania, the source who is familiar with the discussions said. The value would be split down the middle.

The source said Rio was also looking at Freeport McMoran, the world's largest copper producer, which is regarded as a very likely target for takeover. This possibility has been widely speculated in Australian media. **DM**

## When elections and electioneering trump lawmaking

By Marianne Merten

ON Tuesday the Constitutional Court dismissed Justice Minister Ronald Lamola's application for a 12-month extension to amend the 1998 Recognition of Customary Marriages Act, to allow for joint and equal property rights between wives and husbands in polygamous customary marriages that occurred before that 1998 law.

It was a last-minute ministerial bid – six weeks before the end of a two-year deadline for Parliament to amend the law by 29 November 2019 – needed apparently because “2018 and 2019 were atypical years in the legislative process due to the 2019 elections”.

Constitutional Court Judge Nonkosi Zoliswa Mhlantla, in a unanimous judgment, turned down the request for extra time. This was because the original 30 November 2017 judgment made provision for the interim relief to apply not only during the two years Parliament has had to pass an amendment, but also afterwards – just in case the national legislature didn't manage to do that.

“Parliament was given sufficient time to address the issue. This court took a precautionary measure and made provision in the event that Parliament failed to do so...”, wrote Mhlantla, citing from the original 2017 judgment by Judge Mbuyiseli Madlanga:

“In the event that Parliament finds the interim relief unacceptable, it is at liberty to undo it as soon as practically possible. Should Parliament fail to do anything during the period of suspension, the interim relief must continue to apply until changed by Parliament.”

And so the 2017 Constitutional Court-ordered interim relief Madlanga ordered remains in place: wives and husbands in polygamous customary marriages concluded before the 1998 Act “will have joint and equal ownership and other rights to, and joint and equal rights of management and control over, marital property” and these rights would be exercised “in the best interests of the family unit constituted by the house concerned”, while each spouse retains exclusive rights to their respective private property.

Section 7(1) of the Recognition of Customary Marriages Act that excluded the proprietary regime of polygamous customary marriages concluded before the 1998 act had been declared unconstitutional as it violated the right to dignity and the right not to be discriminated against.

Tuesday's judgment raises critical issues for governance in a constitutional democracy.

Judges find themselves in an uncomfortable space of having to effectively write into the law interim relief orders to ensure South Africans' rights are not contravened.

The judiciary has said on public record that this is not what it wants to do because lawmaking belongs to Parliament. That legislative prerogative as enshrined in the Constitution is deferred to in Madlanga's 2017 judgment, and again by Mhlantla:

“In any event, Parliament is still at liberty to engage with the legislative process further and amend the Bill at will.”

But serious questions must be raised over the government's capacity and willingness to govern, if the May 2019 elections and prior electioneering are cited as the reason for disrupted governance.

“(The justice minister) contended that 2018 and 2019 were atypical years in the legislative process due to the 2019 elections, which caused inevitable interruptions and changed the ordinary deadlines for government departments to submit bills to be passed,” said Tuesday's judgment, adding that Lamola nevertheless had argued the Justice Department “acted reasonably and diligently in attending to the administrative procedure required before Parliament continues with the process”.

If public servants and officials were diligent, as the Constitutional Court was told, then governance fell flat because ministers decided electioneering during 2018 in the run-up to May 2019 was more important.

The mention of changed legislative deadlines must also be seen as a reference to Parliament's contribution to the disruptions by approving a two-and-a-half-month mid-2018 recess for electioneering while 43 bills were in the legislative pipeline.

The national legislature finds itself at best on the back foot and at worst simply lacking. Missing a court-ordered deadline is a big deal.

Or as Mhlantla put it in Tuesday's unanimous Constitutional Court judgment:

“It is trite that court orders must be complied with. It is imperative to the rule of law and the functioning of our constitutional democracy that court orders are respected. Parliament was given sufficient time to address the issue. This court took a precautionary measure and made provision in the event that Parliament failed to do so. It is now clear that Parliament will not be able to remedy the defect in time...”

While the dominant practice is for ministers and their departments to initiate legislation and bring draft laws



to Parliament, nothing stops parliamentarians from making laws.

Most recently Parliament did so with committee bills such as the Public Audit Amendment Bill that gives the auditor-general more and sharper teeth to comply with audit findings, or the justice committee's Promotion of Access to Information Amendment Bill that would make it possible to submit requests for political funding directly to a political party.

Parliament could have done so with this 2017 Constitutional Court-ordered amendment to the Recognition of Customary Marriages Act. If not actually through a committee bill, then at least putting pressure on Cabinet to fulfil its responsibilities. The deputy president has

since 1994 traditionally served also as the leader of government business, or the liaison between the executive and national legislature, precisely to smooth out any potential kinks.

At Thursday's meeting of Parliament's programming committee, African Christian Democratic Party MP Steve Swart raised his concerns about Tuesday's Constitutional Court judgment and, more generally, on Parliament's ability to meet Constitutional Court timeframes.

His comments came a month after the programming committee was briefed on the status of the bills that needed amending following Constitutional Court judgments. All are related to the previous Parliament before the May 2019 elections.

Eighteen judgments by the Constitutional Court directed Parliament to amend 16 laws within a specified time frame.

According to the 31 October 2019 briefing by Parliament's legal services to the programming committee, only in three instances was this achieved. Nine legislative amendment processes are still in progress. In two cases the Constitutional Court extended deadlines on request.

In one case, Parliament's failure to meet the set deadline had an impact in law, according to the briefing document. But in the four cases that the national legislature failed to meet the deadlines, it did not have an impact in law. That's because the judges had written relief provisions into the law.

And while the 31 October 2019 presentation did not specify any of the laws, Tuesday's Constitutional Court judgment makes it clear one was the amendment of the Recognition of Customary Marriages Act.

The Recognition of Customary Marriages Amendment Bill is now before Parliament. The justice committee has received a briefing, but has not yet started processing. According to Parliament's website, the bill has been referred to the National House of Traditional Leaders for input as part of the consultation process.

Lamola told the Constitutional Court in his request for an extension that 12 more months would be “sufficient”. On that argument, the amended law should be done and dusted by the end of November 2020.

The legislative clock has been reset, but it is ticking. And Parliament has its job cut out. **DM**



## BUSINESS



A pedestrian smokes an e-cigarette on November 08, 2019 in San Francisco, California. The Centre for Disease Control has reported that an additive sometimes used in vaping products known as vitamin E acetate may be the cause of a national outbreak of e-cigarette-related lung injuries that has been linked to dozens of deaths.

## BREAKTHROUGH

## Scientists uncover likely cause of US vaping casualties

## SAN FRANCISCO

Health officials have identified the likely cause of a series of vaping-related injuries and deaths recently reported in the US.

Tests were carried out on lung fluids of 29 people who fell ill during a dangerous outbreak of respiratory-injuries linked to e-cigarettes. Although the presence of other harmful compounds were also identified in the investigation, scientists are confident vitamin E acetate contributed to the hospitalisation of more than 2,000 vapers and 39 deaths.

The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention found 'direct evidence' of the compound at the primary site of lung injury in each of the patients tested. "The latest information points to growing evidence of vitamin E acetate as a very strong culprit of concern," said Anne Schuchat, principal deputy director at the CDC, in a US news briefing.

"The findings are significant because for the first time, we have been able to connect results from product testing with clinical specimens from patients." Researchers reported no other potential toxins detected in the 29 lung samples, describing the study as a 'breakthrough' in the investigation to understand more about the recent spate of vaping-related deaths.

Most of those who fell ill admitted vaping tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the psychoactive ingredient found in marijuana. Of the lung fluid samples from 29 patients across 10 US states examined by CDC scientists, 23 contained THC and 16 had traces of nicotine.

Vitamin E acetate is a colourless ingredient with no smell that can be hard to detect. It is often used as a thickening agent in e-cigarettes and vaping liquids and in other illegal substances like cannabis. The substance has a similar viscosity to THC oil, but is considerably cheaper and potentially lethal.

Vitamin E itself is found in many

foods, including vegetable oils, cereals, meat, fruits, and vegetables and is available as a dietary supplement and skin creams. Although usually harmless when ingested as a vitamin supplement or applied to the skin, research suggests it may interfere with normal lung function when inhaled.

Many of those who fell ill said they purchased their vaping devices on the black market. As of November 5, US authorities have reported 2,051 lung injuries related to vaping or e-cigarettes across 49 states. The average age of the deceased was 53, with 79 per cent under 35 and 70 per cent men.

About 86 per cent of those with lung injuries reported using THC-containing products, with 34 per cent admitting exclusive use of THC. Researchers found it difficult to identify a specific vaping product, as users reported a wide range of brands and substances.

The sale of e-cigarettes was banned in the UAE until April when new regulation on the sale of registered products opened the door for a new market in the country. The tobacco industry has recently launched heat-not-burn tobacco products on sale in the UAE.

Battery operated gadgets, such as the Philip Morris International iQos and Glo from British American Tobacco, heats tobacco at a lower temperature than combustible cigarettes, emitting fewer toxic chemicals. Dubai World Trade is due to host the region's largest vaping expo in June 2020.

Meanwhile, doctors in the UAE have condemned the use of e-cigarettes by children and called for a ban on flavoured products that may encourage youngsters to vape. "E-cigarettes have become an easy, legal device where people can mix substances with nicotine liquids for an additional hit," said Dr Fadi Baladi, medical director at Burjeel Day Surgery Centre in Abu Dhabi. "This is causing serious health problems."

## BRAINWASHED

## Skin bleaches in 2019: Why are people still doing it and what are the dangers?

## JOHANNESBURG

When people are going as far as scraping their melanin off, you have to ask just how harmful beauty standards have become.

A video of a woman getting a skin bleaching procedure in Nigeria, surfaced on social media this week, causing much concern about not only her health, but the harmful effects of colourism on the black community.

In the video, we see a faceless woman scrubbing the legs of a woman in a bathtub with what appears to be a chemical substance dissolved in some hot water, revealing a pale layer of skin as the dubious 'aesthetician' essentially peels off the melanin on her client's legs.

Although, we cannot dictate what people should or shouldn't do to their bodies, a few social media users expressed their concerns of the implications circulating such a video may have on susceptible viewers.

And skin bleaching is not only prominent in Nigeria, but in other parts of Africa and Asia too. In 2013 the BBC reported on a study that suggested one out of three South African women bleach their skin. Women have been lightening their skin for decades - mainly by using, often, dangerous products in order to obtain blemish-free, lighter and brighter skin tones. And over the world, the skin-lightening market is now bigger than ever - the fastest growing sector being in Asia.

In many African cultures, light-skinned women are still considered more beautiful. So in order for dark-skinned women to fit in and feel more accepted by their society, they opt for skin lightening products from markets with vendors promising them skin miracles, as we saw in the viral video above.

In SA, Huffington Post notes that, among others, local vendors are still big sellers of harmful lightening products. The Daily Mail claims that most of these creams contain compounds like hydro-



Black women with their original skin colour look beautiful.

quinone and tretinoin. These substances are dangerous and could lead to possibly lethal health concerns like liver damage, skin cancer and mercury poisoning.

In 2015 the Ivory Coast banned skin lightening products due to their harmful nature. And in 2016 Ghana issued a ban on the importation of all products containing the dangerous skin-lightening chemical, hydroquinone. But even though these products are banned in many African countries, they are still widely used.

African pop star, Dencia also has her own lightening product known as "Whitenicious". She claims that the cream is intended to remove dark spots and that it is out of her control if customers use it to whiten their entire skin.

In 2017, IOL reported that a woman was selling a skin lightening cream called Caro Light in South Africa, which apparently, transforms peo-

ple's skin colour in just two weeks. Speaking to IOL, the vendor said that children as young as 16 are bleaching their skin (by following their parents' example).

A lot of women are unaware of the health hazards associated with using these often dangerous skin-bleaching products. Especially when even our very own celebrities are using them. These treatments include skin-lightening pills, soaps, supplements, surgeries and injections.

Nowadays it seems to be more about lightening the skin from the inside out - with many going for the glutathione injected into your bloodstream via a drip route.

Local dermatologist, Dr. Nomphele Gantscho says that glutathione is a substance produced naturally by the liver, it is found in every cell in the body. It is also found in fruits, vegetables, and

meats. "Glutathione is the most important antioxidant. Glutathione is a nutrient comprised of three amino acids (building blocks of protein): glutamine, glycine, and cysteine. It contains sulfur groups that attract free radicals, heavy metals and toxins, and enhances their elimination.

"Glutathione is administered intravenously as a skin-whitening agent. The synthetic glutathione inhibits your body's protection of melanin synthesis."

How safe is this?

No one really knows yet. Taking glutathione in reasonable amounts appears to be quite safe, although it should be avoided in people with milk protein allergies and in those who have received an organ transplant.

"But there is very little evidence that establishes either the safety or efficacy of glutathione injections for skin lightening. More

research needs to be done. Skin whitening injections aren't known for their health benefits," says Gantscho.

There is inadequate safety documentation on the use of high doses of glutathione administered at 600 mg to 1.2 grams once weekly and even up to twice weekly. At very high doses glutathione is unsafe and may result in serious consequences to the health of users:

Adverse drug reactions resulting from the use of glutathione IV for skin whitening have been reported and include the following: Long term chances of developing skin cancer, glutathione strongly inhibits the production of melanin that is a dark pigmentation protecting a persons body from the harmful UV rays from the sun; Reports of adverse drug reactions ranging from skin rashes to the serious and potentially fatal Steven Johnsons Syndrome (SJS) and Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis (TEN); Irregularities in the thyroid function; Suspected kidney dysfunction potentially resulting in kidney failure; Severe abdominal pain in a patient receiving

twice-weekly glutathione administered intravenously has been reported; When not done under sterile environment it can cause introduction of disease and sharing of needles can lead to transmission of life threatening infections; and Taking glutathione long-term has been linked to lower zinc levels;

## BAD PARENTING

## Eighty per cent of children fail to meet daily exercise target, WHO study finds

## DUBAI

More than 80 per cent of school children around the world have been labelled "inactive" by the world's leading health authority. Alarming figures from the World Health Organisation showed that four in five 11 to 17-year-olds were not doing enough exercise.

According to the first analysis of its kind, the majority of the 1.6 million participants surveyed did not meet the current 60-minute recommendation for "moderate-to-vigorous" daily exertion. Boys were found to be more likely to work up a sweat than girls in all but four of the 146 countries polled.

Yet just 22 per cent of males were found to be "sufficiently active" for more than one hour

a day, compared to 15 per cent of girls. In the UAE, the survey found that just 18 per cent of 11 to 17-year-olds exercise enough.

"Across all nine regions, girls were less active than boys, with significant differences between sexes in seven of the nine regions," the authors of the study said. "If these trends continue, the global target of [having] less than 70 per cent [of inactive children] by 2030 will not be achieved."

The WHO report, published in The Lancet medical journal this month, looked at the inactivity levels in school-aged children for the years 2001 and 2016. It found that those surveyed were "compromising their current and future health" by failing to take enough exercise.

In the short-term, being active can positively impact fitness, building stronger bones and muscles and helping lower weight. In the long-run, proper exercise can help reduce the risk of disease, including type-2 diabetes and coronary heart disease.

According to the research, South Korea came top globally for the country with the least active teenagers. It found 94 per cent failed to do one hour of exercise a day. The Philippines was a close second at 93 per cent and Cambodia at 92 per cent.

Meanwhile, in the country with the most active children - Bangladesh - only a third of children, or 34 per cent, met the 60-minute a day exercise target. Children in the US were also

found to be among the least active globally, with 28 per cent exercising for an hour or more a day.

Researchers suggested several reasons which might explain the trend in low rates of daily exertion. "Young people in this age group are very encouraged to work hard, to study for exams," the authors said. "Often, for very long periods of the day, they are sitting in school doing homework and they are not getting opportunities to be more active."

The WHO said countries should be encouraged to develop or update their "national policy and implementation plans on physical activity." In September, the UAE Cabinet approved

a new nutrition labelling scheme offering consumers more information about the foods they eat.

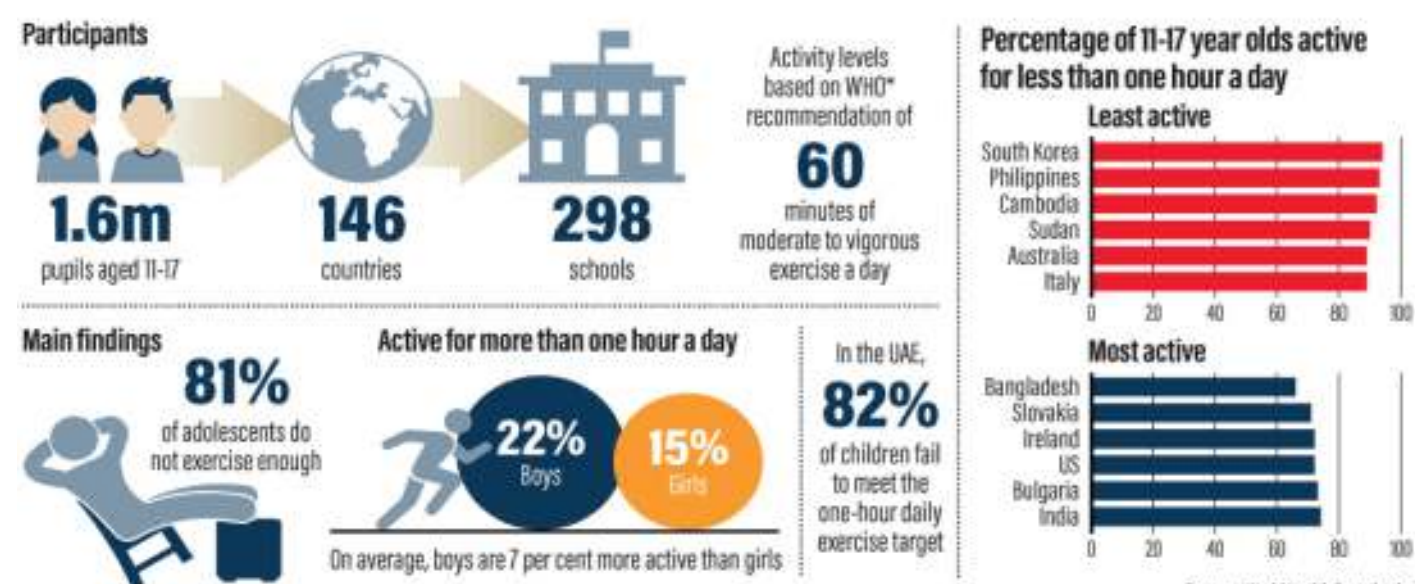
Once implemented, the initiative aims to improve public health by encouraging people to adopt a healthier lifestyle through the food choices they make. Other recent healthy policy initiatives in the UAE include the introduction of a tax on fizzy and sugary drinks in 2017.

Speaking to The National, Will Crossley, director of sport at Jumeira Baccalaureate School in Dubai, said children's increasing use of computer games was making it harder to encourage them to exercise.

He said PE lesson time at the school increased as pupils got older, with 80 minutes per week for Grades 1-3 and 100 minutes per week in Grades 4 and 5. "A recent hurdle as a sports teacher is the battle against TV, computers and video games," he said. "As a PE department, we have introduced gamification into our methods of teaching as a tool to increase attraction, engagement and retention within sport."

"The concept is to take elements or structure from video games and incorporate them within a sporting environment. These include progressing through levels, creating a point system, and giving students the opportunity to pause and replay."

## HOW ACTIVE ARE CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD?



More than 80 per cent of school children around the world do not exercise enough, according to a new study by World Health Organisation.



## CAREER

# Meet the woman who left her job as a lawyer in London and opened a pole dancing studio

## CAPE TOWN

'I had already started pole dancing when I was working as a lawyer in London, but thoughts of a career change never crossed my mind until I moved to Cape Town.'

Just over a year ago my best friend told me she would be trying out pole dancing as a hobby. It quickly became evident that this hobby was turning into a passion of hers and witnessing her overall growth as a result of it was inspiring to me.

Upon visiting her pole dancing studio and seeing her fellow amazing, strong and talented young women do their thing, I realised what a true artform this discipline is but how it is unfortunately still so stigmatised.

Curious to find out more, W24 chatted to Kathy Lee, founder of The Pole Project in Cape Town about all things pole and we were rather delighted to learn about her remarkable journey from corporate lawyer to pole dancer and studio owner.

Dancing on a pole used to be confined to strip clubs and dance bars. Now, it's a sport popular with men and women alike. Dmitry Politov of Russia is an amazing talent and in demand worldwide as a performer and coach.



Kathy Lee showing off her pole dancing skills at her studio in Cape Town.

opening my own pole studio in Cape Town. I decided that it was time for a change."

When she opened the pole dance studio it was the next adventure she wanted to explore as she wanted to share her love for this discipline. "The combination of athletic skill and artistic expression makes it incomparable to any other form of dance or sport, and the mental and physical transformation one goes through with pole dancing never ceases to amaze me," she says.

Today, pole dancing is my career. From a personal perspective, the physical changes are evident - I've never felt fitter or stronger in my life - but there is also profound emotional growth, and a stronger sense of self worth and expressiveness.

Kathy believes that the reason pole dancing is so incredibly positive for so many people is because you are constantly challenging yourself and surprising yourself. "You end up doing things with your body that you didn't believe you were ever capable of, and this shift in thinking transfers to all aspects of life. You realise that pole dancing is not just a form of exercise or dance... it's movement. Movement

that feels good for your body, mind and soul," she says.

Kathy dispels some misconceptions about pole dancing

Myth: It's always sexual

"Pole dancing dates back to the 12th century in India and was originally practiced mostly by men, not women. The same goes for the "Chinese pole" used in circuses, dating back 1000 years ago. It migrated over to the U.S. when exotic dancers from the middle East would perform as part of the travelling circus. The sexual aspect of it was introduced when dancers would try to entice viewers to come see their shows by dancing erotically. It wasn't until the 1980s that pole dancing became synonymous with bars and strip clubs," Kathy says.

"Today, while the exotic and sensual side of pole dancing still very much exists, it's evolved into various genres and subdivisions. Want something more athletic? Do a fitness-focused pole dancing class. Looking for a workout that involves dance? There are classes that teach beautifully choreographed routines focusing on dance movements on and around the pole. Looking for

something that can help you embrace your sexuality? There's that, too!"

From the perspective of owning a studio and having the pleasure and privilege of training this army of strong, passionate and fierce humans, I have also realised that there are some things in life that money just can't buy: fulfillment, balance, and a greater sense of purpose.

Myth: I'm not strong enough to start

Kathy says, "That's like saying "I'm too unfit to go to the gym". You don't have to be strong for pole dancing, you get strong from pole dancing!"

Myth: I'm not flexible enough

"While being flexible certainly does help, again it is not a necessity to start pole dancing. Because pole dancing requires agility and dexterity for the manipulation of your body into various positions, it also helps you to build on your flexibility. You will also find that most pole dancers complement their pole training with regular stretch classes," she says.

The future of pole dancing Pole has been breaking into the fitness mainstream over the last decade. "There is nothing more telling of this

transition than the Global Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF) awarding observer status to the International Pole Sports Federation (IPSF) in October 2017. Observer status is the first step international federations must achieve before becoming full GAISF members, which serves as a great boost for any sport hoping to one day land in the Olympics," Kathy shares.

"I think that pole becoming an Olympic category would be incredible for the future of pole, for obvious reasons. The more mainstream any activity becomes, the better the public's understanding of what we do. But I would also like to see more public recognition and acceptance of not just the sporty side of pole, but also the other styles of pole - in particular, artistic and exotic."

Generally speaking, many of us still fight stereotypes, and still find ourselves justifying our passions to skeptics. Kathy doesn't believe society will ever stop associating pole with its strip club origins. However, she would like society to recognise and respect that this origin is only one element of its heritage, understand that pole has evolved to what it

is today, and appreciate it for everything it has to offer i.e. female empowerment, athletic artistry, and the mind-blowing, superhuman strength of its performers.

"I think a lot of people have the conception that pole dancing is only for young, skinny women, or that only strippers or women desperately seeking to please men did it. Then you try it and realise that there is no stereotypical pole dancer. There are mums, college students, doctors, actors, accountants, personal trainers, and any other profession under the sun. Of all ages, cultures, ethnicities, shapes and sizes. And ask any pole dancer about what they love about pole dancing, and one of the first things they will say is 'community'," Kathy says.

"Because what we do is still considered taboo by many, there is a unique closeness that bonds us together. Also, because we all know how challenging (and painful!) pole dancing can be, we support each other. We go crazy when someone finally nails a trick for the first time, we like and share each other's videos, and we watch each other perform."

## ON-DEMAND

## Paying Sh100,000 for a session with hypnotist

## NAIROBI

Focus on one point of the room. When I count from one to three, start counting backward from 50 to zero. When I snap my fingers go up one number and carry on the reverse count. Slowly close your eyes when you get to zero."

That was how Tazim Elkington, a hypnotist started my hypnosis session in her Nairobi clinic. For weeks, I had been sceptical about trying out the therapy that is gaining popularity in Kenya albeit slowly, to help patients heal from past emotional turmoil or deal with pain or lose weight.

Hypnototherapy, which means "sleep" in Greek, makes a person go into a state of daydreaming. Then a patient gets to remember emotions in their subconscious and deal with them through talking. "Hypnosis is something that is little understood by many. It is misrepresented in film and by stage hypnotists who further distort what it really is. Hypnosis is actually a state that is reached just before one falls into a deep sleep," Tazim says.

During hypnosis, a person is consciously aware. Every patient is unique, and hence a hypnotist is unlikely to predict the experience. "The hypnotist guides the client into a trance. The client then experiences a series of body changes such as the breathing growing deeper, mouth and throat dryness, and a little fluttering of the closed eyelids," says Tazim.

"Once a client experiences these body changes, the hypnotist will then help him or her mentally access the deeper part of the subconscious mind." Patients are turning to hypnosis to tackle wellness issues like anxiety, phobia, substance abuse including tobacco, sexual dysfunction and undesirable spontaneous behaviours. Others seek help to sleep better, address learning disorders, communication, and relationship issues. It can also help in pain management or resolve digestive disorders and teeth grinding.

Before beginning the hypnosis, Tazim offered me food as we started our two-hour talking session. She dwelt on my past and my feelings as these helped me relive ear-



Dinesh Varsani founder of Natural Ayurved in Nairobi.

lier experiences, which cause present complaints, conditions and symptoms. I lay on a couch, covered with a light blanket. She helped me enter a trance-like state by inducing deep relaxation. It was hard getting into it at first, but I finally eased into it and let my feelings take course.

Then, she helped me remember exactly when the problem first began in my subconscious mind. I then had to explain how truly I felt about the people I had talked about. After what felt like 20 minutes, the session ended. On looking at the clock, the session had actually taken one hour and 15 minutes. I felt lighter and free.

A hypnotherapy session costs about Sh16,000 to Sh24,000, depending on whether it will take two or three

hours. Tazim says the number of sessions will depend on how committed one is to the path of healing but the ideal should be about 12 to 15 sessions which could cost about Sh360,000. "This is an investment that is life-changing and enhancing. One can opt to do intensive sessions that are between three to five days and more impactful. A full-day session, which is preferred by my out-of-town or country clients, costs Sh100,000," she says.

Besides hypnotherapy, other unconventional mind and body healing therapies that are picking up in Kenya include Ayurveda, quantum healing, acupuncture and Reiki. At Natural Ayurved Care, a clinic in Nairobi's Parklands, their therapies are nothing like the normal massages; the Swedish, Shiatsu, deep tissue or the aromatherapy.

At this clinic, they offer traditional ayurveda massage, which has been in existence for over 3,000 years ago. In Kenya, the take-up among locals may have been slow but more people are turning to Ayurveda clinics. Ayurveda helps one become more relaxed, eases stress and helps one regain energy.

Dr Dinesh Varsani, the clinic's founder says it involves massaging the body's energy points, done with the use of essential oils, helping one to free emotional burden. He says this kind of therapy promotes healing and wellness.

"I am in this business because of my own personal experience. When I was

young, I had acne vulgaris, which I tried to get rid of with all modalities. Initially, I had wanted to become a surgeon, architect or engineer, but this experience led me to practicing Ayurveda," he says, adding that he does Ayurveda, naturopathy, acupuncture, quantum healing and traditional therapy.

He started the clinic in Kenya over 22 years ago and has seen more than 10,000 clients. The number of Ayurveda sessions varies on different patients. "For example, we don't recommend body massages to clients suffering from rheumatoid arthritis. In the case that we do, we offer massages which does not involve touching the muscles, tendons and ligaments so that there is no further damage to the fibres of the muscle," he says.

In naturopathy, he teaches his patients to effectively prevent or treat diseases using diet, exercise, and massage. Acupuncture, on the other hand, involves inserting fine needles at specific points in the skin, and along what are considered to be lines of energy. This is used to treat various physical and mental conditions.

## INVESTMENT

## Resource constraints hold back varsity efforts to bridge mismatches in skills

## KIGALI

The mismatch between the quality of graduates and the demands of the labour market has become the subject of concern among employers, training institutions and policymakers alike.

The unemployment rate among Rwandans dropped to 14.5 per cent in February 2019, down from 16 per cent the year before. According to the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda, unemployment rate, is more rampant among the youth, where it is at 18.7 per cent. University graduates are among the unemployed.

As the unemployment rate bites, employers continue to complain about the mismatch between the demands of the job market and the skills that university graduates possess. Dr Charles Muligande, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of University of Rwanda (UR), acknowledged that there's a skills mismatch, but said that the university was working towards addressing the issue.

"Some of the programmes were developed in previous periods when there were few resources to assess what is really needed at the market," he said, adding: "As a result, we ended up developing programmes that are producing

graduates who do not fit the market needs."

What needs to be done?

Muligande says that mobilising resources is the starting point because, that way, the university can be able to do comprehensive research to identify the skills gap, and map out skills profile that are needed.

Theoneste Ntagengerwa, the spokesperson of Private Sector Federation (PSF), said the skills audit is indeed needed. "The gap is evident. But it can be a result of many problems like teaching content that are irrelevant to what's on the market, lack of standardized equipment to teach the right content, and many others," he said.

Therefore, he added, we need to have a cooperation framework with higher education institutions, so as to first do a joint research to assess current issues that cause the mismatch, and find the relevant solutions.

Iris Irumva, Managing Director of ITM Africa, an HR firm, said that learning institutions should start adopting content with employability skills. "All institutions in the education sector have to start teaching employability skills, and focus on problem-based learning approach as one of the ways to breach that gap," she said.

## TRANSPARENCY

## I am worth Sh68m, says Controller of Budget nominee

## NAIROBI

President Uhuru Kenyatta's nominee for Controller of Budget on Thursday declared her net worth at Sh68 million during her vetting by Parliament where she criticised increased use of taxpayers money on unbudgeted items.

Margaret Nyakango termed her assets as modest. Her estimate included half of the value of her family home, which she acquired through a mortgage.

"We have just finished repaying the loan and I have taken half of that house and put it in my declaration as part of my net worth," Mrs Nyakango told MPs. She was accompanied by her husband, David Nyakango.

She made the declaration before the National Assembly's Committee on National Planning where she blamed the disregard for budgets for the mounting pending bills, which have crossed the Sh150 billion mark.

Her networth pales in comparison to individuals recently vetted for top State jobs with majority having assets in excess of Sh150 million. Former Cabinet minister Esther Murugi Mathenge said she was worth Sh320 million while seeking to join the National Land Commission (NLC) while lawyer Gershon Otachi quoted properties of Sh200 million while seeking the same job.

Wealth declaration for those

seeking top public office is anchored in the Constitution as a tool in the fight against corruption. A separate law, the Public Officer Ethics Act, requires all State officials together with their spouses and dependent children under the age of 18 years to submit their wealth declaration forms once every two years. The full financial disclosure is a means to allow the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) to detect

and prevent corruption when top public servants are serving in office.

Mrs Nyakango, who is a director at the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), emphasised the need for tighter budget controls. The main task of the Controller of Budget is to approve release of cash from the government's main account - the Consolidated Fund Services - to ministries, counties and State agencies.

"We need to build capacity on budgetary controls. All releases of funds must be related to work plans but requests are made on plans that are not budgeted in the first place. Budgeted plans are then left out hence pending bills," Mrs Nyakango said.

The 60-year-old said where plans are in the budget but cash flows are not there, institutions have been incurring expenditure on the assumption that funds will come at a later stage but in

the process end up with bills that cannot be settled.

If confirmed to the post, Mrs Nyakango will succeed Agnes Odhiambo whose eight-year nonrenewable term ended in August. Fifteen people had applied for the post, including Stephen Masha, the acting Controller of Budget.

Mrs Nyakango, a certified public accountant, holds a Doctorate of Business Administration from the University of Liverpool, UK.







## WORLD

# UK PM Johnson implores Trump: Please keep out of election

LONDON

PRIME Minister Boris Johnson said it was best if U.S. President Donald Trump did not get involved in Britain's upcoming election when he visits London for a NATO summit next week.

"What we don't do traditionally as loving allies and friends, what we don't do traditionally, is get involved in each other's election campaigns," said Johnson, whose Conservative Party has a commanding lead in the polls ahead of the Dec. 12.

"The best (thing) when you have close

friends and allies like the U.S. and the UK is for neither side to get involved in each other's election," he told LBC radio.

Trump has already waded into the election, saying in October left-wing opposition leader Labour Party, Jeremy Corbyn, would be "so bad" for Britain and that Johnson should do a pact with Brexit Party leader Nigel Farage.

Corbyn has used Trump's praise of Johnson as one of his focal messages to attack the Conservatives in his campaign, saying they would sell off parts of the much-loved state-run National Health Service to the U.S. businesses af-



U.S. President Donald Trump holds a bilateral meeting with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on the sidelines of the annual United Nations General Assembly in New York City, New York, U.S., September 24, 2019. (File photo)

ter Brexit if they win the election.

The Sun newspaper reported on Friday that senior Conservative Party figures feared he could say something during his two-day visit that upsets their campaign.

The president has not shied away from wading into British politics on previous visits, including criticism of Johnson's predecessor Theresa May's Brexit policy.

## JOHNSON'S CHILDREN

Trump, who is due to arrive in London on Dec. 2, is likely to be asked about his attitude to future trade talks and whether the NHS should be included, having previously said everything should be on the table.

However, Johnson said he would walk out of

trade negotiations if including the health service was a pre-condition.

"First of all the NHS is not for sale. Under no circumstances will this government or any Conservative government do anything to put the NHS up for negotiation in trade talks or privatizing anything like that," he said.

"I can tell you were the United States, or any other country, to insist on that as condition of talks we would simply walk out."

During his hour-long appearance on LBC, where questions were put to him by listeners, he vowed that Britain would leave the EU by Jan. 31 if his party won a working majority in parliament.

However, he declined to say how many children he had, saying that he would not "put them on the pitch" ahead of the Dec. 12 election. **Agencies**

# Xi calls for just resolution of Palestinian issue

BEIJING

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping called on Wednesday for a comprehensive and just resolution of the Palestinian issue, saying it is at the core of the Middle East issue.

Xi (pictured) made the remark in a congratulatory message delivered to a commemorative event held by the United Nations at its headquarters in New York to observe the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

Resolving the issue and helping Palestine and Israel achieve

peaceful coexistence and common development serve the interests of the international community, Xi said.

He called on the international community to safeguard fairness and justice, uphold relevant UN resolutions as well as the "land-for-peace" principle and the two-state solution so as to create an atmosphere conducive to the resumption of Palestinian-Israeli peace talks.

China, as a good friend, partner and brother of the Palestinian people, is a staunch supporter of Palestine-Israeli peace, the presi-



dent stressed.

He said China supports the just cause of the Palestinian people to

restore their legitimate national rights, and supports Palestine in building an independent and fully sovereign state on the basis of the 1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as its capital.

China is ready to tirelessly work with the international community to push forward Palestine-Israeli peace talks and strive for an early realization of comprehensive, just and sustained peace in the Middle East, Xi added.

The International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People is a UN-organized observance pursuant to the UN General As-

sembly Resolution 32/40 B of Dec 2, 1977.

It is normally held on Nov 29 each year to mark the adoption by the UN General Assembly of Resolution 181 (II) on Nov 29, 1947, partitioning the mandate of Palestine into two states. That resolution provided for the establishment in Palestine of a "Jewish state" and an "Arab state", with Jerusalem under a special international regime. Of the two states to be created under this resolution, only one, Israel, has been fully realized. **Xinhua**

# Sudan overturns moral policing law, disbands ex-ruling party

CAIRO

SUDAN'S transitional government announced on Friday that it has overturned a moral policing law and moved to dissolve the country's former ruling party, fulfilling two major demands from the country's pro-democracy protesters.

Rights groups say the Public Order Act targets women and is a holdover from the three-decade rule of toppled autocrat Omar al-Bashir.

"This law is notorious for being used as a tool of exploitation, humiliation & violation of rights," Prime Minister Abdallah Hamdok tweeted in reference to the overturned law. "I pay tribute to the women and youth of my country who have endured the atrocities that resulted from the implementation of this law."

The Public Order Act was first passed in 1992 by al-Bashir's Islamist government and enforced only

in the capital, Khartoum, before being applied nationwide four years later.

The Shariah-inspired law criminalized a wide range of individual behavior including revealing clothing and drinking alcohol. Those convicted of violating the act could face prison sentences, fines, lashing and confiscation of property.

For decades, human rights activists have decried the law and argued that its vague language gave the police and judges leeway to prosecute women, who later played a crucial role in the mass protests that culminated in al-Bashir's overthrow in April.

Sudan's sovereign council and cabinet announced both decisions after a fourteen-hour long meeting that ended shortly after midnight on Thursday. It said the law to dismantle al-Bashir's National Congress Party would also confiscate all the ex-ruling party's assets and funds.

The sovereign council grew out



Sudan's Prime Minister Abdallah Hamdok

of a power-sharing agreement between the country's ruling generals and protesters demanding sweeping political change. Under the deal, the council and the civilian-led cabinet share legislative powers until a new parliament is formed.

Pro-democracy groups in the

country have also held fresh protests demanding the former ruling party's disbandment and the exclusion of all its remnants from different state institutions.

Prime Minister Hamdok tweeted that the bill dismantling al-Bashir's party is not the outcome of "a quest of vengeance but rather to

preserve and restore the dignity of our people who have grown weary of the injustice under the hands of NCP, who have looted & hindered the development of this great nation."

Sudan's Justice Minister Nasr-Eddin Abdul-Bari announced that the law passed by the interim government on Friday would transfer all assets and funds of al-Bashir's party to the state treasury.

"With this law, we will be able to retrieve a lot of funds that were taken from the public treasury to create institutions that acted as a parallel state," he said.

The Sudanese Professionals Association, which spearheaded the uprising against al-Bashir, hailed the move as "an important step" towards the establishment of a civil and democratic state in Sudan.

Al-Bashir was arrested after his overthrow in April and is currently on trial for charges of corruption and money laundering. **Agencies**

# China and Africa compare notes on poverty alleviation at Uganda meeting

KAMPALA

GOVERNMENT representatives, experts and private sector delegates from Africa and China on Thursday kicked off a two-day meeting aimed at sharing experiences and best practices in alleviating poverty in Africa.



Themed "Partnership for Transformation in Africa," the 2019 Africa-China Poverty Reduction and Development Conference is held under the auspices of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, who opened the annual meeting, said that it is important for each family to participate in the production of goods and services if poverty is to be alleviated.

He highlighted four key areas that need to be addressed if millions of people on the continent are to be pulled out of poverty.

Museveni (pictured) said there must be commercial agriculture where farmers can earn from selling their produce and in turn the money is used to meet their other needs, such as health care.

The president added there must be industrialization, especially in the agriculture sector where value is added on the produce.

He noted that most of the agricultural produce in Africa is exported in raw form, meaning that the countries lose out in terms of jobs and money in the value chain.

Other sectors critical to poverty alleviation include the service and the information and communication technology sectors. Bience Gawanas, UN undersecretary-general and special adviser on Africa, said the UN is ready to support China-Africa cooperation and its aim to reduce poverty on the continent.

"Let us use this time together in Kampala for robust sharing of knowledge and experiences that will help realize the Africa we want and leave no one behind," Gawanas said.

She noted that Africa can pick lessons from China's poverty alleviation drive, which, according to the World Bank, has pulled more than 850 million Chinese out of poverty in recent decades.

Chen Zhigang, deputy head of China's State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development, said that China is committed to supporting Africa in the poverty alleviation fight.

Chen said political commitment and strategic planning for poverty alleviation have been critical in fighting poverty in China. He said China has a target of eliminating absolute poverty by the end of 2020. China had 16.6 million people who were facing absolute poverty by 2018.

Angela Thoko Didiza, South Africa's minister of agriculture, land reform and rural development, told the meeting that African ministers of finance need to increase funding to the agriculture sector.

Didiza said that most times, finance ministers tend to prioritize industrialization based on the sector's contribution to the gross domestic product. She said that agriculture is central in Africa's economy, noting that a larger part of the continent's population derives its livelihood from the sector.

She noted that the prolonged dry spells and flooding that part of Africa faces are a clear manifestation that climate change is a reality on the continent. The continent needs to devise adaptive measures, Didiza said.

The meeting is attended by more than 150 delegates from China, Africa and international organizations. Now in its 10th year, the meeting started in 2010.

According to the Ugandan government, the goal of the conference is to build a new international partnership and promote poverty reduction and development in African countries through knowledge sharing.

This year's program will include activities such as a high-level policy dialogue, a regional dialogue on international partnership and exchanges of best practices in global poverty reduction. **Xinhua**



Let us use this time together in Kampala for robust sharing of knowledge and experiences that will help realize the Africa we want and

# DPRK may deploy 'super-large' rocket launcher soon

PYONGYANG/SEOUL

THE Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) said yesterday the latest test-firing of its "super-large" multiple rocket launcher was a final review of the weapon's combat application a suggestion that the country is preparing to deploy the new weapons system soon.

The Republic of Korea (ROK)'s military earlier said the DPRK fired two projectiles, likely from the same "super-large" rocket launcher, on Thursday. It expressed "strong regret" over the launches and urged DPRK to stop escalating tensions.

The ROK's top nuclear envoy held phone talks with his US and Japa-

nese counterparts after the DPRK's test-firing, Yonhap news agency reported Friday citing Seoul's foreign ministry.

Lee Do-hoon, the ROK's special representative for Korean Peninsula peace and security affairs, spoke by phone with Stephen Biegun, US special representative for DPRK affairs earlier in the day.

Lee also held phone talks with Shigeaki Takizaki, head of the Japanese foreign ministry's Asian and Oceanian affairs bureau Thursday night.

The DPRK's Korean Central News Agency has confirmed the launches were made with the presence of top leader Kim Jong-un and other top of-



ficials.

"The volley test-fire aimed to finally examine the combat application

of the super-large multiple launch rocket system proved the military and technical superiority of the weapon system and its firm reliability," KCNA said.

It said Kim expressed "great satisfaction" over the results of the test-firing.

Analyst Kim Dong-yub at Seoul's Institute for Far Eastern Studies said DPRK appears to be entering the stage of mass-producing and deploying the rocket launcher. He wrote on Facebook that the weapons system may already have been deployed.

Thursday's firing was the fourth test-launch of the rocket launcher since August.

Some experts say the flight dis-

tance and trajectory of projectiles fired from the launcher show they are virtually missiles or missile-classed weapons. The projectiles fired Thursday flew about 380 kilometers at a maximum altitude of 97 kilometers, according to ROKs Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Thursday called the projectiles ballistic missiles.

DPRK has fired other new weapons in recent months in what some experts say is an attempt to wrest concessions from the United States in stalled nuclear diplomacy while upgrading its military capabilities.

A US-led diplomacy aimed at persuading DPRK to scrap its nuclear

program in return for political and economic benefits remains largely stalemated since the February collapse of a summit between Kim and US President Donald Trump in Vietnam.

Most of DPRK's weapons tested since the Vietnam summit were short-range. Attention is now on whether DPRK resumes nuclear and long-range missile tests if Trump fails to meet a year-end deadline set by Kim for Washington to offer new proposals to salvage the negotiations.

Trump considers DPRK's self-imposed moratorium on nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missile tests a major foreign policy win.



## After Trump's Kabul visit, Taliban ready to resume talks

KABUL

THE Taliban said yesterday they were ready to restart peace talks with the United States, a day after President Donald Trump made a surprise visit to US troops in Afghanistan and said he believed the radical group would agree to a ceasefire.

Trump's Thanksgiving Day visit was his first to Afghanistan since becoming president and came a week after a prisoner swap between Washington and Kabul that has raised hopes for a long elusive peace deal to end the 18-year-long war.

"The Taliban wants to make a deal and we are meeting with them," Trump told reporters after arriving in Afghanistan on Thursday.

"We say it has to be a ceasefire and they didn't want to do a ceasefire and now they want to do a ceasefire, I be-

lieve. It will probably work out that way."

Taliban leaders have told Reuters that the group has been holding meetings with senior US officials in Doha since last weekend, adding they could soon resume formal peace talks.

Yesterday, Zabihullah Mujahid, a spokesman for the hardline Islamist insurgent group, said they were "ready to restart the talks" that collapsed after Trump had called them off earlier this year. "Our stance is still the same. If peace talks start, it will be resumed from the stage where it had stopped," Mujahid told Reuters.

Trump canceled peace negotiations in September after the militant group claimed responsibility for an attack in Kabul that killed 12 people, including an American soldier.

"We are hoping that Trump's visit to Afghanistan will prove that he is serious to start talks again. We don't think he



US President Donald Trump addresses members of the military during a surprise Thanksgiving Day visit, on Thursday, at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan. (AP)

has not much of a choice," said a senior Taliban commander on conditions of anonymity.

There are currently about 13,000 US forces as well as thousands of other NATO troops in Afghanistan, 18 years after an invasion by a US-led coalition following the Sept 11, 2001, al Qaeda attacks on the United States.

About 2,400 US service members have been killed in the course of the Afghan conflict.

A draft accord agreed in September would have thousands of American troops withdrawn in exchange for guarantees that Afghanistan would not be used as a base for militant attacks on the United States or its allies.

Still, many US officials doubt the Taliban could be relied upon to prevent al Qaeda from again plotting attacks against the United States from Afghan soil. **Agencies**



## Guinea-Bissau's incumbent President Vaz accepts election results, admits defeat

BISSAU

THE incumbent president of Guinea-Bissau Jose Mario Vaz admitted, during a press conference Thursday in Bissau, his defeat in the presidential election held Sunday, reaffirming his acceptance of the results.

However, the independent candidate that came in at the fourth place after the first round of voting claimed that some irregularities were recorded during the voting process.

"There were irregularities in the east of the country, including ballot stuffing with ballots already filled before polling day," Vaz said. Vaz said he will devote himself to a professional life "inspired by a clear conscience."

A presidential election run-off is expected to take place on Dec. 29 in Guinea-Bissau, according to the provisional results published Wednesday by the National Election Commission (NEC) of Guinea-Bissau.

Former prime ministers Domingos Simoes Pereira and Umaro Sissoco Embalo, who received 40.13 percent and 27.65 percent of the votes respectively, will compete for the presidency.

According to the NEC, the election campaign for the second round will begin on Dec. 13. **Xinhua**

## 4 killed, 5 injured in attacks against Ebola response team in DRC - WHO

GENEVA

THE World Health Organization (WHO) said on Thursday that the two attacks in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) had killed four workers responding to the Ebola outbreak and injured five others.

The attacks occurred overnight on a shared living camp in Biakato Mines and an Ebola response coordination office in Mangina, a small town in North Kivu province, the WHO said.

The dead include a member of a vaccination team, two drivers and a police officer. Although no WHO staff were

among those killed, one staff member was injured.

Most of the other injured people are from the DRC Ministry of Health. "We are heartbroken that people have died in the line of duty as they worked to save others," said WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

"The world has lost brave professionals." "Ebola was retreating. These attacks will give it force again, and more people will die as a consequence," said Tedros.

"It will be tragic to see more unnecessary suffering in communities that have already suffered so much. We call on everyone who has a role to play



to end this cycle of violence."

According to WHO statistics, as of Nov. 19, a total of 3,298 Ebola cases had been reported in the DRC, including 3,180 confirmed and 118 probable cases, of which 2,197 had died.

Though relatively lower case incidence has been observed recently, the WHO cautioned that the situation remains highly contingent upon the level of access to the remote areas of infection and security within affected communities.

At a press conference on Thursday, Mike Ryan, executive director of WHO Health Emergencies, said that after the attack all WHO staff have been moved out of Biakato

Mines, the injured evacuated to Goma, capital of North Kivu province. Staff of other UN agencies have also been relocated, he added.

There have been 386 attacks, seven deaths, 77 injuries in 2019 against Ebola healthcare workers and infrastructure in the DRC, but the attack on Thursday morning was by far the deadliest one, said Ryan.

Despite all this, the WHO has vowed to continue to work with the DRC government and partners to ensure the security for the staff and all health workers, and to find solutions to continue to respond and to end the outbreak. **Agencies**

## Zimbabwean president impressed by progress on Chinese-funded new parliament building

HARARE

ZIMBABWEAN President Emmerson Mnangagwa on Wednesday toured the site of the new parliament building that is being constructed by China's Shanghai Construction Group (SCG), and expressed satisfaction with progress made so far.

The visit to the site in Mt Hampden, about 25 kilometers west of the capital Harare, is his third since construction began in November 2018.

"We cannot tire in repeating our sincere and deep gratitude to China for the magnificent gesture...we are grateful," he said.

Mnangagwa said the site of the new parliament building, initially chosen by British colonialists to be the capital city, would also house two other pillars of government namely the Executive and the Judiciary as government moves to establish a new city to decongest the capital Harare.

"So the seat of power is going to be here. This is our sacred site where the destiny of the country shall be determined," he said.

He hoped local workers including engineers, craftsmen, and artisans would use the opportunity to acquire and learn more skills from their Chinese counterparts.

He thanked China for the several completed, ongoing and future infrastructure development projects in Zimbabwe, saying despite the criticism from detractors who try to undermine Chinese support, Zimbabwe's leadership would remain



Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa (C) inspects the site of the new parliament building in Mount Hampden, about 25 kilometers west of the capital Harare, Zimbabwe, on Wednesday. Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa on Wednesday toured the site of the new parliament building that is being constructed by China's Shanghai Construction Group (SCG), and expressed satisfaction with progress made so far. (Xinhua)

forever grateful. "We are happy to see the progress. We are amazed by the amount of progress at each visit which SCG has achieved over a very short period," he said.

The imposing six-storey building, sitting on a hill-top, is set for completion in March 2021. It is the largest building to be funded by China in a single African country in recent years. The building has a seat capacity of 650 compared to 100 for the current parliament building, and will also have extra facilities for conferring, 12 committee rooms and adequate space for office staff and parking.

The 100-seat building built dur-

ing the colonial era had become small for parliament business and was no longer able to accommodate all the 350 parliamentarians and staff members.

Zhao Baogang, charge d'affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Zimbabwe, hailed the Zimbabwean leadership, Chinese contractor and workers for the progress in construction. "We are happy that construction is making good progress. They will complete the concrete structure of this building very soon, which is a major milestone. "This building, on completion, will become a new landmark for China-Zimbabwe friendship," Zhao said.

SCG project manager Cai Libo said the project had so far provided more than 800 local Zimbabweans with jobs and it pays particular attention to the safety of the workers.

He said structural construction of the building is expected to be finished by end of this year.

"We hope that by end of June next year, the Zimbabwean side will be able to connect permanent municipal water supply, power supply and telecommunications to the new parliament building site, so that we can test all the systems in the parliament building and prepare for its operation." Cai added. **Xinhua**

## Global organizations to support peace efforts in Cameroon's restive Anglophone regions

YAOUNDE

LEADERS of the African Union (AU), Commonwealth and International Organization of the Francophone, commonly known as La Francophonie, have voiced their commitment to support the peace process in Cameroon's two troubled English-speaking regions.

Moussa Faki Mahamat, chairperson of the African Union Commission, Louise Mushikiwabo, secretary general of La Francophonie and Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland, on Wednesday expressed their willingness and resolve to assist the country in its peace process after a joint audience with Cameroonian President Paul Biya.

"Our major concern is to contribute towards peace and stability. We believe that Cameroonians do not merit any form of violence and differences ought to be resolved peacefully," Faki told reporters.

"What is of importance is peace, security and equality and we are determined to do all we can as three organisations to support the peaceful process. This is a moment of change, an important moment which we have to seize and support in solidarity. So all those who love good governance and peace need to work hard to de-



liver it," Scotland added.

The leaders will also meet with opposition parties and civil societies during their two-day mission in Cameroon.

"We believe that we have an obligation to contribute modestly through advice, interventions in mediation or on technical subjects such as bilin-

gualism and multiculturalism," Mushikiwabo told reporters.

Since 2017, government forces have been clashing with armed separatist forces who want the two English-speaking regions of Northwest and Southwest to secede from the majority French-speaking nation.

**Xinhua**

## WHO launches social media Aids awareness campaign targeting African youth

NAIROBI

AS the 31st World AIDS Day approaches on December 1, the World Health Organization (WHO) yesterday launched a social media campaign to raise awareness about HIV and Aids among African youth amid their vulnerability to the disease.

Senior officials said the campaign dubbed #TheTeaOnHIV aims to reach out to one million adolescents and youth in Africa with information on how they can prevent themselves from contracting HIV and how to live

positively with it.

"This social media campaign aims to equip young Africans with the right information to start breaking the barriers that prevent them from getting support," said Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa.

Nearly 1.5 million out of the 1.6 million adolescents living with HIV globally by 2018 were in the Sub-Saharan African region, according to the data from WHO. Moeti (pictured) said that investment in youth-friendly reproductive health services are

key to revitalize war against HIV and Aids in Africa that accounts for more than 70 percent of 30 million people living with the disease globally.

According to the UNAIDS data, only one in three young people globally has comprehensive knowledge about HIV and seven out of 10 young women (aged 15-24 years) in sub-Saharan Africa do not have comprehensive knowledge about HIV.

Frank Lule, medical officer HIV/Aids treatment at WHO Regional Office for Africa, said that 4 out of 10 new HIV infections



are concentrated in the 15 to 24 years age bracket in the continent thanks to vulnerabilities linked to poverty and limited information about the disease.

"There has been inadequate awareness about HIV and Aids among adolescents and youth in this region and the new campaign will ensure they have

access to knowledge on prevention and management of the disease," said Lule.

He said that the social media-fueled HIV and Aids awareness campaign will provide a platform for African youth to share knowledge, experience and best practices geared towards the elimination of the disease by 2030.

Catherine Ngugi, head of programs at Kenya's National Aids and STIs Control Program (NASCO), said that robust interventions that include awareness campaigns and economic em-

powerment is key to reduce HIV infections among the youth.

"We need to look at the other drivers of higher infections among the youth that include lack of access to education, quality health care and jobs," said Ngugi.

She said that Kenya has developed youth-friendly HIV and Aids interventions as government data indicate that this demographic accounted for more than 51 percent of new infections in the recent past.

**Xinhua**





In this March 14, 2019, file photo, K-pop singer Jung Joon-young, speaks upon his arrival at the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency in Seoul, South Korea. A South Korean court has found two K-pop stars guilty of illicit sexual relations with a woman who was unable to resist and sentenced them to up to six years in prison. The Seoul Central District Court says singer-songwriter Jung received a six-year prison term. (AP Photo)

## K-pop singer sentenced to six years in jail for rape, sharing secret sex videos

### SEOUL

A SOUTH Korean court sentenced a K-pop musician to six years in prison on Friday for raping a woman and distributing a video capturing the act in a case that drew attention to the darker side of the country's lucrative entertainment industry.

Jung Joon-young, 30, was arrested in March. Choi Jong-hoon, 30, a former member of South Korean boy band FT Island, was also sentenced to five years in prison for the rape of the woman.

Both were members of online chat groups that shared secret sex tapes and made jokes about drugging and raping women, the Seoul Central District Court said.

Jung's conviction also includes the illegal distribution of other videos he took secretly while having sex with women. The identities of the victims were suppressed to protect their privacy.

The court also sentenced each man to 80 hours in "sexual violence treatment" education.

"The defendants are well-known celebrities and friends, but the chat they've had showed that they simply considered women

as objects of sexual pleasure, and committed crimes that were extremely serious," Judge Kang Seong-soo said as he handed down the verdict.

"Strict punishment is inevitable as the damage inflicted has not properly been recovered and the victims demand harsh penalties."

Jung admitted distributing the video and others he took, though he argued the sex was in all cases consensual. Choi denied raping the woman, and had argued that he did not remember having sex with her and that if he had, it was likely consensual.

Lawyers for Jung and Choi could not be reached for comment.

Their case was one of several scandals involving sex crimes and other illegal activity that revealed a dark side of an industry at the center of the global K-pop craze.

Lee Seung-hyun, a former member of K-pop group Big Bang better known by the stage name Seungri, is also on trial over accusations he paid for prostitutes for foreign businessmen to drum up investment in his business.

REUTERS

## Pussycat Dolls now announce reunion tour 10 years after split

### LONDON

THE Pussycat Dolls are reforming for a reunion tour kicking off in Dublin next year, the American girl band said on Thursday.

A decade after they split, the group - originally formed as a burlesque dance troupe and known for songs like "Don't Cha" and "When I Grow Up" - will hit the stage from April in Dublin before putting on shows around Britain.

"The stars have aligned and the Dolls are getting back together," singer Nicole Scherzinger told Britain's Heart Breakfast radio show in a joint interview with fellow band members Ashley Roberts, Jessica Sutta, Carmi Bachar and Kimberley Wyatt.

"There's been unfinished business. It's been 10 years ... we just all were ready to do it," Roberts said.

REUTERS

## Coaches ousting as a barometric expression of psychological state of Tanzania's football

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL ENEZA

THREE top coaches in the country ousted in the space of six months is not a routine matter but somewhat phenomenal, an extravaganza of both sensitivity to results and resources to use - or squander - on the hiring and firing of coaches. Still on the third count it appears that Simba SC were looking for ways not to pay coach Patrick Aussems the relevant sums for disrupting the contract, apparently because he travelled without consulting the CEO Senzo Mazingisa.

In other words it is just 24 hours dismissal without any benefits, for having missed camp or training for two or three days.

That is the formality or administrative part, while the substance is elsewhere, summed up by the returning club leader Mwina Kaduguda, who is reported to have remarked that Aussems is 'drunk with success.' Observers were of the view that an assertion of that sort was clear in its intent as to what the club leadership felt or wanted of the coach, that is, to pack his bags and leave, a situation that left a breadth of watchers somewhat startled. Yet it appears that the shift in attitude to the coach was coming, not due to one match defeat at Mwadui but continental soccer.

There is a paradox about that issue in the phalanx of problems coming up in relation to the former head coach, namely that it is at once the most privileged explanation on the part of the club leadership for parting ways with Aussems, and similarly the weakest argument.



Simba head coach, Patrick Aussems

The matter is uppermost in what the club leadership says because it is to them something like a matter of principle, that the club 'agreed' with the coach that the club side goes a notch further in this year's African Club Champions League tournament. The team exited early, in complete contrast with its quarter finals appearance last year, despite the money splashed in registration, to wit.

Assuming that this is the principal contention and not side-line issues of a personality sort, where this or that leader would seek to make a stamp on the club or assert auxiliary authority apart from the club sponsor (or shareholder, as it were), it makes sense. The question here is whether the club leadership was fair to the players, to itself and to the coach. But as it al-

ways happens, it is the coach that becomes a lamb of sacrifice, or rather a scapegoat, so that other things can remain in place, for instance not kicking up dust on the 'policy' of attaining quarter finals slot this year.

As it was the case with sacking Emmanuel Amunike for Taifa Stars or Mwinzi Zahera for Young Africans SC, the employing entity did not quite examine its own objectives or the club players it disposes, but just the dictation it made upon the coach when being employed. Basically it comes down to saying that they give the coach so much money therefore they expect results from him, in which case the matter comes down to his failure to fulfill his part of the contract, as it were.

Still there is no such contract that is possible between a club

and a coach, as no salary for a coach can assure a certain level of achievement, and only a series of failures lead to sacking coaches. Surprisingly, no sacking in upper levels of local soccer lately arose from 'a series of failures.'

It would thus appear employing entities are playing soccer politics all the time once infatuated objectives - and egos - fail to hit the mark, and they have to pile those frustrations upon an individual, that is, the coach. Were it that there was a realistic atmosphere at any or all of those instances, they would then listen to the coach as a top expert there to see not just what should be done about the team, but also agree on what objectives are actually realistic. That would be too much for our rather over-stretched imagination either with Taifa Stars or with the city archivals.

Having settled the big policy question in the three employing units for top level coaches, auxiliary or secondary issues come up as to what to do next, mirrored as an extension of those same egos or self-centered imagination. These other spheres are noticed as to what sort of person is picked either as caretaker coach or given the job on a durable contract, as there is nothing like a 'permanent' job if one is a coach and even less permanently for the archivals, let alone the national side.

There are competing agendas of obtaining local or at most regionally-based coaches and the usual wisdom of seeking acknowledged experts from abroad. That depends on the state of sponsorship and the balance of forces in the club leadership on the way to go, etc.

## Olympic hopeful Cheruiyot pushed by fellow Kenyan runner



Timothy Cheruiyot

### NAIROBI

WHEN Kenyan runner Timothy Cheruiyot is sprinting to the finish at the world's top races he knows one man can stand between him and gold: his best friend.

The shy 24-year-old trains alongside fellow Kenyan Elijah Manangoi, 26, who was the 1,500 metres world champion until Cheruiyot took the title this year.

The pair's coach Bernard Ouma loves their "sibling rivalry", praising Manangoi's speed, Cheruiyot's endurance and their drive to outperform each other.

"Tim is working extra-hard to catch up with him. And this is putting Elijah on his toes - 'ah! This young boy should not catch up with me!'" said coach Ouma, channelling his elder protege.

Cheruiyot was already coming close by 2017, taking silver 38 seconds behind Manangoi at the 1,500 metres world championships.

"My toughest athlete (has been) my partner Manangoi ... I love how he trains," Cheruiyot told Reuters at his training camp at the Rongai Athletics Club, located on the outskirts of Nairobi.

This year, Cheruiyot won the Diamond League trophy for the third time in a row and in October took his first 1,500 metres world championships gold in punishingly hot Doha.

The heat woke Cheruiyot at 5 a.m. on race day. He had hamstring tightness and was missing friend Manangoi, whose injury meant he was unable to defend his title.

He put that out of his mind to

focus on the goal.

No pacing. No tricks. No partner. Just run. Fast.

"GOT THE GOLD"

In the lead from the gun, Cheruiyot finished in 3 minutes 29.26 seconds, more than two seconds ahead of Algeria's Taoufik Makhloufi.

"I got the gold but it's not the end of everything," said Cheruiyot, whose new dream is next year's Tokyo Olympics.

The worst day of his career was in 2016 when he missed qualifying for the Rio tournament by half a second.

The eldest of four siblings, he was born to tea and maize farmers in a west Kenyan village.

He started running to-and-from primary school, was competing at regional level by high school, but returned to the farm in 2011. Fortunately, friends

encouraged him to keep running.

One was neighbour and local coach Jonathan Bellion, who developed a programme and pushed him to rest between races and eat a balanced diet. "He taught me how to run," Cheruiyot said.

His preferred race at the time was the 800 metres.

At the 2014 trials for the World Under-20 Championships in Kenya, he had to finish in the top two to qualify, but came third, seconds separating him from his dream.

But the strong, 6-foot (183 cm) 18-year-old with a rugged run had impressed an onlooker - coach Ouma, who saw a future champion. "I decided, let me polish him and see how fast he can run."

REUTERS



## Luis Enrique only at Spain thanks to me - Moreno

MADRID

ROBERT Moreno hit back at Luis Enrique's criticism by defending his own role as interim Spain manager, saying: "everybody is aware that had I not continued [taken the Spain role], he would not be national team coach [today]."

During his unveiling on Wednesday, Luis Enrique said Moreno's ambition to continue at the helm of the national team through Euro 2020 made him "disloyal". He also said Moreno would no longer be a part of his coaching staff despite the two having worked together since 2008.

Moreno, who left the job last Tuesday after the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) reappointed Luis Enrique, read a statement on Thursday: "Yesterday I was attacked in a very personal way and I was accused of something I'm not. This is a very unpleasant time, it's not what I wanted."

"I don't deserve the things that were said, which were nasty. My pieces of the puzzle are missing. I need to step up and I did it. It should not be forgotten that, had I not carried on, Luis Enrique would not be manager."

Moreno was promoted as Spain coach in June after Luis Enrique left the position in June to care for his younger daughter, who was diagnosed with bone cancer.

"Nobody knew how long Luis Enrique's situation would last but he was consulted on everything,"

Moreno said.

He also said he had Luis Enrique's blessing to take the Spain job having temporarily taken charge in March.

"Before the meeting on Sept. 12, which Luis Enrique referred to, there was an earlier meeting in which Luis Enrique told me that I did what I had to do [to take the Spain job]," he said. "That I was doing a good job and that he was proud of what I had done."

"No one knew how long Luis Enrique's situation would last."

Luis Enrique announced the death of his daughter Xana on Aug. 29. Moreno said he met Luis Enrique again on Sept. 12 and told him in person as he had stated to the press, that he would step aside if needed.

"To my surprise he said that that was fine but that he no longer was counting on my services," Moreno said. "I was in a state of shock."

"I spent 10 days feeling terrible, asking myself what had I done wrong for Luis Enrique not to want to work with me anymore? I only found out through the press that Luis Enrique was considering returning to coach Spain after the game [7-0 win over Malta on Nov. 15] in Cadiz."

"I had been faithful until I told the federation to discuss my contract termination knowing then that Luis Enrique was going to return and was not counting on my services. To this day I don't know why Luis Enrique doesn't want to work with me."

(Agencies)

## No one can doubt Pogba professionalism - Ole

LONDON

MANCHESTER United boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has defended Paul Pogba and said the midfielder's professionalism should not be questioned as he prepares to return to the club to step up his recovery from an ankle injury.

Pogba has not played for United since the 1-1 draw against Arsenal on Sept. 30, but the France international is due to train in Manchester on Friday after completing his rehabilitation in recent weeks in Dubai and Miami.

The former Juventus player was criticised on social media for posting images of himself playing basketball with Miami Heat star Jimmy Butler last week.

United sources have told ESPN that Pogba has been working with a bespoke fitness plan, however, and Solskjaer said he has no issues with the 26-year-old, who could make a first-team return against Tottenham next Wednesday.

"Every player is allowed to be injured when he's injured and Paul is working hard to be back," Solskjaer said. "No one can doubt his professionalism, his willingness or his desire to play football."

"He's a footballer and he's one of the best midfielders in the world and [having him back] will be like signing a new player before the transfer window opens."

"Of course we've missed him when he's been away. Some of the players -- Scotty [McTominay] and Fred -- have taken up that challenge and have done well but, of course it's a boost for us when he comes back."

United face Aston Villa at home on Sunday with the majority of the first-team squad spared the lengthy Europa League trip to Kazakhstan, which resulted in a 2-1 defeat against FC Astana on Thursday.

But while Pogba is fit to return to training, Solskjaer said the Villa clash comes too soon for him to be considered. An encounter with Jose Mourinho and Spurs remains a possibility, however.

"Sunday, no," Solskjaer said. "Spurs? I can't say now, because I've not been home and seen him."

"Let's see where he's at when he comes back and starts training with us. He is stepping up his recovery and let's see how soon he'll be match-fit and available."

(Agencies)

## Griezmann faces Atlético for first time since joining Barca

BARCELONA, SPAIN

ANTOINE Griezmann will face former club Atletico Madrid for the first time since leaving for Spanish rival Barcelona when the title challengers meet in the Spanish capital on Sunday.

Griezmann knows he cannot expect an entirely warm welcome from fans of the club that helped him blossom into one of Europe's top forwards.

But he will arrive having clicked in attack with new teammates Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez on Wednesday, when they all scored for Barcelona to beat Borussia Dortmund 3-1 and qualified for the Champions League knockout rounds.

The France forward posted on social media a photo of him embracing Messi and Suarez in celebration of one of their goals. It included a brief message: "An important night."

Griezmann wasn't in the starting lineup but a first-half injury to Ousmane Dembele put him into the action.

Griezmann's pass into the area took a deflection and reached Messi, who assisted Suarez for the 29th-minute opener. After Messi doubled the advantage from a pass by Suarez, the Argentine met Griez-

mann's run with a perfectly timed pass for him to put the result beyond doubt early in the second half.

"(A strong performance) is always good for any player before they face the difficult and complicated task of visiting the Wanda Metropolitan," Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde said about Griezmann.

If Real Madrid wins at Alaves on Saturday or Sevilla beats Leganes earlier on Sunday, the defending champions will need a victory at Atletico to retain the league lead.

A victory for fourth-placed Atletico would lift it level on points with Barcelona.

Other than in a visit to Eibar last month, when Griezmann, Messi and Suarez each scored in a 3-0 win, Griezmann has had trouble adapting to Barcelona and not being the No. 1 scoring option.

Valverde, however, believes it is just a question of time.

"A lot is said about their connection (between Messi and Griezmann), especially when they score," Valverde said. "For example, Luis (Suarez) and Leo (Mess) understand one another perfectly because they have been playing together for several years. With time, they will understand one another better." AP

# Emery reaches breaking point as Arsenal crash in Europa League

PARIS

UNAI Emery's future as Arsenal coach was plunged into further doubt on Thursday when the Gunners slumped to a 2-1 loss in the Europa League against Eintracht Frankfurt but the Spaniard said he did not fear for his job.

Arsenal are now winless in seven games, the club's worst run since 1992.

Emery shrugged off multiple questions regarding his position during the post-match press conference.

"Now our moment is not good. We need to win, take confidence and I think we are better than we are showing. The players, the coaches and myself," 48-year-old Emery said.

"I am thinking about the next match (against Norwich on Sunday) and how we can improve."

"My work and my job is firstly analysing that match, how we are in the Europa League, in our feelings and how we are going to play on Sunday."

Japan midfielder Daichi Kamada scored a second-half double for Eintracht after captain Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang had opened the scoring in first half injury time for Arsenal inside a half-full Emirates Stadium.

Boos from the lowest attendance at the ground since it opened in 2006 greeted Emery and his misfiring team at the final whistle while some disgruntled fans held up banners demanding 'Emery Out'.

Aubameyang struck home just before the half-time whistle with a low effort for his ninth goal in 14 matches.

Kamada's equaliser came 10 minutes later as he curled a tidy shot past Emiliano Martinez before adding his



Daichi Kamada scores Eintracht Frankfurt's winner against Arsenal. (Agencies)

second on 64 minutes with a drive from outside the box to inflict a first home defeat of the campaign on Emery's men.

The Gunners are still on course for a last 32 place if they draw with Standard Liege on December 12.

Scottish champions Celtic clinched top spot in Group E with a 3-1 win over Rennes while Wolves reached the knockout stages with a 3-3 draw at fellow qualifiers Braga in Group K.

Rangers drew 2-2 at Feyenoord to hold top spot in Group G with a one point lead ahead of their last game against Young Boys.

Earlier, Roma's Lorenzo Pellegrini was hit by coins as the Italian club kept their last 32 hopes alive with a 3-0 victory at Istanbul Basaksehir.

Attacking midfielder Pellegrini had his head bandaged after he was struck by multiple coins with an hour of the game played after Jordan Veretout, Justin Kluivert and Edin

Dzeko had claimed the advantage for the Serie A outfit in Turkey.

The visitors remain in contention for a knock-out spot and sit behind leaders Borussia Moenchengladbach, who beat Austrians Wolfsburg 1-0, on goal difference with the Turkish side a point behind on seven.

- Kazakhs teach United kids a lesson -

Elsewhere, Kazakh champions Astana fought back to surprise a youthful Manchester United 2-1.

United captain Jesse Lingard opened the scoring, who had already shocked the last 32, before Dmitri Shomko equalised for the home side. Di'Shon Bernard, 19, then put through his own goal to hand Astana victory over a United side whose average age was just 22.

United boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer made 11 changes from Sunday's draw with Sheffield United by handing senior debuts to teenagers Ethan Laird,

Dylan Levitt and Bernard as well as naming cancer survivor Max Taylor on the bench.

Solskjaer said some of the youngsters on show put their hands up to feature against Alkmaar in the final round of group matches on December 12.

"At times we were excellent but there were spells when we let them push us back. That cost us in the end," he said.

"These boys have learnt a lot and have given me food for thought. I'm very pleased with many of them."

Shomko, meanwhile, told UEFA.com the result will live in his memory.

"I will be telling my grandchildren, 'you know guys a while ago I scored against Manchester United'. It does not matter who scored, really. The most important thing is that we won," he said.

AFP

## Emery axed as Arsenal boss after worst run in decades

LONDON

Unai Emery was sacked as Arsenal manager Friday after less than two years in charge and with the club without a win in seven games, their worst run since 1992.

The 48-year-old Spaniard was fired following the 2-1 home defeat to Eintracht Frankfurt in Thursday's Europa League match.

His assistant Freddie Ljungberg takes over as interim manager during the search for a permanent replacement.

Arsenal fans had demanded "decisive action" from directors with the club's present run of five draws and two defeats this season just one match off equalling George Graham's run of eight without a win in 1992.

Club directors responded by axing the man brought in 18 months ago to revive a club stagnating after two decades under Frenchman Arsene Wenger.

"We announce today that the decision has been taken to part company with our head coach Unai Emery and his coaching team," read the statement.

"We have asked Freddie Ljungberg to take responsibility for the first team as interim head coach."

"The search for a new head coach is underway and we will make a further announcement when that process is complete."

Among those in the mix for the permanent job include former Gunners star Mikel Arteta, Pep Guardiola's assistant at champions Manchester City, ex-Juventus handler Massimiliano Allegri and Wolves Portuguese manager Nuno Espirito Santo.

Arsenal's league form has fallen away badly with five Premier League matches without a win -- they are the only side in the top half of the table with a negative goal difference.

Emery's cause has not been helped by the stripping of the captaincy from fiery Swiss international Granit Xhaka after he swore at Gunners fans when being substituted against Crystal Palace last month.

And a potential saviour, Gunners record signing Pepe, has been a huge disappointment since his £72 million (\$93 million) move from French Ligue 1 outfit Lille in the close season. Emery's position had looked shaky enough when north London rivals



Unai Emery

Tottenham Hotspur sacked Mauricio Pochettino last week only months after taking them to the Champions League final.

The former Paris Saint Germain handler's first season ended in disappointment. Arsenal blew two chances for a return to the Champions League, winning just one of their last five games to finish fifth in the Premier League and then losing the Europa League final 4-1 to Chelsea.

"Our most sincere thanks go to Unai and his colleagues who were unrelenting in their efforts to get the club back to competing at the level we all expect and demand," read the club statement.

"We wish Unai and his team nothing but future success."

"The decision has been taken due to results and performances not being at the level required."

Meanwhile, Marco Silva's Everton are just two places above the relegation zone with seven defeats from their opening 13 Premier League fixtures -- and they have a hideous run of matches coming up starting with a visit to Leicester on Sunday.

Everton splashed the cash in the close season, recruiting Fabian Delph from Manchester City, Alex Iwobi from Arsenal and Moise Kean from Juventus, but they have struggled, scoring just 13 goals all season.

There have even been suggestions of a possible return to Goodison Park for former boss David Moyes.

Former Everton player Michael Ball tweeted this week that there was no way back for 42-year-old Silva, with games to come in the next few weeks against Liverpool, Chelsea and both Manchester clubs.

"Silva knows he's going, Players do, the fans do," he wrote.

"Yes it's difficult to bring someone in with that nightmare run of games but the fans need hope. Players need a fresh start & ideas to give us a slight chance to pick up points."

Pellegrini's Chelsea test

Manuel Pellegrini's side have not

won in any competition since September and have plummeted down the Premier League table after a bright start.

The fourth-bottom Hammers face a challenging test this weekend against in-form Chelsea. Frank Lampard's young side have won six of their past seven league matches.

"We don't talk about that," the 66-year-old former Manchester City boss said on Thursday when questioned about his future. "You have to very clear what you must do, game by game."

"Football changes all the time. We are working to try to beat Chelsea and after that, we will see the result."

Goalkeeper Roberto has taken much of the flak for West Ham's poor run and was at fault again during last week's 3-2 home defeat by Tottenham.

Regular keeper Lukasz Fabianski is still injured, but Pellegrini gave no guarantee that he will keep faith with Roberto, meaning third-choice keeper David Martin might be pressed into action.

**Fixtures**

Today (1500 GMT unless stated)  
Newcastle v Manchester City (1230), Burnley v Crystal Palace, Chelsea v West Ham, Liverpool v Brighton, Tottenham v Bournemouth, Southampton v Watford (1730)

**Tomorrow**  
Norwich v Arsenal, (1400), Wolves v Sheffield Utd (1400), Leicester v Everton (1630), Manchester United v Aston Villa (1630)

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# Yanga compound Alliance FC woes in VPL

## SPORT

Emery reaches breaking point as Arsenal crash in Europa League

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Yanga forward, David Molinga (R), controls the ball in front of JKT Tanzania defender, Frank Nchimbi, when the two teams met in a Vodacom Premier League clash, which took place in Dar es Salaam early this week. Yanga won 3-2.

By Guardian Reporter

**Y**ANGA have stepped up efforts to grab one of the top positions in the Vodacom Premier League after recording 2-1 win over Alliance FC at the CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza yesterday.

The visitors expressed intent on taking control of the game early on, going close in the first minute of the clash when forward David Molinga's header, off a Juma Abdul's well taken free kick, went across the hosts' goal.

Yanga continued to press for an opener and went close on the fourth minute after defender Ally Mtoni had pounced on a rebound within Alliance

FC penalty area, his looping header flew over.

Alliance FC squandered a glorious opportunity on the 12th minute when forward Herry Mohamed was set up by teammate outside Yanga's area, only to end up attempting a wayward effort which went over.

Yanga went 1-0 up on the 25th minute when winger Patrick blasted in from within Alliance's box after pouncing on a weak clearance by Alliance defender.

Yanga kept on knocking on Alliance FC's door, in which the latter's keeper Andrew

Ntala went for good save two minutes later, calmly collecting a Molinga's bicycle kick from within the penalty area.

Molinga could only manage a weak right foot attempt from within box on the 30th minute, giving keeper Andrew opportunity to make an easy save.

The hosts were under pressure four minutes from the breather when Sibomana's header from Abdul's corner kick went off target.

Yanga led by the lone goal after the completion of the opening

period.

Midfielder Juma Nyange helped Alliance FC come to level terms on the 56th minute, slotting home from close range.

Molinga restored Yanga's lead on the 71st minute, slotting in from within Alliance FC's box.

Midfielder Deus Kaseke initiated the move, when he outmaneuvered Alliance FC defender Hans Masoud that had attempted to foil Yanga's attack on the left flank.

The speedy midfielder thereafter sped into Alliance's box and threaded a good pass to

Molinga, who made no mistake with a fierce low, right footer.

The visitors wasted two good opportunities during the closing stages of the clash, as they went in search of a convincing victory.

Yanga hung on to the lead right up to the last whistle.

Alliance were reeling from 5-0 loss to Azam FC in the league's clash that took place in the region early this week.

Yanga had previously come out with a 3-2 victory over JKT Tanzania in the league's match that took place at the Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

**TONIGHT @ 21:00**

**UJENZI**

**MONDAY**

11:00 DADAZ (LIVE)  
12:00 FUNGUKA  
14:00 UTAKA  
14:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 SSELECT  
17:55 KURASA  
18:00 eNews  
18:30 Music  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
19:30 MIADALA  
21:00 UJENZI  
21:30 SSPORTS LIVE  
22:30 BONGO HITS

**eastafrika RADIO**

05:00 EA Breakfast  
09:00 Supamix  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
14:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**

## Woakes presses overseas case after 'surprise' recall

HAMILTON

CHRIS Woakes may have bowled himself on to the South Africa tour after emerging as the pick of England's seamers on the first day of the second Test in Hamilton.

A week ago, having been passed over for selection for the first Test, it looked as Woakes' chances of making that tour were receding. It was not just that he had fallen behind the seamers on this trip, it was that England are hoping to recall James Anderson and Mark Wood for that tour. Clearly, competition for places is likely to be ferocious.

But his recall here - a recall Woakes admits surprised him a little - has given him another chance. And by claiming two big scalps - Kane Williamson and Ross Taylor are both in the top four run-scorers in New Zealand's Test history, after all - Woakes has to be right back in contention.

It probably did Woakes no harm to miss the carnage of Mount Maunganui. Not only is it unlikely he would have enjoyed figures any more flattering than his colleagues', but it meant he came into this game a little fresher than the rest of the attack and with his long-standing knee issue under control. He was, notably, the second quickest of the bowlers - only Jofra Archer bowled faster and, even then, not always and not by much - and generally the most probing on a top of off stump line and length.

But we pretty much expect that from him. While there have been one or two disappointing performances in Woakes' career - he has admitted previously he thought his Test career may be over after the Centurion Test of 2016 - he has generally bowled respectably even if he has lacked potency. His problem is that, with anything other than a Dukes ball, he struggled to gain the lateral movement to trouble Test batsmen on good pitches. Before this match, he averaged 23.45 with the ball in 19 Tests in England and 61.77 in 12 Tests overseas. Put simply, his struggle has been a microcosm of England's bowlers in recent years: they just haven't been able to get the Kookaburra to do enough. It looked as if, overseas at least, England might be considering moving on from Woakes.

But even if Woakes is, at 30, something of an old dog (in fast bowling terms, anyway), he is still looking to learn new tricks. So in recent months he has added the wobble seam delivery - used to such devastating effect by Stuart Broad against David Warner - to his armoury and here gained just enough movement from conventional outswing to pose a threat.

Williamson fell to just such a conventional delivery. Forced to play, he was unfortunate enough to see the ball leave him a fraction and carry to first slip. Later Taylor, perhaps frustrated by Woakes' control - Taylor's strike rate against him was the slowest of any of the England bowlers - attempted to cut one too close to him and edged towards the cordon.

We have to be careful in judging on such a small sample size. This pitch does have an unusually lavish covering of grass - 16mm, which compares to somewhere between 4-6mm usually seen in England - and Woakes has claimed only two wickets, after all. But while his colleagues struggled to gain the movement - particularly the swing - anticipated when they inserted New Zealand, Woakes did manage to gain movement he has rarely generated with the Kookaburra. Most pertinently, **AGENCIES**

## Union SC seeks to bounce back in DRCC Caravans tourney

By Guardian Reporter



Union SC batsman, Athuman Kassim, in action against Caravans when the two teams met in Group A's clash of this season's DRCC Caravans T20 competition in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NIKHIL PUJARA

UNION SC cricketers will be seeking to put their campaign in this year's DRCC Caravans T20 Cup back on track when they confront Gymkhana in a Group A game at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) oval tomorrow afternoon.

The two teams have yet to record a win this season's edition and are, consequently, placed fourth and fifth respectively in the table.

The group favourites, Caravans and Aga Khan SC, have been placed first and second respectively, followed by Annadil Burhani in the third spot.

Caravans and Aga Khan SC have yet to taste defeat, Annadil Burhani have conceded one loss.

Union SC got off to wobbly start, conceding 123-run loss to the tournament's defending champions, Caravans.

Union are set to bank on their veteran players including Athuman Kassim, Hasnain Moti, Danish Unia and Hasnain Damji to steer the squad to their first victory tomorrow.

Union are at the bottom of the Group A log with a net run rate of -6.15.

With a handful of experienced players in their fold, they will certainly not be ready to be contented with the place they are lately occupying in the group.

Gymkhana have suffered two losses in two outings, posting a net run rate of -3.63.

They lost to Aga Khan SC by 104 runs

in the first match, they, thereafter, lost to Caravans by 41 runs.

Ashish Nagewadia, who skips Gymkhana, has a challenging task of motivating the rest of the team to play their hearts out and come out victorious against Union SC.

Union SC are, prior to facing Gymkhana, set to confront Aga Khan SC at the Leaders Club ground early the same day.

Dar es Salaam cricket fanatics are set to be treated to more action, in which the DGC venue and Leaders Club venue will host several more duels.

Aces will lock horns with Estim in Group B match at the DGC oval, GP Club will entertain Saint Gobain at the venue.

Caravans Cricket Club has hosted the tournament, which is held annually, under the auspices of Dar es Salaam Regional Cricket Committee (DRCC), gearing towards raising the standard of the game at the domestic level.

Petrofuel, Alliance Insurance, Grand Restaurant, Colourflex, RAS Logistics companies, and SBC, through Pepsi brand, are this year's competition's sponsors.

This year's tournament has brought together 10 that have been placed in two groups.

Group A has been made up of Union, Caravans, Gymkhana, Aga Khan SC and Team 10. Group B outfits include Aces, Shree Kutchi Leva, GP, Estim and Saint Gobain.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

