

The www.ippmedia.com Glaffel a for the company of the company of

theguardiantz

theguardianItd

The Guardian Digital

0

+ 255 745 700710

LIKE & FOLLOW US

ISSN 0856 - 5434 ISSUE No. 7836 • PRICE: Tsh 1,000, Kenya sh100

TANZANIA

FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY, 2020



CHUNYA COLLECTS 9BN/- REVENUE FROM GOLD AUCTIONS PAGE 3



NMB BANK TEAM TOURS IPP MEDIA OUTLETS IN DAR PAGE 4



TREE PLANTING CAMPAIGN TO ERADICATE DROUGHT IN SAME PAGE



YANGA FACE ALLIANCE FC TEST IN VPL' PAGE 20



Page 13



Coronavirus: Saudi Arabia now suspends all pilgrimages

RIYADH

MILIONS of pilgrims from around the world who visit Saudi Arabia annually may not do so this year after the kingdom yesterday temporary halted entrance to its holy sites in an attempt to slow the spread of coronavirus.

The Saudi government said it would suspend visas for Muslims seeking to visit Mecca and Medina.

Millions of Muslims make the journey each year, especially during the month of Ramadan, which starts in April.

Saudi Arabia has also suspended visas for tourists from countries with confirmed cases of the vi-

It is not clear when the visa restrictions will be lifted or how Ramadan and the major Hajj pilgrimage - which begins in July - will be affected.

The announcement by Saudi Arabia comes as other Middle Eastern countries introduce sweep-



It is not clear when the visa restrictions will be lifted or how Ramadan and the major Hajj pilgrimage – which begins in July – will be affected

ing measures to curb the spread of the disease in the region.

Iran in particular is considered a hotspot of coronavirus transmission, with 245 cases and 26 deaths from it confirmed on Thursday.

New cases of Covid-19, the infection caused by the coronavirus - which originated in Wuhan, China - continue to spread at a rapid pace around the world

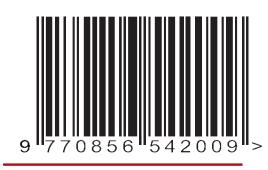
On Wednesday, the World Health Organization (WHO) said the virus was spreading faster outside China than inside for the first time.

More than 80,000 people in about 40 countries have been infected with the new coronavirus, which emerged in December. Most of the cases are in China

So far, almost 2,800 people have been killed by Covid-19, the respiratory disease caused by the vi-

What affect will Saudi's visa ban have? Saudi Arabia, which is yet to report any cases of the coronavirus, said the visa suspensions on tourists and pilgrims were temporary.

But it stopped short of giving a precise timeframe, meaning uncertainty for those who were planning to visit Islamic holy sites in the coming months.



3.5bn/- drive on toilets to build model girls' school



Bank of Tanzania governor Prof Florens Luoga (L) presses a button in Dar es Salaam yesterday to launch the Financial Services Registry. Others are Vodacom M-pesa director Epimack Mbeteni (C) and the Deputy Registrar of Cooperatives, Nyakunga Collins Benedict. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

BoT launches registry for financial services

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

AUTHORITIES at the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) have launched a Financial Services Registry (FSR) to facilitate the mapping of service access points across the country.

Speaking during the launch in Dar es Salaam, BoT Governor, Prof Florens Luoga said that data will be collected through the Android platform dubbed-'FSR Collect System' that will capture, store and analyze data on all financial services access points.

FSR is a new facility created by BoT in collaboration with the Financial Sector Deepening Trust (FSDT), the Tanzania

44

The data will be made accessible at various user levels such as the public, financial services providers and regulators

Cooperative Development Commission (TCDC), Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) and the Capital Markets and Securities Authority (CMSA).

The new system will help transform

Tanzania's financial services to the entire economy, obtaining data on all financial services and help people to access the services more easily. It facilitates the rendering of services by financial service providers, he stated.

Socio-economic sectors with linked collected data include social services such as education and healthcare, along with agricultural markets, he explained.

BoT will get proper data which is often difficult to access. It will easily identify areas which have no access to financial services

TURN TO PAGE 2

The model school is to be named Bunge Girls' Secondary School and is set to be completed in June this year upon which it will be handed over by the Speaker's Office to PO-RALG.

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

EMBERS of Parliament have folded the 3.5bn/- modern toilet for every constituency project, replacing it with one model secondary school for girls being built here, the national capital.

House Speaker Job Ndugai inspected the site for the construction of the school at Kikombo area accompanied by the Minister of State for the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), Selemani Jafo.

The model school is to be named Bunge Girls' Secondary School and is set to be completed in June this year upon which it will be handed over by the Speaker's Office to PORALG.



Initially we planned to build model toilets for girls in every constituency but later folded the plan and instead settled on one institution that will serve as a legacy of the 11th parliament when its term elapses

"Initially, we planned to build model toilets for girls in every constituency but later folded the plan and instead settled on one institution that will serve as a legacy of the 11th

TURN TO PAGE 2

WHO, govt launch two campaigns to end NTDs

By Henry Mwangonde

TANZANIA'S Dr Mwele Malecela (pictured), the World Health Organisation director for the control of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), and government officials in charge of health yesterday led youth from across the globe in the launch of two global campaigns to combat the aliments in Dar es Salaam.

End the Neglect, a year-long campaign to ignite a global movement to raise awareness and inspire action to end NTDs along with Youth

Combating NTDs - a youth-led initiative aimed at empowering, engaging and supporting young people to help tackle the disease - were both unveiled in the city at an event graced by the Chief Medical Officer, Prof Mohamed Kambi.

Both campaigns aim to end the neglect of these debilitating diseases, and to make the invisible, visible - from over 1.5 billion people affected by NTDs to youth voices all too often left without a seat at decision-

making tables.

The global movements aim to



galvanize support around several high-level opportunities for NTDs in 2020, particularly around the launch of the WHO 2021-2030 roadmap for NTDs at the world's first Global Summit on Malaria and NTDs in Kigali, on 25th June 2020, alongside the Commonwealth Heads of State and Government Meeting.

"Our new 2021-2030 roadmap calls for a multi-faceted approach that focuses on the engagement, involvement and contribution of everyone for better cross-sectoral action," said Dr Malecela.

"I welcome the 'Youth Combatting NTDs' initiative and look forward to working with the younger generation towards a world free of these diseases of poverty," the director declared.

The road map will offer a fundamental shift to focus on countries, communities and people at the centre to sustain gains and accelerate progress on NTDs in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

TURN TO PAGE 2

Inaugurated: Registry for better data processing

and thus move to ensure that they are reached by required services, he stated.

Data will be collected from banks, ATMs, mobile money agents, microfinance institutions, SACCOS, insurance companies' point of sale (POS) devices, aggregator agents and merchants, money transfer operators and banking agents, he further noted.

He called for collaboration from all sector players, individual agents and outlet operators to ensure smooth and successful registration for the betterment of the financial sector.

"The data will be made accessible at various user levels such as the public, financial services providers and regulators," he explained.

Prof Luoga said registration will be done in phases, whereas the first phase is set for the coming two months and second phase from May to June.

The Tanzania Cooperative Development Commission (TCDC) Deputy Registrar Collins Mnyakunga affirmed that FSR will help the commission to improve statistics on SACCOS as well as attract more members to joint SACCOS when transparency prevails, likely to be assured through the new facility.

The financial data collection system will help the TCDC to identify non-performing loans (NPLs) and take action on such engagements, he said.

FSR becomes the first registry of its kind in Sub-Saharan Africa that automates the data collection process and provides digital access to near real-time data.

It will serve as a national system for tracking growth and distribution of financial access points and inform key stakeholders for the National Financial Inclusion Framework (NFIF) programme 2018-2022 and the public in general.

BoT has taken a lead role in the operationalization of FSR due to its active role in the NFIF Secretariat and as a regulator overseeing the E-Money Act and its rules.

The system was fully built by BoT developers, while it plans to send field teams across the country from late February to June to register outlets offering financial services, the governor added



Chief Sheikh Abubakar Zubeir bin Ally addresses journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday. He appealed to religious leaders across Tanzania to pray for a swift end to the spread of coronavirus. Photo:

3.5bn/- drive on toilets to build model girls' school

parliament when its term elapses," he explained.

The model school is being put up on a plot earmarked for such project in accordance with the city's master plan, he said, noting that this is why he came along with the minister "so that he is in the loop from

Apart from the model toilets for girls intended in the initial project, the school

comes along with equipped laboratories, information and communication technology-fitted library, plus hostels, modern dining hall, teachers' offices and administration block.

Around 1.2bn/- collected during fundraiser events in 2018 has been allocated for its construction.

Reports released at that time indicated that the first event staged in June 2018 raised 1.45bn/- while the second exercise in September collected 800m/- bringing the total to 2.25bn/-, with both events being

staged in Dodoma.

Organised by the Tanzania Women's Parliamentary Group (TWPG) led by Urambo East MP Margaret Sitta, the events were part of the group's drive to secure a total of 3.5bn/- for the construction of modern toilets in schools across the country during the 2018/19

financial year.

The group was looking to build model restrooms in all 264 parliamentary constituencies in a pioneer project aimed at solving sanitation problems facing to wiggle and shake. It was schoolchildren, especially

The first fundraiser brought together MPs across the gender divide, representatives of development partner countries and organizations, many of

participate in the dancing.

In a perfectly choreographed rendition, the legislators took a break from National Assembly duties at this event where Kangi Lugola, the recently sacked Home Affairs Minister then serving as Deputy Minister in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment), hit the stage with

never-seen-before dance

whom took to the stage to moves amongst national leaders.

The fashion show part of the event also brought the audience to its feet, with Muleba South MP Prof Anna Tibaijuka stealing the show with a catwalk.

The gala was graced by Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan accompanied by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, Speaker Ndugai and CCM Secretary General Dr Bashiru Ally.



Mbeya Urban legislator Joseph Mbilinyi 'Sugu' (gesturing) has a quick word with his fellow members of the opposition Chama cha Demokrasia na Maendeleo (Chadema) after addressing a press conference in the constituency on Wednesday. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

WHO, govt launch two campaigns to end NTDs

FROM PAGE

Through 2020, End the Neglect will call on global audiences to learn more about NTDs and the people they impact and to amplify

urging world leaders to mobilize \$1.5 billion towards the total cost of delivering the WHO 2021-2030 roadmaps for NTDs.

In his remarks, Prof Kambi said the government was doing a lot voices on social media, in turn to address NTDs, explaining that empowering others to take action. through the National NTDs con-The campaign will also encourtrol programme there are various age participants to sign a petition initiatives to address the challeng-

"The initiatives include mass drug administration, treatment of patients and WASH initiatives which have led to positive results including the shrinking in trachoma prevalence," he elaborated.

As one of the top 10 highest burden countries for NTDs, Tanzania Tanzania is affected by one or othhas a significant role to play in er NTD. NTDs in Tanzania include

ending these devastating diseases that affect 1.5 billion of the world's poorest people. NTDs disable, disfigure and sometimes kill, trapping communities in endless cycles of poverty and costing countries billions of dollars annually.

Nearly half of the population in

onchocerciasis (river blindness), lymphatic filariasis (elephantiasis), soil-transmitted helminthes (intestinal worms), schistosomiasis (bilharzia, snail fever), trachoma (eye infection) and leprosy.

In 2018, 37 million people were treated for elephantiasis (77-perent coverage) in Tanzania.

DPP drops charges against 85 accused

DIRECTOR of Public prosecutions (DPP) Biswalo Mganga has dropped charges against 85 accused persons who were languishing in Manyoni District Court in Singida region who were facing various offences including economic sabotage.

Speaking to the Manyoni District Defense and Security Committee after finalising the exercise, Mganga said out of the 85 accused 15 had faced various charges in the district's primary courts.

DPP pointed out that the big number of the accused were those facing economic sabotage offenses including invasion of forest reserves for mining, tree cutting and logging purposes.

He said before taking legal steps against the wananchi, it was essential for the concerned authorities to raise awareness on the importance of protecting the country's natural resources.

According to Mganga for those needing to excavate for minerals for income, they are supposed to obtain licenses that would allow them to conduct mining activities in the restricted are-

have personally witnessed many able bodied youth who have gone to prison and stayed in remand instead of being engaged in national building

By Guardian Correspondent, as and those needing to cut trees for timber they should go to the areas reserved for

the purpose and not in for-

est reserves. "My request through the District defence and security committee is that you educate the wananchi, especially those living near or surrounding reserve areas not to go into those areas," DPP Mganga said.

He further stressed that he has been forced to deliberately drop charges against all the accused persons not because they were not culpable, but after interrogation many confessed they

made mistakes. The Manyoni Senior District Court Magistrate Stella Kyama stressed that the visit by the DPP was not a small thing on the part of the Judiciary because there were many complaints against them that they do not work on cases that are brought to

"However we thank you very much for your presence and what is taking place in prisons I believe the society is seeing for themselves the big arm of the government in the manner it sees fit," said Magistrate Kyama.

The Manyoni district commissioner who is the chairman of the defence and security committee Rahabu Mwagisa promised the DPP that the Manyoni District leadership will continue to educate the wananchi so that they never again enter the forest reserves.

"I have personally witnessed many able bodied youth who have gone to prison and stayed in remand instead of being engaged in national building," the DC said.





Ilemela district commissioner Dr Severine Lalika (L) presents a dummy ignition key for one of nine tractors to a representative of Agricultural Marketing Co-operative Societies (AMCOS) in Magu, Buchosa, Kwimba and Bunda. The tractors have been issued on loan by the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank and were handed over in Mwanza city on Wednesday. **Photo: Guardian Correspondent**

Chunya District collects 9bn/- revenue from gold auctions in seven months

By Guardian Correspondent,

Chunya

CHUNYA District Council in Mbeya Region has collected 9b/- revenue from gold sales in seven months.

This was revealed on Wednesday by the District Commissioner Maryprisca Mahundi when speaking to reporters in her office on the achievements after the establishment of mineral market in the district.

Mahundi said since the start of the market in March 2019 up to December the same year, they collected 9bn/- through the main market as well as smaller ones opened after President John Magufuli directed the district to open a joint market for selling gold.

"We have made great achievements since the establishment of the market in the district, apart from the 9bn/- collected, the Council received 400m/which we are spending on development projects including construction of classrooms and renovation work on dispensaries and health centres," she said.

She said the collection was obtained after the district's defence and security committee's collaborated with miners to control chaotic gold selling.

Mahundi said in controlling the business they opened six mini markets from each gold mining area -- Sangambi, Makongorosi, Itewe, Igodima Itumbi and Matundasi.

Chunya District Council chairman Bosco Mwanginde said mineral business is their big source of revenue and that they continuing with efforts for more control so as to get more revenue.

He said as of now they are on the process of opening a small market in every ward or village involved in gold mining. The District's Mining Officer Godson Kamihanda said since the creation of the gold market, miners have benefitted as the government had set gold indicative prices.

He said apart from the benefits from the mineral business there are still challenges from some traders who refuse to sell the gold within the established markets instead they sell it illicitly via 'panya' routes.

TADB hands over nine tractors to four districts in Mwanza and Mara regions

Mwanza

AS part of efforts to supgovernment's agricultural sector development, Tanzania Agricul-

tural Development Bank (TADB) has handed over 9 tractors worth 541.8m/to Agricultural Marketing Co-operative Societies (AMCOS) in four districts– and Bunda-Urban.

Speaking here Wednesday at the event to hand over the tractors, Ilemela District Commissioner, Dr Severine Lalika called upon leaders of the AMCOS Magu, Buchosa, Kwimba in the respective districts

on inputs and make sure they complement government's efforts towards improving the agriculture sector.

Dr Lalika insisted that such interventions are been taken with intentions to take care of the farming of transforming Tanzanian

The DC noted that the tractors will facilitate preparation of farms.

For his part, bank's manager, Jumanne Kezilahabi said that the tractors will benefit over 14,000 farmers in targeted districts.

farmers from practicing traditional

their farm size and increase produc-

tion of food and cash crops-- rice and

maize to meet the demand and in-

He called upon farmers to expand

farming to commercial agriculture.

He said that the tractors were distributed as follows, Buchosa (1), Kwimba (1), Magu (5) and Bunda-Urban (2). The farm inputs were purchased from LonAgro Tanzania Ltd (John Deere) to cles out of 50 meant for cooperative a tune of 541.8m/-, whereby AMCOS will pay 108,360,000/- equivalent to 20 percent of the total cost and TADB 433,440,000/- (80 percent).

He said that Lake Zone regions

will now have 49 tractors worth 2,046,800,000/-. He said Mwanza has a total of 36 tractors, Mara (7) and Geita (6). "TADB is determined to contribute into agricultural sector transformation efforts through provision of various farming equipment, loans, farm inputs and supporting researches aimed to benefit Tanzanian farm-

ers," said Kezilahabi. According to him, the bank has been supporting cotton farmers in Lake Zone with agricultural loans and inputs channeled through agricultural inputs distribution agencies and AM-COS. The official said TADB has until farm vehicles to Agricultural Market-January 2020, provided 31 farm vehiunions in Sengerema, Buchosa, Kwimba, Misungwi, Magu and Bunda-Urban municipal councils.

"The tractors will facilitate farm preparation and boost agricultural

production. Previously, farmers were taking too long to prepare farms, resulting into some cultivating a limited number of acres", he noted, adding that the tractors will benefit 6,800 members of cooperative unions and several other farmers who will pay for the service through AMCOS.

Kazelahabi said the bank also provides tractor loans to individual farmers at affordable interest rates. He said eight farmers in Lake Zone regions have so far benefited with the tractor loans. He informed that TADB is finalising processes to provide another 14 ing Co-operative Societies in Tabora and an extra 10 to Mwanza and Mara AMCOS.

He called upon farmers to register with cooperative unions to benefit with various services including farm preparations.



ADVERTISEMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

TENDER TITLE: DEVELOPMENT OF A CRUISE TOURISM STRATEGY

TENDER NUMBER: PRQ20190828

TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) is an organisation funded by a range of development agencies to promote regional trade and economic integration in East Africa. The Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife with support from TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) in collaboration with regional partners is seeking proposals from qualified Consultany firms/Consortiums to develop and implement collective measures that will promote integrated cruise tourism for sustainable economic growth.

Terms of reference for this consultancy and the Request for Proposals (RFP) document can be obtained at https://www.trademarkea.com/procurement/ . All queries quoting the above Tender Title and Number should be emailed to procurement@trademarkea.com.

The closing date for submissions is Monday, 23 March 2020 (5:00 pm Kenyan Time)

Applications are only open to Consultancy firms/Consortiums. Interested firms MUST submit their application via TMEA procurement mailbox at the address procurement@trademarkea.com. Each email with attachments must be 5 MBs or less.

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





Invitation to bid: No. ITB/2020/SUP/002

ESTABLISHMENT OF FRAME AGREEMENT(S) FOR THE SUPPLY OF DIESEL FUEL - BULK DELIVERY

1. Background:

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Representation Office in Tanzania, invites qualified suppliers to make a firm offer for the establishment of Frame Agreement(s) for the supply of Fuel (Diesel) Delivered in Bulk to the destinations mentioned below.

UNHCR may award Frame Agreement(s) with initial duration of 2 (two) years, potentially extendable for a further period of 1 (one) year, for supplying its operation in Tanzania. The successful bidders will be requested to maintain their quoted price model for the duration of the Frame Agreement(s).

2. Eligibility:

Fuel Companies, authorized resellers, wholesalers, or traders duly registered with relevant government authorities, with sound financial basis, relevant experience, reputed clientele and with knowledge of how to meet UNHCR's needs are invited to participate in the bidding process.

The tender documents can be downloaded from link here https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1TsJo5j3LqD-ZeHWG5dT80gr-80nFka6l

CRUCIAL DATES FOR THIS INVITATION TO BID

| ı | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Deadline for receiving requests for clarification | Tuesday 17 th March 2020 at 23.59 hours EAT |
| | Suppliers' conference meeting | Wednesday 18 th March 2020 at 11.00hours EAT |
| | Deadline for submission of offers | Tuesday 14 th April 2020 at 16,00 hours EAT |

UNHCR tenders are free of charge, no fees are charged to access the tenders.

Stop selling of milk via plastic bottles, informal outlets - ZFDA

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Food and Drugs Agency (ZFDA) has embarked on the inspection of sellers of milk who do not abide by laid down rules and procedures regulations including unsanctioned outlets in order to protect peoples' health.

ZFDA Director of Food Safety Control Dr Khamis Ali Omar said the inspection is being conducted after educating milk sellers to abandon the use of bottles and other containers made of plastic as well as operating from informal outlets.

He said after emptying the contents the plastic containers cannot be fully cleaned out as milk droplets remain therein which later decompose and added that their reuse may spread communicable diseases including Tuberculosis (TB).

Dr Khamis said the exercise is sustainable and appealed to milk sellers to follow the rules issued by ZFDA to avoid unnecessary costs.

He advised them to have approved places to sell the product using ceramic containers and aluminum vats for transportation.

Guardian

NATIONAL NEWS

High-profile NMB Bank team tours IPP media outlets in Dar



The Guardian managing editor Wallace Mauggo (R) takes an NMB Bank Plc delegation led by Chief of Retail and Agri Banking Filbert Mponzi (2nd-L, foreground – in suit) through newspaper production when the team toured the IPP print and electronic media outlets in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Others include IPP director Joyce Luhanga (2nd-R), The Guardian Limited print manager V. Balasubramanian (3rd-R), NMB Bank head of brand and product marketing Rahma Mwapachu (to Mponzi's left) and The Guardian Limited commercial director Ajay Goyal (L). Photos: Chief Photographer Selemani Mpochi



The Guardian Limited print manager briefs Mponzi and NMB senior manager and principal officer, Bancassurance, Martin Massawe (L, foreground) on newspaper printing.



The Guardian Limited print manager shows NMB's Mponzi how newspapers are printed.



radio One and Capital Radio deputy director Abdallan Mwalpaya elaborates to Mponzi on the production and airing of radio programmes.



Radio One and Capital Radio director Deogratius Rweyunga (standing-L) explains to the NMB delegation on operations at the two stations.



ITV and Capital Television channel director Macharia Koigi explains to the NMB delegation on the two stations.



Mponzi wraps up his delegation's tour of the IPP media outlets with brief remark at ITV/Radio One.

Koigi briefs Mponzi at one of the ITV studios.





Tanzania Revenue Authority tax administrator Catherine Mwakilagala addresses members of the business community at Igowelo village in Mufindi District, Iringa Region, yesterday on

the need to comply with tax payment. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Allocate areas for investment in fast growing urban areas, Dr Mabula says

Guardian Correspondent,

DEPUTY Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, Dr Angeline Mabula has directed council authorities in the country to embark on allocation of areas for investment in the fast growing urban centres.

Dr Mabula was speaking here on Wednesday at an advisory meeting between the government and the private sector that discussed investment challenges in Simiyu Region.

She said there are many urban areas in the country that are fast growing hence council authorities through Executive Directors are supposed to ensure they allocate areas for investments to be ready for investors as and when they come forward.

The Deputy Minister also called on the councils to ensure they plan the surrounding areas of urban centres by allocating their various uses such as farming, livestock keeping, and recreation.

She said early urban planning should incorporate lower level government functionaries as later it will assist urban planning experts in the allocation of ease.

these specific areas.

In the meeting, deputy ministers from various ministries clarified on various challenges referred to them in order to simplify the conduct of business that would bring about benefits.

Deputy Minister for finance and Planning Dr Ashatu Kijaji clarified on the huge interest rates to financial institutions and said the current government has listened to the complaints and has been stressing for the financial institutions to reduce the rates to 11 percent.

The Deputy Minister in the Vice President Office (Environment) Mussa Sima said the aim of the government is not to close businesses but to find a way that would enable investors to do business in a friendly environment and warned that any official from his office who will be found to hinder the efforts stern measures will be taken against him.

For his part, the Deputy Minister for Works Elias Kwandikwa said his ministry is making efforts to bring together regions on the issue of infrastructure including renovation of trouble spot areas on the roads to enable investors conduct their activities with

Tanroads manager given two days to repair damaged road sections

Guardian Correspondent,

Mbeya

THE permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communications,

Mwakalinga, has directed the Mbeya Region TAN-ROADS Manager to ensure that within two days they revamp all trouble spot sections on roads destroyed by rains along the 96.4 km Isyonje-Makete road to make it

passable at all times of the

Mwakalinga issued the directive in Mbeya Region as he was inspecting the effects of the rains to the road infrastructure connecting Mbeya and Njombe regions.

able by tomorrow, collect all your experts in the region, come here to work to ensure the road is restored to its original condition," he said whilst at Igoma village.

He stressed that despite

"Ensure the road is pass- the continuation of the rains in various areas still wananchi need good road communication to enable them conduct their economic and social activities with ease.

> He explained that he decided to make the visit to inspect the effects of the rains to the road infrastructure

also to give them priority in funds allocations in the coming budget.

For his part, the Mbeya Region TAN-ROADS Manager Eng Eliazary Rweikiza assured the Permanent Secretary that they will revamp the road to ensure it is passable in all seasons and

and solve the challenges thereof and added that already the contractor has started rectifying damaged areas and that within two days the work will be completed.

> Meanwhile, Mwakalinga inspected the 53.5km Njombe-Ndulamo-Makete road and part of Moronga-Makete road being built by China Railway Sev-

TANZANIA HAS A COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE TO BE THE EXPORTER OF EDIBLE OIL

Actions following the meeting on *Inclusiveness of Financial Institutions in Supporting of* Industrialization Agenda through Agriculture Sector





Background to the Forum: TADB in collaboration with FSDT is pleased to

inform financial institutions and the agricultural community the highlights of the "Forum for Inclusiveness of Financial Institutions in Support of Industrialization Agenda Through Agriculture Sector". This was a second forum that was called by the Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Hon. Hussein Bashe (MP), following the first forum which took place in Dodoma in November 2019. This second forum was hosted by TADB and FSDT at the Bank of Tanzania in Dar es Salaam on February 17th -18th and subsequently at specific meeting to discuss agriculture insurance held at TADB offices on February 19th. The forum was attended by member banks of Tanzania Bankers Association (TBA), insurance companies,

development partners, research organizations, seed

companies, edible oil processors, and government ministries and agencies including Ministry of Finance and Planning, Bank of Tanzania, Tanzanian Cooperatives Development Commission, and Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute

The objectives of the forum were to:

i. Kickstart discussions and activities to create a coordination framework between the government, through the Ministry of Agriculture, and financial sector, through TBA and other key financial sector facilitators, for mobilizing and deploying capital for the aim to transform agricultural value chains and in effect to support the industrialization agenda through the agricultural sector – a draft framework agreement was shared with the participants for their review and comments;

To demonstrate the value of such a coordination



DB Managing Director Mr. Japhet Justine giving an opening remarks to the participants of the event including the financial institutions, insurance companies and farmers the picture the deputy minister for agriculture Hon. Hussein Bashe, together with the chairperson of PAC (parliamentary committee for agriculture) Hon. Mahmoud

framework by highlighting catalytic investment proposal in the edible oils sub sector through the sunflower and palm oil value chains - presentations were made on the catalytic value of investing in sunflower seed multiplication and in sunflower farming by smallholder farmers as a way to address the market gap in locally produced

TADB and FSDT are proud to support this collaborative and innovative approach that is being spearheaded by the Ministry of Agriculture to address the capital gaps to achieving industrialization agenda through the agricultural sector and commend the government to taking such approach in effort to realize the goals and aspiration of the Agricultural Sector Development Program, phase II, alternatively known as

Transforming Tanzania's Edible Oil Sub Sector:

The collaboration has already embarked on challenging yet promising agro-industrial sub-sector in Tanzania the edible oil sub sector. Total domestic production of edible oils is estimated at c. 210,000MT (in 2016), compared to demand of 570,000 MT leaving the gap of 360,000 MT. The gap is due to low farm productivity as processors have largely enough installed capacity to meet this gap, however the small holders' farmers cannot afford the hybrid sunflower seeds, thus, the 90% of seeds used in the sunflower value chain is recycled one, which do not produce suffi-

cient oil content. This is a missed opportu-

As an initial resolution, the forum proposed a collaborative investment approach to finance seed multiplication for two seed producers in order to double the current production of improved seeds from the current 500 MT to 1000MT in the near term, and to eventually scale seed production closer to the 2.500 MT required to meet local demand of processors. Investments would also target farmers with working capital and extension services in order to absorb the increased seed production and to ensure improved production and productivity (yields).

To successfully close the existing gap of edible oil consumption vis a vis local production, huge investment is required in seed production expansion, installation of irrigation infrastructure, improvements in agricultural practices, extension services, and marketing and contracts design and

To help unlock the potential of sunflower oil value chain, estimates projects is 10-20 billion Tanzanian Shillings (TZS) of investment is required to help 5-10 existing sunflower processing companies upgrade their technology to solvent extraction technology and to develop farmer management programs. A further 20-40 billion TZS is required to lend to smallholder farmers for improved seed varieties. Up to 1 million sunflower farmers need access to input loans of TZS 30,000-50,000 for improved seed varieties. These seeds will allow farmers to triple their yields and to double their

TZS4OBn

1,000,000+ Medium & smallhold

for improved seedlings

Next Steps:

Following fruitful discussions and resolutions to actualizing the Coordination Framework and to enable the financing to transform the sunflower value chain and edible oil sub sector, the following were the

TZS **20**Bn

TZS 60 Bn

1. Complete the Coordination Framework: TBA and TADB will usher and compile feedback and recommendations from member banks and other financial institutions on the Coordination Framework and submit the edited version to the ministry.

Mobilize financing for sunflower seed multiplication and for farmer production of increased seeds: TADB will send a summary of investment proposal to TBA member banks and other Coordination Framework members to galvanize capital and technical assistance commitment towards enabling the increased production and productivity of the sunflower value chain.

3. Insurance companies to join Coordination Framework through existing or new association. Insurers are welcome to provide comments and recommend prospective risk mitigation products to help further unlock financing for the edible oil sub sector.

TADB and FSDT commend the Fifth Phase Government, through the Ministry of Agriculture, and the leadership of Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Hon. Hussein Bashe (MP) for taking on this initiative and we look forward to facilitating the financial sector to play a catalytic role in the transformation of the agricultural sector through this Coordination Framework. We look forward to enabling the success of the edible oil sub sector in Tanzania. We take this opportunity to encourage the financial sector, including banks, SACCOS, insurance companies, etc. to embark on this journey to explore and capture the opportunities presented by the promising value chains in Tanzania.









Elizabeth Glaser **Pediatric AIDS Foundation**

Fighting for an AIDS-free generation

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

"Sometimes in life there is that moment when it's possible to make a change for the better. This is one of those

-Elizabeth Glaser

The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation is a global leader in the fight against pediatric HIV and AIDS, working in 19 countries and supporting close to 6,000 sites around the world to prevent the transmission of HIV to children, and to facilitate access to services for those already infected. Today, because of the highly successful work of the Foundation and its partners, pediatric AIDS has been virtually eliminated in the United States. With a growing global staff of over 1,000—nine of 10 who work in the field—the Foundation's global mission is to implement prevention, care, and treatment; further advance innovative research and to execute strategic and targeted global advocacy activities to bring dramatic change to the lives of millions of women, children, and families worldwide.

Position Details

| Job title: | Quality Improvement Project Assistant |
|------------|---------------------------------------|
| Job grade: | Grade 3 |
| Location: | Kilimanjaro, Manyara and Singida. |
| | |

Job Summary

The Quality Improvement Project Assistants, a member of the Quality Improvement team, supports and coordinates the implementation of high quality QI initiatives for USAID Boresha Afya project following the EGPAF's quality improvement plan and the national QI framework. The Quality Improvement Project Assistants will provide on-going support to EGPAF-supported regions, districts and sites in the form of training, meeting facilitation, mentoring, and data verification and translation for reporting. The officer will also support project "optimization" initiatives, as part of EGPAF's standard Program Optimization Approach priorities and work plan. The Quality Improvement Project Assistants will be located at Kilimanjaro, Manyara and Singida Regions under supervision of Project QI Officers and Regional administration offices of Arusha and Dodoma office.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- To process purchase requests to purchase orders using the Foundations prequalified vendors in accordance to the foundations procurement policy under the guidance of the P&L Manager and produce orders expedition summary reports on weekly basis.
- To ensure that all office mails are delivered on timely fashion to specified destinations by user department and maintain effective communication, documentation and coordination with user department and the contracted courier company.
- To prepare, coordinate and follow up of all VAT exemption/refund application forms at donor's office and the government offices on timely manner and ensure proper filling of the granted exemptions is maintained in a sequential manner; and produce a weekly monthly report to FAC & P&L Manager
- To ensure coordination with Administration department regarding maintenance/ repair of office vehicles and ensure the required documentation as per the foundation policy is properly maintained.
- To ensure coordination of invoices management process to finance department by updating the invoice tracker, maintain and update its dispatch book and maintain the P&L copies in files sequentially.
- logistical facilitation to training/workshop venues and other necessary training supplies.
- Ensure payments of all training participants and fully accountability of the payments either done through M-Pesa or any other mechanism
- Ensure correct participants' per diem calculation, payment supported by copies of Identity cards and verification of recipients' phone numbers.
- To execute any other duties as may be assigned by his/ her supervisor Facilitate

Improvement of project priority areas

- Support improvement of the 4 priority areas show case of the innovations to improve Pediatric identification, HVL Uptake and Viral suppression, Retention and TB Cases identification and treatment
- · Create conducive environment to improve the performance of the 4 priority areas
- Promote QI approaches and problem solving principles within site implementation addressing the 4 priority
- Support site staff in their capacity to apply QI principles in routine supportive supervision; carry out regular site performance measurements; analyze QI data; provide QI feedback to site staff, and attend QI meetings at site

Implementation of QI

- Be champion of the Quality improvement of the project implementation in the region located
- Participate in initiation of QI activities at health facilities, districts and regions
- · Provide implementation support to existing QI
- interventions • Prepare and present routine QI reports, and utilize QI
- data through dashboards. • Provide ongoing and QI teams coaching and mentoring
- at USAID Boresha Afya-supported sites, in
- collaboration with national QI partners. · Collaborate with MOHCDGEC and other IP stakeholders in adapting/operationalizing national QI

- In close collaboration with EGPAF central and field-based technical staff, participate in the collection, compilation and reporting all weekly, monthly and quarterly QI data into standardized data systems.
- Lead and report on identified best practices and lessons learned for documentation and sharing
- Ensure presence of functional QI team, is well known to facility staff and is actively addressing challenges facility

QI Data collection, entry and interpretation

- Provide ongoing monitoring of QI teams and QI projects, data verification of the reported QI reports • Prepare and present routine QI reports, and utilize QI
- data through dashboards. · Submit daily, weekly, monthly and quarterly reports, evidences and any information that would lead in improving health facilities and sharing at different level
- Provide Technical support on the indicators followed and QI initiatives to improve performances

Capacity Building

- Participate in QI orientation to all sites supported within the region
- · Facilitate QI Learning sessions prepare requests and implement as per approved requests and document best practices for reporting and sharing
- Review the tested changes to ensure that they are not
- against National Guidelines and patient's rights Attend and Provide technical support in Monthly meetings to ensure they appear, discuss the QI performance and they are properly documented
- Regular review and Provide TA on the QI file availability, arrangement, updated and properly documented

- Provide support to EGPAF's program optimization approach (POA) as activities are implemented at site levels.
- · Any other responsibilities as assigned.

Required Qualifications

- · Bachelor degree or advance diploma in Medicine, Nursing, Laboratory or related social Sciences from recognized institutions
- · Diploma candidates with justifiable supporting experiences in Quality improvement may be considered Quality Improvement knowledge is an added advantage
- A proven One year or more experience in HIV Care and treatment services

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

- Must have Knowledge and skills in provision of services to people living with HIV, Pediatric, HIV Testing and TB
- Attentive to details
- · Creative and ability in designing Quality improvement
- · Ability to work under minimum supervision, under pressure and in a tight schedule
- Computer literacy, comfortable working experience with the basic Microsoft packages (Word, Excel, Power
- point and Outlook) • Experience in data collection and management using electronic tools with capacity in interpreting and
- analyzing data • Fluent in both English and Swahili
- · Good communication skills both written and verbal Position Details

| Job title: | Program Officer Adolescent and | |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| | Youth Services | |
| Reporting to: | Senior Technical Advisor – Pediatric | |
| | & Adolescent Services | |
| Job grade: | Grade 5 | |
| Location: | Dodoma | |

Job Summary

The program Officer for Adolescent and Youth services will be responsible for the planning, implementation and monitoring of adolescent and youth friendly services. Adolescent services are targeted to be implemented at 100 sites but the number of sites will change from time to time depending on the availability of funds. The adolescent and Youth Program Officer will also contribute to the development of standard of care package for adolescent and youth living with HIV/AIDS. The Program Officer Adolescents and Youth Services will function as part of the team to provide technical leadership in facilitating adolescent and youth activities at the site and community in Dodoma and Singida Regions to ensure increased support that ensures smooth transition to adulthood with adherence to treatment services

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- · Leading, planning and implementation of initiatives to respond to adolescent and youth challenges in the supported regions
- Mentor, coach and support individual adolescents and youth on personal, social and educational growth and live and encouraging greater social inclusion; also support implementation of CECAP services in the project regions
- Monitoring and implementation oversight by developing site level adolescents and youth services activity implementation plan with clear time line, responsible individual and output Documentation and Reporting program activities quaterly and annual report that inform actual implementation of the progress, challenges and propose a clear way forward

 Representation and Other Duties willingness to work during the week days and occasionally weekends as some of adolescent and youth activities are conducted during weekends

Required Qualifications

- Doctor of medicine (MD) with interest working with adolescent and youths
- Bachelor degree in clinical medicine or equivalents with experience working in adolescent and youth projects

Knowledge, Skills & Abilities

- I. Previous experience in working with government entities particularly LGAs with focus HIV /AIDS or adolescent and youth projects
- 2. In-depth knowledge and understanding on children, adolescents and youth friendly health services
- 3. Strong and analytical writing skills, reporting writing and presentation skills
- 4. Excellent oral and written communication skills in
- 5. Experience in coordination and working with other
- partners including local CBOs and NGOs
- 6. Experience in using different Microsoft applications and statistical analysis packages is an additional advantage

Position Details

| Job title: | Re-advertisement -Technical |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| | Officer TB services |
| Job grade: | Grade 5 |
| Reporting to: | Senior Manager TB services |
| Location: | Tabora & Arusha |
| | |

Roles Summary

The Technical officer TB service is a highly committed, self-motivated and result oriented individual. S/he will support council's project coordinators and respective CHMTs to translate, coordinate and supervise implementation of EGPAF's USAID Boresha Afya TB and TB/HIV technical area, towards effective and sustainable implementation. S/he will provide regional level technical assistance, mentorship and supervision of the EGPAF supported TB and TB collaborative activities, including designing and supporting implementation of innovative approaches to ensure high quality and integrated TB and TB/HIV collaborative activities across the supported councils, and facilities. S/he will assure an effective collaboration with various technical officers, regional project managers and Councils project coordinators, while providing guidance and technical assistance to RTLCs and DTLCs in line with the government of Tanzania (NTLP) guidelines. The Technical officer TB services will lead and advise the project office team including project managers and project coordinators on documentation and sharing of best practices in TB and TB/HIV collaborative activities in their respective regions

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- Leading and coordinating TB and TB/HIV collaborative activities in the region and councils including planning, implementation, monitoring, documentation and
- Take a lead in TB case finding including TB screening, linkage to diagnosis and treatment
- Supporting councils to implement quality MR D -TB services including decentralization of MDRTB services to lower level
- Support councils to Strengthen TBHIV collaborative activities at council and site levels
- Supporting councils in documentation and reporting of all TB and TBHIV indicators at council and site level

Required Qualifications

- MD or BSC Nursing from recognized University, Master's degree will be added advantage
- At least 3 years of proven experience in program management and implementation of TB and TB/HIV programs in developing countries, including supervision and reporting

Knowledge, Skills & Abilities

- Knowledge and experience in TB and TB/HIV program
- Good oral and written communication skills. · Creative imagination in designing interventions using
- Quality Improvement principles

HOW TO APPLY

• EGPAF is an equal opportunities employer and the position is open to all. Qualified candidates should submit a CV, cover letter and relevant certificates explaining how the experience detailed in the CV will contribute to the requirements of the position and references to EGPAF.

Submissions to be sent to:

Senior Human Resource Manager, Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric Aids Foundation, P.O. BOX 1628, 395 Ursino Park, Mwai Kibaki Road, Morocco.

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Or e-mail: recruitment.tanzania@pedaids.org

Closing date: March 6th 2020

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Kairuki urges state bodies to change tack on visits to premises used by investors

By Guardian Correspondent, come 2025," she said.

Shinyanga

DISTRICT and regional representatives of government institutions should visit an investor's premises on a single day for the sake of productivity and convenience on both sides, Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office (Investments), Angellah Kairuki, advised here yesterday.

She told a consultative meeting attended by representatives of the public and private sectors that joint visits to investor's premises would save time of visitors and hosts and increase productivity.

The minister said currently representatives of public institutions formulated and observed their own visit schedules to investors' and business premises. Such visits, she said, had inherent inconveniences to hosts because the visits interrupt working schedules of hosts. "I appeal strongly to representatives of government institutions to formulate joint inspection schedules for visiting premises of investors and businesses, instead of a representative visiting people's premises at a time and day of his or her convenience. Joint inspection visits will make your hosts do their work conveniently,"

she told the meeting. The minister re-assured the private sector of the government's continued efforts to improve the environment for doing business, telling the delegates that all concerns and views raised by the meeting would be worked upon swiftly by the government. "I want to assure you that the government is determined to continue improving environment of doing business in this country, just as it is determined to ensure this country becomes a middleincome industrial nation

She told the delegates that the government valued consultative meeting because, she explained, when challenges exposed during the meetings were solved national production increased too. In that vein, the minister said, the government would use concerns raised by delegates to change laws and regulations governing investment and doing business in the country.

Deputy Minister, Finance and Planning, Dr Ashatu Kijaji, told delegates that a total of 164 taxes and levies have been struck off the list.

She called upon banks to consider reducing interest rates on loans because, she said, the government was charging seven percent interest on money borrowed by banks from the Bank of Tanzania. "Charging your clients more the 18 percent interest on loans you give them is wrong," she declared before the meeting also attended by representatives of financial institutions.

Livestock and Fisheries Minister Abdallah Ulega told the delegates that the government had already banned fish imports to promote local production. He called on prospective investors to make aggressive investments in livestock and fisheries sectors because, he said, their products had ready local and foreign markets. Shinyanga Regional Commissioner Zainab Telack reported that 729 industries had been established in the region -- 13 big, 11 medium and 705 small, all had created 10,150 jobs. She said 20,289.25 hectares had been set aside for investment in business, agriculture and industries.

Kahama town had set aside 2,000 ha, Shinyanga district council 5,560ha, Ushetu 2,110 ha, Kishapu 10,36l.70 ha and Msalala 257.53 ha, she reported.

Clerics caution Tanzanians: Be vigilant on cyber crimes

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE Mbeya regional peace committee has cautioned Tanzanians to be on the lookout for cyber related crimes.

The committee is made up of religious leaders in the region to uphold peace and harmony in the country. So far, regions that have established committees for peace are Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Geita, Dodoma, Arusha, Lindi, Mtwara, Tanga and Mbeya.

They were speaking at a one-day seminar, which was or-

ganised by Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority

(TCRA) and was meant to empower them with skills on how to free themselves from cyber-related crimes when using communication facilities. The seminar is part of the ongoing countrywide TCRA campaign dubbed; 'Sirubuniki Mjanja Haingizwi Chaka', aiming at freeing the public from conmen, who use social

media and other platforms to defraud them. Cybercrime also known as computer oriented crime is a crime that involves unlawful activities which are carried out by means of computers or the Internet by unlawful individu-

Assistant Bishop of the Anglican Church in Mbeya Region, Daudi Sichinga lauded the role played by TCRA in educating the public on better ways of using social media platforms.

He described online fraud as the most common crime in the contemporary world, whereby many people become victims.

"So, what TCRA is doing is commendable. In this modern world, public awareness campaign is vital in providing ways for people to be alert at all times."

This campaign is timely taking into account that there are many people who are being cheated and their money are being stolen by the unscrupulous people, he said.

"This knowledge we're getting here is so useful, I'm sure that all of us will later take this message to our followers on the safely use of communication gadgets protecting themselves from cybercrime," he said

Sheikh Abdallah Omar of Mbeya Region commended TCRA to taking measures to protect its people where he urged for other institutions to emulate the move and start educating the public on better use of communications.

Head of TCRA in southern highlands, Eng Asajile John said that religious leaders are powerful people in the area of public education and influence, "that's why the authority saw it better to use them to disseminate the message."

Community colleges tasked to prepare courses holding promise of better skills

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

COMMUNITY development and technical colleges in the country have been tasked to prepare programmes to improve students' skills at the colleges so as to enable graduates to posses necessary skills relevant in the job market including self employment.

The call was given here yesterday by the Director and Registrar of Non Governmental Organisations Vickness Mayao who represented the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children at a stakeholders' conference that discussed how to implement the concept of work in the Lake Zone.

Mayao said lack of enough skills to satisfy the job market among gradu-

ates of the colleges have contributed to job market. many experts in the country being unable to get employment.

She said in order to attain middle level income by 2025 the government has continued to put up strategies to enable graduates from community development colleges in the country to employ themselves and due to stiff competition in the job market, there has come the need to improve the curricula to satisfy the market.

For his part the Assistant Director in the Health ministry department managing community development colleges Neema Ndoboka said in finding a solution of the challenge, the Department has organized the conference on how to implement the whole concept of improving skills among the graduates of the colleges that will satisfy the

However, the Principal of Buhare Musoma Community Development College, Paschal Mahinvika and the Director of Kivulini Corporation, Yassin Ally, who spoke at the conference appealed to the government to put in place electronic system that will help in mitigating the fast pace of the competition so that the graduates can be able to employ themselves as many of them after hitting the streets find themselves unable to do so.

"Right now all community development projects have to adopt the electronic system that will be able to gauge and show results, but you will find many graduates are being taught theoretically because tutors lack practical teaching aids," said Ally.



Works, Transport and Communications ministry permanent secretary Elius Mwakalinga (2nd-L) gives instructions on Wednesday to Mbeya regional Tanroads manager Eliazary Rweikiza (R) during an inspection tour of Isyonje-Makete road. a link between Mbeya and Njombe regions. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Campaign to eradicate drought in Same District to start March 1

By Guardian Reporter, Same

THE government has announced that on March 1 this year it will launch its campaign to eradicate drought in Same District, Kilimanjaro Region.

Same District Commissioner Rosemary Senyamule said the campaign's second phase will mobilize planting of trees at various areas including that that have had

"Our campaign to eradicate drought will save the existing situation in the Same District. We have called the Tourism Ambassador Nangasu Warema and the Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS) will in the coming few days give guidelines of what is to be done, she said.

The campaign is expected to be successfully after the first phase that saw tree planting alongside 90 km Moshi-Arusha-Tanga road.

According to Senyamule, the aim of the government is to change the wananchi's concept on environment especially those travelling on that road to imagine that Same town will not change its landscape due to drought. She said the campaign aims to ensure this concept is changed to people passing along that road as more than

11,000 people travel along it every day. The tree planting is part of the environment strategy for the District following directives from the Vice Presi-

dent, Samia Suluhu Hassan she gave in October 2018 during her visit in the district. Senyamule said the wananchi are elated by the plan and have shown great cooperation by digging 3,200

holes on self help basis and are planting the trees provided by TFS. She said: "The great task before us is to ensure the trees grow and will withstand drought and other impediments. We want to erase the concept that Same is

dry, we should now start seeing Same that is green."

Kyela councillors warn of phony reports on development projects

HEALTH, Education and Water Committee in Kyela District Council in Mbeya Region has advised the Council to verify reports of projects issued by experts before they receive them to avoid cooked up reports that are different to the situation on the ground.

The advice was given by the Committee's Chairman, who is Ikimba Ward Councillor Katule Kingamkono who said many projects have not been successful despite the reports that are cooked and appealed to the government to be watchful as the projects can be handed over without verification of their worth.

Kingamkono said among the projects that are suspicious are those in the education sector in Njisi, Ngana and Nkokwa wards that included the construction of four classrooms for Njisi Primary School, two classrooms for Ngana Primary School and four pit latrines for Nkokwa Primary School. "We must satisfy ourselves

By Guardian Correspondent, by the development projects handed over to us by the experts, we as councillors were elected by the wananchi to serve them, we must supervise completion of projects we had promised them, it is not good to see experts submitting cooked up reports that basically do not reflect the situation on the ground as the government spends a lot of money for these projects for the development of wananchi, and not to some few individuals," said Kingamkono.

The chairman of Kvela District Council who is member in all committees, Hunter Mwakifuna claimed that every government official is responsible in the supervision of the projects for the wananchi's benefit.

He said it is not patriotic for a public official to cook up or submit fake reports on the projects' implementation on which he supervised.

Some members of the committee said they will not be stopped by a handful of officials with personal interests and stressed that their duty is to see the wananchi's projects are fully implemented.



Dr Dorothy Gwajima (C, gesturing), Deputy Commissioner (Health) in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), has a word with Interfaith leaders in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila



NATIONAL NEWS

for a living planet®

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) CONSULTANCY:

CONDUCTING MID TERM REVIEW OF LEADING THE CHANGE **CIVIL SOCIETY RIGHT AND ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (LtC)**

- I. WWF Tanzania Country Office (WWF TCO) is a Non-Government Organization dealing with environmental protection in Tanzania since 1990 and it has supported the Government of Tanzania in implementing various projects on Marine, Forest, Fresh Water, Energy and Wildlife. WWF global mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by:
- conserving the world's biological diversity;
- · ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is
- promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption
- 2. Leading the Change, Civil society, Right and Environment is a five years programme within WWF TCO supported by SIDA since 2018. WWF TCO intends to undertake Mid Term Assessment on the programme implementation based on the developed Terms of References. The programme is designed to empower people in the Ruvuma landscape in decision making and in exercising their rights in Natural Resources Management (NRM) while ensuring the ecological integrity is sustainably managed and use of sustainable, clean and affordable renewable energy j is increased: Advocacy, Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) and co-management. The programme is mainly implemented by Civil Society (CSO)and Community Based Organizations (CBO) within the Ruvuma landscape.

The programme is implemented in 8 Districts within the Ruvuma landscape, namely; Kilwa, Rufiji, Mtwara Rural, Kibiti, Tunduru, Newala, Namtumbo, and Lindi. The different components of the programme are delivered through CSOs and CBO's and 5 Community networks. The programme also works with local communities and through their village level community committees such as Village Natural Resources Committees.

This will be achieved through direct interviews with partners, community, project stakeholders and technical teams, Project documents, Reports and data. Other sources will include journal articles, and gray literatures. The assessment will enable the implementors and stakeholders to have a thorough understanding on the implementation status, relevance, efficiency and future adjustment of the project. It will also enhance benchmark of project conditions that will help to project on the proposed induced changes and inform impact predictions (positive and negative).

EVALUATION PURPOSE AND USE, OBJECTIVES, AND

The purpose of this MTR is to review the progress and the status of implementation of the programme activities as outlined in the project document, share experiences and lessons learnt, identify strengths and challenges, and derive recommendation for enhanced implementation and effectiveness during the next two years of the programme. Mid Term Review is part of the project design and reporting requirements. The main objective of the midterm review is to provide WWF and stakeholders with an independent assessment of the progress made towards the set targets as per programme Results Framework in order to ensure its

2.1 Specific Objectives

- To assess the progress made towards the desired results (as per the approved results framework) at the intermediate outcome and output levels.
- To assess the level of accountability with respect to the programme overall work plan delivery and use of programme resources to date
- To assess the impact of the programme achieved to date
- To assess whether the initiative is on track towards achieving the desired results at the intermediate outcome and output levels
- · To identify the best practices and key lessons learned during implementation and based upon these, recommend strategies to improve performance going
- To provide recommendations for improved implementation of the programme for the remaining period of this phase of the project (2020-2022).

WWF Tanzania through Ruvuma landscape programme LtC programme will commission and approve the evaluation process and report under the guidance of the Monitoring and Evaluation manager.

The Programme coordinator will work hand in hand with the Evaluation consultant to guide the data collection and ensure all deliverables are delivered timely to WWF Tanzania. The programme implementing team will be responsible for writing the management responses, execution and to implement the actions. The communities and implementing partners will be the key audience of the learning that will be generated by the evaluation. After final reports and endorsement by

Step 5.3 Evaluation Guidelines

management and WWF Sweden, WWF Tanzania will disseminate of the results of evaluation to the implementing partners and beneficiary communities, while WWF Sweden will consolidate the programme findings across the partners

and disseminate the evaluation results to outsiders and the network.

3. Scope of Work

The MTR will review the Relevance of design, Effectiveness, Efficiency of planning and implementation, Impact, and Potential for sustainability and replication. Importantly the review will also look at Aid effectiveness and Civic space. Issues or factors that have impeded or accelerated the implementation of the project or any of its components, including actions taken and resolutions made should be highlighted. It will also assess the project performance in terms of progress towards completion and achievement of the results as well as he factors affecting successful implementation and achievement of results. Meetings and or interviews will be carried out with, but not limited to, WWF project team and senior management team members, CSOs, CBOs, government counterparts, and other key stakeholders. With regard to the government, the proposed ministries and agencies include Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (TFS, TAWA & Directorate of Wildlife), Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development, Local Government Authorities, Ministry of Energy and Vice President 's office, Implementers such CSOs and CBOs in Ruvuma Landscape among others. Selected field visits will be undertaken to meet with the local stakeholders, beneficiaries and partners, particularly the Villagers, Members of VNRCs, CBO, VGS and Village leaders, to determine the relevance and effectiveness of the project on the ground and assess the

- 5. Please, send request for ToR and all enquiries to tz.procurement@wwf.panda.org and or visit us at; Kiko Street, Mikocheni - Off Mwai Kibaki Road Plot 252, P. O. Box 63117, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania Tel: +255 22 277 5346/277 2455/270 0077 Fax: +255 22 277 5535; website. www.panda.org
- 6. Complete a data compilation template that will be provided. The consultant will be facilitated to see the template in advance to give a picture of the kind of data required. Make presentations as will be required at the inception and feedback meetings
- 7. Registered, eligible and reputable, firms, institutions and individuals are advised to submit both technical and financial proposals for this assignment. The technical proposal should clearly indicate the individual's/institution's team's experience on SIMILAR assignment relevant to the subject matter.
- 8. Applicant Requirement and qualifications: The team may comprise a Lead consultant who will be the team leader and will have responsibility for the evaluation report. He/she will be a highly qualified senior evaluation/review specialist with extensive experience from evaluations and ideally also the subject matter in question as well as experience and understanding of implementation arrangements for Civil society organisations. This assignment can be done by a single consultant or a team of consultants of which the Lead consultant needs to fulfil the criteria set herein.

At least Master's degree in Monitoring and Evaluation, Sustainable development, Development studies, Social Sciences, Environmental Science, Natural Resources Management or other closely related field. Phd Will be an added advantage Experience

- A minimum of 5 years of work experience in the field of monitoring and evaluation of development projects ideally also the subject matter in question
- Proficient in project design, monitoring and evaluation
- Experience in monitoring and evaluation of development projects, supported by major donor agencies
- Experience in conducting interviews and focus group
- Experience working with different types of stakeholders including communities, government and CSOs
- Computer literate (e.g. Microsoft: Word, Excel, PowerPoint,)
- Good familiarity of Tanzania culture and environment
- Good facilitation, interviewing and communication skills
- · Proficiency in both English and Kiswahili

9. Please, submit your full proposal tz.procurement@wwf.panda.org

10. Deadline for submission: Applications should be a concise full combined technical & financial proposals fully signed, highlighting company profile, concrete evidences of experiences on similar works, the proposed approach and methodologies, work schedule and timings of the process. Team CVs should also be attached. Also apart from one pager application letter, financial proposal should clearly specifying time and other expenses both direct and reimbursable, these include unit costs on professional fees and the eligible taxes; kindly submit your applications as instructed by Friday, 13th March 2020 at 17.00hrs Tanzania local time. Only successful applicant will be contacted.

11. Evaluation of the consultancy applications will be done based on WWF procurement guidelines and that WWF Tanzania is not bound to accept any lowest or highest proposal/bid



FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2020

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Danger of coronavirus likely more serious than many think

ACH passing day the world is seeing, hearing and learning something new about the global epidemic now described scientifically as COVID 19 (coronavirus infectious disease of 2019), and some of that is disconcerting.

One such item is that the disease spreads faster from person to person than did the bird flu virus of the past decade and is in that sense far harder to control than previous epidemics. That is now certain.

What has now started to be set out, or rather is being researched upon, is how far countries across the globe are prepared to handle the risk of infection by importation - especially from China.

There are particularly disturbing elements in a research report published in a UK scientific journal by a French health and medical research institute, INSERM, which was examining the risk of importing COVID-19 from China through trade contacts and how far the more exposed countries stand a chance of forestalling outbreaks of the epidemic.

Tanzania was at the middle of the table in terms of level of exposure to imported COVID-19 infection cases but nearly top of the table in terms of vulnerability if that were to happen. Preventing an epidemic is a function of wider health sector capacities, and this is widely acknowledged.

Tanzania was in that study listed along with Angola, Angola, Ghana, Kenya and Sudan as having high levels of vulnerability to a coronavirus epi-

It is said that these countries have high and comparable importation risks of the coronavirus on account of intensity of their trade interactions, but they have varying levels of preparedness to

ACH passing day the world face the threat of an outbreak and high is seeing, hearing and learn-levels of vulnerability.

Countries like Ethiopia and Nigeria were seen as more exposed to such imported cases in future but had higher levels of preparedness than the others.

On the basis of the study, it is clear that the researchers fear that weak airport controls could touch off an epidemic in any of these countries. The explanation is that where the containment capacity is weaker, the resulting epidemic tends to be more rapid and lethal.

The lead researcher said that one of the study's major limitations was inability to account for flight bans by airlines, pointing out that the bans as they stood were not expected to prevent COVID-19 importation.

One reason is that a patient is only diagnosed or subjected to thorough examination when a rise in temperature is noticeable, which would already imply a rather developed state of the virus in the body.

Earlier than that, it is argued, the virus has to mature first before it can be diagnosed. For many countries, God forbid, that could ideally as well mean an outbreak deep inside popular downtown shopping centre.

What is therefore apparent is that there is no foolproof method of ensuring that the much-dreaded virus does not reach our shores so long as many people will still be going to China and other high-risk countries and coming back.

While there is admittedly some form of suspension of such travel at student and commercial levels, it is hard to take care for everyone in that there is plenty at stake. So, the international community has still a lot to do to spare humankind the kind of catastrophe the further spread of the virus could cause.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO CIRCULATION MANAGER: EMMANUEL LYMO

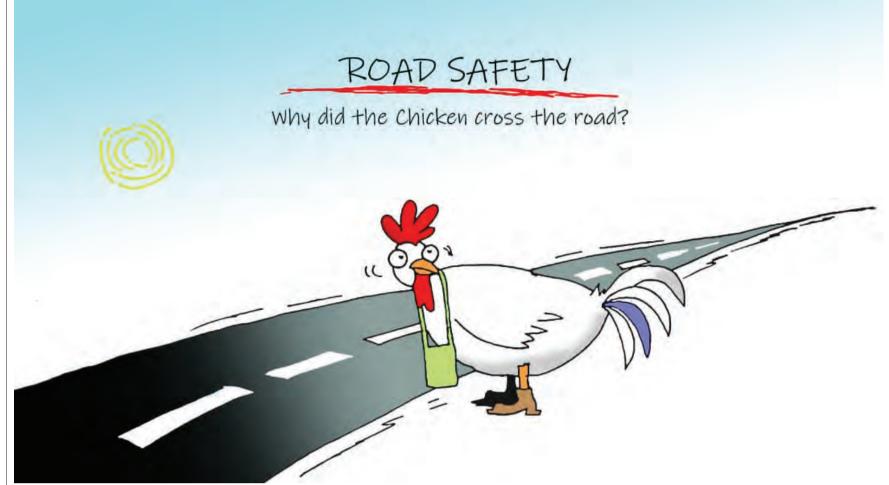
Newsdesk

General Line: 0745 700710 News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON

0757 154767 E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Cel: + 255 686 101335 E-mails: Advertise@guardian.co.tz Website: Ippmedia.com, epaper.ippmedia.com



State participation in mining investments: Will Tanzania witness optimal benefits?

By Lucy Linus

EVERAL African countries, among them Botswana, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa and Tanzania, have taken various measures to enhance direct state participation in the capital of mining investments (equity share).

In its desire to revamp the mining sector and in response to a prolonged public outcry to the effect that the country was not obtaining optimal benefits from the mining sector, the Government of Tanzania had adopted numerous interventions which triggered a range of reactions based on divergent schools of thought.

These include interpretations by some relating to resource nationalism, under which the government is perceived as bent on maximizing state control for social, economic and political

benefits.

Others question the government's capacity to negotiate and analyse financial models to manage its stakes in the mining investments, these drawing lessons from Tanzania's own history and other countries' experi-

Digging deeper, from a historical perspective, one would be tempted to argue that the pace of revamping the mining sector by increasing state participation in mining investments serves as some form of desire to take Tanzania back to the policy of socialism and self-reliance of the 1960s, where the thrust was on ensuring that the major means of producing national wealth including minerals were under state control.

Assuming that state participation would enable Tanzania to obtain optimal economic benefits, after protracted negotiations, the government and Barrick Mining Corporation signed nine different agreements in January 2020.

These were the Framework Agreement, Management and Administrative Service, Twiga Shareholders Agreement, North Mara Shareholders Agreement, Bulyanhulu Shareholders Agreement, Buzwagi Shareholders Agreement, North Mara Development Agreement, Bulyanhulu Development Agreement, Buzwagi Development Agreement and Pangea Development Agreement and Pangea Development Agree



ment.

Puzzle of Equitable stake

Section 8 of the Natural Wealth and Resource (Permanent Sovereignty) Act of 2017 provides for any authorisation granted for the extraction, exploitation or acquisition and use of minerals to be arranged in a manner that ensures that the government ends up with an equitable stake in the venture.

Interpretation and execution of this particular section is ambiguous in that the legal interpretation of the phrase 'equitable stake' is missing. Accordingly, there is a possible risk of each arrangement or agreement having either its own interpretation or confused understanding.

One instance of notable confusion caused by such ambiguity is in connection with the 50/50 sharing of the economic benefits principle as appears in the new arrangement between the government and Barrick Mining Corporation - as signed in January 2020.

The signed framework agreement is yet to be published for public scrutiny. But for the purpose of this article, Annex 4 (that is, The Framework agreement) in the "Final Recommended Offer for Acquisition of ACACIA Mining Plc by Barrick Mining Corporation" - published by London Stock of Exchange and later the Dar es Salaam Stock of Exchange last year - is still a valid reference for public debate until the signed Framework Agreement is in the public domain by being published by the government in line with Section 16 (a) of

The Tanzania Extractive Indus-

tries Transparency and Account-

ability Act (TEITA) of 2015.

Debate on the meaning and potentiality of the 50/50 sharing of the economic benefits principle has triggered legal attention on whether the aforementioned 50/50 principle resulted from undefined equitable stake in the venture or whether is just a matter of mathematical and economic calculations.

Economic benefits in the framework agreement include taxes, royalties, inspection fees, corporate tax and 16 per cent free carried over interest, to mention but a few which the government is entitled to in the lifetime of a mining project.

The question remains on whether the 50/50 sharing principle reflects "equitable stake" in the venture. If it is based on Section 8 of the Natural Wealth and Resource (Permanent Sovereignty) Act of 2017, then it is about equity sharing rather than about equal sharing.

Going by Oxford and the second edition of the black law dictionaries, the word "equitable" means being fair and reasonable, the subsequent question would be whether the 50/50 sharing of economic benefits as postulated in the new arrangement comes to a fair and reasonable stake for the government rather than being an equal share?

In many countries, factors including revenue leakages can also be instigated by ambiguities and problems with legal interpretation on key terms in the legal framework.

There is a legal misconception on the 50/50 sharing of economic benefits principle being drawn from Section 10 (2) of the Mining Act 2010 (as amended in 2017). The section entitles the government to the acquisition of up to 50 per cent of shares in the capital of mining investments.

The departure point on the intention and the legal meaning between the 50/50 principle and the said Section 10 (2) is that the former focuses on the total economic benefits while the latter is on the government's equity share in the capital investment, where the end product is dividend (in case the investment in question is profitable).

What of converting tax expenditure into equity share?

Government equity share in the mining investment is another aspect calling for analytical attention. In accordance with Mining Act, 2010 (as amended in 2017), 16 per cent is the minimum share the government is entitled to acquire in the capital of any mining company, this depending on mineral types and the level of investment.

The amendments provide for the threshold for government equity share (free interest carried forward) as opposed to the previous situation where the power was vested in the negotiation team led by the Minerals ministry.

Similarly, it would be prudent for official regulations or guidelines to set a minimum shareholding criterion based on the mineral types and level of investment (capital intensity) with regard to the Special Mining Licence is concerned.

Furthermore, the government equity share in the capital of a mining company can be increased to a total of 50 per cent. The increase in shares, which is 34 per cent, would be commensurate with the total tax expenditure (that is, the government grant to the companies in question).

Therefore, as things stand, 16 per cent is a mandatory requirement, while the 34 per cent rise in shares remains in the hands of companies - this depending much on the nature of the firms' business or financial modelling - and whether they need tax incentives.

Going by an example from the new agreement between the government and Barrick, under which the level of government shares is limited to a non-preferential 16 per cent for the project's lifetime, a number of questions arise.

One might be tempted to ask: Was/Is Barrick not interested in receiving any tax incentive from the government? Is the legal offer opposed to a mining business/financial model? If Barrick/Twiga (the mining company jointly owned by the government and Barrick) is granted tax incentives, will these be conveniently converted to increase government shares?

Using a resource nationalism lens, translating tax expenditure into government equity shares in mining investments sounds like an ideal win-win situation. However, the excitement of having a win-win situation could melt into a matrix of zero if the methodology of valuing tax expenditure is not clear when factored into the financial model.

A brief by the Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI) on 'Tanzania's New Natural Resources Legislation: What Will Change?' underlines the need for Tanzania to have crystalclear methodology for valuing tax expenditure so as to realise the full impact of the requirements.

Therefore, for Tanzania to realise full impact of State participation in mining investments and obtain optimal benefits, transparency and accountability are of utmost importance across the contracting chain.

This stands to come in handy not only in crafting better agreements, reducing fraud and corruption but also in ensuring, collective management of the contractual obligation for both parties including ultimate owners of the resources concerned - that is, the people.

ing sector should provide clear and complete meanings in respect of key terms - at least to avoid ending up with confused understanding or misinterpretation at the execution stage.

• Lucy Linus has introduced herself a 'dedicated'

Additionally, the legal framework and contracts in the min-

reader of The Guardian.

Biolarvicide success is an example of research Tanzania must treasure

HERE is confirmation from various quarters, notably scientists, to the effect that a formula developed by a factory Kibaha in Tanzania's Coast Region is proving of great help in boosting Africa's anti-malaria efforts.

This is what transpired at a scientific meeting in Arusha early this week, where participants from various countries heard that Tanzania's biological arsenal aimed at eliminating the killer disease through the production of a biolarvicide has proved surprisingly efficient.

It was reported that the results of expert tests were so convincing that some African countries are already importing the formula to bolster their efforts to eradicate the tropical disease.

Malaria is notoriously resistant to drugs and, if this aspect is being tackled, the formula could for sure last and prove a reliable asset.

Still there was a discordant note to what was being discussed, with some leading Tanzanian researchers concerned that the Kibahaproduced biolarvicide was helping other countries while Tanzania itself was still lagging behind in using it

Some experts in the country explain that what is pulling the project back is poor background knowledge among implementation officials. It means that it isn't a matter of obtaining a spraying kit and doing the normal thing or picking up tablets to swallow and then malaria parasites wither.

A top official of the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) said that experts have been testing the formula produced at the Tanzania Biotech Products Ltd

and have vouched for its efficacy.

This was affirmed at a five-day

HERE is confirmation from various quarters, notably scientists, to the effect that a formula by a factory Kibaha in consultative workshop, addressing implementation research for effective access and delivery of health technologies for East and Southern African countries.

Preparedness concerning the formula has to do with the whole of our healthcare and medical outlays infrastructure, which is why it becomes a surprise when we become innovators in an area of considerable public interest and then we lag behind when other countries in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) bloc are already benefiting.

Here it is basically research 'rusting' on our shelves when, among our neighbours, it is already translating into applied science - and then we look over the shoulder to

see what we can do.

From what the meeting was told,
Tanzanian needs to make hastened
efforts so that we no longer lag behind in making use of that formula.

NIMR says that one way of going about this is training health personnel at district level on how to apply the biolarvicide in their specific areas. That would in part mean forming links the research institute and the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local

Governments) on the subject.

We meanwhile hope that the relevant specific organs on the one hand and the Health will jointly see how to turn things around quickly enough. Surely, we ought to be among leaders in applying our own formula in fighting malaria.

Health experts from across Africa were discussing ways of implementing health technologies to combat tropical diseases in various countries, and already the Kibaha plant is standing out as a prime example of such strategies. The last thing we should is to let ourselves down.

Consistency...The key to achieving it all

ROME

OU are great at many things but that does not mean you should do all of them.

These words punch me in the face during an episode of Super Soul Sundays with Oprah. The guest gives an example of playing a guitar. If you pick up a guitar and become good at it, that may mean you are the next musical sensation or you just love guitars. You could possibly make the best cupcakes on a whim that does not mean you should open a bakery store

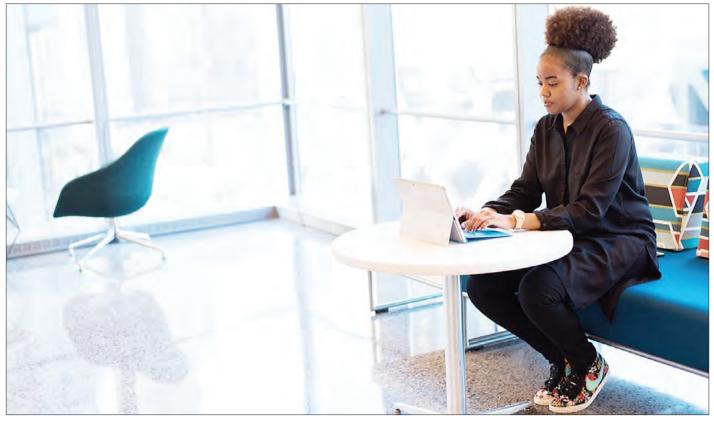
You are great at many things, that does not mean you should do all of it. This is made possible by how pow-

erful your mind is. I dare you to set your mind on one thing you want to this year. If you focus all your energy, it can only get away from you for too long. Remember the universe; the human laws created by God to ensure balance? They are all working for your good.

I am great at many things.

It took the #decade challenge for me to reflect on a couple of them. Take away every negative thing that social media has amplified and you have a source of enrichment. The #decade challenge had us give glory details of the past decade in the hope of inspiring someone else across the world. It is too late to think about privacy and what Amazon, Facebook and Google are doing with our information, so why stop cataloging our lives now? My inspiration for the decade was by renowned director Ava DuVernay who details what paced success looks like with a touch of unquestionable great talent.

When I look back at my 10 years I see a rambunctious young teen racing too fast for her own good and facing a serious case of identity crisis. At 17 years old she walks into a theatre (No America I will not spell it as Theater, how else do you get the flair?). At 17 years old she walks into the Phoenix Players Theatre and try to convince a respectable director that she's the to so much and that kept me away



piece that is missing in his directorial career. She's the talent he has been waiting for. She fails miserably but that begins a beautiful journey of dancing through different media platforms. She misses a few steps and fall face flat but still managed to make it through the decade.

Will Smith has said in interviews that a lot of his motivation comes from the fear of losing everything he has achieved so far. Kevin Hart says the same thing in his latest Netflix Docuseries. I totally understand where that fear stems from. If you grew up in a world where everybody lived off the same script, it is no surprise that any level of success would trigger intense impostor syndrome.

Where I grew up, I sheltered an inconvenience I embraced out of fear. Trauma was littered everywhere, so when I could get away, I hibernated. Being a loner also makes you the most trusted person in the hood. I was privy from the streets, quite literally.

To date only a handful of us made it out. There is a complacency that comes with living in the hood.

The sense of community, knowing how life is going to roll out and having just enough exposure to be cool but a string's budget to have sporadic fun.

With that chip on her shoulders it was easy to talk herself into being great at anything. She was a greenhorn actor so she worked on becoming the best production assistant.

Three years later of balancing school and a part time job at Phoenix Players Theatre, a cash crunch bit and her broke antennae went up.

The next opportunity was an internship at a radio station, then a host, back to production as-

rything that happens on a TV set she can do. 2016 kicked in and the economy packed her bags in a huff. Budget cuts led to job loss and she was not spared. An ad agency job saved the day but before she could redo her house interior décor, the company shattered. One more try, okay a million little tries and she scored a radio job. It has been as messy as that paragraph.

She loved all those jobs but she loved to survive too. Make it out of the hood. Pull her mother and cousins with her.

Break these cycles and set up the next generation for success with a better chance at self actualization. Hard work is sold as the golden ticket.

That has proven to not be entirely true owing to systemic classism and organized corruption. It sistant, an art director assistant, will take a couple of posts to un-



College Comfort Zone

With **Salima Hamisi**

saly30@gmail.com 0762 174 124

in this country.

Today, she focuses on what she can do to achieve greater success with available resources.

This part of the piece is credited to a friend who once called me in despair recently venting about how lost she felt. The world moves too quickly it's easy to disappear in the crowd. It was after a day of reflecting on the past decade that culminated in conversations with people who told her that her aspirations need to be 'adjusted'.

She listens quietly but you can hear her process each word. When she speaks, I have a pen in hand because people say the best things on phone and I am trying to live with more intention.

I have had a decade of scattered opportunities and living flustered because I was working to not be broke, as opposed to gearing towards success. It's hard to be consistent while crash dieting through opportunities.

Here is how we achieve consistency. Think with a pen in hand of everything you are good at and list them in the following categories; What I am good at and have previously monetized

Skills that I am actively working on improving

Things I am passionate about; you could do them for free.

Tie this in with the milk, honey and wine concept. This TV production and literally eve- pack the rot by the political class I learned from one of my many

former bosses. Here's my sample breakdown. What I am good at and have previously monetized

Writing TV & Radio hosting

Production management Running my mother's business Skills that I am actively work-

ing on improving Honey

New Media technologies Producing content

Teaching Things I am passionate

about Wine

Filmmaking

Acting Working with charity organiza-

tions especially children Milk is what you need for eve-

ryday living. Honey is what you are working on to add more value to your milk. Wine is what needs more time because you can only allocate a limited amount of time. It all leads up to great success spread over time.

With a list it is easy to focus and hence be more consistent. I use the word hence a lot. Writing what you are good at gives you much needed affirmation.

It feels good to know your strengths and kick impostor syndrome out and may be economy can move back in. Hopefully this pushes you to the first step of taking your success seriously.

Biofortified crop project reaches refugees in Zambia

LUSAKA

HE Mutwales farm a small plot of land in the camp, growing primarily cassava and maize for food. They are also one of the 105 refugee farming families participating in an initiative during the 2019/2020 growing season to help them cultivate nutritious, vitamin A-biofortified orange maize, which was developed by the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) in partnership with HarvestPlus.

The initiative is part of a livelihoods project supported by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and implemented by CARI-TAS, a Catholic humanitarian organi-

HarvestPlus provides technical assistance, including demonstrations and training on growing biofortified maize, as well as nutrition education.

"My family and I are most grateful to UNHCR for providing us with inputs to grow a half hectare of orange maize," said Mutwale. "I have heard of the many nutrition and health benefits and I'm very delighted that after harvest, my family will experience them when we start consuming the maize." Mutwale also hopes to be able to sell some of the harvest to earn income and invest in inputs for a second growing season and pay his children's school fees.

Vitamin-A deficiency can lead to impaired vision-even blindness-and a higher risk of diarrhea and other infections. Pregnant women with vitamin A deficiency may be at increased risk of mortality. Nationally in Zambia, more than half of children under five are vitamin-A deficient.

Zambia has been a refugee destination for more than 50 years, primarily from Angola, the DRC, Rwanda, and Burundi. The three major refugee settlements are Meheba in Northwestern Province, Mayukwayukwa in Western Province, and Kala in Luapula prov-

Through the UNHCR, the refugees are provided basic food, shelter, and



Luvunzu Mutwale, his wife, and their seven children are from the Katanga region in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). They fled to neighbouring Zambia in 2015 to escape civil unrest at home, and they currently live in the Meheba refugee camp in Zambia's Northwestern province.

access to clean water and sanitation, as well as health services and education infrastructure.

The UNHCR livelihoods project is one of many social welfare interventions aimed at improving the wellbeing of refugees in the Zambian

ing and nutrition education, sors and offtakers). Harvestplus Zambia also helps catalyze an orange maize business model for the farmers sufficient maize is grown as based on forging linkages with well as purchased. For examinput suppliers and estab- ple, Butemwe Milling, a local

In addition to farmer train- maize purchasers (i.e., proces-

The system helps build confidence on all sides, ensuring lishing formal contracts with processor, has already placed

an order for 10,000 bags of the refugee farmers' orange maize at 50 kgs per bag, for a total order of 500 metric tons.

There was strong interest from refugee farmers to participate in the orange maize initiative-about 1,500 applied but

the pilot. Selection criteria included the applicants' level of economic vulnerability and the capacity of the household to grow the maize. The 105 participating fami-

resources were limited during

lies received 10 kilograms of orange maize seed and various inputs required to cultivate a half hectare. The fertilizer and other inputs were procured through an open tender process, which attracted bids from several suppliers, including local agro-dealers. A true platform for business engagement in biofortification was created.

The objective is for the participants to eventually "graduate" to self-sustaining investment in orange maize cultivation after receiving start-up support during the 2019/20 season (which runs from about November 2019-May/June 2020). And if this pilot in Meheba camp provides successful, the program may expand to other refugee

HarvestPlus and its partners are eager to get biofortified crops to refugees and other vulnerable populations who are at high risk of nutritional deficiencies and related health impacts.

Another refugee-focused project is under way in Uganda, where HarvestPlus is partnering with Self-Help Africa to support more than 1,000 households in eight refugee settlements and host communities in the northern Adjumani district.

HarvestPlus is a program of the CGIAR global research partnership for a food secure future and is based at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), a CGIAR research center.

Agencies

FEATURE

PUBLIC NOTICE

www.nbc.co.tz

Meet the Jew (94) who was saved by the Nazis

By Karin Schimke

94-year-old Salomon Perel, who survived the mass extermination of Jews by donning a Nazi uniform, visited South Africa in mid-February 2020, just when the question of responsibility and apology once again surfaced through former president FW de Klerk's public intransigence on the matter of apartheid being a crime against humanity.

Sally, as he is affectionately known, glides slowly through the grounds of King David School in Linksfield on a muggy midweek morning, his hands clasped behind his back. Children shyly wave at him, or stop him to talk. A tremor of excitement opens before Perel's small entourage leading him to a bench by a cycad where he will wait for his Uber.

The children approach him cautiously-the giggling girls and the bruisers whose white school shirts seem ready to rip at the biceps. Around his tiny old frame, a crowd gathers, and he welcomes it, smiling and nodding.

The questions the children ask are sweet and curious, and he answers them in his careful English, or in Hebrew, which the Hebrew teacher translates. One of the questions prompts him to take his wallet from his inside jacket pocket and extract two photographs: one of a young woman with golden hair whose name is Leni, the other of a boy in the uniform of a Nazi schoolboy whose name, at that point in history, was Joseph.

Perel was born in Germany in 1925, a Jew on a continent gripped with anti-Semitism that would find its peak expression in the mass genocide of Jews by the Nazi party under the leadership of Adolf Hitler.

When Salomon was 14, his family, who had already fled Germany for Poland, was about to be transported to the ghetto in Lodz, and his mother and father felt that he and his older brother needed to flee east, towards Russia, away from the German inva-

His father's parting message was "remain true to yourself always". His mother's parting message was "stay alive".

In order to fulfil his mother's command, he had to suppress his father's. When faced with German officers commanding Jews in a group that had been rounded up in Grodno, Poland to step forward, Sally - who had ended up alone in an orphanage in which he'd been exposed to and had embraced a Komsomol education - shakily buried his papers in the sand using the heel of his shoe. When asked whether he was Jewish, he declared, in perfect German, that he was an ethnic German, a Volksdeutsche. For reasons he has never understood, the soldiers believed him without requiring him, like other men in the group who denied their Jewishness, to drop his pants so that they could see whether he was circumcised.

When asked what his name was, he said the first German name that came into his head: "Josef".

When the soldiers discovered that he was fluent in Polish and Russian, he was welcomed into their unit, given a uniform and employed as a

He marched with these Germans all the way to the outskirts of Moscow. His nickname among his fellows was Jupp and he was well-loved, also by the unit's leader, who announced one day that he was going to adopt Jupp, whose German parents, they all believed, had been killed by the Bolsheviks. Jupp was sent to Germany to attend an elite school for the Hitler

Youth. His relief at being alive and his fear of discovery was an internal war between Nazi and Jew inside - a kind of "intrapersonal Stockholm syndrome". In all those years, Sally managed to hide his circumcision in spite of operating in a unit at the Eastern front and in spite of being in a boarding school with Jew-hating boys, and



Solomon Perel aka Sally or Shlomo Perel, 94 is an Israeli author and motivational speaker. He escaped the Nazi death camps by joining the Hitler youth while hiding his Jewish identity. File photo

in spite of falling in love with Leni, a German girl who, like all the other young people, was steeped in the national socialism of the day and openly despised lews.

When the war was over, Sally was reunited with his brother, who'd been freed from the concentration camp at Dachau. Together, they made their way to Palestine. His mother, father and sister did not survive the war.

For 40 years, no one except this brother knew that Sally had survived the war "in the skin of the enemy", he told Maverick Citizen. "My brother told me when we were reunited that he did not care how I'd survived the war, only that I had survived it. But he warned me never to tell anyone, because no one would believe me."

So for 40 years, Perel threw himself into his new life. He and his brother owned a zip factory in Tel Aviv. He married. He brought up two sons. Then, in 1985, he had a heart attack and an epiphany.

"I was still in hospital and I said to my wife: I have something I need to tell the world." Not even she knew that her husband had once been in the Hitler Youth. For six months, Perel wrote.

The story flowed out of him easily. The relief was enormous. To have it out. To bring together the two parts of himself: the triumphant survivor and the self-loathing Jew. Jupp and Sally. The sheep in wolf's clothing.

"That Hitler Youth, he was me. He is still in me. And I love him, because he saved me - me! Sally Perel! - with his Swastika. My life was saved by the Nazis. This is the absurdity. The Nazis saved my life. My survival of the war is not just traumatic. It is highly prob-

Perel's book Europa Europa was published in 1989. A movie by the same name, directed by Agnieszka Holland, was released in 1991, grossing \$5.5-million in the United States. It won the Golden Globe Award for Best Foreign Language Film and was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay. It was expected to be nominated for a Best Foreign Language Film at the Oscars, but Germany did not submit it. Perel tells me that this non-submission was the result of hefty internal debate with the film jury. The movie, some on the jury said, would stir up feelings of guilt and shame in Germans. And anyway, said others, who's to say Perel's story is true?

"So Der Spiegel and Stern did investigations, and traced some of my old friends from the school," Perel says. His story was verified by a number of people he'd known at the school for Hitler Youth.

Since 1985, Perel has met not only one of his teachers from the school who was genuinely glad to see his old student and who cried when Perel told him he was Jewish - but old friends and even his great first love, Leni, a fervent supporter of Hitler's war against the Jews.

How does this work, I ask him, in the relationships between people who are, or were intimately bonded to one another, but were turned into enemies through complicated social and political circumstances? How does contrition and forgiveness

And how did all his friends react when they found out he was Jewish? Did anyone ever say sorry?

"That's a question," he exclaims. 'No. No one ever apologised to me."

He said they were willing to admit that Hitler had done "bad things with the Jews", but that was the furthest they would go. Sally sees his Nazi friends from back then as co-victims of an appalling system of oppression and manipulation, of a culture war, and of persistent, sophisticated brainwashing.

He too was brainwashed, he says, sitting through the endless classes in which "science" was proffered to justify the rejection of non-Aryans and which led to mass genocide of which the boys, at that point, were unaware.

So when Perel sees his friends many of them dead now - they share the good memories, he says, and although he doesn't avoid the topic of the evil of Hitler's Germany, he sees no point in pushing them on the mat-

"We had good times. We had girlfriends. We had outings. Summer sport. Winter sport. We share these memories. The Nazis gave their youth the best they could and I benefitted.

There were 800 of us in that school. We had light aircraft, motorcycles, we went marching through the city singing, we were given entertainment. We ate well. Free clothing. Of course, it was wonderful!"

On the surface, it was wonderful. But it was a precarious and frightening existence during the war years, and for decades after the war, there was the lonely battle to carry on with normal life as though he was just another normal survivor.

Nightmares? "Oh ves," he savs. "To this day. Writing the book didn't make them go away."

Since he wrote his book, Perel has travelled all over Europe and Israel telling his story. He has been to the United States and by the time he turns 95 in April 2020, ironically one day after Hitler's birthday, he will have travelled to Japan, South Africa and to Germany again in this year alone. Yet, he seems both undaunted by his schedule, and unfazed by answering the same questions over and over again by awe-struck audiences.

He was brought to South Africa by Indra Wussow of the Sylt Foundation, who, as a German, has had a lifetime interest in the relationship between perpetrators and victims of oppression, in transformation, reconciliation, identity and how the arts can help facilitate conversations around shame, guilt, contrition and restitution. The foundation's latest project is called "Diverse People Remember", which uses storytelling as an approach to trauma and reconciliation, and she invited Perel here as part of this project.

Together with Tali Nates of the Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre, and the Goethe Institute, she brought him over for a week of meetings with other Holocaust survivors, with school children and with storytelling groups.

Why is it important for him to tell this story? To keep answering the same questions over and over again from his various audiences?

Agencies

CHANGES TO OUR TARIFF GUIDE

Dear customer.

NBC management would like to inform you that there will be some changes to the tariff guide for the below listed services effective from 29th March 2020. All other charges not shown below will remain the same.

| | SERVICE NAME | | V CHARGES | | |
|-------------|--|--|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Ļ | | TZS | USD | EUR | GBP |
| 2 | Individual CA Maintenance fee Fasta Account Minimum balance | 1,800.00 5,000.00 | N/A N/A | N/A N/A | N/A N/A |
| 3 | Adhoc statement request (CH220), Chanua, | , | | | |
| <u>.</u> | Students, Malengo and Transactional saving | 15,000.00 | 3.10 | 2.80 | 2.40 |
| 4 | Adhoc statement request (CH220) Private / Privilege Banking/ La Riba | 15,000.00 | 3.10 | 2.80 | 2.40 |
| 5 | Adhoc statement request (CH220) All other saving | 15,000.00 | 3.10 | 2.80 | 2.40 |
| 6 | accounts Agency Banking Balance Enquiry | 600.00 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 7 | Agency Banking Cash Withdraw SC | 0 - 49,999 charges 1,200, 50,000 - 99,999 charges 1,800, 100,000 - 299,999 charges 3,000, 300,000 - 499,999 charges 4500, 500,000 - 1,500,000 charges 6,000 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 8 | All Digital Channels; Fund Transfers to unbanked customers (Cardless/Cash Popote) | 1,000 - 9,999 chargers 800 10,000 - 49,999 chargers 3,000 50,000 - 99,999 chargers 4,000 100,000 - 299,999 chargers 4,900 300,000 - 1,500,000 chargers 9,000 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 9 | ATM Balance Enquiry | 600.00 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 0 | ATM Balance Inquiry To Non NBC | 1,000.00 | USD equiv | N/A | N/A |
| 1 | ATM card Re issuance/ replacement; Lost Platinum card | 30,000.00 | 15.00 | N/A | N/A |
| 2 | ATM card Re issuance/ replacement; Lost / Physical | 15,000.00 | 6.00 | 6.00 | 5.00 |
| 3 | damage standard card ATM Cash Withdrawal International | 5000 + 1.5% of Amount | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 3 4 | ATM Inquiry (Mini Statement) | 750.00 750.00 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 5 | Bill Payment Mobile Channels | 1,000.00 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 5 | BIR Funds Transfer To Wallet | 0 - 9,999 chargers 800 10,000 - 49,999 chargers 3,000 50,000 - 99,999 chargers 4,000 100,000 - 299,999 chargers 4,900 300,000 - 1,500,000 chargers 9,000 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 7 | Cash Withdrawal over the Counter - All other | 6,000 (up to 20m, above is 0.12% | 1.7% of the | 1.7% of the | 1.7% of the |
| | Accounts Cash Withdrawal over the Counter - Private | Max 200,000) Free (up to 50M, above is 0.15% | value Min 5 | value Min 5 | value Min 5 |
| 8 | Banking/La Riba Private Banking | Max 200,000) | Free | Free | Free |
| 9 | Cash Withdrawal over the Counter - Privilege/La riba privilege | 1200 (up to 20M, above is 0.15% Max 200,000) | | 1.5% value Min 5 | |
| 0 | FT Intra Bank Mobile Channel | 590.00 | | N/A | |
| 1 | Internal Fund Transfer | 1,000.00 | | N/A | |
| 2 | International ATM, Balance Enquiry | 1,500.00 | 0.6 | N/A | N/A |
| } | Ledger Fee per entry | 1,000.00 | 0.71 | 0.71 | 0.71 |
| | Minimum Balance - Pure save | 10,000.00 | | N/A | |
| 5 | Minimum Balance - Individual Current account Minimum Balance - All Other Product | 10,000.00 | | N/A N/A | |
| , _ 7 | Minimum Balance - Business Account | 100,000.00 | | | 50.00 |
| 8 | Mobile Banking mini statement | 500.00 | | | |
| 9 | Mobile Banking Fund Transfer (NBC To NBC) | 1,000.00 | | N/A | |
|) | Quarterly Debit Card Fee - All Other Product | 4,000.00 | 2.5 | N/. | A |
| 2 | Quarterly Debit Card Fee - Privilege and Private Banking / La Riba Salary Processing; Salary Upload per entry | 7,500.00 3,000.00 | 5.3 | N/A | |
| _ | (Manual) Adhoc Statement older than 2007 (CH700) | 100,000 | | | |
| 3 | Business a/c Adhoc Statement older than 2007 (CH700) - Other Saving accounts (excluding malengo, | 26,000.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| + 5 | student, chanua, la riba, transactional savings) Inward LORO transfer to Local Banks (TISS Charge | 0.39% Min 25,000 Max 350,000 | 0.39% Min | 10.00 N/A | 10.00 N/A |
| 6 | Inclusive) Fund Transfer Outward Remittances (TT) (Inclusive of Swift charges exclusive of overseas charges) | N/A | 10 Max 142 45 | USD Equivalent | USD Equivalent |
| 7 | Life insurance embedded with Retrenchment Cover | 0.763% for the tenor of the loan | | N/A | Equivalent |
| 3 | Group Loans - Processing/Arrangement/Appraisal Fee | Between 1.5% to 2% of the loan | | N/A | |
| 9 | Group Loans - Unpaid Loan Installment | 5% of the amount in arrears | | N/A | |
| 0 | Retail Lending Rate - Base/Prime Lending Rate | 17% | | N/A | |
| 1 | Retail Overdraft - Processing/Arrangement/ Appraisal Fee | 2% of the facility fee | | N/A | |
| 2 | Overdrawn account Interest Charges | 5% above given rate | 5% | 6 above given rat | e |
| 3 | Pensioners Ioan credit life insurance fee | 0.64% of the tenor of the Loan | | N/A | |
| 4 | Fasta Account - ATM Cash Withdrawal | 1,200.00 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 5 | ATM Self Service | Free | Free | Free | Free |
| 6 | La Riba Private/Privilege Dormant account fee | Free | Free | Free | Free |
| 7 8 | Savings Account- Dormant account fee Business accounts- Dormant account fee | Free | Free | Free | Free |
| | | 10% of outstanding loan amount on | riee | | rree |
| 9 | Early repayment - Personal loans | the settlement date. | N/A N/A N/A | | |
| 0 | Mortgage - Valuation Cost | 0.2% of property value | | | |
| 1 | Pensioners Loan Fees and Charges - Administration fees | 1% of Loan Amount | | | |
| 2 | Early repayment - Mortgage | 3 month interest + Outstanding Loan amount on the settlement date | | N/A | |
| 3 | Outward Documentary bills for collections (OFBC); Document handling commission | N/A | 0.71% Min 100 Max 300 | 0.71% Min 90 Max 270 | 0.71% Min 75 Max 230 |
| _ | Inward Documentary bills for collections (IFBC); | | 0.71% Min | 90 Max 270 0.71% Min | 0.71% Min |
| 4 | Document handling commission | N/A | 100 Max 250 | 90 Max 220 | 75 Max 190 |
| 55 | Inward Documentary bills for collections (IFBC); Bill Discounted Handling Commission | N/A | 0.35% Min 100 Max 500 | 0.35% Min 90 Max 450 | 0.35% Min 75 Max 380 |
| 6 | Guarantees ; Issuance commission (per quarter) | 1.220/ min 4.20,000 | 1.28%, Min | 1.28%, Min | 1.28%, Min |
| | , , , , , , | 1.28%, min 620,000 | 270 | 240 | 200 |
| 57 | Guarantees; Amendment fee per quarter on the tenor extended or amount increased | 1.28%, min 620,000 | 1.28%, Min 270 | 1.28%, Min 240 | 1.28%, Min 200 |
| 8 | Guarantees: Other amendments | 299,000.00 | 130.00 | 117.00 | 96.00 |
| 59 | Unpaid cheque for Private / Privilege Banking / La Riba | 1.45% Min 150,000 Max 300,000 | 1.45% Min 100 Max 200 | 88.50 | 88.50 |
| 0 | Balance Inquiry over the Counter | 1,000.00 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 |
| - | , | | | | |



US report on climate change projects worse conditions for Africa

By Faith Ikade

A REPORT by the National Security, Military and Intelligence Panel at the nonpartisan Centre for Climate and Security shows that climate change could be a major threat to national security and global stability. It was also stated that it could come rapidly, destabilizing countries around the world.

In the next three decades, when faced with a situation

means of maintaining national and global security. Countries could be faced with higher temperatures of between 1.8 and 7 degrees' Fahrenheit and higher warnings could be disastrous and irreversible, posing as a global security risk.

Sherri Goodman, senior strategist and advisory board member for the centre and former deputy undersecretary of defence for

would have to provide a a comment said: "The assessment is clear that climate change is a pressing risk to national and global security, and will evolve to become a severe and systemic threat the more we allow global temperatures to rise." He went further to say that "the panel's analysis shows that no region of the world will be left unaffected, and climate impacts will interact in dangerous ways in even near-term, lower levels of warming."

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change forecast, there will be a global temperature rise of 2.5 to 10 degrees Fahrenheit over the next century. Warming will be lower in some areas than others, but scientists agree that the pattern will continue unless steps are taken to of low warming, countries environmental security in curb greenhouse gas emissions.

African countries are the most vulnerable to climate change disasters, as temperature could increase from 1.8 to 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit by the middle of the century. This could lead to loss of livelihoods for rural dwellers, increased diseases, displacement and limited resources.

During the Sixth Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD) in Victoria Falls on Tuesday, Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa said Africa pollutes less compared to other global countries but was the most affected. The disaster that occurred in 2019 which was caused by tropical Cyclone Idai and affected Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi, is a reminder that Africa remains the most vulnerable continent as far as climate change mitigation is concerned.

The effects of climate change include food insecurity, lack of electricity, a declining economy, drought, water scarcity, pest invasion and violence.

However, this can be prevented by putting an end to greenhouse gas emissions, building climate-proof infrastructure and systems, taking part in the Paris Agreement and integrating climate change considerations into U.S. security planning to take actions.

The US is planning on withdrawing from the Paris Agreement, which is a major issue of concern. In order for African countries to be able to combat climate change and adapt to its effects, countries need to follow the Paris Agreement.

The Paris Agreement brings all nations into a common cause to undertake ambitious efforts to combat climate change and adapt to its effects, with enhanced support to assist developing countries to do so.

"Though we are facing unprecedented risks from climate change, as the report shows, we also possess unprecedented foresight about those risks," said Francesco Femia and Caitlin Werrell, co-founders and directors of research for the centre's Council on Strategic Risks

AU endorses Adesina as AfDB president for the second term

ABIDJAN

THE Executive Council of the African Union has supported Dr Akinwumi Adesina's candidacy for a second term as president of the African Development Bank.

The decision was taken during the thirty-sixth Ordinary Session of the AU Executive Council, held during the AU Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 6-7 February 2020.

Adesina (pictured) was elected to his first term as president by the Bank's Board of Governors at its Annual Meetings in Abidjan on 28 May 2015. He is the eighth President of



the African Development Bank Group and the first Nigerian in the post.

During his first term, the Bank's shareholders approved a landmark \$115 billion capital increase in late October. The increase in the capital base, from \$93 billion to \$208 billion, signaled strong support from the Board of Governors in the continent's foremost financial institution.

Adesina is a renowned development economist who has held a number of high-profile international positions, including the Rockefeller Foundation, and as Nigeria's Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development from 2011 to 2015.

The African Union Executive Council comprises 55 ministers of foreign affairs representing the member states of the African Union.

In December 2019, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) also endorsed Adesina for a second term as Bank's chief. The election will again take place at the Bank's Annual Meetings in May in Abidjan.





Dr Mwele Ntuli Malecela (L), director of the Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases at the World Health Organisation headquarters in Geneva, speaks at a stakeholders meeting on the 2021-2030 NTDs Road Map in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Kenneth Simbaya

TBS appeals to SMEs to go for regional markets

By Correspondent **Felix Andrew**

terprises (SMEs) have been urged to improve their merchandizes to compete in local and regional competitive markets.

Kongwa District Administrative Secretary Audiphace Mushi made the call yesterday when opening awareness training to sunflower processors and food and drugs traders held at Kibaigwa Township. The one-day event was organised by Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS).

Mushi encouraged entrepreneurs to use the training opportunities to understand various issues such as procedures and legal matters so as to become good ambassadors upon completion of the training.

"The current government wants us to follow procedures in order to avoid various problems, this training should act as a catalyst in order to reach many SMEs," he said, adding that they are supposed to be inquisitive so as to gain much.

He also insisted participants to be good ambassadors of Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) and the training since quality and standards are of necessity in this world.

He said TBS has made a good decision to organise

such training at Kibaigwa township since the area is famous in sunflower and SMALL and Medium En- maize production and it was the first time for the organisation to conduct such an event.

> Earlier, welcoming the guest of honour, the Research and Training Manager of TBS Hamisi Sudi. said training is one of main responsibility of the organisation which are aimed at bringing common understanding with producers in issues regarding to stand-

> Sudi said during the financial year 2019/2020, the organisation has conducted similar awareness training in Western Zone which included districts of Kibondo, Kigoma, Kasulu and Katavi. He said Lake Zone training was conducted in Bukoba, Geita, Bariadi and Kahama districts.

> At the moment, such trainings have been conducted in Central Zone in Iramba, Singida, Manyoni, Kondoa, Kongwa and Dodoma.

> He said more trainings will be conducted later this vear in Southern Highland Zone and Northern Zone.

> The training on standards involves various stakeholders such as those from Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO), health, business and community development officers from the targeted area.

Deputy minister satisfied with road project implementation in Ilemela municipality

By Guardian Reporter, llemela

DEPUTY Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government -RALG) Jo-

sephat Kandege has aired his satisfaction with the work on road projects implemented by Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) in Ilemela Municipality Mwanza

He revealed this during his inspection tour of various development projects in Mwanza Region saying the achievements attained in the municipality especially the

TARURA experts and Municipal officials.

He stressed that the road infrastructures when completed should be taken care road projects are a result of of and directed respective of-

cleaned from time to time.

TARURA manager for Ilemela Municipality Eng Clement Kihinga said the roads constructed under the Tanzania Strategic Cities Project (TSP)

great cooperation between ficials to ensure the roads are have been a great achievement as they will improve the living standards of the wananchi and also called upon them to take great care of

them. An Ilemela A resident Issa

Shabani said in the past transportation was a big challenge due to poor state of the roads. But after the completion of Kiseke-Busweru road economic gains for many wananchi are now discernible.

FEATURES

MUST, SIDO and agreement on students' field allocation, attachment

ByCorrespondent Beatrice Philemon

IELD attachment provides an opportunity to improve students' competencies thus making them relevant to community development challenges and help universities to produce practically oriented graduates meeting the required job-related competences of future em-

The Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO) Director General Prof Sylvester Mpanduji (pictured) spoke on how a five- year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between SIDO and the Mbeya University of Science and Technology (MUST) will enhance the country's industrialization agenda and provide an avenue for knowledge institutions to get experience of industrial services.

Through a five -year MoU agreement, MUST's graduates will put into practice what they have learned in school to improve their knowledge, come up with new technologies suitable for entrepreneurs, in accordance with the projects they have to become good innovators in the fields in which they seek to in-

SIDO has decided to sign MoU with the MUST administration after discovering that graduates in higher learning institutions across the country normally conduct research, come up with new technologies responding to social challenges or entrepreneurs, but they remain in shelves.

During the MoU implementation, graduates from MUST will do field attachment at SIDO Technology Development Centres (TDCs) and Technology Cum Production Centers (TPCs), being encouraged and facilitated to undertake field/research works and projects at SIDO offices," he says.

Also staff from SIDO and MUST will assist in supervising students and accord access to the necessary facilities, with emphasis given to collaborative applied research and consultancy. Training for entrepreneurs, students and staff in the field of science, technology and management is equally pivotal.

Also SIDO will support graduates who have innovative and creative industrial idea for commercialization, wishing to establish small industries in accordance with experience and expertise they have, along with providing loan services to them.

"If we will perceive that the technologies innovated by graduates during



their field attachment are suitable for Tanzanians to use, SIDO will take it for massive production and supply it to SMEs," he elaborated.

Furthermore collaborative research programs and projects will be identified and mutually agreed upon during meetings of the parties and they will be implemented according to given priori-

The DG says the collaboration aims at fostering application of knowledge from the university in order to enhance the country's industrialization agenda and provide an avenue for knowledge institutions to obtain experience of industrial services from SMEs to improve the delivery of education.

This will forge partnerships in training, applied research and consultancy in the areas of science, technology and entrepreneurship which are the driving forces for national industrial development and socio-economic advance-

"As SIDO we expressed gratitude to MUST for collaborating with us because in this collaboration MUST has the potential in promoting research and consultancy for industrial development in various fields," he stated. SIDO is experienced and has the potential in industrial development support through the SMEs sector with capability of technology development and transfer, business development, training, marketing and financial support services, he

specified.

The collaborating parties will initially develop projects in areas of training, research, consultancy and development activities in agreed areas. They will initially focus on supporting and nurturing innovative ideas through incubation programs, training, applied research and consultancy programs, innovation in SMEs products, technology and technological processes.

Other areas include sharing of expertise and experiences, soliciting funds for collaborative projects, sharing of facilities from each party as needs arise along with students field placement.

Furthermore gender equality will feature among the guiding principles in all activities of the collaboration project, he asserted.

"For graduates who have innovative and creative industrial ideas, SIDO will allocate them to MUST shall jointly organize exhi-

e-incubation centre to develop their ideas in accordance with graduate projects or needs," he

The SIDO Business and Technology Incubator Programme aims at improving growth chances and the rate of survival of small and medium enterprises.

The strategies used to achieve these objectives are intended to support innovative entrepreneurs, start-ups and existing ones at the earliest stage of technological entrepreneurship. They also seek to assist them in implementing the development of their innovative ideas by nurturing them to productive business enterprises.

There is also a wish to optimize the capacity utilization of available infrastructure facilities like buildings, professional skills available to support entrepreneurs to emerge and grow.

The DG says that specific services offered under the programme include modular working premises according to the client need, plus access to technology. Access to financial services, marketing facilitation and product development support directly or through linkages with other technology development institutions is also offered..

Other aspects of what the programme offers include technical assistances, communication and information services through access to modern ICT facilities and programme targets for group beneficiaries.

Elaborating on SIDO responsibilities, the director says during implementation, SIDO will provide SMEs related trainings on business management and technical skills as per theMoU.

SIDO will support MUST graduates who will be having new, innovative and industrial related business ideas through its incubation program as well as share with MUST facilities and experts (staff) as needs arise during execution of collaborative projects.

Furthermore SIDO will support MUST students' projects through use of available innovation systems like cluster, incubation, TDCs and TPCs.

SIDO in collaboration with

bitions and other related events to promote Industrialization in view of SIDO and MUST services.

Also SIDO in collaboration with MUST shall seek funding from various funders to support collaborative projects as well as jointly organize exhibitions and other related events to promote industrialization in view of SIDO and MUST services.

Highlighting on MUST responsibilities, he said MUST will recommend graduate students with potential business ideas for incubation at SIDO as well as be part of the selection team for final business ideas for incubation.

MUST shall similarly request students' field placements to SIDO, allocate students and conduct supervision, along with sharing with SIDO facilities and experts as needs arise during execution of collaborative projects.

MUST shall lead applied research and consultancy activities in implementing collaborative projects and will allocate students with projects to work with SIDO clusters, incubation, TDCs and

Furthermore MUST in collaboration with SIDO will seek funding from various funders to support collaborative projects and jointly organize exhibitions and other related events to promote industrialization in view of SIDO and MUST services.

Emphasizing on sharing of expertise and experiences, he says the parties will facilitate movement of members of staff to each other for industry related consultancy, training and research work as needs arise from either of the two parties.

"The party that initiates the visit will meet expenses of the visit while the host party will accord the visiting staff the necessary assistance and access to its facilities," he explained.

On student field placement, students from MUST will be encouraged and facilitated to undertake field/research works and projects at SIDO.

"Staff from both SIDO and MUST will assist in supervising students and accord access to the necessary facilities," the director underlined.

Parties will send each other proposals concerning the topics, persons involved and periods of specific field placement/visit within a reasonable time frame.

Highlighting on MUST, he says MUST was established by Act of Parliament No. 7 of 2005 as a public academic institution with expertise in different areas of science and technology based on its strategic mandate (teaching, research and consultancy).

"With various training programs from Diploma to PhD level, the university has various training infrastructures including classrooms, lecture theaters, library, workshops and laboratories.

MUST has potentials in research areas conducted by staff as well as projects developed by students for their graduations that could be developed into innovative products or services.

The university through the Centre for Innovation and Technology Transfer (CITT) formulated the department of Innovation and Incubation and Entrepreneurship and Business Management'.

Similarly, MUST has resourceful expertise and infrastructure in the area of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and this is the area where many young entrepreneurs and innovators are looking for support.

The Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO) is a parastatal organization established by Act of Parliament No. 28 of 1973. The organization is mandated to plan, coordinate, promote and offer every form of services to small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

The responsibility of the organization includes facilitating entrepreneurship development and offering extension services, promote technology development and industrialization, assist in obtaining marketing, investment and financial services.

Currently SIDO operates in 25 regions and operates seven Technology Development Centres (TDCs) in Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Shinyanga, Kigoma, Mbeya, Lindi and Iringa. It also has four **Training Cum Production Centers** (TPCs) in Dar es Salaam, Singida, Dodoma and Mwanza.

Sahel militaries need better governance to face terror threat

BY HASSANE KONÉ

ERROR attacks on soldiers in Sahel states are raising questions about these armies' ability to withstand extremist threats and protect their populations. A total of 271 soldiers have died in recent attacks on military camps in Chinagodar and Inatès in Niger, Indélimane and Boulkessi in Mali, and Koutougou in Burkina Faso - the Liptako-Gourma region (see map below).

Many others have been wounded, and vital equipment has been stolen. According to the United Nations, more than 4 000 deaths in total due to violent extremism were reported in Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso in 2019, compared to 770 in 2016.

How are violent extremists managing to continue these attacks? Why are these armies underequipped and ill-prepared to deal with this asymmetric threat? Countries are spending massive

portions of their budgets on their defence and security sectors - what is going wrong?

The answers are multifaceted. Military governance, and not merely a lack of resources, is a major problem affecting the uniformed corps in most Sahelian countries. Each year, parliaments approve substantial security and defence budgets for the operation of the forces and the purchase of military equipment.

According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, in 2018 Mali's military expenditure amounted to US\$495 million, Burkina Faso's was US\$312 million, Chad's was US\$232 million. Niger's was US\$229 million and Mauritania's stood at US\$159 million. In the cases of Mali in 2015 and Burkina Faso in 2017, military programming laws - establishing multi-year planning of state spending on the armed forces - have been adopted to fill gaps and regenerate these weakened forces.

Countries spend massive portions of their budg-



Fraud and favouritism have left the region's defence and security forces to ill-equipped to fight off terrorism. File photo

ets on defence and security - what is going wrong?

However, under the pretext of the need for security, the management of this funding is not transparent. Financial operations generally follow procedures that allow public procurement standards to be circumvented. Misappropriation of funds in the procurement of military equipment in Mali is often reported. Similarly, human resources administration in the Sahelian armies (recruitment, posting and promotion) doesn't always meet the criteria of trans-

parency and competence. These practices implicitly exempt defence and security institutions from control and audit practices. The management of resources allocated to them falls outside the scope of public bodies dedicated to intervention and oversight. These bodies often lack the latitude to verify whether these institutions (army, gendarmerie and police) comply with management rules.

In each country, a general inspectorate of the armed forces is set up to monitor the operational capabilities of the forces, their level of preparedness, and the administrative and financial management of their resources. But this structure doesn't always have the inde-

pendence to execute the missions it is assigned.

General inspections of armies in the five Sahelian countries are only symbolic. They exercise their prerogatives on an ad hoc basis and on instruction by their supervisors. However they could play an essential role alongside the other actors in the democratic control of the security and defence forces (parliaments, courts of account, military justice courts, codes of ethics and professional conduct, civil society, and the media).

Sahel armies continue to prepare their units for conventional conflicts instead of terrorist

This lack of control has encouraged embezzlement, favouritism and discrimination, which has negatively affected the operational capacity and effectiveness of the defence and

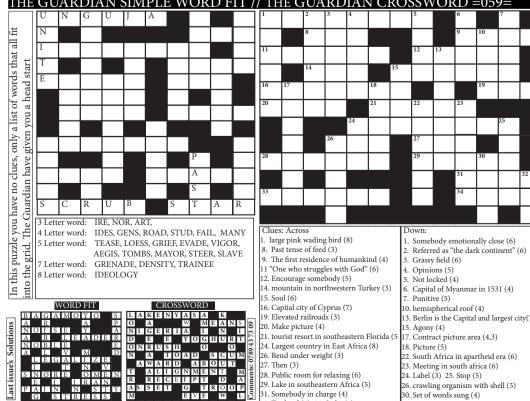
The acquisition of equipment, recruitment and training isn't always in line with what is needed. The armies of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger continue to prepare and equip their units for conventional conflicts instead of adapting them to the terrorist threat that is rampant in the region.

Soldiers' training remains more focused on

conventional combat, and materiel purchases favour heavy equipment (armour and artillery guns). But asymmetric warfare - which is how terrorist attacks are described - requires well trained and agile special forces, an effective intelligence strategy and efficient civil-military

Bad governance is one of the main causes of the failure of defence systems in most Sahel countries, which are struggling to cope with their terror threats. States need effective mechanisms for the democratic control of their defence and security forces. Successful security sector transformation that involves a complete change in how the sector is governed could help achieve this.

Budgetary matters and procedures for managing materiel and human resources must be properly audited to ensure compliance with the requirements of good governance. Active and effective inspections would improve the management of resources, maintain a good level of force preparedness, enhance operational capabilities and raise staff morale. It would also help preserve the national character of the armed forces in an environment weakened by growing insecurity.



FRIDAY FEBRUARY 28, 2020

ALAF CHIEF FORESEES SUSTAINED GROWTH OF CONSTRUCTION

INDUSTRY DUE TO INDUSTRIALISATION

By Property Watch Reporter

NDUSTRIALIZATION as being implemented by President John Magufuli's administration is the force behind rapid growth of the construction industry and its contribution to gross domestic

ALAF's Civil Engineer, Erick Sumary said in Dar es Salaam this week while unveiling a pre-engineered building solution technology that reduce construction time and cost, that the construction industry will continue to rapidly grow for many years to come.

Engineer Sumary said the pre-engineered building solution known as Saf-Build is targeting investors keen in single pre-engineered building spaces such as factories, warehouses, storage facilities, and industrial plants.

"To reduce operations costs, SafBuild is designed and detailed on SafDesign, a design and analysis software that speedily automates a customer's journey from idea to full project detailing within minutes, anchored on a stringent, world-class design code that factors superior parameters to applicable local standards," he

He said pre-engineered building solutions have revolutionized the construction industry by meeting the demand for innovative, cost-effective and fast-paced construction of modern infrastructure.

"With a projected growth in the preengineered buildings market, we have introduced SafBuild to cater for consumers seeking cost-effective and environmentally friendly solutions. We are exploring significant investments in the technology as an upgrade to the local steel prefabs rather than their replacement," he add-

A report by TechSci Research valued the global pre-engineered building market at around U\$ 13 billion and forecasted it to grow at a compound annual growth rate of over 11 percent to reach around U\$ 25 billion by 2024.



ALAF projects and sales manager, Shailesh Tripathy (gesturing) briefs stakeholders on SafBuild pre-engineering building solution during its launch in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Photo courtesy of ALAF

SafBuild integrates other Alaf's building solutions including various roofing and wall cladding profiles and flashing elements, underlay SafTherm barrier-membranes, Cleardek polycarbonate translucent sheets, on-wall louvres and roof-

mounted rotary ventilators. the design and implementation and end-users alike, shall enjoy

offer erection supervision at site to ensure quality and design standards are met, he said.

Sumary added the new technology means departing from the market norm of conventional heavy, hotrolled steel construction that technical details required at both SafBuild customer; fabricators

phases of the project and further a fully factory-engineered yet customized solution," the ALAF Civil Engineered noted.

The galvanized steel structural members take out the headache of manual corrosion-treatment of steel and by using lighter, higher tensile-strength members, the technology yields a reduced ALAF shall liaise with the is slower laborious and often overall building weight that project consultants to avail all prone to site rework. "The does not require heavy handling machinery without compromise of strength.

ALAF is a member of SAFAL Group, the largest steel roofing company in Africa. Formerly known as Aluminium Africa Limited, ALAF was established in 1960 and is the leading steel roofing manufacturer and building solution provider in the country. ALAF has its headquarters in Dar es Salaam with branches in four key regions of Arusha, Dodoma, Mbeya and Mwanza.

Mboweni budgets for new home buyers too

CAPE TOWN

Finance Minister Tito Mboweni even managed to pull something out of his #Budget2020 hat for South Africa's bumbling-along residential property sector.

His announcement that the zero-duty threshold on transfer duty for properties has increased to the R1 million mark has been welcomed by the residential property sector. The previous zero-transfer duty threshold, in force since 2017, was R900 000.

"To support the property market, the threshold for transfer duties is adjusted," said Mboweni during his budget speech in Cape Town on Wednesday. "Property costing R1 million or less will no longer be subject to transfer duty."

While moving the threshold by R100 000 may seem small, buyers of homes beyond the R1 million mark also stand to benefit. "It's also great news for those wanting to purchase for more than R1 million because you will save, for example, R17 000 in transfer fees on a R2.5 million home," points out Mike Greeff, CEO of Greeff Christie's International

"The biggest news for the property industry is that the threshold for transfer duties has been adjusted.... This is welcome news for all because it makes buying property more affordable."

Ripple effect

Dr Andrew Golding, chief executive of the Pam Golding Property group, says the increase in the threshold provides "a very positive incentive" not only for first-time home buyers, but also for others seeking affordably-priced homes.

"This sector represents a key driver in the current market. It will help stimulate property transactions in this price band, increasing volumes and creating a ripple effect across the market in general - which will in turn benefit government income generation."

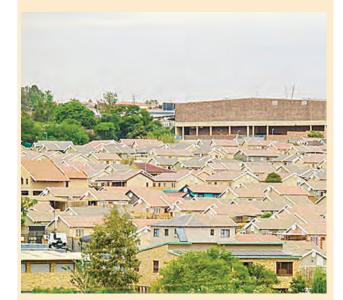
"Encouragingly, one of the primary beneficiaries of the 2020 budget is [the] first-time homeowner," says Golding. He adds that according to home loan originator ooba, the average age of first-time buyers in South Africa is 34.

"One of the key positives for the local housing market is the demographic dividend of a young population, with approximately two thirds of the current population under the age of 34. While firsttime buyers currently account for approximately half of all mortgages currently facilitated by ooba, affordability has tended to dampen potential demand."

He says the 2020 budget goes some way towards addressing this by lifting the transfer threshold, adding that the average price paid for a home by first-time buyers broke the R1 million barrier for the first time at the beginning of the year - averaging R1 001 275 in January 2020.

Both Greeff and Golding noted the success of government's Help to Buy scheme, which Mboweni highlighted in his budget speech. "Working with the financial sector, a pilot of the Help to Buy scheme has supported over 2 000 families to buy their own homes," said Mboweni.

"For every R1 subsidy provided by government, the scheme crowds in R8 from the private sector. In a single year [2019], the Help to Buy scheme has supported nearly R1 billion in new lending," he added. "This is significant as the number of homeowners has increased," says Greeff. "And it is only expected to increase further throughout the year."



A housing estate of property costing R1m or less which will no longer be subject to transfer duty as per finance minister Tito Mboweni's budget.

Rwanda eyes \$1m to promote green building technologies

Rwanda is one of the ten countries that are competing for an award of \$1 million under the 'Million Cool Roofs Challenge'-a global competition to accelerate access to affordable, sustainable cooling through rapid deployment of cool roof materials for residential, municipal, and commercial buildings.

The competition is an initiative of the Kigali Cooling Efficiency Programme and other programmes. Kigali Cooling Efficiency Programme was set up after Kigali Amendment of the Montreal Protocol was ratified in 2016 in order to help developing countries transition to energy-efficient, climate-friendly, and affordable cooling solutions. It entered into force on 1st January 2019.

Under the Kigali Amendment, countries committed to cut the production and consumption of hydro-fluorocarbons (HFCs) — potent greenhouse gases used in refrigeration and air conditioning — by more than 80 percent over the next 30 years. This effort has the potential to avoid up to 0.4° C of global warming by the end of the century.

The contesting countries for \$1 million award include Rwanda, Kenya, South Africa, Niger, Senegal, and Cote d'Ivoire, Mexico, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Philippines. According to Haruna Nshimiyimana, the Division Manager of Housing Regulations and Standards at Rwanda Housing Authority (RHA), if Rwanda gets the award in the beginning of 2021, the part of this sum will be used to support the "National Green Urbanization Centre of Excellence" that will be established soon to promote green building technologies.

The centre is one of EDPRS 2 deliverables, he said, and the Centre will increase the level of green investment and environmentally sustainable urban development that exploits green economic opportunities, green innovation in the industrial and private sector.



Construction goes on at Mwenge Mwisho where a main bus station for Dar es Salaam Rapid Transit buses and a four-kilometre six lane highway. File photo.

Three-storey 'Machinga' business complex coming up at Mwenge

By Francis Kajubi

EVICTED vendors and shop owners at Mwenge Village CCM commercial plot in Dar es Salaam will be given priority when a three storey commercial building is erected in the area longside the bus rapid transit main station.

Kijitonyama CCM Chairman who owned the area until the demolition recently, Harold Maruma said all evictees who were tenants of the ruling party have been regis-

tered and will be given priority once the building is completed later this year.

"Contrary to what the public is being told, the legitimate evictees who don't exceed 50 will get premises in the new building," Maruma said noting that most of the petty traders had no formal premises and were told to leave the area last year to pave way for construction of

the BRT station. According to him, construction work of the building will commence anytime from now as Kinondoni municipality is finalizing procurement processes of contractors and other service providers. He asserted that about 300 traders were operating in the area sharing rented rooms as the area became a business boom while thousands more were illegitimate.

"No single trader has suffered destruction of their property because we communicated to them about the project since early last year," he added while adding

that the likely contractor will be SUMA JKT who won the tender as per reports from Executive Director's office in Kinondoni.

Reached to comment on the latest developments, Kinondoni District Commissioner, Daniel Chongolo did not pick up his phone nor return text messages till press time yesterday. Chongolo has promise to give the ruling party an alternative plot for their offices, according to Kijitonyama CCm officials.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 28, 2020

CONSTRUCTION

NBC SETS SIGHTS ON TAILOR-MADE PRODUCTS TARGETING ARTISANAL MINERS

By Property Watch Reporter

N a bid to address challenges facing artisanal miners, National Bank of Commerce is considering to come up with innovative products and services targeting the group.

Speaking on the sidelines of the bank's sponsored mineral ad mining investment conference held in Dar es Salaam this week, NBC's Treasury and Markets Sales Dealer, Emmanuel Gasirabo said the bank will hire its innovative aptitude to craft products tailored to cater for specific needs of artisanal and small-scale miners.

"The conference has been very fruitful, not just to the miners but also to NBC which performs banking functions," Gasirabo said. He noted that following fresh insight into the sector, NBC has positioned itself properly in a bid to take an active role in enhancing growth of the mining sector.

"As bankers we have discovered enormous needs among small and medium scale miners. We have taken their shortcomings into account and we are genuinely convinced there is need to hold dialogue with them and map out ways of addressing their



Artisanal miners in Geita region. File photo.

challenges," he added.

pointed out that apart from most of the bank's mainstream products which go to help middle and large-

Elaborating further, Gasirabo novate and come out with tailored products that cater for small scale miners needs.

"At NBC we value input of mining that the bank values the whole min-

scale miners, plans ongoing to in-sector to the economy and are keen to see the sector get access to, and profitably use quality formal banking services," he stressed adding

ing industry value chain from smallscale miners to dealers and mineral processors.

He advised miners to use NBC corporate and investment portfolio that provides short and long-term investment financing for machinery and other investment related to mining, as the service category overcomes capital inadequacy which is among constraints in the mining sector.

The banker also called on mining sector players to use NBC to settle all their government dues, because the bank is an agent of the government electronic payment solution (GePG), which is available countrywide at its branches but also NBC mobile platform dubbed, 'NBC kiganjani.'

On her part, NBC Marketing Manager, Alina Kimaryo said the bank is cognizant of the fact that the mining sector includes small-scale miners, a group falling within the scope of NBC-Business club network.

"I call upon stakeholders in the mining sector to join NBC Business clubs through our branches all over the country in order to access free business consultancy services, training on business skills, and other banking services at no charge," Ki-

underpin Majid **Al Futtaim** growth despite challenges

ABU DHABI

Earnings at Dubai's Majid Al Futtaim Group edged up 1 per cent in 2019 despite tough market conditions as the company benefited from double-digit sales growth in Egypt and moves into new markets.

Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation increased to Dh4.6 billion as group revenue also rose 1 per cent to Dh35.2bn. The contribution from the company's Egyptian operations to overall earnings increased to 9 per cent of the total, from 6 per cent in the prior year, chief executive Alain Bejjani told The National.

"Add to that the very big expansion we're having in Saudi Arabia on the Vox Cinema side we now have about 80 per cent market share there and excellent performance," he said. The company's retail segment, its biggest business line that includes the regional franchise of France's hypermarket Carrefour, reported sales growth of 1 per cent to Dh28.1bn, as earnings climbed 2 per cent to Dh1.4bn.

Retail was helped by the opening of 12 new hypermarkets and 30 supermarkets last year, with expansion in Egypt a particular focus. The company also opened its first Carrefour in Uganda in December, and is opening its first stores in Uzbekistan this year. Mr Bejjani said the firm will continue to expand into East Africa and Central Asia this year.

"We don't have specific marets to announce yet, but we will pursue [these] during the year," he said. Carrefour's online business grew 600 per cent across the Middle East and North Africa last year, and comprises about 1.5 per cent of the retailer's total regional sale, Mr Bejjani.

The Majid Al Futtaim Ventures business reported strong growth last year, due in large part to the push of Vox Cinemas into Saudi Arabia, following lifting of restrictions in 2018. Ventures recorded a 30 per cent increase in Ebitda to Dh416m, as revenue rose 17 per cent to Dh2.8 billion. The company opened 78 new screens in the kingdom last year bringing the total to 82 — a number it is set to double this year, Mr Bejjani said, as it pushes ahead with a target to operate 600 screens in the market.

"Cinemas is a big driver of growth. That is something for us that is sustainable," he said. "2020 will see us also in Saudi Arabia opening in three new secondary cities. Geographical diversification is important so we're not only present in the main cities but also in secondary cities," Mr Bejjani.

Revenue in the properties division declined, however, by 1 per cent to Dh4.6bn with Ebitda remaining flat at Dh3bn. Although footfall was up 4 per cent to 200 million and the frequency rates of visitors to its properties remains "very high by global standards" at 93 per cent, there is a more negative sentiment with customers being more cautious on spending, Mr Bejjani said.

Despite this there are signs of "green shoots" that point to a recovery, with the company recently selling out the 300-unit first phase of its Tilal Al Ghaf project in Dubai — a Dh14bn, 3 million square metre scheme of 6,500 homes due to be delivered over the next 10 years.

African Construction, Totally Concrete Expo to focus on Africa's 4IR readiness

JOHANNESBURG

The 2020 African Construction and Totally Concrete Expo, set for 9 to 11 June, will focus on transformation in the construction industry and its adaptation to the fourth industrial revolution (4IR).

Says Johan van Wyk, commercial director of the African Construction and Totally Concrete Expo: "With the recent introduction of 4IR technologies, built assets are changing and impacting the entire construction value chain. In fact, a study published in the International Journal of Architectural, Civil and Construction Sciences, titled "Construction 4.0: The future of the construction industry in South Africa," found that adopting 4IR technology in the construction industry will not only improve the performance of the industry regarding cost and time savings, but will also create sustainable buildings.

"With 4IR, the built industry has the opportunity to leapfrog to more efficient production, successful business models and competitive value chains. What all this tells me is that digitising Africa's construction industry, from inception all the way through to facilities management, will make it more attractive to potential investors and, in turn, boost its contribution to GDP."

African Smart Cities Summit The event's Stakeholder Engagement Forum, taking place on 10 June under this year's theme of 'Building Africa's 4IR Readiness', will examine how the built environment will thrive in the 4IR, based on the progress thus far, and discussions will highlight how today's projects should be planned, designed, operated and decommissioned.

Also on the agenda is the fourth African Smart Cities Summit, taking place 9 to 12 June, which will unpack how smarter cities can mitigate urban African challenges, provide a roadmap for the public and private sector to work together on supporting smart city transition and look to various smart city projects for lessons learnt, challenges faced and solutions developed.

Simiyu RC urges NMB Bank to boost lending to cotton farmers, ginneries

By Property Watch Reporter, Simiyu

CREDIT to cotton farmers and ginnery owners should be boosted in the country so that earnings for both the state and private sector should also increase as government targets middle income cum semi industrialised status by 2025.

Simiyu Regional Commissioner, Anthony Mtaka said this week during a stakeholders meeting presided over by Minister of State in PMO responsible for investment. Angellah Kairuki that NMB should also ensure that all cotton farmer are paid their dues through their accounts next season.

"The bank should speed up the exercise of opening accounts for farmers because the season is approaching and we want all payments to be done through the bank," Mtaka said while stressing that the government has already issued a directive to that effect.

NMB's Western Zone Manager, Sospeter Magesse said they are already on course and target to open bank accounts for 300,000 farmers countrywide this year who will include Simiyu cotton farmers.

"Currently we have already



A ginnery in Simiyu Region. file photo

dispatched teams of officials to recruit the farmers from their homes in rural villages," Magesse said noting that they want to make sure that before the season starts all farmers should have bank accounts through which their payment will be made as directed by the govern-

He pointed out that NMB is sure that by June this year when the cotton season starts, all cotton farmers will added. have a bank account. "As a bank we have continued to back government efforts to improve farming in the

country by assisting farm-

ers especially those cultivat- to the agriculture value ing strategic crops such as cotton, cashew nuts, coffee, tobacco and food crops," he

The NMB Zone Manager further said the bank also lends to private investors to establish agro-processing factories as part of support

chain and the government's development blue print which focuses on industrialization.

"I urge businesspeople to make use of the bank because it is truly a local bank with 30 percent belonging to Treasury," Magesse noted.



Majid Al Futtaim Group's City Centre Almaza project in Egypt, which opened last year. File photo

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 28, 2020

CONSTRUCTION



CAPITALAND ADDS £129M UK BIZ PARK TO EUROPEAN PORTFOLIO

ONDON

apitaLand has agreed to acquire a business park in the UK for £129 million (\$168 million), as Southeast Asia's largest real estate group boosts its portfolio in post-Brexit Britain.

The Singapore property giant said that its acquisition of the Arlington Business Park, once completed, will bring its European assets under management to S\$4.8 billion (\$3.4 billion), including 39 industrial or business parks and eight Citadines serviced apartments in the UK.

The announcement came the same day that the company released its 2019 financial results, which showed profits after tax and minority interest of S\$2.1 billion - up 21 percent from the previous year.

Investing in developed markets

"The acquisition of Arlington Business Park is part of CapitaLand's plan to increase our investments in developed markets such as Europe, Japan and the USA," said CapitaLand Group's Singapore and international president, Jason Leow.

CapitaLand Group's Jason Leow said the company plans to increase

investments in developed markets. Leow noted that CapitaLand's strengthened presence in Europe will allow the company to "maintain a balanced portfolio between emerging and developed markets." Based on the combined net leasable area of 367,000 square feet (34,095 square metres) across the eleven office campus, CapitaLand is paying £351 per square foot for its latest UK business park.

Located on the outskirts of Reading in the southeast of England, the 1980s-era development occupies a 15 acre (6 hectare) site 60 kilometres west of London on the M4 motorway. Property consultancy Savills predicted in its UK cross-sector outlook report released last month that office rental growth in Reading would grow 1.6 percent over the next three years, while rents in London would climb 4.5 percent.

Logistics Forum 2020

The developer indicated that, having completed its S\$11 billion acquisition of Ascendas-Singbridge last July, it expects to make use of expertise and assets gained through that deal to develop new investment opportunities in Europe, including through this latest UK deal.

"We can leverage this deep experience and our strong network of tenants to value add to Arlington Business Park," said Leow. The senior executive added that Capitaland would look at the option of spinning off sets of its European assets into investment vehicles or partnerships as the company builds its portfolio in the region.

Modernising a dated asset

The seller is a joint venture between UK private equity firm Patron Capital and London-based property asset manager APAM, which had acquired the business park in 2015 for £72 million.

After buying the asset, the APAM-Patron Capital JV carried out a rolling programme of upgrades, including new landscaping, upgrading the F&B offerings and fitness, setting up a floating meeting room on the park's lake and putting in place an events programme for tenants.

Occupied by a range of tech, media and other multinationals, including Amazon, NTT Group and Honda, the business park's occupancy stands at 77 percent with a weighted average lease expiry (WALE) of five years.

Betting on Britain post-Brexit CapitaLand said in its statement



Arlington Business Park

that it was targeting the UK's re- the EU. "With increased clarity post- tional's CEO Gerald Yong, who went gional business park sector as inves- Brexit, the acquisition is timely as tors regain confidence in the market general business sentiment has imfundamentals such as a resilient following Britain's formal exit from proved," said CapitaLand Interna-

on to say that the UK "offers strong economy and transparency."

Young women drive demand for Philippines property

MANILA

Demand for property in the Philippines is being driven mainly by young people, with women more active in the market than men, according to a new survey.

The majority (43.95 per cent) of those seeking homes in the country were in the 25-34 year-old age bracket, according to the 2020 outlook by real estate portal Lamudi and consultancy Colliers International. Most of those making enquiries about properties (61.4 per cent) and those searching on the site (55.62 per cent) were female.

Condominiums were the most popular property type searched for by renters, but for those looking to buy, houses were the most popular search item. "Overseas Filipino Workers continue to play a major role in fuelling the growth of the country's property market," Lamudi's report said, adding that in the first five months of 2019 the total amount of cash remittances from overseas workers increased by 4.1 per cent, to \$13.7bn.

"About 78 per cent of remittances during the period [were] from the United States, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Singapore, Japan, UK, Qatar and Canada," the report said. OFWs tend to favour highend and mid-end condominiums, with population growth and the migration from rural to urban areas continues to fuel demand for both residential and commercial real

estate, it added. Colliers projects that 15,610 new homes will be built in 2020, outpacing the annual average of 10,700 between 2016-18, although it flags challenges in terms of a shortage



The Makati central business district in Manila

well as uncertainty brought about by proposed tax reforms. Spending on infrastructure is forecast to increase to 5.7 per cent of GDP this year, and the increased spend will also see more urban townships being crein construction workers, as ated, driving up residential

and office supply.

"All the construction underway, however, has posed a problem in Metro Manila in the form of unbearable traffic jams. Until train lines, expressways, and subways are completed within 2022 to 2025, the major business

districts Makati CBD, Ortigas Center, Fort Bonifacio, and the Bay Area will experience heavy traffic, which has spurred the decision of developers to build co-living residential places near business hubs," the report said. Developers are also build-

ing building co-living spaces near universities. Office space is also set to grow by about one million square metres, with net take-up of 960,000 square metres forecast, meaning vacancy rates will edge up to 6.2 per cent by the end of the year.

Increased property demand is also driving up land prices, which Colliers estimates will reach 950,000 Philippine pesos per square metre in the Makati central business district this year - a 22 per cent year-on-year in-

Qatar to build world's first mobile stadium on shores of the Gulf

DOHA

Qatar is set to build the world's first mobile stadium that can be dismantled, moved and reassembled; ahead of the FIFA World Cup in 2022. Once completed, the 40,000-seater dubbed the Ras Abu Aboud Stadium will be one of the most unique stadiums on the planet. It will not only be innovative, but it will also have a remarkable

It will be constructed using shipping containers, seats that can be removed and other modular "building blocks." After the world cup, its parts will be used in other sporting or non-sporting projects, setting a new standard in sustainability and introducing bold new ideas in tournament legacy planning.

Set to be located on the shores of the Gulf, looking across to Doha's

beautiful West Bay skyline, Ras Abu Aboud Stadium will be an incredulous venue for matches up to the quarter-finals of the tournament. Following the World Cup's conclusion, the stadium will be dismantled and will eventually make way for a waterfront development for local people to enjoy.

Low construction cost The strategy used for this project will mean that fewer building materials will be required than in

traditional stadium building, helping to keep construction costs down. This is not the first sustainable project Qatar is coming up with in preparation for the world cup, the Al Thumama Stadium is a project that is also expected to have reusable

Fenwick Iribarren Architects are the visionaries behind this venue's splendid design. Excavations are already complete and the venue's foundations are filled with reinforced concrete. Works on drainage networks and other utilities have begun. In the meantime, the shipping containers that will become the arena's "building blocks" are being put together. As well as providing invaluable infrastructure to sporting projects far and wide, Ras Abu Aboud Stadium will also give global stadium developers and tournament planners a fine example to follow.

Investcorp makes \$164m addition to **US** property portfolio

NEW YORK

Bahrain-based alternative asset manager Investcorp invested \$164 million to acquire two properties in the US as it continues adding to its portfolio of real estate investments in the country.

Through its real estate team in the US, estcorn bought two residential propert in south Florida as it builds on its US multifamily portfolio, the company said on

"Over the last several years, we have been actively building our US multifamily real estate portfolio by targeting properties in strategic locations that enable us to capitalise on the secular trend toward renting rather than home ownership," said Yusef Al Yusef, head of the Gulf institutional clients group at Investcorp.

'The purchase of these properties in the attractive south Florida market aligns with our defined investment strategy of targeting strong cash flow generating assets that we believe are positioned to generate consistent returns while providing upside potential." The Manama-listed Investcorp ranked as the second-biggest international buyer of US multifamily properties in 2019, according to Real Capital Analytics.

Multifamily property portfolios represent the largest part of Investcorp's global real estate portfolio, with an approximate value of \$2.3 billion. The portfolio is made up of 18 buildings containing more than 14,000 units in 15 markets. Since inception, the value of Investcorp's real estate investments have totalled more than \$18bn across about 800 properties.

The purchase of the two apartment properties in south Florida provides Investcorp with a 95 per cent occupied portfolio of 836 units. The properties are in neighbourhoods with a number of retail and entertainment attractions and are close to downtown Fort Lauderdale and south Florida's employment hubs.

'The south Florida metropolitan area benefits from a strong, growing and diversified economy with a lower unemployment rate and higher job growth expectations compared to the US national average," Investcorp said.

The Bahraini company, which counts Mubadala Investment Company as its biggest shareholder, said in November it bought a portfolio of 126 industrial properties in the US for \$800m. The transaction represents the biggest real estate acquisition by the company at the time.

Established in 1982, Investcorp is one of the oldest Middle East alternative asset managers with \$31.1bn of assets under management as of December 31, 2019, according to its half-year accounts. Last year, Investcorp entered into a partnership with Dock Square Capital - a company founded by former Florida governor Jeb Bush – to expand its business in the US.

Guardian www.ippnedic.com

WORLD

Trump says virus risk 'very low', **Macron calls** outbreak 'crisis'

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump told Americans on Wednesday that the risk from coronavirus remained "very low," and placed Vice-President Mike Pence in charge of the US response to the looming global health crisis.

At a White House briefing with his coronavirus task force, Trump defended his administration's response to the crisis and said public health officials were "ready, willing and able" to move quickly if the virus spreads.

Trump made his comments as public health officials warned Americans to prepare for more coronavirus cases. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) warned of the possibility of a community spread of the coronavirus in the country as it confirmed an infection in California in someone who had not traveled outside the United States or been exposed to a person known to have the virus, a first for the country.

How the person was infected was not known. It brought the total number of cases in the United States to 15, according to the CDC.

New York's Governor Andrew Cuomo said the city would set aside about US\$40 million for a potential outbreak of COVID-19. Mayor Bill de Blasio said there were no confirmed cases in the city but de Blasio announced plans to provide up to 1,200 hospital beds if needed. He also called on the government to help the city obtain 300,000 extra protective masks.

At the White House, Trump said he

was not ready to institute new travel restrictions for countries such as South Korea and Italy that are dealing with outbreaks - although he could not rule it out. The State Department raised its travel alert level for South Korea and urged Americans to reconsider going there.

"The risk to the American people remains very low," Trump said, flanked by Pence and public health officials.

He said the spread of the virus in the United States was not "inevitable" and then went on to say: "It probably will, it possibly will. It could be at a very small level, or it could be at a larger level. Whatever happens we're totally prepared.

CDC data show there are 60 cases confirmed in the United States, including 45 cases of individuals who were evacuated from either Wuhan or the Diamond Princess cruise ship in Japan.

House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat, said in a statement that the Trump administration "has mounted an opaque and chaotic response to this outbreak."

She said the House would put forward a "funding package with transparency and accountability that fully addresses the scale and seriousness of this public health crisis."

Trump is seeking US\$2.5 billion from Congress to boost the government's virus response, an amount Democrats said falls far short of what is needed. Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer called for US\$8.5 billion to prepare.



US President Donald Trump, center, speaks at a news conference on the COVID-19 outbreak, at the White House in Washington DC on Wednesday. AFP

consecutive day Wednesday on investors' alarm ed more cases of infection in Denmark. about the respiratory disease spreading.

Trump told reporters at the White House that fears of the coronavirus had hurt the stock markets. But he also blamed the Democratic presidential candidates for spooking investors.

Earlier in the day, Trump accused two cable TV news channels, CNN and MSNBC, of presenting the danger from the virus in as bad a light as possible and upsetting financial markets.

30 tourists quarantined in France

French President Emmanuel Macron on Thursday called the coronavirus outbreak a "crisis, an epidemic that is on the way".

Macron made the remarks during a visit to Paris' Hopital Salpetriere, a hospital, that has been treating coronavirus patients, accompanied by French Health Minister Olivier Veran.

The visit comes a day after the Regional Health Agency of Bourgogne-Franche-Comte said that a group of 30 tourists have been put under quarantine over suspected COVID-19 infection in eastern France after one of them was found dead overnight.

The tourists, staying at an Ibis hotel in Beaune, capital of the Burgundy wines in eastern France, are put under quarantine at the hotel after a group member, who was from Hong Kong, was found dead on Tuesday night with no previous "warning symptoms" of the novel coronavirus infection.

Other hotel guests, who had no contact with the group, were allowed to leave, according to the

The total number of confirmed cases in France reached 18 on Wednesday. Of the patients, 12 were discharged from hospital after recovery and four are still being treated in hospital.

Denmark, Estonia report 1 case each

Denmark has confirmed its first coronavirus infection in a man who recently returned from a ski holiday in the Lombardy region in northern Italy. the Danish Health Authority said on Thursday, adding that the man has been put in isolation in his own home.

The case will not change the country's current risk assessment, published on Tuesday, which finds a low risk of a country-wide epidemic, the US stock markets fell for the fifth Danish Health Authority said, but added it expect-

Meanwhile, Estonian health authorities said Thursday the country has confirmed its first case involving a man who returned from Iran.

"We are talking about a permanent resident of Estonia who is not a citizen of Estonia," Minister of Social Affairs Tanel Kiik told public broadcaster ETV. "According to my information, he is a citizen of Iran."

"The person has been isolated," Kiik told the broadcaster, adding that the person arrived in Estonia on Wednesday night, traveling on a bus from Riga in Latvia.

Lombardy governor's aide infected

The governor of the region of Lombardy, at the epicenter of Italy's coronavirus outbreak, has placed himself in quarantine after one of his staff came down with COVID-19.

"For now I don't have any type of infection so I can continue to work ... but for two weeks I will try to live in a sort of self-isolation," Governor Attilio Fontana said on Facebook.

More than 300 people have tested positive over the past week for coronavirus in Lombardy, which is centered on Italy's financial capital Milan, and 10 people have died in the region.

Across all of Italy, more than 400 people have contracted the disease and 12 have died – the worst contagion so far recorded in Europe.

Lithuania declares state of emergency

The Lithuanian authorities declared on Wednesday a state of emergency in the country over the possible spread of the novel coronavirus.

"The state of emergency has been declared exclusively for prevention purposes," Deputy Minister of Health Algirdas Seselgis was quoted by local media as saying at a government meeting.

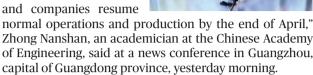
The state of emergency would allow better coordinated and preventative actions, organized work of state institutions as well as the use of medical reserves, said Seselgis, urging people to keep themselves posted about the official information on the epidemic although cases of the new virus have not been diagnosed in the country.

Lithuanian President Gitanas Nauseda said Wednesday that the country needs to prepare for the situation and urged the public not to be panic.

Epidemic to be under control by late April, says Chinese expert

A RENOWNED Chinese respiratory expert said he believes the novel coronavirus pneumonia epidemic will basically be brought under control on the Chinese mainland by the end of April.

"That indicates people will be able to return to their normal work



Previously, many countries and organizations had predicted that the outbreak in China would not be brought under control until the end of May, Zhong (pictured) said.

Zhong's confidence is based on the great importance the central government has paid to fighting the epidemic, China's well-functioning system and its growing comprehensive strength.

According to authorities, many provinces, regions and municipalities have been reporting no new confirmed cases for several days in a row.

Zhong said he was happy to learn from media that Huoshenshan and Leishenshan hospitals in Wuhan, the epicenter of the outbreak, now already have some empty beds.

"In addition to offering effective treatment for patients in serious condition, great efforts should be made to diagnose suspected cases and distinguish between COVID-19 and common flu patients to prevent more infections between people on the mainland in the following months, Zhong said.

But he said the fast-growing number of confirmed cases outside China is an unpredictable variable.

Zhong said he could not accurately forecast the development of the epidemic in other countries and regions as the number of confirmed cases reported in foreign countries and regions has now surpassed the figure reported on the mainland.

Agencies

Johnson to put UK on collision course with EU over trade

By Bloomberg

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson was to put the UK on collision course with the European Union yesterday as he lays out his government's red lines before



talks start on a post-Brexit trade agreement next week.

The EU said Tuesday that no deal will be possible unless Britain signs up to so-called level playing field provisions meant to ensure it doesn't gain a competitive advantage by undercutting the bloc's regulations. But Johnson's office made clear only full independence will do - and insisted the premier would walk away and trade with the UK's closest markets without a formal deal if necessary.

"At the end of this year we will regain in full our political and economic independence," the prime minister's spokesman James Slack told reporters. The UK wants a free-trade agreement similar to the one Canada has with the EU, but he said a looser arrangement like Australia - which has no FTA with the bloc - would "be OK as well," though he conceded there would be "some friction."

Britain's position leaves the two sides facing a fundamental clash. For the EU, it's essential that the UK should sign up to European rules on fair competition, and officials in Brussels are likely to regard Johnson's rejection of this as a betrayal of the pledges he made in the political declaration, the legally non-binding part of last year's divorce agreement.

The pound fell to the lowest in two weeks against the euro, and was little-changed against the dollar.

Johnson's government, which will publish its negotiating mandate Thursday, is expecting tensions with the bloc over competition and state aid rules, according to a UK official. It also expects difficulties over fisheries - a contentious issue that EU chief negotiator Michel Barnier said this week must be resolved before a deal can be struck.

Brexiteers in Johnson's Conservative Party argued during and after the 2016 Brexit referendum that a trade deal with the bloc would be straightforward because both sides start from the same point in terms of rules and regulations. But the picture has changed significantly, especially after Johnson secured a landslide majority in December's general

Netanyahu pulls his punches after Sanders calls him a racist

JERUSALEM

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Wednesday Bernie Sanders was wrong to call him a racist during a debate among contenders for the US Democratic presidential nomination, but shied away from attacking the senator in return. "I am not intervening in the

US election," Netanyahu replied when asked on Israeli Army Radio about what an interviewer termed Sanders' personal attack on him at Tuesday's event in Charleston, South Carolina.

Sanders, who has been critical of the right-wing leader's policy toward Palestinians, described Netanyahu as "a reactionary racist who is now running" Israel.

Pressed further for his thoughts about Sanders, who if elected



dent in US history, Netanyahu said: "What I think about this matter is that he is definitely wrong. No question about it."

Asked about possible confrontation with Sanders should the self-described democratic socialist win the White House, Netanyahu said that as prime minister he had stood up to US presidential opposition to his policies before and would be able to do so again.

Netanyahu had a contentious relationship with Barack Obama, Republican Donald Trump's predecessor as president, with the Iranian nuclear deal and Israel's settlement policy in the occupied West Bank main areas of friction.

Israel's longest-serving leader, Netanyahu is fighting for his political survival in a national election ballots in April and September.

During the campaign, Netanyahu has steered clear of commenting directly on the US election.

But he has praised Trump as the best friend Israel has ever had in the White House, noting the president's decisions to withdraw from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital and move the US embassy to the

Netanyahu has also tried to play on many Israelis' suspicions about the loyalty of Israel's 21 percent Arab minority, political analysts

The right-wing Likud party leader says his main challenger, former general Benny Gantz, would need the support of an Arab party to form a governing coalition, effecon Monday, the country's third in tively tying his hands in pursuing

less than a year after inconclusive any military action in the region. The tactic forced Gantz to deny

that a government led by his centrist Blue and White party would rely on the Joint List, an Arab coalition mostly supported by descendants of Palestinians who lived in what became Israel after its creation in 1948.

Israel's Arab community has long accused Netanyahu, in power from 1996-1999 and since 2009, of fear-mongering.

On election day in 2015 Netanyahu urged his voters to turn out, warning that Arabs were flocking to the polls "in droves."

Netanyahu, who held a campaign rally in an Arab town on Wednesday, has said he has no dispute with the Arab public in general, only with Arab politicians pursuing policies he opposes.

China maintains social, economic stability while ensuring epidemic control

THE prevention and control of the novel coronavirus epidemic is essential to the stability of China's general economic development. Only by keeping stable economic and social operation, can the battle against the virus be

firmly supported. The Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee on Wednesday held a meeting on the prevention and control of the pneumonia epidemic caused by the novel corona-

The meeting called on Party committees and governments at all levels to minimize the impact of the epidemic to maintain steady economic performance as well as social harmony and stability, and urged them to strive to achieve this year's economic and social development goals and tasks.

Since the outbreak of the epidemic, the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core has always put people's lives and health in the first place, relied on the people and resolutely launched a people's war against the virus. Besides, it maintained close monitoring on economic operation, precisely controlled the economic impacts of the epidemic, and made timely decisions and deployment.

Party committees and governments at all levels fulfilled their responsibilities, and did a great job in stabilizing employment, the financial sector, foreign trade, foreign and domestic investments, and expectations while enhancing prevention and control of the epidemic.

It managed to keep stable production, and maintained normal economic and social orders.

Under the central and unified leadership of the CPC Central Committee, positive changes happened to the epidemic, and effective results have been

A slew of policies and measures to reduce the impacts of the epidemic are taking effects, maintaining the general stability of the society. The whole country, united together, is demonstrating a firm will and strong positive energy to win the battle against the epidemic.

The building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects and the 13th Five-Year Plan come to a close in 2020. The "black swan" of the novel coronavirus pneumonia would create difficulties and challenges for China to achieve its annual economic and social development goals.

However, the impacts are short-

term and periodical, and will not affect the supply of production factors and productivity in the long run.

The fundamentals for sound and stable growth of the Chinese economy remain unchanged. The necessary production factors for high-quality development remain unchanged. And the overall momentum of long-term stability and progress remains un-

changed. China is a major country that has strong resilience, huge potential and enough space for maneuver. As long as it stays confident, faces up to the problems and difficulties, and tries its best to minimize the influence of the epidemic, it will be able to achieve this vear's economic and social development goals and tasks, and guarantee a successful finishing of the building of a moderately prosperous society in all

respects.

To achieve the goals and tasks, the country must make full efforts to guarantee the prevention and control of the epidemic and strive for an early win. In addition, it should enhance macroeconomic control, give more play to the role of proactive fiscal policies, maintain flexibility of the prudent monetary policy, and roll out periodical and targeted tax reduction measures to relive strains of enterprises

Meanwhile, the country should offer differentiated and preferential financial services for regions, industries and enterprises that are prone to the impacts of the epidemic, issue policies to ensure employment stability, roll out a package of measures to support micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, expand domestic demand

while stabilizing external demand, accelerate a batch of major projects in key areas and expand consumption to offset the impacts.

As long as China sticks to the "bottom-line thinking", takes proactive actions and ensures resolute efforts, it will be able to achieve a "double-victory" over both epidemic prevention and economic development.

China will surely defeat the virus. Under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core, the country will definitely reduce the losses to the lowest, and continue its efforts to build a moderately prosperous society in all respects and eliminate poverty. It will strive for this year's economic and social development goals and tasks, and head toward its grand goal.

People's Daily

Guardian

Assange complains he cannot follow US extradition hearing

LONDON

JULIAN Assange complained he was struggling to follow his extradition hearing on Wednesday as his legal team argued Britain should not send him to the United States because the charges against him were politically motivated.

Assange, 48, faces 18 counts in the US including conspiring to hack government computers and violating an espionage law for publishing thousands of classified diplomatic cables. He faces decades in prison if convict-

But the Wikileaks founder complained he was struggling to hear proceedings from his position in the dock at Woolwich Crown Court and asked to be able to sit with his lawyers.

"I am as much a participant in these proceedings as I am at Wimbledon (tennis)," he told the judge. "I cannot communicate with my lawyers or ask

them for clarifications."

On the third day of the hearing, Assange said he was also unable to communicate privately with his lawyers because of microphones in the dock and unnamed US embassy officials in the courtroom.

Assange's legal team will submit a formal application for him to leave the dock on Thursday after judge Vanessa Baraitser said such a move was not a risk assessment she could make and questioned whether he would still technically be in custody if allowed out of the dock.

She said most defendants normally sit in the dock and that she could not make exceptions but she did however ask Assange's legal team to make a formal application that he should be able to move.

James Lewis, for the US government, said he would not object if Assange were allowed to sit in the well of the court handcuffed to a security the Anglo-US Extraditions Treaty set



official.

"POLITICAL CHARGES"

Earlier, Assange's lawyer, Edward Fitzgerald, said extradition for political offences was not allowed under

up in 2003. Violent crimes and terrorism were the only type of political crimes that the treaty allows people to be extradited for, he said.

His legal team compared Assange to the British Iraq war whistleblower

Katharine Gun and Alfred Dreyfus, a Jewish artillery officer in the French army who in 1894 was convicted of treason and shipped to a penal colony off South America's Atlantic coast.

Fitzgerald also argued that the court needed to consider various protections enshrined in both international law and the European Convention of Human Rights.

But Lewis for the US disagreed with the claim that espionage is a political offense.

He said earlier this week that Assange had put lives at risk by disseminating classified materials through

The United States asked Britain to extradite Assange last year after he was pulled from the Ecuador embassy in London, where he had spent seven years holed up to avoid being sent to Sweden over sex crime allegations which have since been dropped.

Agencies

Republicans' 'Operation Chaos' seeks to undermine South Carolina's Democratic primary

CHARLESTON, S.C

REPUBLICAN activists in South Carolina are urging party voters to do the seemingly unthinkable: support U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders' bid for the White House in the state's Democratic primary on Saturday.

The unusual effort is aimed at exposing what the activists see as flaws in the Southern state's open primary system - and at boosting the candidate many Republicans view as the easiest rival for Republican President Donald Trump to beat in No-

Sanders (pictured) enters Saturday's contest as the frontrunner for the Democratic nomination, fueled by wins in New

Hampshire and Nevada and a near-tie for first in Iowa.

But the Vermonter, an independent who calls himself a democratic socialist, now faces a tough challenge from Joe Biden. The former vice president is bolstered by strong support from African Americans who comprise a large share of South Carolina's Democratic electorate.

"Bernie is a socialist and the most egregious of all the candidates. He is also the weakest against Trump," said Pressley Stutts, a Tea Party activist and one of the organizers behind an interference effort dubbed "Operation Chaos.

The Sanders campaign did not respond to requests for com-



Democrats and Republicans previously have threatened to interfere with the other party's primary process in South Carolina and elsewhere, generally without success. In Iowa, however, Republicans boasted they

clogged Democratic Party telephone lines, exacerbating embarrassing delays in reporting caucus results.

State Democratic Party Chairman Trav Robertson called the Republican efforts "nonsense."

He said party leaders expect conference in Greenville, South greater Democratic primary numbers not due to Republican gamesmanship but because voters are fed up with the "immoral, anti-Christian" person occupying the White House.

South Carolina voters do not register by party and are allowed to vote in either party's contest. After the state Republican Party canceled its primary this year out of deference to Trump, activists long angered by Democrats allegedly participating in local Republican votes saw an opportunity for payback.

Stutts said he has been inundated with emails, texts and social media messages from Republicans eager to join the effort. On Tuesday, he held a news

Carolina, to announce the plan to vote for Sanders after some internal wrangling over which candidate to support.

Karen Martin, a freelance editor and pet sitter in Spartanburg, is leading a similar effort she has coined "Trump 2-29" in a nod to the primary date. Like Stutts, she wants the state to change to a closed primary system and sees delivering a victory for Sanders as the best way to antagonize a Democratic Party that includes some who are reluctant to embrace his candidacy.

With no party registration figures, it will be difficult to measure the impact of the Republi-

Ongoing desert locust crisis to further escalate food insecurity in E. Africa, says FAO

ADDIS ABABA

THE ongoing desert locust outbreak could further trigger serious food insecurity in east Africa as some 20.2 million people presently facing severe acute food insecurity in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has warned.

"An estimated 20.2 million people are now facing severe acute food insecurity in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania," the FAO said in its latest desert locust update issued on Wednesday, as it emphasized that amid the approaching main season, the locust invasion "threatens to drive this figure even higher." "Every effort must be made to ensure the current upsurge does not become a fully-fledged plague,' the FAO warned.

Noting that about 1 million hectares of land is targeted for rapid locust surveillance and control across the eight countries in the region, the FAO also appealed for about 138 million U.S. dollars for rapid response and anticipatory action in the eight countries from January to December

"Desert locusts have rapidly spread across the Greater Horn of Africa in the worst infestation in decades," the statement read, adding that despite ongoing control efforts, the desert locust has affected about eight countries in the eastern Africa region.

Noting that the "highly mobile and capable of completely stripping an area's vegetation" desert locust swarms can cause large-scale damage, the FAO stressed that "hundreds of thousands of hectares, including cropland and pasture, have been affected" by the ongoing desert locust infestation in the area.

Development of novel coronavirus drugs achieves initial progress

INITIAL progress has been achieved in drug development of the novel coronavirus pneumonia, said the Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism of China's State Council at a press conference held on February 13.

According to Wu Yuanbin, an official in charge of technology in social development with the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), Chinese scientists have successfully established animal models of novel coronavirus infection and are accelerating the development and application of fast onsite diagnostic reagents.

Positive progress has been achieved in screening drugs and making therapeutic schemes, said Wu, adding that inactivated vaccine, nucleic acid vaccine and recombinant vaccine are currently under research and development. The official noted that bats are most likely the source of the novel coronavirus.

On Jan. 20, the Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism of the State Council established a scientific research panel, Wu introduced, adding that the MOST collaborated with 12 departments and ministries and established an expert panel headed by academician Zhong Nanshan.

Zhang Xinmin, director of the China National Center for Biotechnology Development, MOST told the press conference that based on multiple rounds of candidate screening, the scientific



a batch of drugs including Resochin, Remdesivir and Favipiravir as they have shown positive effects in clinical treatment.

It is introduced that the scientific research panel has organized studies on new technologies and products for treating patients in severe conditions, including the sampling of plasma of cured pa-

Eleven patients in severe conditions from multiple hospitals

their conditions showed large improvement without obvious side effects. Besides, the panel has conducted clinical studies of stem cell technology which also showed safe and effective results on severely ill patients.

The development of vaccines is a priority of the panel's work, and the panel is developing multiple candidate vaccines at the same time, including an inactivated vaccine, mRNA vaccine, DNA vaccine,

recombinant protein vaccine and virus vector vaccine.

The panel is making its work as precise as possible, said Zhang, adding that some vaccine varieties are currently undergoing animal testing.

The safety of the vaccines comes first, and the development must follow scientific laws and strict regulations, Zhang explained, calling on the society to allow more time for the scientists. **People's Daily**

Egypt holds military funeral for former president Mubarak

CAIRO

EGYPT held a military funeral on Wednesday for the country's former president Hosni Mubarak who died on Tuesday at the age of 91.

The body of the former president was airlifted to a mosque complex in an eastern New Cairo neighborhood, where the funeral service took place.

Mubarak died in hospital after undergoing treatment in an intensive care unit.

Mubarak had served as Egyptian president for nearly 30 years until he resigned as a result of mass protests that erupted in the country in 2011.

Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi and other Egyptian and Arab dignitaries attended the funeral, which will be followed later in the day by burial at the cemetery in Heli-

Mubarak's sons were in the helicopter that carried the body to the funeral service site. Wrapped in the Egyptian flag, Egyptian honor guards carried the coffin in the ceremony.

On Tuesday, the presidency extended condolences to the former president's family for his services to the homeland as "a hero of October 1973 war." It announced three days of na-



tionwide mourning.

Born in 1928 in Munofiya province in the Nile River Delta, Mubarak graduated from the Air Force Academy and worked as its director for three years.

He was appointed as Air Force Commander in 1972. Later, he was awarded by the late president for his accomplishments during the Arab-Israeli

In 1975, Mubarak was appointed as vice-president.

Dozens of Mubarak supporters gathered outside the mosque where the funeral took place. Some gathered in cafes to watch the funeral on big

"Holding a military funeral restored Mubarak dignity after his image was distorted for years," said Adel Mahmoud, 65-year-old, who was standing outside a cafe in Maadi district

south of Cairo.

Mubarak is a hero of war who spent 30 years in serving the country, and his farewell should be honored, the man told Xinhua.

However, Karim al-Sayed, an 18-year-old student, said Egypt encountered economic problems and high rate of poverty during Mubarak's rule, which caused the difficulties the country faces now.

He added that "it's not easy for the young people to also forget the innocent Egyptians who were shot dead during the 2011 protests."

In 2012, Mubarak was sentenced to life in prison for complicity in the murder of some of the demonstrators who took part in the wave of protests.

He was freed in 2017 after being acquitted of most charges. Xinhua

human beings are living in a global village where they share the same welfare and responsibilities. The threat posed by any infectious disease is against the entire human race, regardless of nationality,

IN the era of globalization,

region, ethnicity or group. This is a new challenge faced by the human beings. History cannot be rewound. We should move forward bravely and fight the epidemic. Only by achieving the final victory over the battle against the novel coronavirus pneumonia, can the world, which is shared by all human beings, enjoy a

bright future. Chinese President Xi Jinping has stressed that scientific

research must be stepped up to defeat the epidemic.

"We need your collective knowledge, insight and experience to answer the questions we don't have answers to," said Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus of the World Health Organization (WHO) when addressing a research and innovation forum on the novel coronavirus.

His remarks echo the voice from the international community which is coordinating global research power, discovering the focus of research, and developing therapeutic schemes and vaccines. Pulling wisdom to draw the WHO R&D Blueprint, experts from across the world are offering sample tests for countries and regions incapable of such technology, and sharing the latest achievements on epidemiology.

The entire science world is conducting cooperation on the most urgent issue, which is closely related to the safety and lives of the people from each country.

Cooperation and solidarity are the sharpest weapon against the epidemic, and concerted efforts on scientific research will provide the strongest support. Coopera-

Let science build strong power against epidemic tion is especially important when many countries around the world are seeing the danger posed by the novel coronavirus.

> The WHO research and innovation forum on the novel coronavirus held recently was attended by over 400 deputies, signaling a positive and vital signal to the world when the novel coronavirus pneumonia has spread to over 20 countries and regions. To combat the epidemic calls for coordinated actions of the sci-

To cut the spread of the novel coronavirus with the sword

of science is a mission that allows no hesitation. China, battling on the frontline, has rapidly integrated scientific power and increased efforts on R&D to enhance development of targeted drugs.

It has always followed the principle of opening cooperation and actively conducted international collaboration, making unique contribution to the prevention and control of the epidemic.

China's endeavors aim at the current difficulty, and also an effective mechanism of global synergy for scientific research, epidemic control and clinic

treatment.

It is recognized by the international society that China has demonstrated its sense of responsibility through its active actions and openness in scientific research as a science power of major influence.

Building of a people-oriented community with a shared future for mankind is a major undertaking of the time. In the epidemic,

China maintains close cooperation with the world and the world chooses to stand with China. It is for the wellbeing of the human race. China identified the pathogens in record

time, shared the genetic sequence of the novel coronavirus with the world, and helped other countries create diagnosis kits to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus.

By maintaining close cooperation with the German health department, carriers of the novel coronavirus were quickly discovered and quarantined in Germany.

Such open, transparent and responsible practice received high appraise from the WHO. Chinese scientists have gained rich first-hand experiences, which made them important participants and contributors to the WHO R&D Blueprint.

People's Daily

Guardian



Castle Lite unlocks Cardi B in Africa this June

JOHANNESBURG

culture, Castle Lite, has sent chills through- Lite Brand Director, Silke Bucker. out the continent as they revealed that The brand made the big reveal on Thursground-breaking rapper, Cardi B, will headline this year's Unlocks experience.

Set to perform at the TicketPro Dome in Johannesburg, South Africa on June 12, 2020, Cardi B is one of the most soughtafter voices in global Hip-Hop yielding a Grammy award and a world record for the Most Simultaneous Billboard US Hot R&B/ Hip-Hop Top 10 entries by a female.

This year, Castle Lite is proud to have her headline the Unlocks experience as it celebrates its 10th year.

This is a big year for Castle Lite Unlocks as the brand not only celebrates a decade of making a bigger contribution to African Hip-Hop than any other brand, but also a decade of having given local fans of the genre, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see their favourite chart-topping stars such as Drake, J Cole, Chance the Rapper, Kanye West, Travis Scott, Post Malone, and Meek

And now Cardi B's performance marks a triumphant 10-year anniversary of the Unlocks experience.

"Castle Lite prides itself in not only being a market leader in the beer category, but also in our commitment to making a positive contribution to African Hip-Hop culars of Friday, 21 February 2020.

ture. We couldn't be more excited to reveal the multi-award winning Press hit-maker, AFRICA's biggest supporter of Hip-Hop Cardi B as this year's headliner," said Castle

> day, 20 February after having given loyal Castle Lite Unlocks fans an exclusive first dibs at Early Bird tickets to the 2020 experience. The internet was a buzz with news of Unlocks 2020 tickets being sold from as little as R50.

> Devoted fans of the Castle Lite Unlocks movement purchased their Early Bird tickets prior to finding out who this year's headlining act would be. This dynamic pricing model gives our consumers the ultimate opportunity to experience Castle Lite Unlocks for a fraction of the regular cost while relying on the concert's reputation to bring the biggest stars in the world to South Africa.

> The campaign saw tickets at each phase selling in a record-breaking 10 seconds and sky-rocketing www.castlelite.co.za to the fourth most visited site in the world by number of visits and is now the most visited site in Africa.

> At any given moment, 10s of thousands of Hip-Hop lovers camped on the site in hopes to snatch one of the Early Bird tickets.

> Consumers who missed out on this feast of Early Bird tickets can purchase their concert package deals at their full retail price starting at R690 from www.castlelite.co.za

Leonard scores 24 points, Clippers top Suns 102-92

EGGIE Jackson's 3-pointer early in the fourth quarter gave the Los Angeles Clippers a double-digit lead. Teammate Marcus Morris hit another 3 with 45 seconds left that helped fend off a final Phoenix rally and secure the

The two newest Clippers had big moments in their team's 102-92 victory over the Suns on Wednesday night. As the games get more important heading into the final months, Clippers coach Doc Rivers says it won't be the last time they're needed.

"They're both going to win at least one playoff game each for us," Rivers said. "You just know that. You know how the games are going to go. We're going to need a big shot here or there, and one or both of them will make one."

Kawhi Leonard led the Clippers with 24 points and 14 rebounds while Morris finished with 18. Jackson had 12 points off the bench and made 4 of 6 shots, including 2 of 4 from 3-point range.

Los Angeles won its second straight game, bouncing back from a tough stretch that included its only three-game losing streak of the season. The Clippers are still working to piece together their upgraded playing rotation, which includes the recently acquired Morris and Jackson.

Their newfound depth was on display in Phoenix. The Clippers used 10 players and all of them played at least 16 minutes. Leonard was the only one who had to play more than 30 minutes.

"We're just trying to be on the same page right now," Leonard said. "It's only been two games that we've won, so it's nothing too huge. We've got to keep going."

The Clippers led by as many as 15 points during the third quarter before settling for a 76-66 advantage going into the fourth. The Suns never cut the deficit to less than seven in the final quarter.

It was a disappointing start to a six-game homestand for Phoenix, which is among several teams fighting for the eighth and final playoff spot in the West. Memphis



half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020, in Houston. Rockets rout Grizzlies 140-112. (AP Photo)

is at No. 8 right now, but Portland, San Antonio, New Orleans, Sacramento and Phoenix are all within five games.

Deandre Ayton led the Suns with 25 points and 17 rebounds. All-Star guard Devin Booker had a rough night, scoring 14 points on 5-of-19 shooting. Phoenix shot just 39% from the field and Leonard's defense on Booker was crucial.

"He's amazing with his reach, his hands, his foot movement," Rivers said. "He's very smart and extremely strong. I thought that set the tone for us for sure."

Booker came into Wednesday averaging 26.3 points.

"I've been in this situation where you feel like you can't put a rock in the ocean and tonight I felt like they were good shots," Booker said. "A lot of open shots, maybe too open, but that's part of the game. It's a make or miss league at the end of the day and if you're not making shots, it's tough to win."

Phoenix led for most of the first half, but the Clippers rallied for a 54-49 lead at the break. Leonard had 12 points for the Clippers, while Ayton led the Suns with 14.

Meanwhile, in Cleveland, the Philadelphia 76ers suddenly have a lot more to worry about than their poor road record or playoff seeding.

Their star players are getting

Joel Embiid left Wednesday night's 108-94 loss to the Cleveland Cavaliers with a sprained left shoulder in the first quarter and didn't return. The All-Star center scored three points in 8

The 76ers, already playing without All-Star guard Ben Simmons, never led against the team with the worst record in the Eastern Conference and fell to

9-21 on the road. Embiid had his left arm in a sling and was in visible discomfort following the game. He declined to talk to reporters and had an equipment manager carry his backpack out of the locker room, where the quiet atmosphere summed up the team's

The Sixers are fifth in the conference. Coach Brett Brown said he didn't know how long Embiid, who scored a career-high 49 points Monday against Atlanta, will be sidelined.

"I'm really unsure," Brown said. "It's not coach-speak, but this is part of the NBA landscape. That's why you try to accumulate talent and depth."

Al Horford said his team had a difficult time adjusting without Embiid, who averages 23.8 points and 12 rebounds.

"Obviously, we play through him and once he was out, we didn't really know what was next," said Horford, who scored 10 points. "We didn't quite know how to play. We have to figure out how to play without him."

Embiid collided with Cavaliers center Ante Zizic while being fouled late in the first quarter. The 7-footer held his shoulder in obvious pain but stayed in the game and missed both free

The Sixers pulled Embiid at the next time stoppage and he walked to the locker room while rubbing his shoulder. He briefly returned to the bench in the second quarter, but went back for more evaluation and treatment. At halftime, Embiid rejoined his teammates on the bench with a wrap on his injured shoulder.



Arusha resident, Francis Mrema (L), who won the SportPesa Jackpot bonus, is presented with a dummy cheque of 28, 782, 468/- by Tarimba Abbas, SportPesa Tanzania's Board of Directors' Chairman, in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Mrema received cash prize from the gaming firm when he placed right bets on Jackpot Double Combination. This week's SportPesa Jackpot cash prize totals 219,228,500/-. PHOTO; CORRESPONDENT

Sharapova retires from tennis at age 32 with 5 Slam titles

By HOWARD FENDRICH

MARIA Sharapova was a transcendent star in tennis from the time she was a teenager, someone whose grit and groundstrokes earned her a career Grand Slam and whose off-court success included millions of dollars more in endorsement deals than prize money.

And yet, Sharapova walked away from her sport rather quietly Wednesday at the age of 32, ending a career that featured five major championships, time at No. 1 in the WTA rankings, a 15-month doping ban and plenty of problems with her right shoulder.

There was no goodbye tournament, And that's where the 'Maria Sharapo-

no last moment in the spotlight, for va brand' comes into play." someone so used to garnering so much attention for so long, with or without a racket in hand.

"I've been pretty good in the past, balancing my time with my sponsors with my tennis, because I know my priority. At the end of the day, what I love doing is competing, and that's where my heart is at: on center court," Sharapova said in a 2006 interview with The Associated Press right before that year's U.S. Open.

"There are a couple of sides of me," she said then. "There's the Maria that's a tennis player. There's the Maria that is a normal girl. And there's the Maria who's a businesswoman.

Around that time, she signed a "lifetime" contract with a racket company, a deal that eventually was ended. And two weeks after that, she would win the U.S. Open trophy while wearing an outfit that resembled a sparkly black cocktail dress, part of the "cou-

ple of sides" persona she cultivated. Two years later, though, Sharapova missed the tournament at Flushing Meadows because she needed surgery on her shoulder, which has troubled her off and on ever since; she had another operation on that joint in 2019.

She lost the last four matches she played at major tournaments, with first-round exits in her past three ap-

pearances, including at the Austra- Martina Navratilova at an exhibition one of their matchups, dropping the lian Open in January. That turned out to be the last match of her career and made her 0-2 this season.

In an essay written for Vanity Fair and Vogue about her decision to retire, posted online Wednesday, Sharapova asks: "How do you leave behind the only life you've ever known?"

She disclosed that she "had a procedure to numb my shoulder to get through the match" a half-hour before walking on court for a firstround exit at last year's U.S. Open, writing: "I share this not to garner pity, but to paint my new reality: My body had become a distraction."

Born in Russia, and "discovered" by

event in Moscow, Sharapova moved to Florida as a child and trained at the Nick Bollettieri Tennis Academy.

"We'll miss her, baby. She's very special," Bollettieri told the AP in an interview last year, when Sharapova returned to his academy as she worked her way back from her latest shoulder procedure. "The tour will miss her. ... Always competitive. All

Sharapova burst onto the tennis scene at 17 by upsetting Serena Williams to win Wimbledon in 2004. She would beat Williams again at that year's season-ending tour championship to improve to 2-1 against the American – and never won another

next 19 in a row.

Powerful at the baseline, and famous for a never-give-up attitude, Sharapova reached No. 1 for the first time at 18 in 2005. After adding her second major trophy at the U.S. Open the following year, she collected an Australian Open title in 2008, and then won the French Open in 2012 and 2014.

Sharapova is one of only six women in the professional era to win each major tennis title at least once. She made 10 Grand Slam finals in all, going 5-5; the last came in 2015 at the Australian Open, where she was the runner-up to Williams.

AP

Build it like Beckham, Inter-Miami target big names

LIONEL Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo are potential targets for Inter-Miami, co-owner David Beckham said on Wednesday, underscoring his team's global ambition as they prepare to make their long-awaited Major League Soccer debut this weekend.

Seven years after a tortuous process began, Beckham's "project" will finally take the field on Sunday when Inter-Miami travel to Los Angeles to face LAFC in their first MLS regular season game.

More than 13 years since he shocked the soccer world by turning his back on Real Madrid to sign with the Los Angeles Galaxy, Beckham remains the biggest name in Major League Soccer.

But maybe not for long, the former England and Manchester United captain hinting his club might take a page from the Galaxy playbook he helped write and go out and sign the game's biggest stars.

"We really believe in the roster we have, the players that we have we're really happy with but we have also talked about if we have the opportunity to bring in big name players from Europe into our city we will do that," Beckham told Reuters.

"Every team in the world would want Messi and Ronaldo in their

"But we always talked about us being different from any other team, which I am sure every other owner says exactly the same thing," Beckham added.

"So that's what we will try to do and if we have the opportunity to bring big name players in then great we're lucky we have an ownership group that has that vision and wants to succeed and has that competitiveness where we want the best players.

MLS will celebrate its 25th anniversary this season and the league was reminded again on Wednesday of the impact Beckham has had on the league.

Commissioner Don Garber started the day by telling a news conference that; "Without David Major League Soccer probably would not be what it is today".

The evidence was not hard to find care. with media outlets from around the world making the trip to New York to interview Beckham, who as always charmed the crowd with his candor and boyish smile.

As part of his deal for joining club." REUTERS

the Galaxy Beckham was given the chance to buy into an MLS franchise at a reduced price.

LOCAL RESISTANCE

In 2013 it was announced Beckham would take up his option and put a team in Miami, but as disputes over stadium sites and local resistance dragged on it seemed as if the idea of a South Florida franchise was doomed.

"I must admit over the seven years there were moments where I doubted this was going to happen," Beckham said. "There were many

"But there wasn't a moment where I was going to walk away even though there were times it seemed this was not going to happen.

"There never was one moment when I thought Miami was not the right place.'

After all the clubs, all the Champions League and World Cup matches he played in, Beckham says the hardest thing he has ever done was become the owner of a MLS franchise and getting Inter-Miami on the pitch.

"Without a doubt," Beckham said. "It has been the hardest thing to get it up and running.

"It was a real challenge but one that I knew that was going to happen. Eventually my stubbornness would get me there.

"We have worked very hard especially over the last two years to make this happen and create something special and this weekend will be our reward."

For anyone thinking Beckham would be an absentee owner leaving the heavy-lifting to co-owner Jorge Mas, the 44-year-old made it clear that was not the case.

He will be a hands-on owner, providing input on everything from player selection to shower tiles.

The club has ambitions not to just be an MLS powerhouse but a global

brand much like Beckham himself. "When you talk about hands on there is no bigger hands on owners than you are looking at right now," said Beckham, sitting alongside Mas. "Our whole ownership group is hands on.

"That will continue because we

"This is not a vanity project it is a

"I want to create a legacy that my children can turn around in 20 years and say my dad built this

Chinese football transfer market collapses in face of coronavirus

HONG KONG

A DOUBLE blow of the coronavirus and a new salary cap has seen the bottom fall out of Chinese football's transfer market, while Odion Ighalo led what could become an exodus of foreign stars.

Shanghai SIPG smashed the Asian transfer record when they signed Oscar from Chelsea three years ago for €60 million, with Hulk, Marouane Fellaini, Javier Mascherano and Carlos Tevez all moving to China in recent years.

Their arrivals put Chinese football on the map and provoked consternation in Europe's major leagues that Chinese clubs were distorting the transfer market with world-leading wages.

But with wages now capped at €3 million a year, and the Chinese Super League on hold over the coronavirus outbreak, China isn't the destination it once was.

China's winter transfer window looks poised to close with a whimper on Friday, with Chinese Super League clubs spending just €28 million so far, the lowest since 2011.

There were two notable departures with striker Ighalo joining Manchester United on loan from Shanghai Shenhua and Belgian winger Yannick Carrasco returning to Atletico Madrid from Dalian.

China's domestic football is indefinitely suspended because of the virus outbreak, which has killed nearhas now spread around the world. Harry Belford Spencer, co-founder of First Pick Group, a Shanghai-

based sports advisory company,

said the uncertainty caused by the

coronavirus had put off prospective

foreign signings and dissuaded Chi-

nese clubs from doing business.

"You are not going to invest a lot of money as a club if you don't really know what's happening," said the Briton, who is involved in the Chinese transfer scene.

"You are signing these players with the intention of them playing earlier (from the start of the season in February), and there's now this

"You don't want to build up a big wage bill and that's probably why you see a guy like Ighalo joining United because why would Shanghai Shenhua want him on their books paying a salary when they're not playing football?"

 Cooling measures Even before now, China's transfer market had begun to cool after the Chinese Football Association brought in measures to encourage

clubs to develop youth players. The most significant was a 100 percent tax on foreign signings of more than 45 million yuan (€6 million), introduced in 2017.

In December, the CFA said that foreign players could not earn more than €3 million a year after tax.

That torpedoed any chance of Gareth Bale, who was on the verge of joining Jiangsu Suning from Real ly 2,800 people in the country and Madrid last summer, coming to Chi-

Pep masterminds biggest Champions League win in Manchester City history

MADRID

N Tuesday, Pep Guardiola hailed Real Madrid as 'the kings" of the Champions League, and though the dethroning has not yet been confirmed, Manchester City landed a significant blow at the Santiago Bernabeu.

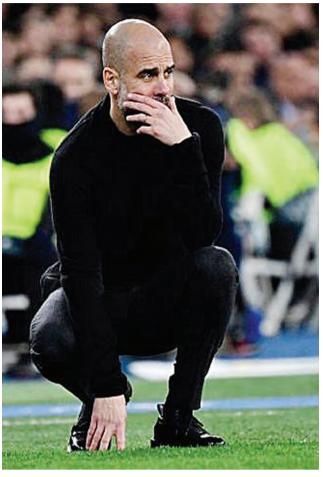
They came from behind to win their round-of-16 first leg 2-1 and head to the Etihad Stadium in two weeks' time as favourites to progress at the expense of the 13-time winners. It is nights such as this when City fans will concede that they quite like the Champions League after all. This was their first win over Real Madrid and their most significant Champions League result.

It seemed unlikely when Isco gave the hosts a 60th-minute lead. But the wheels came off during a frantic final half-hour, and after Gabriel Jesus equalised, Kevin De Bruyne scored a second from the spot. Real Madrid ended the game with 10 men after Sergio Ramos was sent off for bringing down Jesus as the Brazilian looked set to score a third.

It is not over, and City -- who survived the early loss of Aymeric Laporte to injury -- know all too well about Champions League disasters, but their night in the Spanish capital could not have gone much better.

"I'm happy for the victory and the performance as well," Guardiola said. "It's not over. There's one team in the world who can overcome everything, and it's this club, but for our people, hopefully we can make a good performance and go through."

Guardiola is often accused of overthinking big games, and when his team was announced little more than an hour before kickoff, there were shocks everywhere. No Fernand-



Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola is wary of a Real Madrid fightback in the second leg of their Champions League last 16 tie

inho, no David Silva, no Raheem Sterling and no Sergio Aguero. All left on the bench.

travelling City The fans high above the goal cheered each starter when his name was read, but it seemed more out of obligation than genuine enthusiasm for their manager's selection. In the first EuChampions League ban was handed down, they sang "F--- UEFA" with much more vigour.

Jesus, City's only recognised striker on the pitch, started on the left wing. At times, Bernardo Silva and De Bruyne looked like a front two. Sometimes it was 4-4-2. On other occasions it looked more like ropean game since their 4-2-4-0. It was the type of have made their own.

team that would be hailed as genius if things went had nothing to do with right. And for most of a chilly evening in central Spain, they did. 'We had 10 free days, and

the most amount of matches of Real Madrid," Guardiola said. "Their defensive game was different. That's why we changed. The space was there to attack, but never since I've been a coach have I gone to de-"[Zinedine] Zidane will

in those days, I watched

look at what we've done. and the second leg will be different. We have to adapt quickly and try to go there to win the game."

Even before Real Madrid took the lead, City had registered 10 shots to Real's five, with Thibaut Courtois forced to make good saves to deny Jesus and Riyad Mahrez. Jesus had another effort cleared off the line, and Mahrez whipped a shot past the far post after a driving run forward by De Bruyne. By the end, City had mustered 16 shots to Real's nine and won the on-target count eight to three. Talk in the Spanish capital ahead of the game was that Zidane's team were not playing well, and a run of just one win from their past four games in all competitions appeared to back it up. But when Isco scored, they looked ready to nick another big result in the competition they

The goal, when it came, Guardiola's elaborate system, and he will argue that he cannot account for individual mistakes. In the 60th minute, there were three -- a mix-up between Nicolas Otamendi and Rodri and then Kyle Walker's failure to clear -- and when Vinicius Junior sprinted clear, he looked up to see Isco on his own in the penalty area. Ederson was required only to pick the ball out of the net.

Then came the chaos that these knockout ties often throw up.

Jesus headed in a vital away goal after fine work from De Bruyne on the left before Sterling, on as substitute in the 73rd minute, ran at Dani Carvajal and was brought down in the penalty area. De Bruyne, the driving force behind the comeback, did the rest. He should probably take spot kicks more often.

At the final whistle, the City players, wearing their Hacienda-inspired change kit, went over to salute the away supporters, who were already turning their little section of the Bernabeu into a scene reminiscent of the famous Manchester nightclub. They sang in protest at UEFA and in support of their owner, Sheikh Mansour, but the biggest statement was delivered by their team. Real Madrid's crown is slipping.

How coronavirus is affecting soccer in Italy

BY GABRIELE MARCOTTI, SENIOR WRITER,

ITALY is the first European country to suffer an outbreak of COVID-19, the strain of coronavirus that originated in China and has caused more than 2,700 deaths to date. As of Wednesday morning, the number of suspected cases in Italy was 259 and thus far, there have been 12 deaths.

The government instituted precautionary measures Sunday to limit the spread of the virus.

Two areas in northern Italy have been "red-zoned" with travel in and out restricted, affecting some 42,000 people. In an effort to further limit contagion, the government has ordered the closure of schools, bars and cinemas in six northern Italian regions. Many employers have told workers to stay home, and many churches suspended weekly Mass on Sunday. And, most significantly for football, sporting events in those six northern regions -- Lombardia, Veneto, Piemonte, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Liguria and Emilia Romagna -- will be held behind closed doors at least until March 1.

Q: What is the idea behind it?

A: It's purely precautionary; think of it like an initiative to limit large groups of people gathering together in close proximity. Even Milan Fashion Week has been running its catwalk shows in near-empty rooms.

Q: Which soccer games have been affected so far? A: Four Serie A games were

postponed last weekend, while Thursday's Europa League match between Inter and Ludogorets at the San Siro will take place behind closed doors.

This weekend, another six games in Serie A, including the top-of-the-table clash between Juventus and Inter on Sunday night, will be watched by just a few hundred people: mostly team officials and media. The other games affected as of Tuesday are Milan vs. Genoa, Udinese vs. Fiorentina, Parma vs. SPAL, Sassuolo vs. Brescia and Sampdoria vs. Verona.

There are no restrictions on fans traveling to matches in other parts of the country, while Serie A rightsholders in Italy are considering



Napoli vs. Barcelona was impacted by the coronavirus outbreak in Italy, which saw players tested and fans on edge. (Agencies)

showing the games for free on television.

Q: Couldn't they just postpone the affected upcoming games?

A: They already did that with the games last weekend. They could postpone some games of teams not involved in Europe, but for the others there is simply no room in the fixture list, particularly with the season having to end slightly early because of this summer's European Championships. You just can't squeeze in any more games.

Thirty-five lowerdivision games have been postponed. So too have games in other sports, from rugby to volleyball.

Q. Tell us about the other sports for a moment. What has been impacted?

Italian boxer Daniele Scardina was set to defend IBF International super middleweight title against France's Andrew Francillette in Milan on Friday, but organiser Matchroom said in a statement Monday the

'Milano Boxing Night' would be postponed as a result of the regional restrictions implemented in the wake of the

coronavirus outbreak. Italy's men's and women's Six Nations rugby clashes with Ireland were postponed on Wednesday morning, while a women's match between Italy and Scotland in Milan on March 1 was also called off, with organisers looking to reschedule this fixture at a later date.

Other rugby games this weekend in the PRO14 were postponed, as well as matches in Italy's national Top 12 league and all domestic rugby activities be-

low the championship. Q: How long is this going to last?

A: It's impossible to tell right now. Vincenzo Spadafora, Italy's Minister for Sport, said they would evaluate whether to lift the restrictions in the coming days. It would take another emergency government decree to extend them past March 1.

- Watch live Serie A foot- thrilled at the prospect of

ball on ESPN+

Q: Back to soccer: Could teams play in neutral venues in areas not affected by the restrictions?

A: It's something that has been discussed. Nobody enjoys playing behind closed doors and, of course, you lose out on box-office income that can, for smaller clubs, be significant. Several clubs have already begun the process of refunding fans, with Atalanta, Juventus and Inter all in the restricted regions.

There has been talk of Juventus playing their return leg against Olympique Lyonnais somewhere other than Turin, and it remains a possibility for Inter in the Europa League and Atalanta to host teams at neutral sites in the Champions League should they advance to the next round. But right now, it's just talk and it might not even be viable. The situation would have to persist for another couple of weeks, and if that happens, it's not clear that areas elsewhere would be thousands of fans traveling from infected cities.

Q: What are the implications for teams playing away to Italian clubs?

A: Barcelona were given fever tests when they arrived in Naples ahead of Champions Tuesday's League clash with Napoli. This drew a lot of attention, but in fact such tests have been routine for anyone arriving in Italian airports for the past three weeks. Barcelona coach Quique Setien played things down, saying, "I'm not at all worried for my team. I'm worried for all those infected ... for us it was only a test for a fever, nothing more." That's how most are treating it right now.

Q: Looking further ahead, Italy is a Euro 2020 venue; any word on that possibly being affected?

UEFA issued a statement on Wednesday, saying "there is no need to change anything in the planned timetable" while also adding that "the issue will be kept under constant

Guardian www.ippmedia.com

Yanga face Alliance FC test in VPL

How coronavirus is affecting soccer in Italy

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Para swimmers to compete in World **Swimming Series**

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA plans to send two Paralympic swimmers to the coming World Swimming Series slated for June 18-21 in Germany.

Tuma Dandi, Tanzania Paralympic Committee (TPC) secretary general, said they will send the two athletes to Germany after the earlier plans to send one swimmer to Melbourne, Australia this month had failed to come to fruition due to circumstances beyond TPC control.

Dandi noted another domestic swimmer's trip to Singapore, which was scheduled for May, was canceled by International Paralympic Committee (IPC) due to Corona virus epidermic which has hit some of Asian

The Melbourne and Singapore events were slated to be held from March 14-16 and May 1-3 respectively. He said the World Swimming Series are aimed at

preparing swimmers ahead of the Tokyo Paralympics. Dandi mentioned the Paralympic swimmers earmarked for the World Series as Amos Boniface Nderwa and Ahmed Khamis Ali, they will be accompanied by coach Ramadhan Namkoveka.

The TPC official said Singapore budget for the two swimmers was \$12,960. He noted TPC is now waiting for the entry package from IPC to start working on the Germany tournament's budget.

"The IPC sent us an invitation for one swimmer to attend the World Series in Melbourne, Australia this month (February 14-16) but due to some circumstances, he did not travel," he disclosed.

"The other Paralympic swimmer was to attend the Singapore event slated for May 1-3, but the event was canceled, now we have written IPC so that at the Germany event they should give us two places.'

'We are waiting for the positive response from them, hopefully next week they will send us the entry package which will help us start working on the budget for the Germany trip."

He said if TPC gets the entry package from IPC, the former will make sure that the Paralympic swimmers are in Germany three days earlier so as to attend classification which will run for two days (June 15-17).

The TPC official maintained classification is necessary for all Paralympic swimmers, saying there are 14 classes of classification.

He mentioned them as one to 10, which is for those who are disabled, 11 to 13 for either the blind or visually impaired while class 14 is for those with mental disorders.

"Currently, the country has only one Paralympic swimmer who is classified, namely Gerald Sokolo, so if we will succeed to convince the World Paralympic Swimming Association to allow two local swimmers to compete at the Germany series, Tanzania will have three classified Paralympic swimmers, which is a good development for the country's Para swimming," he

He also said the World Swimming Series will give Para swimming fans the opportunity to start following the amazing athletes they will watch compete at the Tokyo Paralympics.

The World Swimming Series started early this month and Tanzania did not attend the first event.

The remaining series will be held in Sheffield in United Kingdom (UK) from April 9-12, Indianapolis in the United States of America (USA) from April 16-18 and in Berlin, Germany from June 18 - 21.

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

HE 2019/2020 Vodacom Premier League action returns this weekend after a break, which aimed at paving for the Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) round of 16 games.

Some of the high profile league matches to be played this weekend include the one pitting fourth-placed Young Africans SC (Yanga) against Mwanza's Alliance FC, which will take place in Dar es Salaam tomorrow.

Yanga have 41 points from 21 games and are coming from recording draw in four games.

They will face Alliance

Yanga head coach, Luc Eymael (2nd L), instructs his players during a training session, which took place in Dar es Salaam recently as preparation for the Vodacom Premier League. PHOTO; COURTESY OF YANGA FC that are placed 13th in the

Alliance FC are coached by former Yanga player, Fred Felix Minziro, and the coach revealed he is looking for nothing short of a win against his former team.

20-team league's table with 29

"It will be difficult game, but we're ready and the good thing is that the morale in the camp is very good. We are looking forward to a good game," he said.

Yanga, through information officer Hassan Bumbuli, said they are well

their aim is to collect maximum

"We know it will be a difficult game, but we are prepared to face them and collect maximum points," he said.

A mouth-watering game, scheduled for tomorrow in Dodoma, will see sixth-placed JKT Tanzania host Azam FC who are placed second with 45 points. JKT Tanzania have 36 points from 23 games.

The only game on Sunday will see league leaders Simba SC entertain KMC FC at the National

prepared for the encounter as Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Simba have 62 points from 23 games while the visitors are placed 19th with 21 points from 20 matches.

Haruna Harerimana, KMC FC head coach, said they will do their best to win the game.

"On the league standing, we are not in a good place, I have told my players the importance of winning the Sunday game, and everyone knows that if we lose we will put ourselves in a difficult place in the league," he said.

counterpart,

Vandernbroeck, said they are looking forward to the game.

In other games which will as well be played tomorrow Lipuli FC will entertain Namungo FC in Iringa, Mwadui FC will play host to Coastal Union in Shinyanga, Singida United will welcome

Polisi Tanzania in Singida. Kagera Sugar will be at home facing Tanzania Prisons, Ruvu Shooting will lock horns with Mbao FC in Coast Region, Biashara United will play Mbeya City FC in Mara, while Mtibwa Sugar will host Ndanda FC in Morogoro.



New Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Brand Manager Irene Mutiganzi runs past a Kili Canvas, with the aim of taking a picture, at the canvas's launch at Kilimanjaro Avenue in Moshi on Wednesday. The event aimed at encouraging many residents of Kilimanjaro to take part in the Kilimanjaro Marathon slated for Sunday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA BREWERIES LIMITED

Dar to host 2020 Mapinduzi hockey tourney next month

By Guardian Reporter

HOCKEY players from across Tanzania will have opportunity to put their skills to show, given this year's Mapinduzi Cup is set to be played at Lugalo venue in Dar es Salaam from March 13-15.

Kaushik Doshi, Tanzania Hockey Association (THA) secretary general, pointed out the prestigious tournament, which also serves as the National Club Championship, has received tremendous boost in the form of sponsorship from Reliance **Insurance Company and Tata**

Africa Holdings Ltd. Doshi noted that the

clubs, teams, institutions and schools.

"March 5 will be the closing date for the clubs' confirmation to feature in the tournament," he disclosed.

He added all teams which have expressed interest in taking part in the tournament have been informed of the closing date.

Doshi pointed preparations for the competition are in progress.

"The tournament will involve both men and women categories, we will appreciate if we will get more ladies' teams," he disclosed.

He disclosed THA has in January this year but, due

tournament is open to all appointed coordinators of to some technical reasons the event, namely Mnonda Magani and Alice Taabu.

> Doshi further said that the national hockey governing body greatly appreciates sponsors of the the tournament for putting their weight behind this year's competition.

> "We also acknowledge the kind gesture by Tanzania People's Defense Forces (TPDF) management for providing the Lugalo hockey field for this prestigious tournament," he disclosed.

The THA official pointed out the tournament was earlier expected to be held which also included rains, the event could not take place.

Doshi said the THA therefore decided to host the tournament next month with a view to giving all teams ample time for preparation.

In the previous season's competition, which was held in 2018, Dar Khalsa clinched the top honour, beating rivals, Magereza, on penalties in an exciting final.

Doshi pointed organizers expect teams from Arusha, Moshi, Tanga, Lindi, Zanzibar and hosts, Dares Salaam, along with a few schools teams, to battle it out in this year's competition.

Kili Marathon 2020 number collection starts in Moshi

By Guardian Reporter

KILIMANJARO Premium Lager Marathon participants have three days left to collect their numbers and register for the Grand Malt 5km Fun Run.

The marathon organizers said the exercise was successful in Dar es Salaam and Arusha where those who registered for the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager 42km and Tigo 21km races took their numbers ready for the

The Kilimanjaro Marathon Race Director, John Bayo, said they were expected to be at Keys Hotel in Kilimanjaro yesterday from 12pm-5pm.

They were also set to conduct the exercise at the same center on February 28 from 10am-8pm and February 29 from 9am-5pm.

"This will just be for number collection and registration of the 5km Fun Run since we already closed registration for 42km and 21km races," he said.

He also noted that those who did not manage to collect their race numbers in Dar es Salaam and Arusha can still do so in Moshi.

Meanwhile, Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Hamisi Kigwangalla, is expected to be the guest of honour during this year's Kilimanjaro Marathon expected to take place on Sunday.

Bayo said Kigwangalla will be hosted by his counterpart, Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Harrison Mwakyembe, as the two look forward to promote sports tourism through the Kilimanjaro Marathon.

"We expect participants from more than 56 countries worldwide hence this is the best platform for the two ministers to promote sports tourism. This is an honour to us and we look forward to a successful event," he disclosed.

Official sponsors for this year's event include Kilimanjaro Premium Lager, TIGO, Grand Malt, Kilimanjaro Water, TPC Limited, Simba Cement, Unilever, Barclays Bank(now Absa Bank Tanzania Limited).

The marathon's official suppliers are Kibo Palace Hotel, Keys Hotel, GardaWorld Security, Precision Air, and CMC Automobiles.

The race will be held at the Moshi Cooperatives University venue on Sunday and will play host to International Association of Athletics federations (IAAF) route measured 42km, 21km and a 5km Fun Run.