

LIKE & FOLLOW US

ISSN 0856 - 5434 ISSUE No. 7842 • PRICE: Tsh 1,000, Kenya sh100

TANZANIA

FRIDAY 6 MARCH, 2020

LAND



TITLE DEEDS TO BE ISSUED AT DISTRICT OFFICES PAGE 4

INSURANCE



TIRA PLANNING SERVICES DIGITISATION PAGE 5

POWER



GOVT SPENDS OVER 40BN/- ON RURAL ELECTRIFICATION PAGE 6

SPORT



AT LAUDS KILI MARATHON SPONSORS PAGE 11



Page 13



SADC officials scan employment rules, labour migration in brainstorming

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) yesterday deliberated on how to put in place a system that facilitates and regulates labour movements within the bloc.

This issue took centre stage during the official opening of the meeting of SADC ministers responsible for employment and the labour sector generally which kicked off in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

We need to come up with a strategy to facilitate movements of persons residing in member countries, how they will move and work within SADC. But also being ensured of their social benefits

The meeting which was preceded by a meeting of permanent secretaries and experts jotted down some proposals on what should be done to bring about a harmonious labour migration environment.

The senior officials prepared policy and guideline proposals to widen the scope for employment and labour migration within the economic block. The proposals were forwarded to the sector ministers for discussion and deliberation.

Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan who officiated the meeting said the growth of technology has brought both positive and negative impacts, with an increase in job migration which calls for proper mechanisms for regulation.

"We need to come up with a strategy to facilitate movements of persons residing in member countries, how they will move

TURN TO PAGE 2

JPM elevates sisal saga top probe team official



Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan presents a trophy to NBC managing director Theobald Sabi (R) in appreciation of the bank's cooperation in a youth training programme coordinated by Tanzania Employment Services Agency (TaESA). This was at the Southern African Development Cooperation (SADC) ministerial and stakeholders meeting which opened in Dar es Salaam yesterday.. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Alex Songa

IF you are appointed leader or member of a probe team on a matter of national importance, before you file and submit findings, know that something sweeter could be waiting for you, going by recent happenings.

This is after President John Magufuli yesterday appointed Gerald Kusaya permanent secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture. This is the man who chaired the 13-man probe team formed last year to investigate the fall of the sisal crop in the country whose report was unveiled late last week.

A statement released by the Directorate of Presidential Communications at the State House in Dar es Salaam said Kusaya's appointment became ef-

This is the man who chaired the 13-man probe team formed last year to investigate the fall of the sisal crop in the country whose report was unveiled late last week

fective yesterday. "Kusaya replaces Mathew Mtigumbe who will be assigned other duties within the Office of the Prime Minister," the brief statement indicated. The report, which was

TURN TO PAGE 2

Extension officers idle as ministry faces budgetary gaps, massive shortages

And while we encourage young people to self-employed in the agricultural sector, the loans being issued at district council level are nothing short of derisive

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame,

Arusha

Unemployed agricultural experts including extension officers need to pursue self-employment since the state cannot absorb them due to budgetary constraints even though it faces a shortage of 20,000 workers.

Omar Mgumba, the Deputy Minister for Agriculture,

Livestock and Fisheries said here yesterday that the country currently needs 20,000 extension officers but the government's capability to employ from this cadre is only 9,000 leaving a gaping vacuum of 11,000 officers.

The 14 local institutes of higher education that offer agriculture

TURN TO PAGE 2

Envoy: China winning its coronavirus battle

By Correspondent James Kandoya

CHINA'S Ambassador to Tanzania, Wang Ke (pictured), yesterday said that her country is certain to win the ongoing war against the deadly coronavirus, thanks to rigorous control measures and a new vaccine whose trials begin next month.

Addressing reporters in Dar



es Salaam yesterday, the envoy said new cases of the disease have already started to decrease in China while plasma from the blood of people who recovered from the disease has been used to develop a vaccine that stands a better chance of ending coronavirus.

TURN TO PAGE 2



TUZO ZA TEHAMA ZA TCRA ZA MWAKA 2020

Zimebaki siku **10** tu kuwasilisha fomu za ushiriki mtandaoni



Mwisho wa uwasilishaji fomu ni Machi 15, 2020

Kila mwenye leseni ya TCRA analazimika kushiriki Tuma fomu yako ya ushiriki mtandaoni sasa

Mawasiliano Zaidi: Piga simu ya bila malipo namba 0800 008272 au tuma barua pepe kupitia ictawards@tcra.go.tz tovuti ya www.ictawards.tcra.go.tz

"Boresha Maisha Kupitia Tehama kwa Uchumi wa Viwanda Kidijitali"



9 770856 542009

Extension officers idle as ministry faces budgetary gaps, massive shortages

FROM PAGE 1

oriented training produce 2000 graduates annually but despite this low figure, still most of them remain jobless.

While there is ample demand for extension officers, the state is too constrained financially to fill the gap by absorbing more graduates. That goes to indicate that there is opportunity in agriculture needing that local youth strive to join it.

"And while we encourage young people to self-employed in the agricultural sector, the loans being issued at district council level are nothing short of derisive. The money is peanuts, and only disbursed to put records right politically, but can do little to support the beneficiaries," he admitted.

Mgumba graced the youth symposium focusing on opportunities in the agriculture sector, an event attended by over 200 young persons from the Northern Zone regions of Tanga, Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro.

It was also observed during the congregation that over 700,000 young people, mostly fresh graduates, join the job markets in Tanzania annually but only about 155,000 get absorbed in formal employment, leaving 550,000 youth out there, tarmacking.

Julius Robert, The Acting Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) for

Arusha, said up to last December the region had disbursed loans amounting to 2.7 billion/- (since 2017) to more than 400 youth groups so that young people can hatch and work upon productive ideas for self-employment.

The event went simultaneously with a similar convergence taking place in Tabora for the central zone. Other events had already taken place in Songwe and Njombe, with others to be held later in Geita and Mara regions.

Organized by the Agriculture Non-State Forum (ANSAF) the youth symposium involved the Tanzania Horticulture Association (TAHA), the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAG-COT), Coffee Africa, the Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF) and ECHO East Africa.

ANSAF program officer Rehema Msami said the organization was working to assist young people investing in the agricultural sector in accessing loans from local financial institutions.

"Agriculture is the only sector with limitless opportunities in employment and can absorb both educated and uneducated youths," she asserted.

More than 50 percent of Tanzania's population which experts say is heading to 60 million is made up of young people who are mostly without a reliable source of earning on a monthly basis.



Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein hosts a delegation of visiting businessmen from Nigeria in talks at Zanzibar State House yesterday. With them (2nd-R) is Nigeria's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Dr Sahabi Isa Gada. Photo: Zanzibar State House

JPM elevates sisal saga top probe team official

FROM PAGE 1

presented to Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa in Tanga on Sunday, unearthed massive looting of public assets by employees of the then Tanzania Sisal Authority (TSA).

He stated in his findings that the then staff sold the struggling entity to themselves, taking over its properties including houses and farms at throw-away prices.

It was not the first time for President Magufuli to elevate the leader or member of a probe

team to a top level executive position since he came to office, as it has happened several times earlier.

Current Minerals Minister Doto Biteko was appointed in 2017 on the background of enthusiastically presenting the report by a parliamentary committee formed by National Assembly Speaker Job Ndugai to investigate tanzanite and diamond mining, whose findings showed that the country was being drained of billions of shillings.

Biteko chaired the committee that investigated tanzanite mining while his fellow MP Mussa Azzan Zungu chaired the diamond committee. Zungu who made an equally animated presentation is the current Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment).

In October 2017, President Magufuli appointed Prof Florens Luoga to the position of governor of the Bank of Tanzania, stating that he picked him because of the role he

played in the committee he set up to investigate the minerals sector.

Prof Luoga also sat in the team that renegotiated new terms of engagement between the government and Barrick Gold.

Prof Abdulkarim Mruma who in 2017 headed a Special Presidential Committee that probed the type, amount and value of minerals contained in mineral concentrates was later appointed board chairman of the Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Limited

(TIPER) as well as

In 2017, the current CCM secretary general Dr Bashiru Ally led a probe team tasked with tracking and verifying properties of the ruling party. He presented findings that unearthed massive looting of the oldest political party's assets.

Later, in May 2018, President Magufuli appointed him to the powerful position to head the party secretariat's day to day work.



China's Ambassador to Tanzania, Wang Ke, holds talks with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Representative in Tanzania, Fred Kafeero, in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Envoy: China winning its coronavirus battle

FROM PAGE 1

"Three medicines have been put through laboratory tests and have so far proven to be very effective," she said.

The envoy said since the outbreak of COVID-19, the Chinese authorities developed the reagent to speedily test the virus, with results of the seventh trial released at midweek.

The envoy said such cutting edge technologies as 5G, artificial intelligence, cloud computing and portable office have all been applied in the work of coronavirus prevention and control.

With the painstaking and extraordinary efforts, the epidemic situation in China has greatly

improved, as the number of new confirmed cases had decreased by more than 90 percent on a day to day basis compared from the first days.

Commenting on the economic dimension of the pandemic, Wang insisted that with the further containment of the virus and improvement of the situation, the temporary suppression of demand will be ended and the big potential will be realised.

"China's economy will be back to its normal track and remain the engine and stabilizer of world economic development," the envoy underlined.

The Chinese government attaches great importance to and has actively been promoting

mutually beneficial cooperation between China and Tanzania, she asserted.

"China-Tanzania cooperation in grand projects, urban construction and investment projects are continuing as usual. Although there some negative impacts on bilateral trade and tourism due to this epidemic, these impacts are temporary," she said in assurance.

The COVID -2019 situation report number 43 released by the World Health Organisation (WHO) early yesterday said that eight countries (Andorra, Jordan, Latvia, Morocco, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Senegal and Tunisia) reported one case of COVID-19 each.

Increased cases of the disease in the Eastern Mediterranean region

was of great concern, the report underlined.

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

The report reveals that total and new cases on Tuesday globally stood at 90,870 confirmed (1922 new) while in China 80,304 confirmed of which 130 were new cases, along with 2946 deaths in total, of which 31 occurred in the 24 hours to the report.

Outside China, there were 10,566 confirmed cases (1792 new) in 72 countries, eight being new states

reporting coronavirus cases for the first time. There had also been 166 deaths with 38 deaths occurring in the 24 hours to the report, the agency noted.

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

For his part, Dr Li Ping, associate chief physician at Nanjing Hospital in China advised Tanzanians to abide by basic protective measures against the disease.

Some of the measures include washing hands frequently, maintaining social distancing, avoiding touching eyes, nose and mouth and practicing respiratory hygiene.

SADC officials scan employment rules, labour migration in brainstorming

FROM PAGE 1

and work within SADC, but also being ensured of their social benefits," she said.

The VP called upon the ministers to deliberate on how to come up with a position on the mechanism of formulating such a system and regulations tied to the matter.

The unemployment rate in the SADC region stands between nine and 11 percent by official estimates, above the global level of 5.1 percent, while across the world around 200 million people are jobless.

The 2018 National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) data shows that the unemployment rate in Tanzania stood at is 9.7 percent.

SADC Executive Secretary Dr Stergomena Tax told the delegates that since the adoption of the region's labour protocol in 2014 only one member state has ratified it, emphasizing the need for other member states to do so.

She said the launching of the graduates' internship programme by Tanzania was a sign of the commitment that the country has on job creation and promotion of the sector.

International Labour Organization (ILO) 2011 statistical report affirms that employment levels and labour productivity in the SADC region are generally low.

The trend is directly linked to social and human development challenges, it said, noting that gender inequality, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, a lack of social protection and vulnerable employment all affect employment and labour progress.

Tanzania's youth unemployment rate remains a big challenge to growth and the government must address it, she said.

Among ways recommended include connecting them to the banking sector for accessing credit and engaging in agricultural production.

The situation is characterized by features like imbalance between supply and demand in the labour market, along with increased employment pressures given the steady outflow of rural surplus labour to non-agricultural sectors.

Most youth have no skills that are employable. Skills requirement in the labour market is not compatible with skills supply and as a result there is a considerable mismatch of skills, experts affirm.



Kilombero legislator Peter Lijualikali (L) of the opposition Chadema acknowledges receipt of ten wheelchairs shortly after First Lady Janeth Magfuli (R) handed them over at State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday. They are specifically for use by children with disabilities. Looking on are National Assembly Deputy Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson Mwanasusu (2nd-R) and Joan Masima, wife of Tanzania's Ambassador to Israel, Job Masima. Photo: State House

Don't get holed up in your offices, PM orders TANROADS managers

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has cautioned regional TANROADS managers countrywide to stop staying in their offices and instead perform their duties proficiently including regular inspection of roads infrastructures and bridges especially during the current rainy season.

The Prime Minister was speaking on Wednesday when he visited the site of the collapsed Kiyegeya bridge to inspect repair work to restore road communication between Dar es Salaam and the country's capital—Dodoma.

Consequently Majaliwa ordered for the termination of Morogoro Regional TANROADS Manager Eng Godwin Andalwisy.

He said his position should be filled by another person following negligence in executing duties including failure to regularly inspect road bridges under his jurisdiction. Majaliwa's decision follows Eng Andalwisy's failure to make inspection of the bridges in his region to know whether there are some bridges that could be faulty, such as the collapsed Kiyegeya Bridge in Kilosa district connecting Morogoro and Dodoma regions. "Do you know that your

weakness is not making inspection on the bridge to determine that sand and other debris had restricted water flow under the bridge causing the bridge to be swept away? he asked Eng Andalwisy.

He said as repair work was in progress as a temporary diversion has to be hurriedly constructed for vehicles to pass after which the government will decide after determining what caused the bridge to collapse.

The premier also directed the Minister for Works, Communications and Transport Eng Isack Kamwelwe, his Permanent Secretary and all TANROADS engineers from Morogoro and Dodoma regions to assemble at the site of the collapsed bridge to ensure road communication is restored.

He further said he will communicate with the Chief of Defence Forces Gen Venance Mabeyo for assistance in restoring the severed road communication as quickly as possible.

Consoling stranded drivers of the vehicles and other road users at the site, the Prime Minister said: "I have been sent by President John Magfuli to assure you that the government is doing all it can to reopen the road."

PCCB drags three to court allegedly for soliciting bribes amounting to 180,000/-

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THREE people including a senior extension officer from Kongwa District Council in Dodoma region have been dragged to court by the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) for allegedly soliciting bribes amounting to 180,000/-.

Head of PCCB in Dodoma region Sosthens Kibwengo named the suspects as Nasso-

ro Njarita (50), Kongwa senior extension officer, Naftari Wami (56), Kinangali village chairman in Kongwa and Saada Sidi (40), Ausia Village Executive Officer (VEO) in Kondo District.

Kibwengo said that Wami has been prosecuted for soliciting bribe amounting to 150,000/- from a villager to allow him conduct agricultural activities in a restricted area.

"PCCB filed criminal charge of the suspect on February 24,

this year at the Kongwa District Court for violating the Ant-Corruption Act of 2007," he said.

The second suspect (Njarita) was also prosecuted for requesting and receiving bribe amounting to 50,000/-.

He said that the cases of the two suspects are being heard by the Resident Magistrate of Kongwa District Court, Kisasi Saguda.

Kibwengo further said that

the third suspect Said is prosecuted for soliciting bribe of 30,000/- from one of the village's resident who failed to construct a decent toilet.

"We filed a criminal case number 11/2020 in Kondo District Court where the case is under the Resident Magistrate Francis Mhina," Kibwengo added.

Meanwhile, Kibwengo said that a total of 97.4m/- have been reimbursed by 53 mem-

bers of 'Mipango and Majengo Sokoni Sacoss' in Dodoma who stayed for years without paying their loan debts.

"Investigation is ongoing for the Sacoss leaders who allegedly misused a lot of funds of the organizations thus affecting the growth of the sacoss... once the investigation is complete, we will drag to court all the suspects," he added.

The 2019 report by Transparency International's (TI) Global

Corruption Barometer Africa cited Tanzania to be among the nations that are excelling in the fight against corruption. According to the report, 71 per cent of the Tanzanian population thinks their government is doing a good job of tackling corruption, with the remaining 23 per cent still in doubt.

Since President Magfuli assumed the top seat in 2015, the nation has been in a concerted war against corruption, mis-

conduct of officials who abuse their offices and institutions that oppress citizens while infringing their rights.

According to the report, among 35 nations in Africa, Tanzania has taken a lead on how her citizens perceive the government's positive progress in tackling matters of corruption; other countries being Sierra Leone, Lesotho, Nigeria, and Ghana.

Kalemani warns contractors against leaving electric poles on roadsides for long periods

By Guardian Correspondent,

Chemba

MINISTER for Energy Dr Medard Kalemani has cautioned contractors implementing rural electrification projects under Rural Energy Agency (REA) against leaving electric poles lying on the roadsides for long periods without being erected.

The prohibition was given on Wednesday when he was switching power to homes in Farkwa ward in Chemba district, Dodoma region.

Kalemani said he saw electric poles lying on the roadsides, the situation that irked him and ordered contractors to stop the habit forthwith because they may rot before being used for power distribution to the wananchi.

"I give a final word of caution...Tanesco Regional and Zonal Managers deal with this issue; I give you three days to remove all poles lying on the roadsides in the whole of Dodoma region, else you managers have to relinquish your posts, and you contractor we'll address you in writing to suspend your contract," stressed Kalemani as he directed the Dodoma Zonal Manager to supervise the matter.

"We can't just stand by and let government funds being misused by leaving power

poles to rot, and this is an order countrywide, they should be erected within three days of arrival," he added.

Meanwhile the minister said the government has set aside 40.2bn/- for power distribution in various villages in the country.

"Every mwananchi is supposed to have power as de-

velopment cannot be realized without electric power; it's now good to see villages with power, which you should use well," Kalemani said.

Chemba Member of Parliament Juma Nkama said the electricity will help in changing people's daily lives, as it will enable people do their businesses with ease.

Chemba District Commissioner, Simon Odunga said switching on power to Farkwa Ward will contribute to the area's development.

"We are thankful to the government for bringing power here as there are only a few villages remaining to be connected," he added.



UNHCR
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL: No. RFP/2020/SUP/004 FOR EXTENSION OF KIBONDO AIRSTRIP

1. Background:

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sub Office, Kibondo, invites reputable qualified and Eligible Firms/Contractors to submit firm offers for Extension of Airstrip in Kibondo.

2. Eligibility:

Firms/Contractors duly registered with relevant government authorities, with sound financial basis, relevant experience, reputed clientele and with knowledge of how to meet UNHCR's requirements are invited to participate in the bidding process.

The tender documents can be collected from the following UNHCR Offices:

UNHCR Representation Office Tanzania
Plot 1658 Masaki, Rufiji Street
P.O. Box 2666 - Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

UNHCR Sub- Office Kibondo
Kabigwa (Near TANESCO)
P.O. Box 49
Kibondo

UNHCR Field Office Kasulu
Kimobwa (Mlimani Area)
P.O. Box 332 - Kasulu,
Kigoma

UNHCR Field Unit Mwanza
Mwanza Airport
P.O. Box 2273 - Mwanza

The tender documents can also be accessed and downloaded in the following link below:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1E-q29oRQir8YG9ve8MCze2MyFJgEXwQV>

CRUCIAL DATES FOR THIS INVITATION TO BID

MANDATORY site visit at Kibondo Airstrip	Wednesday 11th March 2020 from 10:00 hrs
Deadline for receiving requests for clarification	Monday 16th March 2020 at 17:00 hrs EAT
Deadline for submission of offers	Monday 06th April 2020 at 17:00 hrs, EAT

*Please Note that the site visit is MANDATORY

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

I give a final word of caution.... Tanesco Regional and Zonal Managers deal with this issue; I give you three days to remove all poles

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY Advisor Business Liaison

As a federal enterprise, GIZ supports the German Government in achieving its objectives in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development.

The regional GIZ Project Centre of Excellence for ICT in East Africa (CENIT@EA) is looking to fill the position of Advisor Business Liaison.

Duty station: Arusha
Fixed term contract

Responsibilities

As Advisor Business Liaison you will support the implementation of the CENIT@EA project mainly in your role as support to the academic staff in industrial liaison and project management as part of the East African Community (EAC) Cluster.

Tasks

- Support the academic staff for industrial liaison at the Nelson Mandela African Institution for Science and Technology (NM-AIST) that hosts the Centre of Excellence
- Establish and maintain cooperation between CENIT@EA and the private sector in the EAC and support an effective stakeholder management with the private sector
- Make effective use of industrial partnerships for internships and Master's theses of CENIT@EA students and short term technical trainings offered by CENIT@EA in the field of Embedded and Mobile Systems (EMoS)
- Organise activities and events for the multi-stakeholder dialogue with the private sector such as "ICT4Business" events
- Support the project management of the team of CENIT@EA at NM-AIST in their daily tasks, efficient communication and coordination with the other project partners and stakeholders
- Facilitate the knowledge management within the EAC-GIZ cluster regarding digital solutions in regional integration
- Support the cluster in the management of an

Intra-Regional Trade Facility and advisory of the EAC on the digitalisation of the industry

Required qualifications, competences and experience

To fulfil the tasks that the position requires, you should have the following qualifications:

- Holding at least a Bachelor's degree and ideally a Master's degree in IT, Economics, Social Sciences, International Relations or related study areas
- At least 2 years of work experience
- Working experience in or with the private sector; working experience in higher education is a strong plus
- Working experience in international organisations or companies is preferred, prior experience with GIZ is an additional plus
- Experience in project management and organising meetings, workshops or conferences
- Understanding of digitalisation and cooperation between academia and private sector; regional experience
- Language proficiency: English (business fluent, written and spoken), German is a plus
- Good skills in Office and IT applications
- Team player mentality, strong communication skills, intercultural competences, culture-sensitive, resilience, professional and diplomatic behaviour, humour

Applications:

Interested candidates should send their letter of application together with the CV and copies of academic certificates by email to hr.giz-tanzania@giz.de.

Please use the subject line "Advisor CENIT@EA".

Applications in hard copy will not be accepted. Closing date for submission: **15.03.2020**
Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

GIZ Tanzania is an equal opportunities employer and encourages applications from all qualified and eligible candidates regardless of their gender, origin, religion/belief, disability or any other minority group.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa pictured at Mombo in Tanga Region yesterday presenting 5m/- to Miriam Shemndolwa (R), who has disability, to help her build a house to live in together with her nursing mother, Eonica Hiza (C). Photo: PMO

Govt suspends mining activities at Magamba Mountain following degradation of the environment

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has suspended bauxite mining activities at Magamba Mountain sites in Lushoto district, Tanga Region following massive environmental degradation.

Announcing the government's decision, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa directed all who own extraction licenses of the area to immediately return them to the government until further notice.

Addressing a public rally at Mabughai village in Magamba ward, Majaliwa (pictured) wanted authorities in the area to supervise the directives and make sure that no one conducts mining activities.

"I have received a number of complaints from people including key leaders such as former President Benjamin Mkapa and the Lushoto MP Shaban Shekilindi on the massive environment degradation caused by the ongoing bauxites extractions at the Magamba Mountain, as the government, we will not stay calm and keep watching these challenges," he said.

He directed the Minerals Minister Dotto Biteko to closely supervise the implementation of the directives which include ensuring that the licences are brought back to the ministry.

For his part, the Lushoto MP commended

the government for banning the activities in the mountain saying that Magamba Mountain is a vital water source so allowing extractions would affect lives of people surrounding the area.

Earlier, Minister Biteko said the Magamba area has 22 extraction licenses but with the ongoing environmental degradation, they have to stop operation until further notice.

After the public rally, the Prime Minister visited an old and needy woman Miriam Shemndolwa and provided her with 5m/- to support her daily needs.

Shemndolwa who is also a person with disability was recently heard through media calling on the public and other key leaders to support her.

The premier's contribution along with funds from other people will help the older women construct a decent living house as she is now living in a relative's house.



I have received a number of complaints from people including key leaders such as former President Benjamin Mkapa and the Lushoto MP Shaban Shekilindi

Uphold self-discipline and study hard, students urged

By Guardian Correspondent, Kisarawe

KISARAWA District Administrative Secretary, Mtela Mwampamba has called on secondary school students to uphold self-discipline and study hard to realize their dreams.

Mwampamba made the call yesterday when speaking at the second Form Four graduation ceremony at the Kisarawe-based Christon Boys Secondary School.

He described discipline as a

tool for students' academic excellence.

According to him, discipline led to social freedom and empowered people to be focused and, therefore, should be nurtured for the achievement of future goals.

Mwampamba also praised the school authorities and parents for attaching importance to academic principles, enforcing school discipline and thus making the school a shining star in the district.

He said that despite the fact that the school was relatively new it was faring well academically from bottom to national levels; it was declared the first school in Kisarawe District in recent national form four examination results.

"This performance is good and laudable. We congratulate teachers and students on your fruitful hard work and we salute parents for your cooperation in ensuring students study hard and confidently. This school

makes us walk tall," DAS told amused parents and excited students.

Giving an illustrative example, Mwampamba said last year the school hosted the National Torch Delegation and paid for food. "As a result of this contribution, our district was declared the best district in the Coast Region in hosting the torch delegation," he said.

The DAS said, without giving figures, that the school every year performed well in form

two and four national examinations, calling on other schools in the district to emulate Christon School.

Mwampamba said the district has 84 villages, 72 have been linked to the national grid and called on families to rise to the opportunity, pay a-27,000/- connection fee to light their homes without any conditions. Electricity in homes helps pupils and students in poor families to do convenient home work. However, Christon

School uses costly generator power because it has not been linked to the national grid.

The Headmaster, August Minja praised the government's good job in promoting social amenities and for implementing seriously the national industrialization agenda.

He said the school was reciprocating by enforcing academic discipline and also emphasizing on extra-curricular self-help activities so that students could employ themselves after school

and college life. He restated the school's pledge to give students the best education, and the kind of education that meets national expectations.

He thanked the district government for supporting to the school in many ways. He also thanked parents and guardians for cooperation, further saying he was proud of the good neighborliness the school was enjoying from surrounding communities and elsewhere in the region.

The Guardian Limited

JOB VACANCY

The Guardian Limited, publisher of leading Tanzania newspapers, The Guardian and Nipashe, is looking for motivated and experienced people to fill the position of:

CIRCULATION FIELD OFFICER - DAR ES SALAAM

Job Purpose:

To boost copy sales and develop relationships with agents and vendors in the sales channel in the assigned area to meet your set sales targets.

Main Responsibilities:

The successful candidates will be responsible for the following key results:

- Work with the agents and vendors in making sure that the business grows and The Guardian Limited publications are available and visible and sold at the set retail prices with optimal return levels.
- Develop and grow more channels of distribution.
- Monitor indicators relating to market arrivals, circulation sales and returns indicators and make appropriate reports to Circulation Supervisor.
- Identify and build rapport with existing and potential customers by communicating the benefits of Selling The Guardian and Nipashe.
- Monitor newspaper distribution and sale trends in particular areas, prepare weekly sales plans and update supervisor on a regular basis.
- Monitor daily performance of TGL brands in your particular areas of operation in comparison to our rival publications and make reports that guide growth strategies.
- Open up new markets in particular areas of operation that will in turn translate into higher sales.
- Attend customer complaints that in one's particular area of operation so as to maintain good customer relations and protect the company's interests.
- Liaise with supervisor in credit control and debt management within particular area of operation.
- Submit daily and weekly reports on progress on activities, including meeting set sales targets.
- Manage debt collection and credit control within one's respective area operation.
- Demonstrate ability to work under minimum supervision.

Minimum Qualifications and Experience:

- University Degree in Business Administration/Sales & Marketing or equivalent.
- At least 2 year's relevant working experience.
- Excellent communication skills, computer knowledge, and familiarity with a wide range of newspapers brands.

MODE OF APPLICATION:

Apply online via HRO email address: vacancy@guardian.co.tz by March 13, 2020

NB: Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

The Guardian Limited is an equal opportunity employer.

215654601

Title deeds will be issued at district offices, Lukuvi says

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

THE Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlement Development has said it has improved its way of operations to offer Tanzanians better services and move away with challenges that fueled conflicts.

The sentiment was made by the minister for the docket, William Lukuvi when he held a meeting with municipal, city council and district council directors in Tabora region.

He said the ministry has decided to reduce the burden of Tanzanians of following up on their title deeds and instead they will get them at their nearest district office.

According to Lukuvi (pictured) people used to travel all the way from Kigoma and Katavi to Tabora where there is a zonal office for the ministry



saying this made them spend a lot of money on transport, the amount that is higher than that used in application of the title deed.

The minister asserted that changes in the ministry will now allow applicants to collect the title deeds at their nearest district office, adding the move was part of implementation of a directive by President John Magufuli that Tanzanians should not carry burdens when looking for title

deeds.

He added that within a short period of time experts at the ministry have changed, contrary to some years ago when people seeking title deeds had to go through a long and tiring process.

Lukuvi said in Tabora municipal for example, land ministry officials were collaborating with ward councillors to distress people hence leading to conflicts.

Regional Commissioner for Tabora, Aggrey Mwanri commended the minister for the various reforms that he has done in the ministry mostly for ending land conflicts.

He said the changes were very important because they will now concentrate on production and other developmental issues because the title deeds will follow them.

USED CARS FOR SALE

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

1. Black MERCEDES BENZ VIANO (VAN) Petrol, 2010 Model, Left Hand Drive, Automatic Transmission, Cc 3200, Mileage 013386 km.
2. White TOYOTA PICK UP, Double Cabin, Diesel, 2006 Model, Manual Transmission, Cc 2986, Mileage 144,981 km.

Viewing time: See Staff at Emirates Embassy Reception;
From 10:00 hrs to 14:00 hrs Sunday 8th March to Friday 13th March

Accepted mode of payment: Cash in USD

Delivery of vehicle: After payment

Vehicles sold on "As Is Basis"

Interested Buyers to enclose their offer in a sealed envelope and deliver to the Embassy of United Arab Emirates, Plot. 375, Toure Drive, Oysterbay, Dar-es-Salaam.

215657201



Dr Amos Nungu (C), Director General of the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (Costech), speaks in Dar es Salaam yesterday on preparations for Innovation Week celebrations to be held at the city's Makumbusho Cultural Village beginning tomorrow with support from various stakeholders including UK Aid. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

All livestock vaccines to be produced in the country come 2021, declares Ulega

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

THE government has put in place strategies whereby come 2021 vaccines for various livestock diseases will start being produced locally.

This was revealed by the Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, Abdallah Ulega in Mwanza when he talked with this paper.

He said they have started producing six types of vaccines for livestock diseases to eradicate conning done to herders who buy fake vaccines.

He said the vaccines being produced are for Newcastle disease, mistiss and anthrax among others for both animals and poultry.

Ulega also said the cost to herders for dipping their cattle is 100/- for a single dip while for goats is 50/- whereas pigs are not dipped, they undergo pesticide spray.

Some of the herders in Mwanza region who spoke to this paper at different times, said some of the challenges facing them include the ineffectiveness of many vaccines making them fail to have a solution

for their problems.

He said this comes in two ways - low quality vaccines and drugs smuggled into the country by unfaithful business people which have already expired, or those manufactured by rogue factories unknown to the government.

Barandaje said another challenge they face is the lack of extension services - they are not visited by veterinary officials, hence the herders decide to look for themselves for drugs and vaccines for their animals bumping into fraudsters while doing so.

He appealed to the government through Tanzania Food and Drugs Administration (TFDA) to examine the quality of all drugs entering the country, veterinary extension officers to stop staying in their offices.

Another herder, Kundaeli Philipo said it would be a relief to them if the government will implement its strategies to have animal vaccines produced in the country as well as educating them on the better use of the drugs.

TIRA planning digitisation of services to curb revenue losses, boost efficiency

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) plans to increase use of electronic system to reduce losses of revenue as well as increase efficiency in serving customers, it has been disclosed.

The insurance service watchdog also eyes increasing the number of Tanzanians with insurance cover, said the authority's commissioner, Dr Juma Musa while addressing TIRA workers

council meeting here recently.

Dr Juma said the authority plans to increase insurance awareness among Tanzanians by 45 percent by 2021, increase insurance purchase to 30 percent in the same period.

"We also target to ensure that at least 20 percent of Tanzanians have one insurance scheme by 2021 and the sector's contribution reach three percent of the GDP," he said.

He argued that insurance sector recorded Sh 661.9 billion in

revenue from sales of insurance services in 2018 and Sh 637.1 billion in 2019. The commissioner attributed the increased collection to hard work by the staff as well as use of the electronic fiscal devices. He added that during the council meeting, they will come up with new measures to achieve the target and improve the authority's performance.

He said the authority plans to improve the existing electronic subsystem in collaboration with TRA, TPA and other institutions.

He noted that customers will therefore be able to get services through electronic system, thus reducing time lost in physical services.

However, the deputy minister for Finance and Planning, Dr Ashatu Kijaji challenged TIRA to increase services to reach more Tanzanians.

She said that the authority's performance is not satisfactory as only four million Tanzanians have access to insurance services as farmers and livestock keepers

are completely locked out. Kijaji who officiated at the opening of TIRA workers council meeting here yesterday, expressed shock that the authority's management has not set realistic goals to help reach uninsured population. Earlier, Dr Musa Juma said the target is to ensure the authority contribution to the national economy reach three percent by 2021 up from the current 0.53 percent. "The management's target is not realistic at all as many people in the country, especially

children still do not have access to

insurance services 58 years after independence," she said, adding that it is the duty of TIRA to ensure all Tanzanians are covered.

She argued that towards the industrial economy, there is need for expanded insurance coverage, more so on the raw material producers like farmers and livestock. "What is the role of insurance sector in the industrial economy drive?" she asked.

Dr Kijaji said there is no industrial economy without producers

who are sure of what they do, stating that the surety is given by the insurance sector.

According to the deputy minister, a 2017/18 report showed that only 15 percent of adult population has access to insurance services. She also expressed concern at different rates of charges offered by different insurance companies in the country, calling on TIRA to ensure uniformity. She said the government loses a lot of money due to lack of uniform charges.

UMEBIMA?

Get your **Health Insurance** through any nearest NMB Bank branch.

Call **0800 002 002** Toll Free!

NMB
Close to you

Jubilee
INSURANCE

www.nmmbank.co.tz

215857401



NIC Bank director general Margret Karume (L) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting to CCBRT Hospital managing director Brenda Msangi an assortment of items including sanitary pads for use by fistula patients admitted to the facility. It was all meant as International Women's Day celebration support. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Govt spends over 40bn/- on rural electrification projects'

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has issued 40.2bn/- to support the implementation of rural electrification programme in the country, Energy Minister Dr Medard Kalemami has said. Inaugurating power service project at Farkwa village in Chemba district, Dodoma region, Dr Kalemami (pictured) said that the government's electrification drive aims to ensure that all villages are connected to electricity by June, 2020.

"Majority of villages in the country are now connected to power something which has stimulated economic activities in the areas, in Chemba district at least 111 villages have been connected to electricity services with only three waiting to be connected soon," he said.

He urged the residents to protect the power infrastructures for them to last long and produce more benefits.

"Make proper use of the power, this include engaging in income generating activities using the electricity so as to improve their economy and contribute to the country's development," he said.

He promised that the government will continue strengthening its efforts to ensure that all people in the Isles are connected to electricity something that will transform people's lives and bring development.



The minister said that through the Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TANESCO) and the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), the government has implemented rural electrification projects in various regions in the country, the projects that have transformed people's lives.

Chemba MP Juma Nkamia commended the government for bringing smiles to the villagers who have been for years praying to have the service.

"My call to the villagers is for them to wake up now and start utilizing the opportunities brought by the power supply to bring development," he said.

For his part, Chemba District Commissioner Simon Odunga stressed on need for residents to embark on various small-scale or even bigger businesses to improve their lives.

World leaders tasked to incorporate safety system principles to reduce road crashes

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

GOVERNMENTS have been called upon to allocate sufficient resources for upgrading existing road infrastructure to incorporate safety system principles to achieve the global goals for reduction of road crashes.

Road designs are critical in the safe system approach, and a powerful means for achieving high-level of road safety.

The piece of advice was

made by the Academic Expert Group (AEG) when making recommendations during the 3rd Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety.

They were concerned that well-designed roads and road sides encourage safe driving speeds, heighten driver attention where risks are increased by the presence of vulnerable road users and prevent the types of crashes that lead to the most serious injuries.

They said the focus of global

road safety efforts needs to remain on low-and middle-income nations, where 93 percent of road traffic fatalities occur.

This is because changes in low and middle income nations needs to take a deeper look at their situation and address this issue, with the help of external partners as the situation requires.

According to them poor de-

signed roads not only fail to protect road users from crashes, but also encourage behaviours that drastically increase risk such as in-appropriate speeds and interactions between vehicles and crossing pedestrians.

Data shows that 1.35 million people die on the roads every year, meaning that 3,700 people lose their lives in road traffic every day. Road trauma is serious and ongoing public health crisis.

Crash costs are typically 2-5 percent of nations GDP each year, impacting every country on earth. The crisis affects developing countries whereby 9 out of 10 road deaths occur.

In-depth crash investigation have shown strong interaction between the roles of vehicles, road infrastructure and road users in contributing to serious crashes, and indicate that road infrastructure factors are most strongly linked to a crash fatalities.

The 3rd Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety which was organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Swedish government marked the end of the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020, and successfully adopted a new global plan for 2020-2030 with a strong commitment to reduce road traffic fatalities and injuries by 50 percent.

Interviewed, Consultant and Advocate of road safety in Africa, Alpherio Nchimbi said govern-

ments are supposed to adopt the international road star rating methodology in the construction and set-up of road infrastructures to reduce road traffic fatalities.

The star rating technology under the international road assessment programme iRAP provides a simple and objective measure of the level of safety which is built-in-to the road for vehicle occupants, motorcyclists, bicyclists and pedestrians.

Kabudi to lead entrepreneurs' delegation to Tanzania-Comoro week-long Moroni exhibition

By Guardian Correspondent

FOREIGN Affairs and International Cooperation minister Prof Palamagamba Kabudi is expected to lead a delegation of 60 entrepreneurs to the Tanzania-Comoro Exhibition to be held at Moroni between March 17 and 24.

Speaking to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Chairperson of Tanzania Saccos for Women Entrepreneurs (TASWE), Anna Matinde said the organisation has partnered with the Tanzania Embassy in Comoro to organise the exhibition with a view to promote and market Tanzania's products in the Indian Ocean Island.

"It is a big exhibition that will attract 60 Tanzanian entrepreneurs mostly women and their 150 Comorian counterparts," Matinde said calling for local entrepreneurs to use the exhibition as their avenue to win markets of their products in Comoro.

According to Matinde, the President of Republic of Comoro, Azalia Assoumani will officiate the important exhibition that would see local products made from different sectors of economy being displayed for markets in Comoro.

"We are today expecting the Ambassador of Comoro to Tanzania to meeting with heads of Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF), Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade) and government institutions to highlight some business opportunities available in his country," she said.

Matinde said 95 percent of Comoro's basic needs are purchased from Tanzania thus calling for Tanzanian entrepreneurs to fully exploit the exhibition for promotion of locally made goods.

She said entrepreneurs will showcase all types food products made from cereal crops, beef, vegetables, spices and grain crops. There will be also different products such as building materials, clothes, garments, horticultural products, honey, fruits and several others.

Matinde said TASWE is working closely with BRELA, Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA), GSI, Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), Weight and Measures Agency (WMA) and Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF).

Other organisations working with TASWE are TanTrade, Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA), Diaspora, Air Tanzania Company Ltd and a number of banks and other financial institutions.



It is a big exhibition that will attract 60 Tanzanian entrepreneurs mostly women and their 150 Comorian counterparts



Juma Kimori (R), NMB Bank Plc's Chief Internal Auditor, receives an award from Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan after the bank emerged one of the leading agency in the implementation of the country's learning through internship strategy. The bank has been offering professional development opportunities for new Tanzanian graduates as part of an initiative designed to nurture their talent. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

FAO, China discuss possibility of on desert locust control

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has developed a comprehensive preparedness and response plan to deal with the scourge of desert locusts currently afflicting seven countries in Eastern Africa—Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, and Uganda.

So far, the desert locusts have ravaged hundreds of thousands of hectares of cropland and pasture in those countries.

Tanzania is placed on high alert given the scale of swarms currently afflicting its neighbours, Kenya and Uganda. This situation calls for good coordination and wider collaboration with various stakeholders in preparing for any possible

locust invasion.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and the People's Republic of China have committed to work together in supporting government efforts to increase agriculture productivity, including supporting preparedness monitoring and timely reporting in the event of any desert locust invasion.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday, FAO Representative, Fred Kafeero and Chinese Ambassador to Tanzania, Wang Ke, said that they had a fruitful discussion on a number of issues including the desert locusts invasion menace.

"We discussed different aspects of supporting food and agriculture initiatives in the country particular-

ly the challenges caused by desert locusts in the Horn of Africa and the unprecedented risk to agriculture-based livelihoods and food security in Region," said Kafeero soon after the meeting.

The FAO Representative recognized the generous support from a range of development partners to a Regional Appeal that FAO made for controlling the desert locust invasion and urged China to join this effort.

"But the need for preparations for the country was highlighted and in that regard we both agreed that it is important to work together to find ways of strengthening these capacities for surveillance and reporting," he added.

Ambassador Wang Ke called for

a closer collaboration with FAO in the provision of the required expertise. "There are possibilities to have Chinese experts working alongside FAO and the government to strengthen technical capacities in agriculture in general, and for surveillance, monitoring, and timely reporting about the situation of locusts should there be a big challenge," she pointed out.

The ambassador strongly emphasized on the opportunities that are available in terms of experts from her country in food and agriculture field who would make a lot of contribution to the discussions for transforming the agriculture sector in the country.

During the discussions they also explored possibilities of strength-

ening the general support to agriculture development in the country, the issue of access to markets by farmers particularly on agricultural products produced in the country.

Kafeero appreciated the enormous support provided to FAO by the Chinese Government through FAO-China Trust Fund for South-South cooperation that has helped a number of countries in accessing technologies from China and exchanging knowledge and expertise important in transforming their agriculture sector.

This is one of the modalities that can bring about learning and knowledge transfer and exchange of experiences for the benefit of agriculture in the country.



Kisarawe District official Mtela Mwampamba addresses students and parents at a Form Four graduation ceremony held at the district's Christon Boys Secondary School earlier this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tanzanians urged to prepare psychologically to abandon 'mitumba' due to pending tax increase

By Guardian Reporter, Moshi

MINISTER for Industry and Trade Innocent Bashungwa has appealed to Tanzanians to start preparing themselves psychologically by stopping using secondhand clothing (mitumba) and other imported used goods as the government plans to increase tax thereon.

Bashungwa revealed this yesterday after his official visit of leather factories - Himo Tanners and Moshi Leather in Kilimanjaro region.

He said as of now local industries have attained great success to produce quality goods and the government is considering to increase huge tax on secondhand clothing from foreign so as to develop the country's local industrial economy.

"You know secondhand imported goods kill our local industries, and that is why we intend to increase the tax to protect and strengthen local industries as well as increase employment and national GDP," he said.

While at Moshi Leather factory, Bashungwa said at the moment local industries make quality goods, but face stiff competition to cheap imported low quality goods.

He said he will soon hold talks

with the Finance Minister Dr Philip Mpango to set up a conducive environment to strengthen local industries by discussing the tax rate to be imposed on the imported goods.

Some owners and managers of the leather factories in Kilimanjaro region expressed delight on the envisaged government plan saying it will save the local factories from collapse.

Himo Tanners Managing Director, Sabasi Woiso said: "Before the industry policy we deteriorated because of difficult business environment that existed, but now we are going on well."

He added: "we are irked by foreign goods sold cheaply, the situation that has been hampering our endeavours by failing to manufacture leather products from local raw materials, hence we asked the government to put stress on the protection of local industries."

Statistics from the Ministry of Livestock shows that more than eight million raw hides and skins get lost out of 10 million pieces produced in the country every year.

However, only 1.5 million pieces of raw hides and skins enter the official leather business with the government receiving its tax share.

Stakeholders express satisfaction with govt plans to improve investment climate

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

INVESTORS who attended the just-concluded public-private sector consultative meetings in Mara, Simiyu, Shinyanga and Mwanza regions have expressed their satisfaction on the forums, saying important issues that impede businesses were aired and the government pledged to work on them.

The meeting was attended by high-ranking government officials including the Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office (Investment) Angellah Kairuki and Deputy Finance and Planning Minister Ashatu Kijaji.

In all the meetings, taxes, levies and interest on loans was issues on the lips of delegates.

Land -- more so its acquisition -- which used to take the centre stage in such meetings is no longer as prickly and itchy as it used to be; not even red tape!

Delegates from the hospitality industry gave example of 'bed charge' which they said become a tax when money was going to the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and become a levy when money for the same bed was going to district councils.

"We own up to that corrosive grievance," said Kairuki calmly, but assured delegates such grievances were on their way out. The government was determined to make the investment climate better and better, she said, adding that the fifth phase government under President

John Magufuli walks its talk.

Dr Kijaji minced no words; she was candid, telling financial institutions to make soul-searching.

"Re-assess yourselves. In the past the government was lending banks at an interest rate of 16 percent.

The Bank of Tanzania is now giving loans at an interest rate of 7 percent and you are charging borrowers over 16 percent. This is wrong," she told banks.

In an awakening scenario, she gave an example of the role SUMA JKT currently plays in the construction industry. "The government wants to build a building. The charges of a private company are prohibitive.

The charges of SUMA JKT are usually less than half of the charges of a private contractor. The government has no option but to use SUMA JKT," she told delegates.

Dr Kijaji said unless commercial banks reassessed themselves, the government might be forced to use banks like Tanzania Postal Bank (TPB) and the National Bank of Commerce (NBC) to give loans to the bulk of borrowers in the same way it is using SUMA JKT in the construction industry.

Land, the ministers were told, was no longer a headache to prospective investors because investors secured land titles in 30 days.

Dr Kijaji also revealed that some micro-finance institutions were preying on retirees.

Such institutions were risking stiff government action. She explained that a retiree would borrow 1m/- from a micro-finance institution to chase retirement benefits. When the retiree would get benefits, say after one or two years, the financial institution would demand its principal 1m/- and interest cunningly calculated -- sometimes to a tune of ten million.

"We are studying activities of such institutions. Culprits will be struck off the list," she warned.

Daniel Ndaki told the conference in Musoma that because the current government was true to its promises, many of the challenges raised were resolved right in the consultative meetings.



CONSULTANCY OPPORTUNITY

Closing Date: Monday 19th March 2020, 2pm (Dar es Salaam, Tanzania)

Pact Inc. is an international non-profit organization with its headquarters in Washington, DC. Pact serves communities challenged by poverty and marginalization because we envision a world where everyone owns their future. To do this, we build systemic solutions in partnership with local organizations, businesses and government. Our goal is thriving, resilient communities where those we serve are heard, capable, and vibrant.

Pact Tanzania is looking for an individual or firm to monitor provision of Education subsidies to DREAMS girls adolescent age 9-14 years in 8 targeted councils below

	Target girls to receive an educational kit per council	Number of expected schools where educational kits will be distributed per council
Mbeya CC	4,629	48
Kyela DC	2,540	25
Muleba DC	7,872	79
Kahama DC	3,421	34
Msalala DC	5,223	52
Ushetu DC	5,510	55
Shinyanga MC	2,577	26
Shinyanga DC	8,228	82
Total	40,000	401

Period of this assignment: 1 month

The consultant will work with Pact on the scope of work outlined below.

Scope of Work

Specific scope of work includes but should not be limited to the following:

- Meet with the respective CSOs and conduct a verification of the list of names for DREAMS Girls eligible to receive educational subsidies by comparing to the list of eligible DREAMS girls provided by Pact M&E.
- Conduct an inventory check with the vendor, CSO DREAMS Coordinator and Pact Gender and Youth Coordinator while at the CSO office to assess the educational subsidies brought by the vendors prior to distributing the items to the girls in the schools.
- Work side by side with the vendor tasked to procure and distribute educational subsidies to the DREAMS girls in the schools by ensuring the list used to receive educational subsidies is Pact M&E list and only girls in the list receive the items.
- Submit copies of Educational Subsidies Receive forms for each girl and make sure it aligned with Pact M&E list (ensure the names and IDs in these 2 lists match, the Vendor, CSOs, Girls and their Caregivers, sign the carbonated form to confirm receipt of the education subsidies. (see annex 1)
- Submit final report for every step of monitoring to Pact Gender and Youth Integration Advisor at the end of the exercise.

Interested candidates should request for the full Terms of Reference through email to procurementTZ@pactworld.org by 17th March 2020.

Interested, eligible candidate should deliver their proposal to:

The Tender Committee
Pact Tanzania
74 Uporoto Street, Victoria
P. O. Box 6348, Dar es salaam, Tanzania
Or email consultanttz@pactworld.org

All proposals must be in Tanzanian Shillings and enclosed in a plain sealed envelope. The deadline is 2pm EAT Thursday 19th March 2020.

Please note:

- Late or incomplete bids will not be accepted.
- The quote that complies with all the specifications/requirements and offers the lowest price, as well as all other evaluation criteria indicated in the TOR, shall be selected.
- Pact may cancel solicitation and not award.
- Pact may reject any or all responses received.
- Issuance of request for quotes does not constitute a contract commitment by Pact.
- Pact reserves the right to disqualify any offer based on offeror failure to follow the solicitation instructions.
- Pact reserves the right to waive minor proposal deficiencies that can be corrected prior to award determination to promote competition.
- Pact will be contacting all offerors to confirm contact person, address and that the proposal was submitted for this solicitation.



BANK

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF HYPER CONVERGED INFRASTRUCTURE (HCI SOLUTION)

1. KCB Bank Tanzania Limited invites sealed Request for Proposals (RFPs) from eligible service providers on both lease and outright purchase options for the infrastructure - Hyper Converged (HCI) Solution.

2. Scope and descriptions of specifications for the requirements are clearly detailed in the bid document to be shared via email upon bidders' expression of the interest to the bid or downloaded from www.kcbgroup.com

3. Expression of interest to bid should be sent to; procurementtz@kcbgroup.com with subject: TENDER FOR SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF HYPERCONVERGED INFRASTRUCTURE (HCI SOLUTION)

4. Interested bidders should obtain any further information from Procurement Office, at KCB Bank Tanzania Limited, Head Office, Harambee Plaza, P. O. Box 804 - Dar es Salaam, from 09:00AM to 03:00PM, Monday to Friday except on public holidays.

5. The minimum qualifications required for the bidder should include and not limited to:

- The bidder must be a gold partner with the Original Equipment Manufacturer of the proposed solution.
- Should have at least a minimum of two relevant clients where the bidder has implemented a similar solution within the region.
- Should have tax clearance certificate for the year 2020

6. All requests for clarification or any enquiries concerning the request are to be sent to the email address above before 13th March, 2020 at 3:00PM.

7. All proposals in one original plus two (2) copies, properly sealed must be delivered and dropped in the tender box to the address below;

KCB Bank Tanzania Limited,
Head Office, Harambee Plaza, Oysterbay,
Ali Hassani Mwinyi Road/Kaunda Street,
P. O. Box 804 - Dar es Salaam,

So as to reach the office on or before 3:00PM EAT, Friday 20th March 2020

8. Late submission, partial submission of the proposal, electronic proposals and proposals not received within the stipulated timelines shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of circumstances.

9. The Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to the award of the contract, without thereby incurring any liability to any Bidder or any obligation to inform the Bidder of the grounds for its action.

10. All other terms and conditions are as stipulated within the bid documents

www.kcbgroup.com



The Guardian

www.ipppmedia.com

FRIDAY 6 MARCH 2020

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

E-auctioning of hunting blocks: Care a must, but let us move on

INDICATIONS are that the Natural Resources and Tourism ministry and at least one of the agencies under its wings, the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA), are facing challenges in their efforts to conduct electronic auctioning of hunting blocks.

An earlier launch of the 'operation' failed, and a subsequent one is on the rocks, as interests clash as to the likely winners and losers, while a definitive official strategy on how best to handle the matter looks all but elusive. What is decided is the e-auctioning format to prevent private negotiations, but not much more.

The format supposed to have taken off has been once more set aside and the issue itself sidelined, as it appears to merit a lot of discussion before it is implemented.

There are suggestions that the problem could be the prevalence of intrigues in the lucrative tourism sub-sector, and it doesn't appear that appropriate answers have been found to this as yet.

A ministerial statement issued on Wednesday didn't say much, merely that the online 'operation' that would allow hunting companies to bid for the 26 blocks up for grabs had been halted by the Natural Resources and Tourism minister until further notice. That seriously eroded hope for many.

Some observers wondered how the decision to halt the auction would have taken off after all, considering the queries raised by stakeholders.

The ministry however had said that the relevant authorities would work on those issues first, which would imply that the matter came as some sort of surprise - that the queries had not been envisaged or explored earlier. That is most unlikely, in which case the probable scenario is that some aspects were skipped, and hence the consequent "confusion".

Yet intentions to proceed with the e-auctioning remain in place, in which case a new date for the much-awaited procedure was to be announced at a later date.

This projection was not particularly reassuring as it makes the waiting look interminable, given that it has no implementation timeframe.

But it is known that the hunting season as such is embedded in a timeframe even if hunters from different quarters may have multiple timeframes especially because of the clear absence of biting winter in Tanzania - but relentless heavy rains can wreak havoc.

When TAWA released details of the criteria for bidders, noting especially that the bidding firms must be registered in Tanzania, and one wonders whether this did not amount to a new policy input.

According to the ministerial statement, one of the directors of a bidding company must have experience in wildlife business and conservation credentials tied to Tanzania. One can only guess as to how far this condition would help in getting the best bidders for the country's foreign exchange earnings, assuming we not out to compromise this element.

While policy clarity on such matters is important, at times there is a 'win-win' situation posed, and being Tanzanian definitely helps in motivating the tourism industry at the local level.

However, it is crucial that whatever we do does not eat into earnings accruing from visitations for game viewing safaris. This is an industry where there is plenty at risk, and even a relatively harmless false step can prove disastrous, particularly now when a new pandemic is terrorising the world. It would be great comfort to the nation finding that the ministerial decision has taken into account to the seriousness of the situation.

Yes, women's emancipation calls for personal action and not merely laws

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

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

The VP made the call when addressing a forum to mark the 25th anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), where Tanzania provided the conference president, Gertrude Mongella.

Mongella later became the founding Speaker of the Pan-African Parliament, making Tanzania proud yet again, as she joined several other Tanzanian women to have made it as high-level international civil servants or organisational resource persons.

As the VP aptly stated, soaring that high in Mongella's particular case required that other people had played a big role in bringing her up and encouraging her. While the VP spoke of the need for a national coalition to combat gender-based violence, it is encouraging that a number of organised movements are doing exactly that already. Even then it is possible there are aspects where greater organisation or clarity is needed, meaning that coalitions remain relevant as little can be done by individuals or isolated organs.

Exchanging ideas and sharing experience as witnessed in this particular forum helps in brain storming on strategies to help the upcoming General Elections become more rewarding.

What the VP said may not be all that new, but it remains hugely relevant. She said that sometimes women are their own worst enemies in that, even in politics,

when a woman declares interest in a leadership position, the first to discourage her are likely to be fellow women.

Those who have attended seminars and workshops on such issues know for a fact that it is possible to distinguish between misdirected envy and lack of self-belief among women.

Put rather differently, women who discourage fellow women aren't always directed by narrow considerations of envy or distrust of the particular person but a wider ailment known as inferiority complex.

Now, this is basically a belief ingrained in the conscience and women form part of it - and when one of their own stands up, there is some input of personal envy or distrust.

Scores of representatives of women's organisations who listened to the VP will remember her words when their fellow women pick up forms, and their consciences will be sharper in registering uncalled-for displeasure.

Meanwhile, encouraging progress has been made in our country such that a uniquely male event like premier soccer league encounters have regularly been officiated by a lady referee. More importantly, she is widely considered not just professional but also fair and therefore unlikely to be swayed by inevitable club loyalties.

Add to this the fact that there are many areas where women are easier to trust than men, among them cellphone-enabled money transactions, and the picture gets all the clearer.

We believe what the VP and other speakers or participants said at the forum has left a mark that will help in making Tanzania stand firmer as a member of a world community known for unqualified respect for human rights and the peace and harmony this leads to. Laws will not always work such magic.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

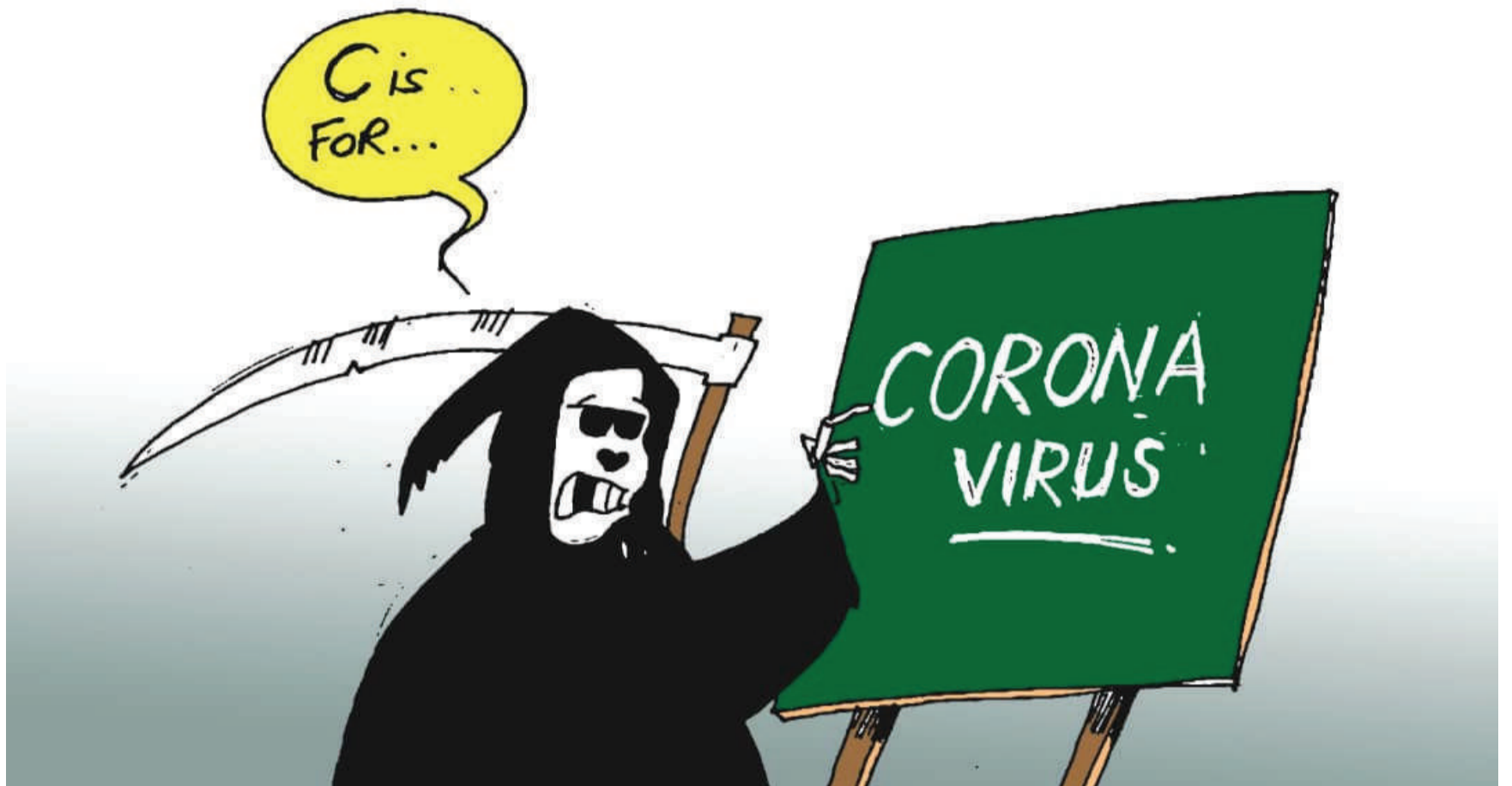
MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO
CIRCULATION MANAGER : EMMANUEL LYMO

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: lppmedia.com, epaper.lppmedia.com



Business leaders to share ideas on Africa's social challenges

By Special Correspondent

BUSINESS leaders from across Africa will seek solutions to some of the continent's most challenging social issues at the Africa Shared Value Leadership Summit to be held in the Rwandan capital, Kigali, this June 4 and 5.

The summit, which is expected to draw leaders from some of Africa's biggest companies as well as decision-makers from government and civil society, traditionally provides a platform for business to collaborate on the social upliftment of the continent.

Delegates also usually use the opportunity to share insights about the most effective ways for corporate bodies to solve social challenges as a core part of their business operations.

The decision to hold the 2020 Summit in Rwanda affords delegates an opportunity to learn from the economic and social developments in the country over the last two decades, with the summit's content aligned with selected priority areas of Rwanda's National Strategy for Transformation (NSTI).

"The solution-seeking sessions will enable delegates to discuss specific regional challenges and collectively contribute and suggest possible solutions," says Shared Value Africa Initiative (SVAI) founder and CEO Tiekie Barnard, adding: "This provides a significant opportunity for delegates to learn and form networks across the continent."

In line with the summit's partnership with Africa Leadership University (ALU), the sessions will be facilitated by students and alumni of the ALU School of Business MBA course, with ALU faculty members compiling reports of these sessions. Undergraduate students will be "ambassadors" throughout the Summit, while African Leadership Group founder Fred Swaniker will also give a keynote address at the summit.

The solution-seeking sessions allow some of the greatest minds in Africa to grapple with complex issues, including how Africa connects across borders to make the continent the global tourist destination, and what is required to create food security in Africa.

The focus will also be on health care - outbreaks, pandemics and the future of Africa's health; expectations versus reality; tracking the societal benefit of the AfCFTA (African Continental Free Trade Area);



how to build Africa's Shared Value ecosystems; and exchanges in conversation - entrepreneurship and public-private partnerships.

AfCFTA is a free trade area which as of year 2018 included 28 countries. Created by the African Continental Free Trade Agreement among 54 of the 55 African Union nations, it is the largest in the world - since the formation of the World Trade Organisation - in terms of the number of participating countries.

The agreement was brokered by the African Union (AU) and was endorsed in Kigali on March 21, 2018 by 44 of its 55 member states.

The pact initially required members to remove tariffs from 90 per cent of goods, allowing free access to commodities, goods, and services across the continent.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa estimates that the agreement will boost intra-African trade by 52 per cent by year 2022.

The proposal was set to come into force 30 days after ratification by 22 of the signatory states. Gambia became the 22nd state to ratify the agreement on April 2, 2019, and the Saharawi Republic made the next deposit of instruments of ratification a short 27 days later. The agreement went into force on May 30 and entered its operational phase following a summit on July 7, 2019.

The general objectives of the agreement include creating a

single market and deepening the economic integration of the continent; establishing a liberalised market through multiple rounds of negotiations; and aiding the movement of capital and people to facilitate investment.

Among the others are moving towards the establishment of a continental customs union; achieving sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development, gender equality and structural transformations within (AfCFTA) member states; and enhancing competitiveness of member states within Africa and in the global market.

Yet others: encouraging industrial development through diversification and regional value chain development, agricultural development and food security; and resolving challenges of multiple and overlapping memberships.

"The Shared Value business model, developed by Harvard Business School's Prof Michael Porter and Mark Kramer, is practised by an increasing number of businesses across the world," says SVAI's Barnard, adding: "This provides opportunities to build business initiatives around solving social problems at scale, contributing to achieving the 17 global Sustainable Development Goals on the continent."

The Summit has become a platform for Africa's business thought leaders to exchange insights and share their experiences implementing the Shared Value business model in the diverse African context. The event

connects speakers from industries ranging from telecommunications to healthcare, manufacturing and mining.

Discussions enable participants new to Shared Value thinking to learn how to embed shared value into core strategy of the business and how to develop the opportunities entailed to address social and environmental issues.

Alongside the solution-seeking sessions, the Summit will feature African leaders sharing how their businesses create economic value and value for society, as well as presentations from various industry sectors.

The last edition of the Summit, held in Nairobi on May 23 and 24, 2019, was attended by more than 350 business executives per day over the two days, with more than 18 countries represented.

The Summit is also meant to encourage business to contribute to achieving the global SDGs on the continent, as Barnard confirms: As with previous years, the SDGs will be a theme throughout at the Summit as a guide to the business leaders to demonstrate how business can contribute to achieving the goals and to addressing social challenges, a core part of their operations."

SVAI is a pan-African organisation and the custodian of the global Shared Value movement on the continent. It brings businesses and business communities from across Africa together with a common purpose: build ecosystems to drive the growth of the African economy; shift Africa from being the poorest continent to become the most economically viable; and bring about change at scale to the benefit not only business but also society and the environment.

Its main objective is to build one of the continent's most powerful business networks, enabling people to partner with and learn from others towards sustainably creating both economic and societal value through their Shared Value strategy, as well as how to motivate others to make the shift to Shared Value, further influencing change at scale.

Since its inception, SVAI has been working to establish a strong footprint across the continent, beginning in South Africa. In that East Africa is home to some of the fastest-growing economies on the globe, SVAI believes that it is a region boasting the potential needed to catalyse a business revolution across the continent.

Successful economies in the region influence and motivate others to follow in their footsteps and, by becoming Shared Value hubs, can influence positive change on the continent.

• **A Shift Social Development dispatch filed from Johannesburg.**

Child marriages, teen pregnancies trap girls into isolation, poverty

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

“ONE man in the rural area I lived, promised to support me in my education, he said he will cover all my school expenses. He said he loved me and he is planning to marry me in the future after graduating my studies,” said Irene Joseph (16) (not her real name) when narrating what happened to her to have a pregnancy at a very young age.

In the course of my studies, he started convincing and asking me to sleep with him just because he had established a relationship with me, I strongly refused to do so because I was still in school and I wanted to see my dreams are met without having pregnancy.

After a long quarrel with him, he forced me to have sex with him and he got me pregnant while I was still a student. Sadly, after he realized that I am pregnant, he run away to escape the responsibility.

“It is now five years since he had run away and I have never met with him. Since then, I started to experience torture and sufferings from my parents, relatives, friends and neighbours who both isolated me because I was pregnant. They didn’t provide any assistance to me.

According to international standards, a child is defined as a person who is under the age of 18. Child marriage refers to a civil, traditional, religious or informal union in which case, either the bride or the groom, or both are under the age of 18.

Child marriage is also a direct form of discrimination against the girl child, who, as a result of the practice, is often deprived of her basic rights to health, education, development and equality.

Globally, the practice of child marriage has been condemned and actually banned by United Nations (UN) and Africa Union (AU) instruments, as it forces

the child to be exposed to harmful practices and dangerous cultural beliefs.

The harmful consequences include separation from family and friends, lack of freedom to interact with peers and participate in community activities, and decreased opportunities for education.

Child marriage is so much about the question of girls’ rights getting violated, with devastating consequences to those girls, communities and the nation at large. That is why the practice is globally condemned.

In fact, both the United Nations (UN) and African Union (AU) have adopted instruments which ban the practice in Member States. In effect, all signatory Member States to anti-child marriage instruments of the UN or AU are required to domesticate them by adopting policies and laws that seek to end the harmful practice.

Despite the presence of Tanzania’s Child Development Policy (2008) and international legislation prohibiting child marriage, the harmful practice has so far proved to be stubborn.

The latest evidence on child marriages in Tanzania published under the study entitled “Child Marriage in Tanzania at a Glance” in 2017, confirmed the reality and extent of child marriages in Tanzania through statistics.

It explains that over the period of six years (2010 - 2016), the rate of child marriage for girls in the 15-19 age bracket increased by 5 per cent. It additionally noted that, 36 per cent of girls between 20 and 24 years old were married before the age of 18.

Rufiji lawmaker Mohamed Mchengerwa suggested the need for national dialogue on what needs to be done to end child marriages in the country by incorporating leaders from the community who perceive the practice as a prestige.

“This is a cross-cutting issue which needs joint efforts from all stakeholders in order to ensure the war on child marriages is given huge attention,” he said.

“Leaving it alone to the government will not be effective to guarantee the end of the problem which girls faced for long time,” adding that this is because norms and cultures contribute to accelerate the problem,” he said.

“This is a great problem, it cannot be addressed by single institution, there is a need to include all ethnic groups in the society, because there are some denominations in the religion who believe child marriages are not a problem.”

“Also, there are others who believe according to what constitution says that eligible age for girls to be married should be 18 year and above,” said Member of Parliament who is also the chairman for parliamentary committee constitutional and legal affairs.

The MP made the suggestion during the ending child marriage high level stakeholders’ symposium which was organised by Save the Children in collaboration with Plan International and Bright Jamii held in Dar es Salaam recently.

Mchengerwa added that the government or the parliament cannot decide alone, because there is a lot of fears from religious leaders that when the student stays at home for long he or she might be in a risks of engaging in sexual behaviour.

“More research is needed in child marriage in order to have a collective decision which will not affect or favor any side in a community to avoid misunderstanding,” he insisted.

The fact sheet prepared by Save the Children in collaboration with Plan International and Bright Jamii Initiative shows that, Tanzania has one of the highest child marriage prevalence rates in the world, where-



by about 37 percent of the women aged 20-24 were married before the age of 18.

“While, 61 percent of women aged 20-24 with no education and 39 percent with primary education were married at the age of 18, compared to only 5 percent of women with secondary education or higher.”

Country director for Save the Children Peter Walsh said the symposium was held purposely to brainstorm on what is needed by the government, by religious leaders and the community to help fight the problem of child marriage.

“We also discussed what we can do to make the year 2020 be the year were child marriages will be addressed at large percent,” he explained.

Walsh said the initiative is supposed to involve the society from the grass root level where incidence originates in order to identify which area needs much attention.

He applauded different steps taken by the government to address the challenge and calling for more investment in the initiative to make sure the battle yield positive outcomes.

The High Court decision which di-

rects the government to amend the Marriage Act 1971 within one year from the date of the ruling sets a precedent for decision makers, policy makers, community members and stakeholders at large to concentrate efforts in abiding to the court ruling hence a major step towards ending child marriage in Tanzania.

“We are focusing on strengthening multi-sector partnership on ending child marriages including development partners, civil society organisations (CSOs), media, government, religious and traditional leaders and communities themselves.

For his part, chairperson for community council and Islamic institutions Sheikh Mussa Kundecha said there is a need to review the ban on teen mothers to proceed with their studies, because education is the right of every individual.

“If we want to protect girl child from all violence we need to empower them with education which will give light on how to protect themselves from the risks of early marriages and teen pregnancies, and not to deny them education,” he said.

“If you deny a girl the right to educa-

tion, you force her into a life of poor prospects, with an increased risk of violence, abuse, ill health or early death,” he elaborated.

According to World Health Organization (WHO) 2018 updates, complications during pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of deaths for 15 to 19 year-old girls globally. WHO has also revised teenager mothers deaths due to delivery complication (15-19 years) are twice as likely to die during childbirth compared to women who are between 20 and 24.

For Tanzania that means 1,122 teenage mother’s die for every 100,000 live births, which is also alarming. Girls who marry and give birth before their bodies are fully developed are more at risk of death or terrible injury and illness during childbirth.

The report recommended that: Helping the community to understand that child marriage is not a solution to poverty but rather the driver of it. This should go in tandem with enabling them to develop strategies to provide other income generating activities. This may include investment in both vocational training and infrastructure.

Encouraging parents to treat boys and girls equally and emphasizing the role they must play in instilling values that reject child marriages.

The government should adapt the 2016 Southern African Development Community (SADC) Model Law on Eradicating Child Marriage and Protecting Children Already in Marriage. The proposal is premised on evidence of the methodical thinking and clarity of the various provisions of the Model Law which entirely complies with existing requirements of international and regional instruments on ending child marriages.

The Model Law suggests comprehensive amendments that can easily be adopted to effectively strengthen existing Tanzanian marriage laws and policies. Therefore, adoption of the Model Law won’t be a tedious, lengthy and costly legislative process.

Also, the report suggest the need to strengthen education and learning environments for girls in rural and urban areas.

The government and responsible ministries should establish/improve programmes that will enable children to stay longer in school and limit school dropouts which may lead to child marriages.

JOHANNESBURG

AFRICAN equity capital market (ECM) activity last year declined sharply over all both in volume and value from 2018, with 2019 posting the lowest proceeds raised in ten years.

The general slowdown in equity markets was largely driven by a series of macro-economic factors including an ECM deceleration in global markets, caution in the period leading up to key local elections which took place in both Nigeria and South Africa in 2019 and more specifically in the latter country, growing political gridlock and economic stagnation.

These are some of the key findings from PwC’s 2019 African Capital Markets Watch publication issued yesterday, which analyses equity and debt capital market transactions on an annual basis.

The report lists all new primary market equity initial public offerings (IPOs) and further offers (FOs) by listed companies, in which capital was raised on Africa’s principal stock markets and market segments. It also includes IPO and FO activity on international exchanges or non-African companies on African exchanges.

Andrew Del Boccio, PwC Africa Capital Markets leader, notes: “A state of uncertainty seems to have become the ‘new normal’, and we expect some degree of volatility and caution to continue to affect Africa’s capital markets activity in 2020.

“This sentiment is also reflected in PwC’s annual 2019 Global CEO Survey, in which African CEOs noted their expectations for a slowdown in economic growth as well

as their top concerns, which included political risk, over-regulation, and worries about finding top talent to fill the skills-gap.”

ECM value for 2019 was the lowest seen over the past decade, while the volume of deals was only lower in 2012. Overall ECM activity in 2019 declined in value and volume by 44 per cent and 29 per cent, respectively, compared to 2018.

The decline was mainly related to activity in South Africa, where ECM activity dropped by 69 per cent in terms of value and 46 per cent in terms of volume compared to 2018, and where Africa’s largest bourse saw no capital raised through IPOs in 2019.

Between 2010 and 2019, there were 927 African ECM transactions, raising a total of \$88 billion. The highest volume of transactions was recorded in 2015 and 2017, with 125 deals each, while 2012 recorded the lowest volume of transactions with 65 deals.

Over the past ten years, there have been 215 IPOs by African companies on both African and international exchanges, raising \$16.9 bn. Last year saw the lowest volume in IPO activity over the past ten years, recording a decline of 47 per cent compared to 2018 activity.

No capital was raised via IPOs on the JSE (Johannesburg Stock Exchange) in 2019. However, South Africa still dominated during the decade under review with seven of the top ten IPOs between 2010 and 2019 and accounted for the two largest IPOs by value - the \$1.2 billion Steinhoff Africa IPO in 2017 and the \$819 million Vivo Energy dual listing on the JSE and London Stock Exchange (LSE) in 2018. Aside from the decreased

African capital market activity in further decline in year 2019

levels of activity last year, there were notable events in specific markets. IPO activity resumed in Nigeria after four years, with Airtel Africa Plc’s dual listing on the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) and the LSE, raising \$687 million. Mozambique meanwhile also recorded its first IPO in six years with the listing of Hidroeléctrica de Cahora Bassa on the Bolsa de Valores de Moçambique.

Between 2010 and 2019, total IPO proceeds of \$15.9 billion were raised on exchanges in Africa in 202 IPOs. Sub-Saharan African exchanges accounted for 133 IPOs (or 66 per cent) and \$12.3 billion (or 77 per cent) of the value raised. The remainder was raised on the North African exchanges.

Of the amount raised on the sub-Saharan African exchanges, the JSE accounted for 71% or \$8.7 billion, while the NSE accounted for 13% or \$1.5 billion. In terms of IPO volume, the JSE and the Botswana Stock Exchange recorded 64 IPOs and 10 IPOs, respectively. The Ghana Stock Exchange, Bourse Régionale des Valeurs Mobilières (BRVM) and the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange each had 9 IPOs, while the Egyptian Exchange accounted for the largest proportion of the IPO proceeds raised on North African exchanges - at 60 per cent or \$2.2 billion, raised from 23 IPOs.

Abidjan-based Bourse Régionale des Valeurs Mobilières SA (Regional Securities Exchange SA) is a regional stock

exchange serving Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, Côte d’Ivoire, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo.

Last year saw FO activity decline significantly in terms of volume and value of transactions - by 25 per cent and 44 per cent, respectively, over the prior year.

Low levels of activity in South Africa fuelled the decline, with the volume of FOs on the JSE decreasing by 42 per cent from 38 deals recorded in 2018 to 22 deals in 2019, and the value decreasing by 58 per cent from \$3.8 billion in 2018 to \$1.6 billion in 2019.

Over the past ten years, a total of 712 FO deals were recorded on African exchanges and by African firms on international exchanges with a total of \$71.1 billion raised.

Year 2019 saw the lowest FO proceeds raised on African exchanges in the past ten years with \$3.5 billion

from 59 FOs. Over the past decade, a significant proportion of FO activity took place in South Africa, with the JSE accounting for 58 per cent and 79 per cent of total FO volume and value, respectively.

Egypt accounted for the next-largest amount of FO volume and value at 10 per cent and 6 per cent, respectively, followed by Nigeria with 4 per cent of both FO volume and value.

African ECM activity in 2019, similar to prior years, was led by domestic deals. These comprised 71 per cent of both ECM volume and value.

Outbound ECM saw a marginal increase in the value of transactions between 2018 and last year, with 11 transactions raising \$225.4 million in 2018 versus 11 transactions valued at \$244.9 million last year.

The JSE led inbound activity last year, with ECM funding raised largely by global companies with primary South African operations or historical market ties.

Egypt was the largest sovereign issuer of non-local currency debt last year, raising a total of \$8.2 billion. South Africa was the second-largest,

raising \$5.0 billion in September in its largest ever Eurobond issuance, as the country seeks liquidity to address budget deficits and broader systemic issues stifling economic growth.

African issuers have raised \$245.9 billion of non-local currency debt from 759 issues over the past ten years, with almost half of that value raised in the past three years.

South African corporate issuers accounted for 52 per cent of non-local currency corporate debt issued between 2010 and last year, including energy utility, Eskom, which accounted for the largest cumulative non-local currency debt value raised by a single issuer over the past decade at \$5.5 billion. This was largely intended to fund the company’s capital expansion programmes, such as the construction of its coal-powered Medupi and Kusile power stations.

Consistent with prior years, we expect governments across Africa to continue to implement strategies towards building robust capital markets. Some recent examples include Ethiopia’s plan to launch a local stock market this year, and Angola’s roadmap to privatise its state-owned companies by 2022. In addition, we can expect to see other announced privatisations in Nigeria, Malawi and Ghana. Alice Tomdio, PwC Africa capital markets director, says: “Despite the lacklustre activity in 2019, we saw significant progress in various capital markets initiatives during the year, including the drive for sustainable finance through the issuance of social, green and infrastructure bonds in South Africa, Kenya, and Nigeria.”

She adds: “Together with a move towards more local currency and blended financing, we expect this trend to continue, and to unlock new sources of capital for African issuers.”

“A PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) dispatch filed from Johannesburg.”



The future Pacific Island children want

SYDNEY

FOR 13-year-old Karen Semens, growing up on Pohnpei – one of the four main island states in the Federated States of Micronesia, which comprises of more than 600 islands in the western Pacific Ocean – the main challenge is being a girl.

"In our culture, girls don't have the same rights and opportunities nor do they get credit and recognition for their achievements as boys do. This prevents us from speaking our minds. For example in family meetings, only men make the decisions. I would like all girls to be treated as equals and have a say in decision making," the 8th grade pupil from the Ohmine Public Elementary school in Pohnpei, tells IPS.

Equal rights for the girl child, climate change, access to healthcare and education are some of the issues Pacific island children are raising at the 84th extraordinary outreach session of the Committee on the 1989 United Nations (U.N.) Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) being held in Samoa's capital, Apia, from Mar. 2 to 6.

Over 100 children from Pacific Island nations are having the opportunity to highlight the issues impacting them and their hopes for the future to the Committee on CRC. In a historic first, a U.N. human rights treaty body is meeting outside the U.N. headquarters of New York or Geneva, offering more governments, civil society organisations, regional agencies, and national human rights and academic institutions a chance to directly interact with the CRC and learn about its work. Having the session in Samoa is also providing the Committee with new insights and understanding of local and regional issues of the Pacific.

On the Mwokilloa atoll, where 13-year-old Austin Ladore's mother grew up and where he spends his summer holidays, rising sea levels and coastal erosion are threatening the very existence of this low lying island and its people.

"We want action on climate change so our islands are protected and we, the children, can have a sustainable future," Austin, Semens's classmate, tells IPS.

"We are at the frontline, facing the



consequences of climate change," Ladore says.

These children would also like access to proper healthcare, drinking water, good quality education, and affordable nutritious food.

"There aren't enough qualified doctors and our hospitals aren't equipped to treat some of the chronic diseases. Many of us eat unhealthy instant noodles as fruits and vegetables are very expensive. Every day, it is getting hotter. It makes us dehydrated, but there is scarcity of drinking water. Most of the schools on the islands have outdated books. We want a solution to all these problems," Semens tells IPS.

Teenager Karen Semens, from the Federated States of Micronesia, says her main challenge growing up is being a girl. She says that her culture doesn't afford girls the same rights and opportunities of boys. File photo

The Committee consists of 18 Independent experts that monitor implementation of the CRC, the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history, by its 196 States parties. During this session, the Committee will review the Federated States of Micronesia, the Cook Islands and Tuvalu on how their countries are protecting, promoting and can further improve the rights of children under the CRC. It will also prepare Lists of Issues on the Republic of Kiribati.

Acting chief justice Vui Clarence Nelson of Samoa, who is the vice-

chair of the CRC and the only Pacific Islander to ever sit on any of the U.N. treaty bodies tells IPS: "The Pacific is a strategic choice by the Committee as it is a region with big potential for improved treaty body effectiveness where: reporting rates and civil society engagement levels are generally low; treaty body engagement and implementation is impeded by geographical and resource constraints – in Kiribati, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Cook Islands, it takes three days to travel by boat to the more remote outlying islands; and representation

on the treaty bodies is extremely low, further reducing the likelihood of effective engagement and implementation."

The Session is 'extraordinary' in nature because of being held in Samoa and is one week in length as opposed to three.

"By 'bringing the treaty body system to the regions and rights holders in their backyard' it is believed that the following impacts will be achieved: Increased ratification of human rights instruments; increased engagement of the States, national human rights institutions, and the civil society with the treaty body system in particular with the Committee on the Rights of the Child; and raising global awareness of regional issues – especially the effects of climate change in the Pacific. To this end a special part of the Session is being devoted to climate change and the right to a healthy environment," Nelson tells IPS.

The principal intergovernmental organisation in the region, the Pacific Community's (SPC - Sustainable Pacific Development) human rights division Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT) has partnered with the U.N. to bring this extraordinary session to Samoa.

SPC RRRT director Miles Young tells IPS: "It is an excellent example of collaboration amongst many parties with a common interest in bringing the treaty body system closer to its stakeholders – in this case, the children, people and countries of the Pacific. This level of interaction amongst Pacific Islanders would not have occurred had the hearing been held in Geneva or New York. The effect will be to make the treaty body system – and therefore human rights – more tangible to Pacific Islanders."

Fourteen Pacific Island Countries (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu) have ratified the CRC.

While progress has been made in implementing the CRC, especially in enacting child protection laws, reducing child poverty, child marriages and mortality rates for children under five years of age,

many challenges persist.

Besides climate change, children are suffering from economic inequalities, food and water insecurity, poverty, epidemics and outbreaks of diseases, domestic violence, sexual abuse and neglect, absence of child protection laws and mechanisms, high levels of corporal punishment in the family and domestic setting, outdated child rights legislation in some of the jurisdictions, and in some States an inadequate child justice system.

"The event has raised the profile of the CRC in the Pacific and we can build on this to generate greater momentum for human rights. We, in the Pacific, are almost always the 'forgotten' region when it comes to global affairs. This is an opportunity to raise a key issue for the region – climate change in the context of Pacific children and the region more generally," Young says.

In June 2019 the annual meeting of chairpersons of the treaty bodies stated its support for conducting dialogues with States Parties at a regional level. The U.N.'s Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has organised the Samoa session with assistance and advocacy of SPC RRRT. The governments of the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Australia and Sweden are sponsoring the session and the Government of Samoa is hosting the event.

"RRRT will be assessing the pros and cons of the sitting – this analysis will feed into the U.N.'s review of the treaty body system, which the U.N. is currently undertaking, and help inform decisions on how and where it holds future treaty body hearings," Young adds.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the session on 2nd March, SPC's deputy director general, Dr A Aumua said: "In the Pacific, there is a saying that 'it takes a village to raise a child'. The meaningful participation of children is essential to the fulfilment of their rights, aspirations and full human potential. I'm confident that we can show the leadership needed to build a sustainable future for the children of this region."

Agencies

There can be no green peace without gender equality

AMSTERDAM

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

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

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

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

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

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

For a start, we need men to be anti-patriarchal and anti-misogynist, and to



be actively campaigning against climate denial, for the benefit of all. Only then would we begin to get closer to the #IWD2020 theme of equality.

Jennifer Morgan

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

"We are all parts of a whole. Our individual ac-

tions, conversations, behaviors and mindsets can have an impact on our larger society," as the IWD organizers say.

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

science.

In my privileged position as a white Western female leading a global and diverse environmental organization, I strive to use my leadership to empower and protect, and include people of all backgrounds.

It often strikes me how I have more access to the halls of power than those with the experience of living on the frontlines of the climate emergency. Those dealing with the devastating droughts, floods and fires linked to climate

change, who predominantly are womxn who are Black, Indigenous, of color, from the Global South.

They are truly powerful people, from whom I get much inspiration, and yet their voices remain too often unheard by decision-makers, policy-makers, the media, and beyond, due to the patriarchy. Amplifying these womxn's voices and increasing their access to opportunities and platforms is central to my mission, and the mission of Greenpeace.

For there can be no green peace without gender equality. At Greenpeace, we aspire to become a leader in building and supporting a workforce that more accurately reflects the diversity of the global community Greenpeace serves, as well as the values the organization espouses, and have initiatives on harassment prevention, unconscious bias and structural power.

We take a zero-tolerance position on sexual, verbal, or physical harassment, bullying and any kind of discrimination based on gender, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, faith, or any other aspect of our beings.

We will continue to examine how systematic marginalization and issues of equity intersect with our core mission and values as Greenpeace. We do this work readily because people power is linked to virtually everything Greenpeace does, from the impact we can make in the world to our ability to thrive as part of a movement.

We must always try to act in a way that sees, values, and embraces people in all their diversity. Boosting the voices of those the patriarchy actively tries to silence will lead to greater equity and better climate solutions.

Remarkable womxn are already leading the charge from Autumn Peltier and Brianna Fruean, the matriarchs of Wet'suwet'en fighting the Coastal Gas Link pipeline, to Vanessa Nakata and Winona LaDuke, among the many others.

But the patriarchy is man-made, much like climate change. It is more than time for cis men to combat gender inequality and the climate emergency alongside womxn, whom they should truly accept as their equals.

Agencies

Mnangagwa grants amnesty to thousands of Zimbabwe prisoners

PRETORIA

ZIMBABWE is set to release thousands of inmates serving sentences for a range of non-violent crimes under a general reduction of jail terms granted by President

Emerson Mnangagwa, state media reported.

The Herald newspaper quoted information, publicity and broadcasting services minister Monica Mutsvangwa as saying the sentence reduction would apply to de-

finied categories of offences, rather than affecting all prisoners.

"Cabinet noted that the country's prison population currently stands at 22 000 against an official holding capacity of 17 000.



The general amnesty, which will be for certain specified categories of prisoners, will certainly decongest the country's prisons and alleviate challenges being experienced by the Zimbabwe Prisons

and Correctional Services," Mutsvangwa said.

"The prisoners still have criminal records, which will count against them if they repeat the offence, and their convictions stand. So they are not pardoned, a process

that nullifies the conviction, but are let out of prison early.

In 2018, Mnangagwa granted another amnesty - cutting the sentences of 3 000 prisoners in Zimbabwe in a bid to decongest prisons.

World remains violent, highly discriminatory place for girls

By Guardian Reporter

A report by UNICEF, Plan International and UN Women has highlighted remarkable gains in education saying more girls are going to school and staying in school than ever before.

Released ahead of the 64th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the report said the number of out-of-school girls has dropped by 79 million in the last two decades.

It said girls became more likely to be in secondary schools than boys in just the last decade.

The report, 'A New Era for Girls: Taking stock on 25 years of progress' was issued in the context of the Generation Equality campaign to mark the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

UNICEF Executive Director, Henrietta Fore said: "25 years ago, the world's governments made a commitment to women and girls, but they have only made partial good on that promise. While the world has mastered the political will to send many girls to school, it has come up embarrassingly short on equipping them with the skills and support they need not only to shape their own destinies, but to live in safety and dignity".

Fore said that access to education is not enough hence the need to change people's behaviours and attitudes towards girls.

"True equality will only come when all girls are safe from violence, free to exercise their rights, and are able to enjoy equal opportunities in life," she noted.

Plan International Chief Executive Officer, Anne-Birgitte Albrechtsen said governments should account for their commitment to the historic Beijing Declaration.

"Adolescent girls suffer heightened discrimination as a result of their age

and gender and yet continue to be side-lined in their communities and in decision-making spaces, largely invisible in government policy. Empowering adolescent girls yields a triple societal benefit. If we fail to grasp this and to end the discrimination girls continue to face the world over, we will stand little chance of achieving the gender equality ambitions set out in Agenda 2030," Albrechtsen said.

UN Women Executive Director, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka said: "Since 1995 in Beijing, when a specific focus on 'girl child' issues first emerged, we have increasingly heard girls assert their rights and call us to account. But the world has not kept up with their expectations of responsible stewardship of the planet, a life without violence, and their hopes for economic independence".

According to the report, violence against women and girls is still common. In 2016, for example, women and girls accounted for 70 per cent of detected trafficking victims globally, most for sexual exploitation.

It said an astonishing 1 in every 20 girls aged 15-19 - around 13 million - has experienced rape in their lifetimes, one of the most violent forms of sexual abuse women and girls can suffer.

Girls today are at a startling risk of violence in every space - online and in the classroom, home and community - leading to physical, psychological and social consequences.

The report notes that harmful practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM) continue to disrupt and damage the lives and potential of millions of girls globally.

Each year, 12 million girls are married in childhood, and 4 million are at risk of FGM. Globally, girls aged 15-19 are as likely to justify wife-beating as boys of the same age.



A member of the paramilitary force, currently on training at the Moshi-based College of African Wildlife Management Mweka in Kilimanjaro Region, demonstrates his physical and mental prowess by pushing a motorcycle in style on Wednesday - 'as more danger looms'. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Mussa Hassan Zungu (L), Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and the Environment) exchanges greetings with visiting French senators who paid him a courtesy call in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: VPO

DRC discharges last Ebola patient

KINSHASA

THE last hospitalized Ebola patient in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has been discharged, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has announced.

In a tweet, WHO congratulated all partners involved in the Ebola response activities in the country. The Ebola survivor Masika Mawasu Semida thanked health workers upon her discharge from the treatment centre in

Beni.

A cheerful Masika Mawasu Semida told reporters: "I say thank you, God bless them (responders, medical teams). Those who say that Ebola doesn't exist are wrong, because I've suffered from it."

Dr Mory Keita, WHO spokesman in Beni said the countdown was now on for the awaited end of the epidemic. "Once this case is released, once they are cured, we can now count the 42 days before we can declare the

end of the epidemic."

WHO Regional Director Dr Mathsidiso Moeti in a Tweet said she was "cautiously optimistic" that the epidemic will soon end, as there have been no confirmed cases of Ebola in the last two weeks and only two in the last 21 days.

The recent Ebola outbreak in DR Congo since it was declared in August 2018 has left more than 2,200 people dead, with 3,310 cases reported.

CAMFED highlights need to educate young women, girls in rural Africa

By Guardian Reporter

AS people around the globe celebrates the 25 anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), a local organisation - Campaign for Female Education (CAMFED) has highlighted the need to educate young women in rural Africa to make them independent and influential leaders of sustainable businesses.

Executive Adviser and founding member of the CAMFED association of women leaders educated by the organisation, Fiona Mavhinga said that it all starts with women and girls' education and valuing them equally, with the same opportunities and rights as their male counterparts.

"Equality starts with education. Education paves the way for financial independence and leadership. When a woman is financially independent, she has a voice; she has agency; she can resist exploitation and make decisions about her body and her future," said Mavhinga.

She added: "A financially independent woman has the capacity to reach out to others, to lift them up. She can be that role model, that entrepreneur, that policy maker, using her own experience to help others go further, quicker".

According to her, women continue to face a lot of barriers since they still don't have the same educational opportunities, land, capital, or support networks as men.

"When you remove barriers, women's contributions create an incredible multiplier, making the world a better place for all of us," Mavhinga added.

CAMFED, which invests in young women in and beyond the classroom, now has a 150,000-strong network of educated women leaders. The organisation is celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in the context of the 'Generation Equality' campaign.

One of the beneficiaries of CAMFED support, Ally from rural Tanzania, a climate-smart farmer who has already trained 1,200 community members, and offers jobs to 15 workers.

She supports students with life skills sessions, and donates food to her local school.

Ally said: "I would like to create a supportive environment to ensure girls access school easily, perform well and understand the consequences of early pregnancies and marriages, and of dropping out of school."

In 2006, Ally joined the CAMFED association and quickly became a valued member.

With support from CAMFED and the Girls' Education Challenge, funded by UK Aid, she trained as a life-skills mentor, known as a CAMFED Learner Guide. Ally volunteered her time to deliver a wellbeing curriculum in school. From there she became a core trainer, cascading her knowledge so that many more CAMFED Association members could step up as learner guides and transition guides.

Between 2011 and 2013, Ally held the elected position of CAMFED association district chairperson. In 2014, an exciting opportunity arose, through CAMFED's partnership with the Mastercard Foundation and EARTH University, for Ally to learn new skills in climate-smart agriculture.

"I was one of 14 pioneering CAMFED Association members selected to attend a tailored six-week course in Sustainable Agricultural Systems at EARTH University. I learnt new agricultural techniques and gained skills in building water pumps for irrigation, in the use of agroforestry (mixing trees with lower growing crops), the use of natural fertilizers and value addition which includes processing and packaging produce to increase profit margins", she noted.

As an agriculture guide, Ally has reached more than 1,200 people across eight rural districts in Tanzania.

"I have introduced new eco-friendly technologies in my district that benefit people beyond their farming practices and trained more than 500 people in the use of fuel-efficient patsari stoves, helping them reduce exposure to emissions and time spent collecting firewood," she said.

Why women's political participation is vital for success

By Guardian Correspondent Daniel Semberya

LITERATURE has revealed that Tanzania as one of the UN member countries has ratified the declarations of the platform popularly known as "the Beijing Platform for Action [BPA]" that was geared towards achieving various goals; among others was taking measures to ensure women's equal access to and full participation in decision-making and leadership.

Female participation in decision-making has consistently been at the center of the global development agenda, especially after the United Nations' World Conferences on Women.

Equal participation of citizens is required by the Tanzanian Constitution Article 21, affirms that every citizen of the United Republic of Tanzania has the right to participate in the governance of the country either directly or through their representative.

Speaking over the weekend in Dar es Salaam during Policy Forum's breakfast debate focusing on women's special seats in Tanzania, Lecturer in the Faculty of Law at the Open University of Tanzania, Dr Victoria Lihiru said that women special seats were advantageous to the country's development and democracy.

The advantages according to Dr Lihiru include the increase of the number of women representation to 37 percent in 2015, from 10 per cent in 1985.

Women's mindset on leadership has drastically changed. In recent years some women have been holding top positions in the country like, the Vice President, Deputy Speaker, and some key ministries posts.



Lecturer, Faculty of Law at the Open University of Tanzania, Dr Victoria Lihiru insists on a point during Policy Forum Breakfast debate over the weekend in Dar es Salaam. Photo: courtesy of Policy Forum.

Having been in decision making they have enabled for the enacting of laws and policies that are used to address inheritance, rape, violence, labour and education matters that have been major challenges facing women.

Dr Lihiru defines, women special seats (WSS), as part of the world-wide temporarily special measures (TSM) that are meant to address past inequalities causing low participation of women in decision making processes.

They also overcome societal bias against women being elected; correct, compensate, reverse past and future discrimination.

She further said that, despite their importance women special seats face the following challenges: Don't have geographical areas for accountability purposes; not allowed to chair or be a member of ethics committees, not

qualified to be Prime Minister, don't have constituency fund, like their counterparts, the voted ones.

Meanwhile, she has suggested that women special seats should not be eradicated until when there are best alternatives that will ensure women get in decision making.

For her part, the discussant to the debate, Gender Specialist Dr Suma Kaare concurred with Dr Lihiru by saying that WSS should not be removed.

But instead she suggested for the abolition of the negative gender norms that have been prohibiting women from directly contesting for constituency and high political positions.

Dr Kaare although commended political parties for including gender matters in their manifestos, but she called upon them to enforce its implementation. "We need to improve what we already have," she urged.

Other findings have shown that the government of Tanzania has also ratified UN charters such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Moreover, the country has signed the 2008 SADC protocol on gender and development on 17th August 2008 with the aim of addressing gender equality and equity as well as international and regional standards, which are morally and legally binding with regards adhering to equal and non-discriminatory policies in development processes.

Furthermore, SADC stressed that, every member countries should ensure the implementation of its objective of ensuring that 50 per cent women are in the decision-making bodies at the national level.

One could also question how the SADC objective can be translated to the local situation and whether the emphasis on achieving 50 per cent female representation has any impact on the actual participation of women in decision-making or not.

The SADC laid emphasis on increasing the number of women in the decision making levels, without taking into account what the women do after accessing the decision making positions.

Political participation of both men and women is critical and seen as the heart that pumps the community's lifeblood. Women political participation is therefore vital for success and should be incorporated at all levels of decision making from the local to global level.

To implement this, the government of Tanzania introduced the special seats arrangements and quota systems that aimed to increase the formal access of women to decision-making bodies in 1985.

The aim was to have women representative to the parliament and local council based on the proportional or votes obtained by each party in the election.

What women do after being appointed or elected seems to be left out in the discussions of women participation. For instance, it has been shown that the gender policy in Tanzania emphasises having a fair proportion of special vacancies (appointed and elected) in executive and management for women at the local, national and international levels.

The policy goal is to have balance of numbers in the decision-making bodies.

Although quota system continues to be the most direct measure for tackling the increasing imbalance with regard to female participation in politics, it does not seem to address to a significant extent issues concerning equity and equality in terms of political representation.

The initial objective of special seats for women was not to redress the imbalance but rather to ensure that the voices of a special category of citizens were heard in decision-making bodies in order to enhance the representation of varied interests.

The emphasis is to hear the voices of the increased number of women and to boost the representation of varied interests of women in decision making.

United Republic of Tanzania Constitution Article 21 emphasises equal participation of citizens in the governance of the country either directly or indirectly through representative democracy.

However, the inequality between men and women in decision making machineries continues despite this constitutional provision. To address the gender imbalance, quota system was adopted.

The system was initially introduced in 1985 and it is now used both at the local and national levels.

It was found that quota system and special seats systems have successfully increased the number of women in the decision-making bodies both at the national and local levels.

Questions have been raised by some policy analysts and the general public on the appropriateness of quotas in improving women's political participation; and whether they can bring about gender parity in the country's politics.

Many milestones but painfully slow progress towards gender equality

ROME

THE narrative surrounding women's rights in 2020 carries much hope and possibility. A new decade is ushering in important anniversaries and milestones: 25 years since the Beijing Platform for Action, 110 years since the birth of International Women's Day and the 10-year countdown to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

These dates are all significant of course, and their impact is sure to be positive to an extent, yet there is an undertone of wishful thinking that events in themselves can ignite powerful change, and a simplicity that disregards the more complex and insidious existence of systematic inequality.

These milestone moments will be written about, documented in the news, and read by many. But the opportunity for real tangible change gets diluted as we forget that actions perpetuating gender inequality are often normalised, taken for granted, and occur in social strata globally where the news of such events seldom reaches. International Women's Day, for example, perceived by some as an unmissable opportunity to celebrate, campaign for, and protect women's rights, is simply ignored elsewhere.

That's the issue with these occasions and high-level discussions attended by those with access - they create a barrier to understanding for those who aren't even aware they are occurring. They don't form part of everyday life for those most actively affected. Women denied education won't understand what specific legislation means for them, and women denied the opportunity to take autonomy in their lives are not going to be the ones in attendance, or those given access to the results.

Women with the privilege of being part of such occasions are likely to have already a recognisable level of emancipation from explicit forms of oppression.

Campaigns for women's suffrage began over a century ago and the first IWD has its roots in a 1910 session of the International Socialist Congress, although March 8 became accepted as the common date some years later, and was adopted by the feminist movement in 1967. The UN designated 1975 as International Women's Year and has consistently recognised the annual honoring of women as a call for change and celebration of progress.

Political figures with an unequivocal platform to promote equality are becoming evermore visible. Germany's Angela Merkel is widely respected for her strong opposition to nationalist and populist movements; Jacinda Ardern of New Zealand is hailed for her stand against hate and discrimination; Bangladesh has been praised for its assistance to one million Rohingya refugees driven out of Myanmar and Sheikh Hasina has been prominent on the international stage in seeking to resolve the humanitarian crisis. All women, all leading purposefully in situations that could easily perpetuate discrimination against so many. Barack Obama's comments on women making "indisputably" better leaders are clearly justified by these game-changers.

The point here is that while 2020 could be a landmark year for gender equality, the efforts required to reach our goal have to be deliberate and far reaching. Just the instance of these events happening won't have any measurable result.

Positive reinforcements of achievements do plant the seeds of change. The celebration of role models who represent shattered glass ceilings, the



publicised calls for action, and the spotlight on game-changers all bring this possibility of change where women and girls can access conclusions to be reached this year. Having solidarity and a purposeful connection can nurture the strength to fight for the elimination of gender inequality. The girl in Nepal forced to sleep in a tiny hut during her period should hear about the government minister's wife who became the first menstruating women in her district to spend a night in her own house. The woman who is reluctant to demand that she be paid equal to her male counterpart should hear about other women doing that. The girl consistently told that she is bossy when trying to take initiative should hear about female politicians and businesswomen who are widely respected for their leadership styles. The list goes on.

Access to the knowledge of a possibility of change is crucial. Giving those most affected by gender inequality the solidarity of a community which knows that change is possible will have a significant effect on igniting the shift in gendered practices.

With the SDGs acting as a blueprint for global efforts to eliminate poverty and inequality by 2030, the 10 years we have to achieve this are scarcely enough. More than half of the 129 countries measured in the 2019 SDG Gender Index scored poorly on SDG 5, which calls for

international gender equality and the empowerment of all women. There is a serious question to be asked whether setting such goals are operationally viable. As the UN highlights: "The emerging global consensus is that despite some progress, real change has been agonisingly slow for the majority of women and girls in the world."

Complete elimination of gender inequality, and the genuine expectation for this to have been met in the 25 years since the Beijing Platform for Action, may be too far-reaching to even aspire to. It risks creating a defeatist mentality, a sense we just don't have the means to get there. At what point can we confidently say that a country has achieved full equality?

Smaller, more manageable goals with a clearer path for completion, should be adopted instead. In this context it is also important to recognise the shortcomings of setting an absolute in the first place. Such is the volatility of human behavior that there will never be 'complete' equality, but there is much that can be done to make the situation better for all.

One of the arguments for the SDGs is that they provide a strong framework for action to be implemented by those in a position of power, such as equal pay for the same job, and access to reproductive health facilities. While these are crucial steps in giving women equal-

ity of opportunity, identifying legislative acts as indication of progress towards equality can give the illusion that further action is unnecessary. This in turn drives more subtle and clandestine forms of gender inequality further away from public recognition.

Yes we should be celebrating these monumental events that bring to light incredibly important issues. IWD 2020, aptly named "I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights" which aligns with the UN Women's Generation Equality campaign, carries this torch. But do not let such moments obscure the painfully slow pace of progress and the insidious existence of systemic inequality.

However the coronavirus outbreak means that these landmark events are likely to be much curtailed. The first major event to be knocked off course is a March 9-20 meeting in New York of the Commission on the Status of Women. It had been expected to draw more than 7,000 attendees, but will be shortened and scaled down after the UN urged capital-based ministers and diplomats not to travel. But instead of treating this as a setback, we should seize the opportunity to really push the agenda ahead without being bogged down in the usual meaningless formalities and empty platitudes.

Agencies

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solutions. Includes 'THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT' and 'THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD =064='.

CORAL PAINTS MARKS 30 YEARS WITH 100M/- ANNUALLY TO EMPOWER AGENTS

By Francis Kajubi

In a bid to ensure that its agents and dealers grow their businesses, Insignia Tanzania Limited has been disbursing an average of 100m/- annually in soft loans for the last 10 years.

The paint manufacturing company which trades under Coral Paints brand name has been lending its agents and dealers through its tailor made credit system designed to build capacity of its grass root partners.

Insignia Tanzania's Managing Director, Kishan Debhar said in Dar es Salaam this week during an event to mark 30 years of operations that his company has been growing alongside its small and medium size agents.

"The soft loans offered through our credit system are meant to empower either our agents or small scale businesses that we work with as partners to establish their shops or expand existing ones," Debhar said. About 250 agents and no-agents especially small business owners benefit from such credit line annually.

According to him, the company's credit system allows a beneficiary to repay the loan at the end of the year with modest interest rates that are negotiated between the two parties with respect to credit size and history.

Apart from supporting such business owners, Coral Paints also employs more than 450 people who are mostly Tanzanians. The company has production capacity of 30 million litres per year from its three factories based in Dar es Salaam with branches in Mwanza and Kilimanjaro. It also has depots in Arusha, Dodoma and Mbeya to serve upcountry clients



Insignia Tanzania's managing director, Kishan Debhar, addresses journalists in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Photo: Francis Kajubi

and neighbouring countries.

The company's Marketing Manager, Julieth Mdegela said that the company has 1,500 agents across the country but also abroad in Zambia, Malawi, DR Congo, Rwanda and Burundi. Mdegela conceded that both the local and international market is competitive but that the company does

not consider its competitors a threat but rather an opportunity.

"We produce our own packaging material at our factories and we have a strong distribution network that competitors cannot afford to have," Mdegela argued while admitting that the biggest single threat that their products face are counterfeiters which dis-

turb smooth functioning of market forces.

"We however commend Tanzania Bureau of Standards for its dedicated efforts to fight culprits that has brought about some positive changes aimed at leveling the playing field," she added further asserting that apart from working hand in hand with TBS,

Coral Paint also has its own unit responsible for tracking down counterfeit in the market.

Coral Paints' Sales Coordinator, Lusajo Davis said despite the counterfeiters threat, the company's products remain dominant in both the local and East African market.

New app helping track construction projects, cut costs

NAIROBI

Managing construction sites can be demanding as the projects get bigger and more remote. This can lead to contractors struggling to meet deadlines, often compromising on quality and relationships.

This is what drove a team led by Kelvin Wachira, 28, of Kenya, and Solomon Daboni, 30 of Ghana to come up with a software that helps in monitoring project resources — manpower and equipment — and site monitoring across the continent. This, the duo said, helps to cut costs considerably.

The software dubbed BidiiBuild is now being used in three countries in Africa. The two innovators met at MEST Africa, a Pan-African entrepreneurial training programme, in 2016. BidiiBuild received seed investment from MEST Africa after entrepreneurial training programme in 2017, as well as support from the Pangea accelerator, who have been assisting them in the Kenyan market.

The duo wanted to come up with a management tool to help construction companies better track and manage building projects. BidiiBuild software helps in connecting clients, developers and the contractors and is instrumental in tracking and managing building projects.

According to Mr Wachira, the software helps cut costs by up to 15 percent and boost overall efficiency. "Connecting the client, developer and contractor to one information source has become imperative to successful projects. Especially now when there is a push for affordable housing, you can now monitor your project site from anywhere across the globe," said Mr Wachira who graduated with a civil engineering degree from Dedan Kimathi University of Technology in 2016.

Instead of updating excel sheets at the end of the week, the software gives you real time analytics and automatic reports. Since its launch in October 2019, the software is managing more than 10 construction projects in Kenya which are in various stages.

BidiiBuild charges a monthly subscription or annual licence fee on its construction management software. "Our pricing is based on the client's needs and specification which include the number of projects the client wants to manage, number of users and duration of the project," he added.

The company's focus is on its two primary markets in Kenya and Ghana, but they have received requests from other countries. According to Mr Daboni, the software helps in saving both time and resources spent on a project, making it a useful technology.

"Saving 10 minutes daily on a two-year medium sized project of 30 to 50 employees amounts to savings of between \$8,000 and \$0,000 dollars annually," said Mr Daboni who did a computer science degree at the University of Ghana in 2015.

"It has been observed that just by using daily reporting through the web or mobile phone employees can save an hour each day." The duo have participated in the "Next 100 African Startups Initiative 2018" by the International Finance Corporation (IFC). They are currently working with four employees.



Saving 10 minutes daily on a two-year medium sized project of 30 to 50 employees amounts to savings of between \$8,000 and \$0,000 dollars annually



A foreclosure house in Gauteng.

Banks hit with class action suit over 'unlawful' home foreclosures

GAUTENG

Dispossessed homeowners demand billions in damages from major banks for selling their properties at a fraction of their worth.

Hundreds of dispossessed homeowners filed a class action suit in the South Gauteng High Court on Tuesday (February 10), claiming damages from the major banks for foreclosing and then selling their properties for a fraction of their market value.

The applicants attempted to have the case heard directly in the Constitutional Court in 2017, but the judges ruled it should be heard in the normal way in the High Court. The dispossessed homeowners are asking to be recognised as a class of applicants

with substantially the same complaints. Many are clients of the Lungelo Lethu Human Rights Foundation, which is an applicant in the case.

The court application asks the court to recognise several different classes: Those whose properties were sold for more than 10% below market value since the Constitution came into effect in 1994; Those whose properties were sold by the banks in a manner that was not a "last resort" as required by law; Those who remain in debt to the bank after their properties were sold at prices below market value; and Those who were overcharged on their bond fees in the course of legal action.

All the major banks are cited as respondents, as well as the National Credit Regulator, the SA Human

Rights Commission and the Minister of Constitutional Development. It is estimated that up to 100 000 South Africans have lost their properties through foreclosure since the Constitution came into effect.

Opt-out case

This is an opt-out class action, meaning that anyone who fits within one of the class categories is automatically assumed to be part of the action unless they specifically opt out. It has been estimated that dispossessed homeowners have suffered a 35% loss of home equity through the foreclosure process, which means the banks could be facing claims of R60 billion or more.

Advocate Douglas Shaw, legal representative of the applicants, says the mortgage banks have routinely claimed

they use foreclosure as a last resort, but the evidence suggests otherwise. "Foreclosure, as it was practised by the banks in SA before the current reforms, was cruel and inhumane."

"It has resulted in tens of thousands of families being rendered homeless at a time of financial distress, and most never recovered from this. We are saying that the banks have violated the Constitution by arbitrarily depriving South Africans of their properties when alternative means of recovering their loans were available to them, and by stripping them of dignity.

"The result was a massive transfer of wealth to property speculators and the banks. This case is intended to right this wrong." King Sibiyi, president of the Lungelo Lethu Human Rights Founda-

tion, says the case is vital to restoring human rights and dignity for those stripped of their homes. "Most of those affected are from poor communities. SA has a shocking history of property deprivation and eviction.

"In the 1980s it was the apartheid government that was doing the evicting, but this was child's play compared to what the banks have managed to accomplish over the last 25 years. It is beyond argument that the banks have abused the court processes to have people thrown out of their homes, often for trivial arrears. The evidence is incontrovertible.

"Most of our applicants were not even informed that there was a judgment against them. They only found out when the new owner turned up with an eviction order. The banks are violating

the human rights of their customers and they are abusing our court system. This must stop."

Until December 2017, foreclosed properties were sold at sheriffs' auctions without a reserve price, which resulted in some properties being sold for as little as R100 (and even R10), leaving the defaulting homeowner with a substantial debt to the bank.

The high courts in 2018 changed court rules to allow reserve prices to be imposed by judges. The widespread sale in execution of homes at below market price violates Constitutional rights against arbitrary deprivation of property, argue the applicants. Many properties have been sold for "50% or even 90% less than they were worth," according to the court papers.

DAR'S JOHARI ROTANA OPENS WITH SERVICED APARTMENTS, HOTEL ROOMS

By Property Watch Reporter

UNTIL recently accommodation options available in Dar es Salaam by hotels were conventional hotel rooms along with other services but Johari Rotana has introduced stand alone serviced apartments.

In a statement, the hotel said instead of booking a number of hotel rooms in the city, an individual or family can avoid costs of restaurants, concierge, room services and other extras by choosing to hire a serviced apartment within the hotel.

"Apartment suits offer their own fully equipped kitchen, meaning you can enjoy your favourite meals even when you're in the centre of Dar es Salaam or half way around the world," the statement said.

Among other things, the apartments provide ample space, high standard of cleanliness and home comforts like free Wi-Fi, tables and chairs that are actually comfortable meant for use by hotel apartment suites.

"With your own kitchen and separate bedrooms and living spaces, serviced apartments allow you to maintain your normal family routine," said the statement from the new 5-star hotel decorating Dar es Salaam's skyline.

In all there are sixty apartment studios - all fully equipped with



Johari Rotana Hotel in Dar es Salaam.

stocked kitchenettes, crockery, lounges, sitting rooms, master families or friends, one or two washing machines, spacious bedroom and visitors' toilets. "For bedroom apartments mean that

you can all have your own space, with communal areas like a separate lounge and dining area for the family to get together and relax," the statement added.

The hotel which is situated opposite Dar es Salaam port's passenger speedboats docking berth, also one to stare at breathtaking panoramic view of the harbour through to the magnificent Nyerere Bridge connecting Dar to Kigamboni.

It also provides apartment concierge services which among other things, can pre-arrange and deliver grocery shopping, plus fill one's fridge with wine and beer plus food to satisfy those post-travelling stresses.

The Hamilton's Gastropub offers British and American classic culinary experience like no other. It is a lively venue with stylish colonial-inspired décor, indoor and outdoor seating and comfortable furnishings, the statement added.

The hotel also inco Arabic and Swahili cuisines. "Kibo Lobby Lounge, an elegantly-furnished venue with soft lighting and contemporary décor. Ideal for an informal coffee with colleagues or clients or a relaxed catch up with friends and family over tea and pastries, our lounge features several private seating areas where one can socialise or hold a casual meeting," the statement stated.

Africa's tallest exclusive hotel finally opens for business

JOHANNESBURG

Africa's tallest skyscraper - and one of the most exclusive hotels in Sandton, The Leonardo - finally opened its doors on Tuesday, with developers of the 234-metre tall building saying the 240-suite hotel and residences were ready for occupation.

Legacy Hotels & Resorts CEO & Chairman Bart Dorrestein said all the offices in The Leonardo are purchased and 90% of the apartments are sold. "Our owners are scheduled to take occupation on a phased basis commencing March 2020," he said.

The Leonardo, which is within walking distance of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange and retail hubs of Sandton, was developed by the Legacy Group, in partnership with the Nedbank Corporate and Investment Banking unit. The R3-billion skyscraper project began in 2015, when the Legacy Group awarded the construction contract to Aveng, and actual construction began in January 2016. Already, 50 of the 240 apartments had been sold off plan when construction began.

The project suffered delays, however, which have become a source of conflict between Aveng and The Legacy Group. In January this year, the developer removed Aveng from The Leonardo contract, but the construction firm maintains that the building was "practically complete at the point of termination" and has taken the matter to the adjudicator.

Dorrestein said the opening of The Leonardo would give luxury lifestyle living a new address. The hotel boasts various eateries, as well as nine state-of-the-art conferencing venues and meeting rooms. Apart from the usual hotel facilities, it also has a Montessori pre-school.

"There is no reason to leave. We purpose-built The Leonardo to ensure all guests, whether they are staying with us, or just visiting, have everything they need at one address, and that's ours," said Dorrestein. He added that given the uncertain economic climate in South Africa, The Leonardo served as the Legacy Group's vote of confidence in the country's future.

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

CAPE TOWN

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.

KRA extends to hotel chain City Lodge tax break for Two Rivers

NAIROBI

The Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) has given South African hospitality group City Lodge a tax break worth hundreds of millions of shillings to help the multinational recover the cost of building a hotel at Nairobi's Two Rivers complex.

The City Lodge Hotel was completed in early 2018, qualifying the Bryanston-based firm for capital allowance of 150 percent of the value of the investment. The tax break is given to companies investing at least Sh200 million to construct buildings outside the city of Nairobi and municipalities of Mombasa and Kisumu. City Lodge says it will spread the tax allowance to its other operations in Kenya including Nairobi's Fairview Hotel and Town Lodge.

"An allowance of 100 percent was approved in respect of City Lodge Hotel at Two Rivers Mall by the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA)," the multinational said in a trading update. "This will lead to a zero normal tax charge for the entire Kenyan operation until such time as the allowance is fully utilised. A cash flow benefit exists due to the suspension of normal tax payments, until such time as the allowance is fully utilised."

City Lodge did not disclose the size of the tax waiver which it had been waiting for since 2018. The hotel at Two Rivers has 171 rooms. The tax incentive is offered to boost projects outside the major towns where there is high concentration of investments, including manufacturing plants.

The same is enjoyed on capital expenditure on buildings and machinery used for manufacturing under bond or in export processing zone as well as special economic zones. Nairobi has hogged most of the investments in fixed assets including factories, warehouses, residential and office buildings.

Ubongo launches digital toolkits platform for learners across Africa



Akili and Me series cartoons.

By Property Watch Reporter

UBONGO, a local producer of edutainment programmes for children whose brands include Ubongo Kids, Akili and Me series, is set to unveil its new digital toolkit platform during an early childhood development conference dubbed 'Building Brains' opening in Dar es Salaam today.

In a statement this week, Africa's leading producer of children's edutainment said it will host its first Early Childhood Development (ECD) Conference dubbed Building Brains which will also incorporate a symposium where Ubongo's free, digital learning toolkits platform will be launched.

Set to be conducted in both English and Swahili, Building Brains will bring together diverse stakeholders in ECD to join forces and kickstart a new movement that puts early learning at the forefront of the development conversation in Tanzania and across Africa.

"We have a unique opportunity to reach families across Africa through mobile with interactive, educational, and life changing content. Our edutainment platform can be leveraged to shift mindsets and behaviours of caregivers and stakeholders toward purposeful early learning through stimulation and play in the home and community, to equip kids with necessary numeracy, literacy and life skills," said Doreen Kessy, Ubongo's Chief Business Officer.

Sponsored by HDIF (funded by UKAid) and Grand Challenges Canada (GCC), the two-day, bilingual event will, among other things, involve inspirational talks from a diverse group of innovators, policy-makers and unsung heroes of early learning to include: parents, educators and development partners; tech-powered exhibitions and experiential learning stations catered to caregivers.

"Our parent-focused program Akili Family provides parents with practical tools they can use to improve their kids' learning. We are excited to bring Building Brains to

the table as an added effort to drive this message to the key influencers of a child's development," Kessy added.

In addition, Ubongo will be exhibiting and disseminating USBs with toolkits to parents, caregivers and partners. The toolkits serve as teaching aids for the purpose of improving the quality of instruction with play-based visual and audio learning content.

"With support from HDIF, we've spent the last 2 years testing and developing the Ubongo Toolkits. Our toolkits are localised educational resources for kids aged 0-14, covering various topics from early numeracy, pre-literacy, and social and emotional skills to engineering, science

and technology," she noted.

The Ubongo Toolkits resources cover a range of media including video, audio and printables which are made available to caregivers, practitioners in ECD keeping the end-user needs in mind for ease of share and usability.

"More so, we have also developed guides on how the materials can be used in different settings such as classrooms and teacher training programs. We distribute our toolkits through a web platform, USB flash drives, Google drive and WhatsApp which will be further developed as use-cases on how partners can reach families with fun, localised educational content," the Ubongo's

CONSTRUCTION

SIDEWALK LABS RELEASES ITS MASS TIMBER PROTO-MODEL FOR HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS

NEW YORK

Sidewalk Labs, a subsidiary of Google's parent Alphabet, has released its new digital study for mass timber buildings that could reach 35 storeys in cities. The study has been developed as part of Sidewalk Labs' Mass Timber City in Toronto, which was scaled back after a vote held in November.

Called Proto-Model X (PMX), the study was detailed in blog posts, written by project head Cara Eckholm, and set as a "digital proof-of-concept" to explore how this model could also work in higher buildings in cities. Sidewalk Labs worked with Michael Green Architecture and Gensler on this project.

The company had released its master-plan for a waterfront in Toronto in February 2019, however, the plans stirred controversy and raised privacy concerns "over the use of the collected data from the neighbourhood and its sharing with the third parties."

In November 2019, it was announced that it was voted unanimously to limit the team's original plans. Released in a blog post on 24 January 2020, Eckholm's article now gives detailed insights into the mass timber high-rise towers' hypothetical performance.

In the first article, entitled "Exploration 1: How to design a timber building that can reach 35 storeys", the article states that, "To gain insight into the performance of our 35-storey mass timber proto-model, PMX, the team modelled how it would compare to a traditional concrete building of the same size."

"PMX was approximately 2.5 times lighter than its concrete counterpart, and when we began doing wind analysis, we discovered that PMX was reacting more like a building of 40 or 50 storeys. That's one of the reasons why many of the tall timber buildings completed to date are actually hybrids, reinforced at their cores by concrete walls or steel bracing."

The article also added that according to the company's findings, a timber exoskeleton performs better than other structural systems with respect to maximising floor plate efficiency. "After the team evaluated a series of options, it became clear that the only pure-timber structural system that would work for PMX was an exoskeleton form," the article stated.

The second article, entitled "Exploration 2: How to design a timber building that's easy to make in a factory," explores advantages of timber's potential to use in off-site manufacturing. The company also produced some "representative images of the kit" of parts that form the PMX building to understand the analogy of high-rise.

It said "everything in this 'kit of parts' has to be modular and interlocking, including infrastructure like plumbing." "Standardisation of the parts enables the manufacturing process to be faster and more predictable, and their interlocking nature enables easy on-site assembly. Collectively, these traits speed up construction, making buildings cheaper to complete and driving affordability for builders and tenants."

The PMX team and consultants on the project include: Aercoustics, Aspect Structural Engineers, Atelier Ten, CadMakers, Gensler, Integral, JE Dunn Construction, Michael Green Architecture, RDH, Sweco, and Vortex Fire.



Sidewalk Labs's Proto-Model building.

Catholic bishops in Philippines oppose \$240m Kaliwa Dam

MANILA

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) called on the government of President Rodrigo Duterte to halt construction of Kaliwa Dam in Quezon Province, which will be funded by China as a privately financed partnership, and built by Chinese contractor, China Energy Engineering Group (CEEC).

The dam will erode biodiversity in the Sierra Madre mountains to the detriment of the indigenous Dumagat-Remontados peoples, they said. They join other civic rights and environmental groups opposing the dam, such as the Save Sierra Madre Network Alliance, Freedom from Debt Coalition, and the Philippine Movement for Climate Change.

The \$240m (12.2 billion peso) project includes a 27.7km, 4-metre-diameter tunnel under mountains to convey the water to Manila. It would give Manila millions more litres of water a day. The Philippines' capital currently relies on another dam, Angat, for nearly all its water, and shortfalls are forecast.

The 60-metre-high Kaliwa Dam would flood around 290 hectares in a natural park, wildlife sanctuary and game preserve. Local people will have to be resettled for the scheme. Construction is due to begin this year.

"The Church is not against development as long as it does not sacrifice the 'common good' in the name of progress," said Bishop Romulo Valles of Davao, reports ManilaStandard.net. "The ongoing Kaliwa Dam project of the government, in the guise of providing water to Metro Manila, is to our mind against inclusive



Protestors place a cross at Kaliwa Dam site in Philippines.

development," he added.

The bishops said the government should seek experts' advice on a more appropriate solution to water

shortages in Manila. "We, therefore, call on the government agencies concerned and other proponents of the Kaliwa Dam project to stop

its implementation," the CBCP's statement said.

"For the sake of the common good, we strongly recommend that

ecologically sustainable alternatives be carefully considered." In 2018, 51 Catholic bishops and four priests expressed support

to a pastoral letter titled "No to Kaliwa Dam, Yes to Alternative Sources of Water" and signed by the bishops of Infanta, Quezon.

Huawei picks France to host its zoom-euro first facility in European bloc

BEIJING

Chinese technology firm Huawei has chosen France for its first production facility in Europe. The company said the project will cost at least €200m, and will make 4G and 5G network equipment worth €1bn a year.

To counter concerns over cyber security, Huawei will open the centre to "carriers, governments and related authorities, demonstrating Huawei's positive stance on Europe's call for digital sovereignty." Its wireless base stations and software will also be on display.

The company said the construction process would use "some of the world's most advanced production equipment and tools from local leading partners," and that the plant itself would be "highly automated and intelligent."

The company stressed the benefits it could bring Europe in countering a US campaign to persuade governments not to use its products, on grounds that it would allow the Chinese government to spy on 5G data networks. China has called it a ploy to give US firms an advantage in the race to 5G. A European factory is intended to make European governments more comfortable with selecting Huawei's gear, and to further its drive to be a global company, rather than a Chinese one.

Stéphane Téral, director of telecommunications research at IHS Markit, told the South China Morning Post that another motivation was to boost capacity. "At this stage of the mobile industry, it is critical for Huawei to have a radio communications factory somewhere in Europe to relieve the pressure on the existing ones in China," he said.

Most of the products produced in the new plant will be sold in Europe, Huawei's second-largest market after China. The company has secured 91 commercial 5G contracts around the world, of which 47 are from European telecoms operators, including Spain's Telefonica, Sunrise of Switzerland and the Dutch company KPN.

The company said it had chosen France because of its highly educated labour pool and its "ideal positioning." It did not give any possible locations for the plant.

WORLD

IMF to provide 50-blm-USD emergency financing to help address COVID-19

WASHINGTON

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) is making available about 50 billion U.S. dollars through its rapid-disbursing emergency financing facilities for low-income and emerging market countries in light of the COVID-19 outbreak, the multilateral lender announced Wednesday.

"We know that the disease is spreading quickly. With over one-third of our membership affected directly, this is no longer a regional issue -- it is a global problem calling for a global response," IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said at a joint press conference with World Bank Group President

David Malpass.

"Under any scenario, global growth in 2020 will drop below last year's level," said Georgieva.

In January, the IMF had projected global growth to improve to 3.3 percent this year from 2.9 percent last year. Then in February, it revised down 2020 global growth to 3.2 percent.

Dropping below last year's level means further downgrading of global growth forecast.

The IMF chief said she is "particularly concerned about our low-income and more vulnerable members -- these countries may see financing needs rise rapidly as the economic and human cost of the virus escalates."



International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva speaks at a press conference in Washington D.C., the United States, on Wednesday. (Xinhua)

For low-income countries, the IMF has rapid-disbursing emergency financing of up to 10 billion dollars (50 percent of quota of eligible members) that can be accessed without a full-fledged IMF program, according to Georgieva.

Other members can access emergency financing through the Rapid Financing Instrument, which could provide about 40 billion dollars for emerging markets that "could potentially approach us for financial support," she said.

The IMF chief added that the Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust, which proved to be effective during the 2014 Ebola outbreak, is now underfunded with just over 200 million dollars available against possible needs of over 1 billion dollars.

"I called on member countries to help ensure that this facility is fully re-charged and ready for the current crisis," she said.

Xinhua

Xi chairs leadership meeting on controlling COVID-19, stabilising economy

BEIJING

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, on Wednesday chaired a leadership meeting to study the major tasks in preventing and controlling the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and stabilizing economic and social development.

Xi (pictured) made an important speech at Wednesday's meeting of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee.

After the whole country's arduous efforts, a positive trend has emerged as the epidemic prevention and control situation has seen steady improvement and the resumption of the order of work and life has been accelerating, Xi said.

He called for speeding up the establishment of an economic and social order compatible with the epidemic prevention and control, urging efforts to consolidate and expand the hard-won positive trend, bring the country's economic and social development back to the normal track at an early date,

and create conditions for securing a decisive victory in building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and eradicating poverty.

Xi stressed a clear understanding of the complexity of the current situation for epidemic prevention and control, as well as the economic and social development.

While the task of containing the epidemic remains arduous and onerous in the outbreak epicenter Hubei Province and its capital city Wuhan, the risk of an outbreak is rising in other regions as more people move around and crowds gather, Xi said, demanding no relaxation in the epidemic response preparedness.

Noting that China should play its part as a major and responsible country, Xi required more international cooperation on epidemic prevention and control.

Xi demanded targeted and solid measures to push for work resumption to minimize the loss caused by the outbreak.

Party committees and governments at all levels should imple-



ment the policies and decisions made by the CPC Central Committee, Xi said, calling for seeking truth from facts, and resolutely guarding against the practice of formalities for formalities' sake and bureaucratism.

According to the meeting, continued and solid efforts are needed in strengthening the prevention and control in Hubei and Wuhan, especially at the community level. All COVID-19 patients in severe conditions should be treated at high-level designated hospitals.

The meeting also highlighted epidemic prevention and control in Beijing and other key regions.

It stressed the importance of intensifying epidemic-related scientific research, with strengths concentrated on tackling the most pressing issues.

Differentiated approaches should be adopted to help work and production resume in regions based on their epidemic situations. The production and supply of essential epidemic control materials should be substantially increased

and distribution of protective gear be improved to ensure employees work and live in safe and healthy environment.

The meeting underscored unleashing consumption that had been suppressed by the outbreak and stressed the need to strengthen new and upgraded consumption to compensate the lost consumption on goods and services during the outbreak.

It also stressed stabilizing foreign trade and investment, assisting businesses, stabilizing employment, creating more jobs, helping college graduates and migrant workers find work, and solving difficulties for small household businesses.

In the meantime, agricultural production and stable prices of farm produce should be guaranteed. Greater efforts should be made to help poverty-ridden areas and the people, especially migrant workers from impoverished regions, to ensure the goal of poverty eradication is met on time, according to the meeting.

Xinhua

Greece plans to deport migrants who arrived after March 1

KASTANIES/LESBOS

GREECE will transfer migrants who arrived on its territory illegally after March 1 to the northern city of Serres and plans to deport back to their own countries, Greek Migration Minister Notis Mitarachi said late on Wednesday.

Thousands of migrants have made for Greece since Ankara said on Feb 28 that it would let migrants cross its borders into Europe, despite a commitment to hold them in its territory under a 2016 deal with the European Union.

Hundreds have made it into Greece, many by sea to Lesbos and other Greek islands. Ankara and Athens are accusing each other of using excessive force at its shared borders, where migrants have clashed with security forces

in recent days.

"Our aim is to return them to their countries," Mitarachi told the Athens News Agency.

He also said migrants who entered the country prior to Jan 1, 2019 and living on the islands would be transferred to the mainland in the coming days.

Greece announced on March 1 that it would not accept any new asylum applications for a month following the build-up of migrants at the border. This has triggered criticism from human rights agencies.

Turkey accused Greek forces of shooting dead one migrant and wounding five others, a charge strongly denied by Greece, which said Turkish police were using tear gas to help the migrants illegally cross onto its territory.

Turkey's change in policy came



Migrants who arrived to the island of Lesbos in the last few days and camp in the port of Mytilene, queue for food distribution on Wednesday. A Greek navy carrier docks in the port of Mytilene, will host some of 500 migrants arrived from Turkey to Lesbos island in the last few days and camp in the port of Mytilene. (AFP)

after 33 Turkish soldiers were killed by Russian-backed Syrian government forces in an air strike in Syria.

"The situation is calm today. Yesterday we stopped a group of 150 migrants. We will be here as long as is needed," a police official

told Reuters.

No dinghies were sighted in the choppy seas off the Greek island of Lesbos on Thursday following several days of arrivals of migrants. Lesbos already hosts more than 20,000 asylum seekers, many of them living in filthy conditions in overcrowded camps.

Greece and the EU accuse Turkey of deliberately goading the migrants to cross the border as a way of pressuring Brussels into offering more money or supporting Ankara's geopolitical aims in the Syrian conflict.

Turkey, which already hosts 3.6 million Syrian refugees and faces another influx from an upsurge in fighting in northwest Syria, says it cannot take in any more and complains that EU aid falls well short of what is needed for the refugees.

Agencies

Russia regrets EU supported gov coup in Ukraine, says top diplomat

HELSINKI

THE European Union opted for a worsening of relations with Russia and imposed sanctions on it after supporting a government coup in Ukraine, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told a joint news conference following



talks with his Finnish counterpart Pekka Haavisto, adding that such a turn of events was very regrettable.

"We favor the normalization of relations between Russia and the European Union," he said. "We find it regrettable that the EU opted for introducing sanctions against Russia after in fact it reconciled itself with and supported the February 2014 government coup in Ukraine," he stated.

Lavrov (pictured) recalled that "many Western analysts are now publishing facts that explain how the 2014 government coup in Ukraine had been plotted and staged."

"These facts are available. They make it absolutely clear how it all happened," he added. "I do hope that the EU will now read this new evidence."

"I believe that in any case the European values the EU professes do not imply connivance with the ultra-radicals and neo-Nazis or tacit consent with the reforms that are being implemented in Ukraine in crude violation of the rights of ethnic minorities, first and foremost, those in the language and education spheres," Lavrov said.

Maidan events

On November 21, 2013 one week before Ukraine was expected to sign an association agreement with the European Union at the Vilnius summit, the Ukrainian government said it was suspending the process of preparations for concluding the agreement with the EU.

In response the then opposition in the Verkhovna Rada upset the sessions of parliament. Demonstrators emerged on Maidan Nezalezhnosti (Independence Square). A three-month-long harsh standoff followed.

Aggressive radicals seized a number of administrative buildings in the center of Kiev and created armed groups, which clashed with the law enforcers.

On February 21, 2014 the opposition and President Viktor Yanukovich concluded an agreement on ways of settling the crisis and creating a government of national unity.

However, attacks on government buildings continued. The head of state had to flee the country.

The opposition factions in parliament seized power the next day. On February 22, the Verkhovna Rada passed a resolution saying that Yanukovich had abandoned his post and called an early presidential election. **Agencies**

Women's education improves, but violence against them still prevalent

UNITED NATIONS

DESPITE progress in education in the last 25 years, violence against women and girls is still accepted in many parts of the world, said a report issued on Wednesday from the UN Children's Fund, UN Women and Plan International.

However, the report released ahead of next week's 64th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, said the number of out-of-school girls has dropped by 79 million in the last two decades and in the last decade girls are more likely to be in secondary school than boys.

They are still more disadvantaged at the primary level, where 5.5 million more girls than boys are out of school worldwide, it said.

Global progress in reducing the number of out-of-school children at the primary level has stagnated for both girls and boys since 2007.

There are about 1.1 billion girls in the world, said the 40-page report, "A New Era for Girls, Taking Stock of 25 Years of Progress."

In 1995, the world adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action -- the most comprehensive policy agenda for gender equality -- with the vision of ending discrimination against women and girls, the report said. But 25 years later, discrimination and limiting stereotypes remain rife. Girls' life expectancy has been extended by eight years, yet for many, the quality of that life is still far from what was envisioned, it said.

In 2016, women and girls account for 70 percent of detected trafficking victims globally, most for sexual exploitation, and 1 in every 20 girls aged 15-19 -- or about 13 million girls -- has experienced rape in their lifetimes, one of the most violent forms of sexual abuse women and girls can suffer, the report said.

Xinhua

China Strives to achieve annual economic, social development goals despite epidemic

CHINA'S economy is showing two major signs of development when the country is at a critical moment of epidemic prevention and control - impacted offline business in the transport, culture, tourism, hotel, catering, film and entertainment industries and booming new models of online consumption, entertainment and education.

In this sense, it calls for dialectical thinking in evaluating the current Chinese economy. Short-term impacts are unavoidable amid the epidemic, while the country is also able to turn pressure into the power for economic transformation and upgrading.

The novel coronavirus pneumonia is a "black swan", especially when China plans to finish the building of

a moderately prosperous society in all respects and achieve all the goals set by its 13th Five-Year Plan this year. This has composed a very heavy task for China's economic and social development.

In addition, the Chinese economy is facing rising downward economic pressure amid intertwined structural, institutional and cyclical problems and going through a pivotal stage for transforming its growth model, improving its economic structure, and fostering new drivers of growth.

Against such backdrop, the country must ensure effectiveness of epidemic prevention and control while fulfilling tasks regarding reform, development and stability. It must keep a close eye on economic operation and the pos-

sible impacts of the epidemic on the economy, stabilize employment, the financial market, foreign trade, foreign investment, domestic investment and expectations, and prepare for all kinds of complex and difficult situations. Only full preparation can reduce the impacts of the epidemic to the lowest.

The epidemic's impacts are short-term, and China has the confidence, conditions and capability to achieve its annual economic targets. The virus-related disruption is periodical, and the economic fundamentals sustaining sound development will remain unchanged.

The short-term impacts of the epidemic will never be able to shake an economy of nearly 100 trillion yuan (\$14.37 trillion). Both the World Bank

and the International Monetary Fund have voiced confidence in the resilience of the Chinese economy.

With the strong leadership of the Communist Party of China, the advantages of the socialism with Chinese characteristics, a solid material and technical foundation accumulated in the reform and opening-up, and the successful experiences in the battle against SARS, the 1.4 billion Chinese people are bound to win the battle against the epidemic with solidarity and keep the economy performing within a reasonable range.

China has enough policy space to hedge against the short-term impact of the epidemic and bring the market back to normal.

The country has enhanced counter-

cyclical adjustment to cope with the possible temporary obstacles facing enterprises that have to postpone resumption of work. The Ministry of Finance (MOF) and other departments for the first time jointly adopted the policy of special refinancing and government-funded interest subsidies, which will lower the financing costs of enterprises in the production to less than 1.6 percent.

Moreover, local governments across the country have issued policies to help enterprises stabilize employment. For instance, the companies that don't launch large-scale layoff will get a 50-percent refund of their unemployment insurance premiums paid in the last year. Such policies will largely relieve the pressure of enterprises,

boost confidence of the market, and stabilize investment expectations.

Apart from the space for maneuver, China's economy will also climb up as it strives to achieve industrial transformation and upgrading through the synergistic efforts made by industrial chains.

For instance, the huge number of orders received by enterprises are forcing them to form cross-regional industry coalitions with other companies on the industrial chain based on the Internet of Things (IoT); the decline of traditional consumption is also coercing catering enterprises to develop online delivery services and foster new growth drivers based on community consumption.

People's Daily



A technician of Zhejiang Dingli Machinery Co., Ltd. assembles and tests aerial work platforms in a general assembly workshop of the company, Feb. 20, 2020. The products will soon be exported to the U.S. (Photo: People's Daily)

Policies rolled out to facilitate orderly production resumption of enterprises amid epidemic

CHINESE local governments and relevant departments are rolling out policies and measures to stabilize employment and help enterprises resume production in an orderly manner amid the current novel coronavirus epidemic.

Cities in east China's Zhejiang province have implemented effective measures to help employees return to work. For instance, Yiwu announced that the government will pay for all the charter vehicles services for enterprises to bring their employees back to the workplace.

On Feb.18, Wuxing district of Huzhou, Zhejiang province chartered a plane to bring back 165 employees from southwest China's Yunnan province. After arriving at Shanghai Hongqiao International Airport, these employees were later sent to Huzhou by coaches dispatched by the district government.

"We have dispatched seven coaches to pick them up, and each one was equipped with epidemic prevention and control materials such as masks, forehead thermometers, and disinfectants. We also prepared food and water for them," said Guo Shizhong, director of the human resources and social security bureau of Wuxing district.

Such heartwarming measures, including charter vehicles, flights and trains, have been employed in more and more regions across the country to help enterprises take employees back to work.

On Feb. 17, the first train chartered by southwest China's Sichuan province to send its migrant workers to workplaces arrived at Hangzhou. The government of Hangzhou's Yuhang district dispatched staff to pick them up. More such trains are expected to depart from Sichuan, one of the major sources of migrant workers.

Such one-stop services have effectively reduced the risk of cross-infection and traffic hazards that might be encountered by migrant workers who take high-frequency transfers on their inter-provincial trips to workplaces, thus guaranteeing human resources for enterprises to resume production.

By Feb. 19, Sichuan had chartered 571 vehicles, 2 flights, and 4 trains, sending 21,612 migrant workers in the province to their workplaces. It is learnt that over 2.3 million migrant workers from Sichuan had returned to the places where they work.

To help the enterprises who are currently going through difficulties of labor shortage, local governments across China have formulated measures to stabilize employment. They established recruitment coordination

platforms, and helped enterprises release online job information.

The National Xinjiang Zhundong Economic-Technological Development Park is located in the hinterland of Gobi Desert in Changji Hui Autonomous Prefecture, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. Around 40,000 employees working there who went home for family reunion before the Spring Festival holiday were not able to go back to work on time because of the epidemic, which posed a serious challenge for the development park's production.

To cope with this situation, the development park set up a steering group - a skeleton crew consisting 42 professionals and technicians in coal power, coal mine, chemical engineering and security industries, so as to make coordinated production plans and offer technical consultation for enterprises there. The group has effectively made up the weakness of labor shortage, and guaranteed epidemic prevention and work resumption at the same time.

To help guarantee employment for enterprises amid the epidemic, Huangpu district, Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong province has taken online all of its job fairs.

By enhancing the frequency and expanding the coverage of recruitment information and carrying out online written tests and interviews, the district has helped enterprises locating candidates in a rapid manner.

By Feb. 19, the human resources and social security bureau of Huangpu district had released more than 10,000 pieces of recruitment information for 177 companies through 8 online recruitment activities, and helped recruit over 1,700 employees for 21 out of the district's top 100 enterprises.

In an effort to help enterprises tide over the difficult time, local governments across China have also rolled out policies to lower enterprises' energy cost, reduce or exempt rent, and offer subsidies for stabilizing employment.

Northeast China's Liaoning province recently formulated 25 measures that offer interest discount and rent cuts, in a bid to have small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) play their due role in epidemic prevention and control, ensure healthy operation, and realize stable development.

The China Development Bank and the Export-Import Bank of China, among others, have provided low-interest loans to relieve the burden of enterprises, said an executive of Northeast Pharm, a pharmaceutical group in Liaoning province.

People's Daily

Arab FM's reject voice opposition against Ethiopia's dam project

CAIRO

ARAB foreign ministers on Wednesday expressed their rejection of harming Egypt's historical rights to the Nile River water by the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD).

"The water security of Egypt is an integral part of the Arab national security," said the Arab top diplomats during a meeting of the Arab League Council in Cairo.

Ethiopia declined a U.S.-sponsored ministerial meeting with Egypt and

Sudan in Washington in late February to conclude a deal over the rules of filling and operating the GERD. While Ethiopia, an upstream Nile Basin country, eyes massive benefits from the dam construction, downstream Egypt is concerned it might affect its 55.5-billion-cubic-meter annual share of Nile water.

"The Council announces rejection of any unilateral measures that might be taken by Ethiopia, including starting filling the GERD reservoir, without reaching a comprehensive agreement governing the dam filling process and organizing its operation," said an AL res-

olution issued following the meeting.

Filling the reservoir, whose total capacity is 74 billion cubic meters, may take several years.

Egypt seeks to prolong the period to avoid the negative effects of water shortage, which is a main point of the talks. Earlier, Egypt criticized Ethiopia's absence from the Washington talks, saying Ethiopia "deliberately" hindered the path of negotiations.

Egypt's fellow downstream country Sudan expects future benefits from the GERD construction despite the Egyptian concerns.

Xinhua

Michael Bloomberg ends US presidential bid, endorses Biden

By Bloomberg

MICHAEL Bloomberg endorsed Joe Biden for the Democratic nomination as he ended his presidential campaign on Wednesday and pledged to continue working to defeat US President Donald Trump.

Bloomberg (pictured) said in a New York speech that after the results of the Super Tuesday voting, he no longer had a viable path to the nomination and didn't want to hurt the party's chances.

He had spent a record US\$687 million of his own money on the effort, but Biden dominated the Super Tuesday vote, winning 10 states of 14. Bloomberg earned at least 53 delegates, compared to at least 566 for Biden.

"I entered the race for president to defeat Donald Trump," Bloomberg said. "And today, I am leaving the race for the same reason - to defeat Donald Trump, because staying in would make it more difficult to achieve that goal."

The former New York mayor said beating Trump starts with uniting behind the candidate with the best chance to do it.

"It's clear that candidate is my friend and a great American, Joe Biden," and he asked his supporters to help Biden win the general election.

(Bloomberg is the founder and majority owner of Bloomberg LP, the parent company of Bloomberg News.)

He has vowed to keep spending money and put the formidable infrastructure he built for his campaign in key battleground states at the service of the nominee.

It wasn't immediately clear whether Bloomberg would air ads on Biden's behalf or deploy the staff and field offices in battleground states that he's pledged to keep through the November election for the nominee. A Bloomberg campaign aide, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it will take a few days to structure the aid to Biden.

Bloomberg's campaign manager Kevin Sheekey said on MSNBC



Wednesday that the campaign would continue to air anti-Trump ads and he wouldn't rule out running primary ads against Sanders.

The aide said Bloomberg and Biden spoke by phone on Wednesday, and in a message to Bloomberg posted on Twitter, Biden thanked the former New York mayor for his support and work on issues such as gun safety and climate change.

"This race is bigger than candidates and bigger than politics," Biden said. "It's about defeating Donald Trump, and with your help, we're gonna do it."

Bloomberg had staked his candidacy on gaining a critical mass of delegates on Super Tuesday and subsequent races, after taking the never-before-tried path of skipping the first four contests. But he decided to drop out after he failed to collect enough delegates to continue being a serious contender.

When he announced his candidacy, Bloomberg told his employees he would step away from running the company during the campaign, turning over the day-to-day operation to a management committee. After he finished serving three terms as New York mayor in 2013, Bloomberg returned to the company he founded.

Bloomberg reconsidered a decision last year not to run for president in 2020, saying the weakness of other centrist candidates like Biden compelled him to join the fray.

Bloomberg joined the contest late, on November 24, but quickly rose in the polls to a top-tier candidate and a

slot on the debate stages. He aided that rise by building a ground operation with more than 2,400 staffers and 200 offices across 43 states and territories.

He also flooded the television airwaves with more than US\$550 million in advertising over the course of his candidacy, all self-funded. Nearly 60 percent of Americans said they had seen one of his television or digital ads, polls showed.

Voters had initially warmed to Bloomberg's message that he had a record as a manager with "workable, achievable plans" and the resources to defeat Trump, which polls show is many Democrats' top priority. Bloomberg's sparring with Trump on Twitter and his barrage of attack ads bolstered his support, especially from voters who saw Biden as fading.

Bloomberg's prospects were damaged by an initial debate performance on Feb 19 that was widely panned. He appeared unprepared for attacks from Elizabeth Warren and others about his support for stop-and-frisk policing in New York and non-disclosure agreements he had signed with women at his company, Bloomberg LP.

The stumbles undercut the image Bloomberg tried to project in his ads, and while the former New York mayor performed better at the next debate a week later, he never recovered. Democratic Party leaders coalesced around the former vice president, with some urging Bloomberg to get out lest he split the votes of centrist Democrats with Biden and leave Bernie Sanders with a plurality of delegates going into the convention.

READ MORE: Super Tuesday: US voters go to polls to decide primary races

Some strategists doubted Bloomberg's prospects from the start, questioning whether a 78-year-old billionaire and former Republican with ties to Wall Street would be accepted in today's Democratic Party - especially with his untested strategy. But they didn't completely discount him because of his ability to spend unprecedented sums and the passion in the party for beating Trump.

Agencies

Russian security services look for anonymous fake 'bomb' threats makers

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN intelligence services seek to identify and locate the author of the fake "bomb" threats to planes, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said yesterday, adding that Kremlin counts on that the perpetrators would be found and properly punished.

"The intelligence services work on

these people, and this work cannot be disclosed to public," he said. "Let's hope that sooner or later [the threats' author] would be found and punished."

He refrained from commenting on whether plane threats were made by the same person who previously made similar threats against Russian social objects. Previously, the anonymous perpetrator claimed he has no intention to stop.

took place.

Yesterday, a total of three anonymous messages threatening passenger planes in air have been received by Sheremetyevo and Pulkovo airport call centers. In all cases, the crew made a decision not to deviate from route and land at destination airports. On Wednesday, several similar cases

took place.

A source in the aviation services said earlier that all threats were deemed fake. A security service source disclosed that anonymous perpetrators send messages demanding bitcoins and threaten to keep "rigging" courts, shops, airports, planes and other objects.

Agencies

China achieves positive results in fight against novel coronavirus

SOME positive results have been achieved by China in the fight against the novel coronavirus in Wuhan and Hubei province at large, and the strict control measures were showing signs of progress, said Ding Xiangyang, deputy secretary-general of the State Council, at a press conference Thursday in Wuhan, February 20.

Ding, also a member of the central government's steering group for epidemic, noted that the number of new cases has slowed in Wuhan and surrounding cities, in contrast with the explosive growth in the past. It is believed that this downward trend will continue, he added.

The number of new confirmed cases in Wuhan has fallen from around 4,000 per day about a week ago to less than 2,000 this week, and the number of suspected cases also dropped from a peak of 18,000 earlier this month

to around 2,000, Ding introduced.

However, arduous tasks are still ahead as there are still over 30,000 patients in Wuhan receiving treatment, as well as thousands in severe and critical conditions, Ding said.

He called on all Chinese people to set their jaws to launch a final strike back at the virus with firm confidence, stronger will and more decisive measures.

Lian Weiliang, deputy director of the National Development and Reform Commission introduced that a total of 336,000 N95 masks and 133,000 protective suits were collected across the country and supplied to Hubei. Under concerted efforts, the supplies for medical personnel on the frontlines to fight the novel coronavirus epidemic are guaranteed though they were once in severe shortage.



A 90-year-old patient of the novel coronavirus pneumonia is recovered and discharged from The First Affiliated Hospital of Nanchang University, east China's Jiangxi province, Feb. 20, 2020. (Photo: People's Daily)

To enlarge the total capacity of hospitals, Wuhan has designated more medical institutions to receive infected patients and built

makeshift hospitals for those with mild symptoms. Besides, it has also transformed qualified quarantine sites into quarantine treat-

ment centers.

By Feb. 20, the city had offered 30,000 beds at designated hospitals, 25,000 at Fang Cang makeshift hospitals, and 4,000 at quarantine treatment centers, Lian said.

He noted that the country will keep enhancing medical supply and accelerate the release of new capacities, as well as guarantee quality and strengthen quality inspection. The supply of medical equipment such as breathing machines, ECG monitors, and blood-gas analyzers must be ensured. Special demand must be addressed with special measures, he said, adding that everything comes after saving lives and shall follow the primary principle of speed.

Yu Yanhong, deputy head of the National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine, noted that initial progress has been

achieved in the combination of traditional Chinese and Western medicine in treating the novel coronavirus. The traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) has been applied both widely and intensively, and a batch of effective prescription medicines and Chinese patent drugs have been found effective in treating the virus based on the close cooperation between Chinese and western medicine.

Treatment practices indicate that early intervention of TCM and the combined treatment of TCM and Western medicine are an important method to improve recovery rate and lower mortality rate, which also marks a significant character of the treatment.

Yu said, clinical practices prove that the combination is effective, and can rapidly improve the condition of patients with mild symp-

ptoms such as fever, cough, sore throat, and weakness, and cut the duration of hospital stays.

Experts also find that the combination can help prevent mild symptoms from developing into severe and critical conditions, thus reducing the death rate of the disease. Yu noted that TCM can effectively improve the number of lymphocytes, an indicator of patient recovery.

By Feb. 19, a total of 32,395 medical staff from 278 teams has been dispatched to Hubei, and more are battling on the frontline across the country. Meanwhile, the newly reported cases of infection outside Hubei has fallen for 16 days straight, and Wednesday marked the second day when recovered patients outnumbered the new confirmed cases. The widening difference indicates effective treatment and relieved pressure on the medics.

People's Daily



In this March 3, 2020, photo, a tourist wearing a protective mask takes a photo with the Olympic rings in the background, at Tokyo's Odaiba district in Tokyo. Japan's Olympic minister has suggested in Parliament that the Tokyo Olympics might be pushed back a few months from its July 24 opening. The games are under threat from a spreading virus from China that has reached the pandemic stage. But the so-called "Home City Contract" signed by the International Olympic Committee and Japanese officials gives the IOC wide latitude in terminating the Olympics. (AP Photo)

'Host City Contract' gives IOC much leeway to cancel Olympics

TO KYO

JAPANESE Olympic Minister Seiko Hashimoto suggested in Parliament this week that the Tokyo Games could be postponed by a few months from the planned July 24 opening and still meet a contract agreement with the International Olympic Committee.

It's not that clear cut and seems unlikely. The IOC has said repeatedly the Olympics will open as planned in just under five months despite a virus outbreak that started in China and has spread to at least 70 countries.

More than 3,100 deaths have been reported including 12 in Japan, which has closed schools, called off mass gatherings, and canceled several Olympic test events. Pre-season baseball in being played in empty stadiums, the soccer J-League is suspended until at least March 18, and a major spring sumo tournament won't allow fans.

The 81-page "Home City Contract" signed in 2013 by the IOC, the city of Tokyo, and the Japanese Olympic Committee, gives the IOC wide latitude to terminate.

Reading from a prepared text on Tuesday, Hashimoto said: "The IOC has the right to cancel the games only if they are not held during 2020. This can be interpreted to mean the games can be postponed as long as they are held during the calendar year."

Under a section titled "Termination," the IOC has the right to terminate for many reasons: state of war, civil disorder, boycott, and others. It also says the IOC can terminate if it has "reasonable grounds to believe, in its sole discretion, that the safety of participants in the games would be seriously threatened or jeopardized for any reason whatsoever."

The same section says the IOC can terminate if "the games are not celebrated during the year 2020." The contract says the IOC has to give local organizers, the city, and the national Olympic committee 60 days notice to terminate.

The section also says the city, local organizers, and the national Olympic committee "waive any claim and right to any form of indemnity, damages or other compensation."

The modern Olympics have been canceled only three times, all during wartime.

On Wednesday, organizers postponed announcing any measure that might limit crowds for the torch relay, which begins on March 26 in Fukushima prefecture located 250 kilometers (150 miles) northeast of Tokyo.

Organizing committee President Yoshiro Mori and CEO Toshiro Muto talked by a teleconference call with the IOC executive board. They said they did not talk about postponing or cancelling the Olympics.

"There were no such talks at all," Muto said, speaking Japanese to more than 100 reporters at the committee headquarters.

In a statement, organizers said they "will

take all necessary and appropriate measures to prevent the spread of infection among runners, spectators, and operational staff" during the relay.

The torch relay is promoted by Toyota and Coca-Cola, two key Olympic sponsors. The statement said organizers would consult with local governments "and partner companies" about the possibility of limiting the number of runners and fans as the torch moves around the country.

Muto said organizers hoped to decide about a week before each leg of the torch relay – it runs for almost four months all over Japan – on the need for "restricting the entrance of spectators to the celebration venue or asking visitors along the route to cooperate to prevent the spread of infection."

Any change to the July 24 opening date would have to be approved by international broadcasters. Tokyo is spending about \$12.6 billion to organize the Olympics, although a national government audit says it's twice that.

"I don't know, I am not God," Mori replied when asked when a final decision would have to be made on the Olympics.

The IOC gets 73% of its \$5.7 billion income in a four-year Olympic cycle from selling broadcast rights. About half of that TV income is from American network NBC.

NBC parent company Comcast said that because of insurance and the way contracts are written, the network won't suffer losses if the Olympics are canceled. But Comcast CEO Brian Roberts said the company would miss out on ad-driven profit, which was \$250 million for the 2016 Rio Olympics.

The IOC says it's relying heavily on the World Health Organization for advice.

Dr. Ali Khan, the dean of the College of Public Health at the University of Nebraska, in an email to AP said the virus outbreak "is a fluid and evolving situation, which makes predictions especially foolhardy. However, it is hard to imagine the outbreak will be fully resolved by the end of May."

Two former IOC vice presidents, Richard Pound of Canada and Kevan Gosper of Australia, have suggested a decision about Tokyo must be made by late May. That would leave two months to line up more than 15,000 Olympic and Paralympic athletes, organize catering and television broadcasts – not to mention the fate of thousands of tourists, hotel reservations, flights, and ad campaigns.

Tokyo has also suspended training until at least May for 80,000 unpaid volunteers.

"From what we know from numerous other mass-gathering events including sporting events, it is very easy to spread diseases worldwide from such events from meningitis to Zika," Dr. Khan said. "Besides welcoming athletes and spectators with their tiny microbes, there is and may be on-going disease in Japan."

L EAGUES of local fans of international Mbwana Samatta had acutely expressed but mixed feelings on the throbbing and outcome of the Carabao Cup final between Aston Villa (treated as hosts) and Manchester City. For some of the fans it was a bit surprising to learn that this is the third straight year for Manchester City to clinch this particular trophy, which in a sentimental sense is alright as they aren't sure of clinching the FA Cup. The Premier League itself isn't in contest for England as it's a matter of time before their erstwhile rivals are crowned, despite a rare rout.

To be sure, some of the local fans (including this viewer) half expected that some miracle could occur and Aston Villa grab the silverware. The reason is basically that small teams (underdogs for that matter) are at times favored by 'Lady Luck' when it comes to final ties for a cup, in the logic that major club sides should not grab all the silverware. It is just a matter of luck rather than technique, despite that to realize the luck (which is in the 'stars' rather than offered on the table) technique is vital. Aston Villa did their part of the technique - and with Mbwana uppermost.

Obviously the fateful goal he scored did not arise from his own energies but teamwork, and even the uncanny ability to get a flying header into the ball quite largely depended on the precise position of the next defender. That is why any effort at explaining how one scores or scored a goal shall have plenty of 'ifs' which can't be foretold, and that is where luck

comes in. But without ardent technique, match fitness and ability to figure out what to do in a second, nothing will happen. Reports were already circulating that the player's father Ali Samatta was going to feature on the stands, and that is where the psychological question, a brain teaser as it were, comes up. While with some luck Aston Villa could have equalized and gone into penalties, strictly speaking it was more rational for Manchester City to have won, given their record over their opponents, with 3-2 and 6-1 results in two previous encounters, and with 4-0 consecutive results in two matches for the FA Cup in 2016.

To have struggled for a 2-1 win over Aston Villa was a huge boost for the home team morale; even

reaching that stage of the tourney was memorable. What was memorable about the Carabao Cup final encounter was the way it more or less sought to repeat history, as Manchester City were already 2-0 up before 35 minutes, and mathematically the 'hosts' were headed for a rout. Then as if Lady Luck was just lying in wait, ten minutes into the second goal a pencil sharp chance came up that could only be taken in a Gigi Riva sort of way, with a flying header. The goal was so brilliantly scored as to enliven the whole stadium, just before the breather - hence Aston Villa stood a slim chance of leveling matters, up to the end.

What is strangely humorous about the Carabao Cup finale was that had the 'home' side won



Mbwana Samatta

comes in. But without ardent technique, match fitness and ability to figure out what to do in a second, nothing will happen.

Reports were already circulating that the player's father Ali Samatta was going to feature on the stands, and that is where the psychological question, a brain teaser as it were, comes up. While with some luck Aston Villa could have equalized and gone into penalties, strictly speaking it was more rational for Manchester City to have won, given their record over their opponents, with 3-2 and 6-1 results in two previous encounters, and with 4-0 consecutive results in two matches for the FA Cup in 2016.

To have struggled for a 2-1 win over Aston Villa was a huge boost for the home team morale; even

reaching that stage of the tourney was memorable.

What was memorable about the Carabao Cup final encounter was the way it more or less sought to repeat history, as Manchester City were already 2-0 up before 35 minutes, and mathematically the 'hosts' were headed for a rout. Then as if Lady Luck was just lying in wait, ten minutes into the second goal a pencil sharp chance came up that could only be taken in a Gigi Riva sort of way, with a flying header. The goal was so brilliantly scored as to enliven the whole stadium, just before the breather - hence Aston Villa stood a slim chance of leveling matters, up to the end.

What is strangely humorous about the Carabao Cup finale was that had the 'home' side won

the cup that memory would have lasted for local fans that Samatta won silverware in his first year of his Aston Villa signing. And had another goal been scored by his teammates to level matters, his own contribution would be part of the build up to success, not an outstanding feat on its own. But as they didn't add any goals and their unequal rivals got the cup, only Samatta's goal remains in memory.

That is basically how fate works, in which case it can be said that something is already being added to Aston Villa history on account of the presence of the Tanzanian international. An online entry says the Samatta side has 28 years in the Premier League (since 1992) and reached the FA Cup final in 2000 but lost 1-0 to Chelsea. Similarly, 'the 2015 FA Cup final was contested by Arsenal and Aston Villa at Wembley Stadium, while in the semi-final at Wembley Stadium, Villa came from behind to defeat Liverpool. They conceded the first goal by Philippe Coutinho,' which was about to be repeated in the Carabao Cup final, last weekend.

With his short window transfer to Aston Villa at the start of the year, it can't be said that he already has made a difference at the club side. But he did so at KRC Genk in the Europa Cup and rare appearance in the Champions League. Even if reaching the final lately was clinched before he was on the side, the story of the Carabao Cup final at Aston Villa will never be told without his name being cited.

Lillard scores 22 in return from injury, Blazers top Wizards

PORTLAND, Ore.

DAQMIAN Lillard had 22 points in his return from a groin injury and Carmelo Anthony scored 25 as the Portland Trail Blazers beat the Washington Wizards 125-104 on Wednesday night.

"I felt pretty good," Lillard said. "I moved pretty well, I was able to do a lot of things. I didn't want to overdo it when I saw the kind of game we were playing - the balance was good. We had a comfortable lead, I picked my moments to explode, take off and cut hard. Get in the stance and fight over screens, and I didn't feel restricted."

Hassan Whiteside recorded his 48th double-double of the season for Portland, finishing with 24 points, 16 rebounds and four blocks. CJ McCollum, like Lillard, had 22 points and five assists.

It was Lillard's first game in three weeks after missing six with a groin strain. "It was weird," Lillard said about missing his first Blazers road trip in eight seasons. "I was playing NBA 2K. That was my first time playing it, too. Since the game came out, I can't tell you how long it was since I played the game."

Washington guard Bradley Beal, who began the day as the NBA's second-leading scorer behind Houston star James Harden, had 29 points. But the Blazers made Beal work for it as he went 10 for 29 (35%) from the field.

He was guarded by Trevor Ariza for much of the night.

"He's a pest. That's what he does," Beal said.

Anthony started strong. The 17-year veteran scored 14 points in the first, his most in any quarter this season, to help the Blazers to a 37-30 lead.

"I don't normally play him for the entire first quarter, but he had bounce. It was good to see," Portland coach Terry Stotts said.

Lillard missed his first couple of shots but connected on a 3-pointer for his first basket with 5:49 left in the first period. The star guard then hit another 3 with 4:46 remaining in the second.

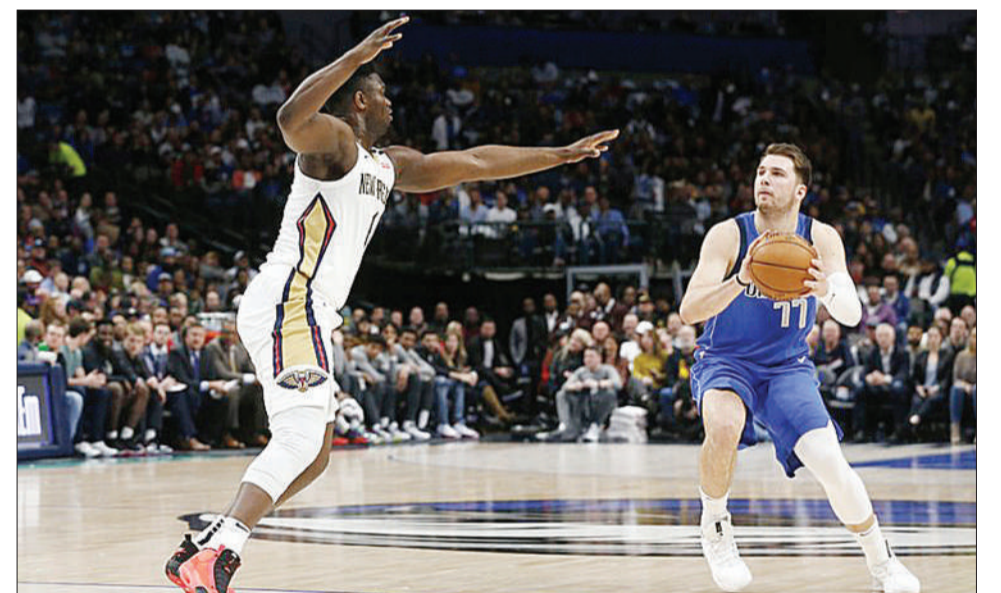
While Beal put on a show for the Wizards, second-leading scorer Davis Bertans struggled to get his shot to fall. A 42% 3-point shooter coming in, Bertans made only one of his first seven 3s. He finished with 20 points.

Lillard connected on his fourth 3 in the third quarter as the Blazers extended their lead to 24. Portland held a 100-79 lead after three.

A deep 3-pointer by Bertans cut it to 104-93 with 7:37 left, prompting a Blazers timeout. The Wizards only managed to score three points in the ensuing 3:36, as Portland went on a 13-3 run to help put the game away.

With 4:01 left, the Wizards pulled Beal and Bertans.

Meanwhile, in Miami,



Dallas Mavericks guard Luka Doncic (77) prepares to shoot as New Orleans Pelicans forward Zion Williamson defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Dallas, Wednesday, March 4, 2020. Mavericks hold off the New Orleans Pelicans 127-123. (AP Photo)

it took a record-setting night from 3-point range for the Miami Heat to beat the Orlando Magic.

Duncan Robinson scored 27 points, all of them coming from beyond the arc, and the Heat hit a franchise-record 22 3-pointers in their 116-113 win over the Magic on Wednesday night.

Goran Dragic scored 25 points and added nine assists, Kelly Olynyk scored 16 on a perfect shooting night and Jimmy Butler finished with 12 points, eight assists and seven rebounds as Miami won its fourth straight.

The previous record for Heat 3-pointers was 21, set April 5, 2017, at Charlotte. The 22 3-pointers made also tied the most allowed in a game by Orlando.

"My teammates encouraged me to shoot. The coaching staff encourages me to shoot," Robinson said. "So I just went out and tried to be aggressive."

Terrence Ross had sea-

son-highs of 35 points and eight 3-pointers for the Magic, who have dropped three straight yet remain in the No. 8 spot in the Eastern Conference playoff race.

The game became just the second in NBA regular-season history where two players made at least eight 3-pointers. The other: Jan. 5, 2019, when Stephen Curry made 10 for Golden State and Buddy Hield made eight for Sacramento. It has also happened once in a playoff game, when Draymond Green and Damian Lillard both made eight in a Golden State-Portland matchup on May 7, 2016.

Nikola Vucevic scored 22 points and grabbed 16 rebounds for the Magic, while Evan Fournier finished with 17.

"The biggest factor in that game was totally on me," Magic coach Steve Clifford said. "We just didn't have a good Option B for Duncan Robinson un-

til halftime. We made adjustments at halftime. Our guys did a good job, but that was the difference in the game."

Even after the 3-point barrage by Miami, Orlando still had a chance at the end.

Down three with 6.2 seconds left after the Heat took the last foul they had left to give, the Magic went to Aaron Gordon - who got a good look at a 3-pointer from the right corner. It hit the rim, the Heat controlled the rebound and time expired.

Robinson missed his first shot, a 3-pointer from the left corner. His next seven were all 3s, and all connected. He was 7 for 8 from distance in the opening 24 minutes, becoming the first player in the NBA to have two first halves with at least seven 3s this season - he had eight in the first half against Cleveland on Nov. 20.

AP

Swiss prosecutor disciplined for misconduct in FIFA case

LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND

SWISS attorney general Michael Lauber was disciplined Wednesday for misconduct during an investigation of FIFA, including failing to tell the truth about an undisclosed meeting with the soccer body's president Gianni Infantino.

The ruling of a panel overseeing the federal prosecution office also found Lauber obstructed its disciplinary investigation and had not grasped how his conduct was problematic.

"On several occasions he did not speak the truth, acted in a disloyal manner, violated the code of conduct of the federal prosecutor's office and obstructed the (disciplinary) investigation," the ruling stated. Lauber was fined 8% of his salary for one year, the oversight panel ordered. The amount of salary involved was not disclosed.

In fallout from scrutiny of his role in the five-year soccer corruption case, Lauber was recused from the sprawling FIFA investigation last year by Switzerland's federal criminal court.

Lauber was not formally involved in indictments last month issued against Qatari soccer and television executive Nasser al-Khelaifi, the president of French champion Paris Saint-Germain, and former FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke.

AP

Italian sport to take place without fans until April 3

MILAN

ALL sporting events in Italy will take place without fans present for at least the next month due to the virus outbreak in the country, the Italian government announced on Wednesday.

That will likely see the Italian soccer league resume in full this weekend with the calendar pushed back a week.

Italy is the epicenter of Europe's coronavirus outbreak. More than 100 people have died and more than 3,000 have been infected with COVID-19.

The Italian government issued a new decree on Wednesday evening, with measures it hopes will help contain the spread of the virus.

All sporting events throughout the country must take place without fans present until April 3. Schools and universities have been ordered to close until March 15.

Premier Giuseppe Conte posted a five-minute video on his Facebook page, reassuring people and saying that the decree was a way of assuring "responsible behavior."

He said banning crowds at sporting events would help "prevent further opportunities of infection."

Key games during the period includes Juventus' Champions League game against Lyon. The second leg of the round-of-16 match is scheduled for March 17 in Turin.

Inter Milan and Roma also have Europa League games scheduled, against Getafe and Sevilla, respectively. Inter played Ludogrets inside an empty stadium in last week in the previous Europa League round.

The decree also calls into question Italy's Six Nations rugby match against England in Rome on March 14. That match will either have to go ahead in an empty stadium or be postponed. Italy's match against Ireland, which was scheduled for March 7, had already been postponed.

AP

Ex-FIFA Council member charged in court with corruption

ACCRA, GHANA

FORMER FIFA Council member Kwesi Nyantakyi of Ghana was charged with fraud and corruption in a criminal court on Wednesday after he was caught in an undercover media sting accepting an alleged bribe of \$65,000 in cash that he stuffed in a black bag.

Nyantakyi, who was banned from football for life by FIFA in 2018 for bribery and corruption, was charged alongside another former senior Ghana Football Association official, Abdullai Alhassan.

AP

Four soccer officials from Germany and Switzerland - including Valcke's predecessor at FIFA, Urs Linsi - were also indicted last August on charges linked to an irregular payment between FIFA and organizers of the 2006 World Cup. German soccer great Franz Beckenbauer is also implicated.

Still, Lauber was given a renewed four-year mandate last September by Swiss lawmakers while the disciplinary probe was ongoing.

Key to the disciplinary case was a June 2017 meeting Lauber had with Infantino at a hotel in the Swiss capital Bern at which the prosecutor took no notes.

Lauber had previously acknowledged two undeclared meetings he had in 2016 with the recently elected Infantino when they were reported in the Football Leaks series of confidential documents published in November 2018.

In 2018, Lauber called a news conference and said the first two Infantino meetings were justifiable exchanges with FIFA's new leader about long-running investigations affecting soccer's world body. They were brokered in part by a prosecutor who was Infantino's friend since childhood.

However, the third 2017 meeting remained secret for several more months.

Dier jumps into stands as Tottenham crash out of FA Cup

LONDON

TOTTENHAM manager Jose Mourinho defended Eric Dier after the England international stormed into the stands following his side's FA Cup exit to Norwich on Wednesday.

Dier climbed over rows of seats to confront a fan, who had allegedly been involved in an altercation with the player's brother.

The incident rounded off a terrible night for Tottenham, who saw another chance of silverware slip away 3-2 on penalties after a 1-1 draw against the side bottom of the Premier League.

"When someone insults you and your family is there and your family gets involved with somebody who is insulting you, in this case a younger brother, I think Eric did what we professionals cannot do but, I repeat, probably everyone of us would do," said Mourinho.

"I am with the player and I understand the player."

Dier scored his penalty in the shootout, but Erik Lamela, Troy Parrott and Gedson Fernandes missed from the spot to condemn Spurs to a fourth straight defeat in all competitions.

On the prospect of the club taking disciplinary action against Dier, Mourinho added: "If the club does that I will not agree, but he did wrong."

Jan Vertonghen headed Tottenham into an early lead, but Mourinho's decision to hand 36-year-old goalkeeper Michel Vorm his first appearance of the season backfired.

The Dutchman spilt a long-range



Tottenham midfielder Eric Dier (right) confronted a supporter after his side's FA Cup elimination to Norwich (AFP Photo)

effort from Kenny McLean and Josip Drmic bundled home the rebound to level 12 minutes from time.

Both sides then tired badly in extra-time, but neither could find a winner and Mourinho again blamed his stretched resources without the injured Harry Kane and Son Heung-min to injury for defeat.

"Some of my players were really in trouble and

they made an incredible effort to try," said Mourinho.

"I don't have one single negative feeling towards my players. I can cope with negative moments in football, but I feel really sorry for my players."

Norwich will host Derby or Manchester United in their first quarter-final since 1992.

- City win for 'crazy' Guardiola - Manchester City will

travel to Newcastle in the last eight after winning a 20th consecutive domestic cup tie 1-0 win at Sheffield Wednesday thanks to Sergio Aguero's winner.

Wednesday goalkeeper Joe Wildsmith failed to get a strong enough hand to the Argentine's low strike eight minutes into the second half.

A solitary goal was scant reward for the dominance of Pep Guardiola's men,

but they maintained hopes of a cup treble after lifting a third consecutive League Cup on Sunday and beating Real Madrid 2-1 in the first leg of their Champions League last-16 tie.

"He is a good manager and crazy," said Aguero of Guardiola's relentless demand to keep winning.

Leicester also booked their place in the last eight with a much-needed 1-0 win over Birmingham thanks to Ricardo Pereira's late header.

The Foxes have won just one of their last seven Premier League games to stall their charge towards the Champions League next season.

Brendan Rodgers' men were again without Jamie Vardy through injury and needed right-back Ricardo to get the only goal when he headed home Marc Albrighton's cross eight minutes from time.

"I thought it was just a matter of time," said Rodgers, whose side will host Chelsea in the quarter-finals.

"In the second half we dominated -- lots of quick combos and the goal was coming. It was an excellent display."

Sheffield United will host Arsenal in the other quarter-final tie.

AFP

Bayern fans' protest exposes flaw in league rule

BY RYAN BAILEY, YAHOO SPORTS

FOR the most part, people dislike billionaires. They have (quite literally) billions of reasons for doing so. And in the world of sports, it seems that no billionaire is attracting more ire right now than Dietmar Hopp.

Hoffenheim's owner is the biggest story in the Bundesliga right now, as fans protest against him and the manner in which he has brought his hometown club to German soccer's top table.

During Bayern Munich's 6-0 win at Hoffenheim on Saturday, traveling ultras unfurled a banner calling Hopp a "Hurensohn," or "son of a whore." (The vulgar phrase, which is often heard chanted at Bundesliga games, is particularly offensive in the German language.)

When the fans refused to take the banner down after several warnings, the players were led off the pitch. This follows the underused protocol of UEFA's three-step procedure for combatting racism, but the steps were taken on behalf of a rich caucasian 79-year-old, rather than a player being targeted for the color of his skin.

Bayern's players and executives pleaded with the ultras - presumably as they feared their 6-0 win would be overturned to a 3-0 default loss if the game didn't reach its conclusion - but when the players returned, they refused to actually play a game, instead opting for some aimless passing in protest.

Hopp has apparently earned the "Hurensohn" label for the manner in which he has flouted the traditional values of German soccer. The tech billionaire played for his local side Hoffenheim as a teenager, and proceeded to invest enough money in them to take them from the regional unprofessional lower league to Champions League qualification.

On the surface, it sounds like a rags-to-riches story of a man reinvesting in the local club he loves. But this isn't the way things are done in Germany.

In a league where a "50+1" rule dictates that fan members must own a majority of shares in a club, Hopp is vilified for earning a special exemption from the rule that grants him permission for a majority stake.

He didn't break the Bundesliga's sacrosanct fan-owned rules, he benefited from a loophole that allows any party that has been significantly investing in a club for 20 years to



This is the banner that got Borussia Dortmund supporters banned from Hoffenheim. (Photo: Agencies)

gain a majority stake.

Hopp appears baffled as to why he is being singled out for abuse. "If I remotely knew what these idiots wanted from me, it would be all the easier for me to understand," Hopp said.

But Bayern's fans aren't the only ones venting their anger at Hopp. And their protests aren't necessarily aimed specifically at the septuagenarian billionaire.

In February, Borussia

Dortmund fans were banned from attending Hoffenheim games for two seasons by the German soccer association (DFB) for displaying a banner with an image of the Hoffenheim owner in crosshairs during a 2018 match.

This ban goes against the DFB's vow to scrap collective punishments for fans, as outlined in 2017. Bayern fans, therefore,

were actually standing in solidarity with their Dortmund rivals over a perceived crackdown on their freedom.

Last weekend, Borussia Monchengladbach ultras also stood in solidarity by unfurling a banner with the same Hopp-crosshair imagery that got Dortmund in trouble. The Gladbach fans, however, were condemned for displaying such imagery in the wake

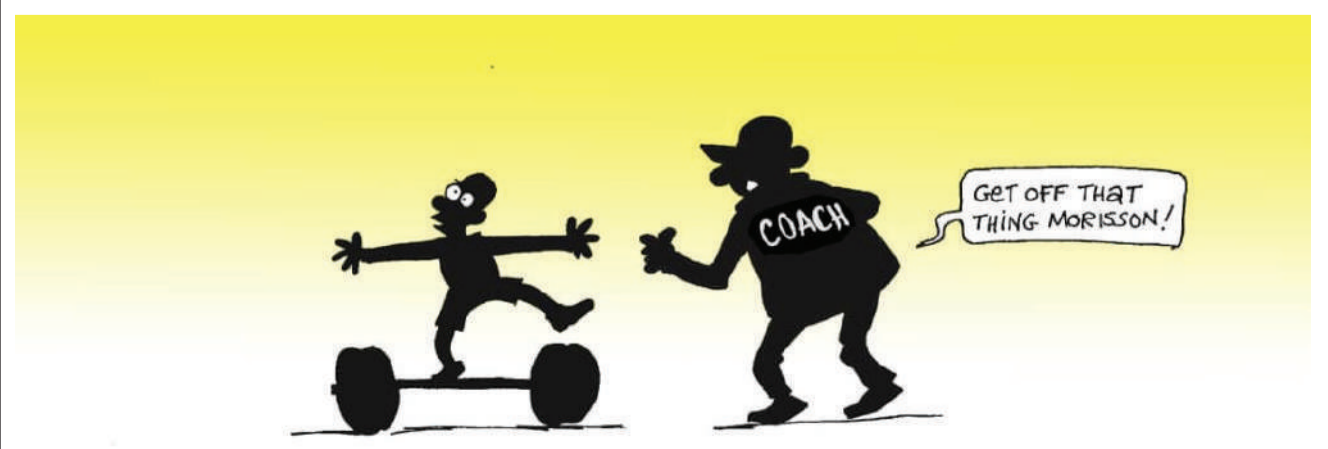
of the terrorist attack in Hanau days earlier.

The "Hurensohn" banner has spread to many other clubs in Germany, including Union Berlin,

whose tifo caused a game temporarily stopped on Sunday. Hopp, therefore, is the catalyst and unwitting motif for a greater protest that fans across the nation are aiming at the DFB.

To be continued

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Dier jumps into stands as Tottenham crash out of FA Cup

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

KMC FC seeks to avoid relegation



Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) Football Club.

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

KINONDONI Municipal Council (KMC) Football Club's head coach, Haruna Hareremana, has said he will work hard to see to it his side avoid relegation this season.

The Burundian coach issued the statement yesterday after his side

had cruised to 1-0 victory over JKT Tanzania in a Vodacom Premier League match which took place at National Stadium in Dar es Salaam yesterday morning.

The two sides had been scheduled to play the duel at Uhuru Stadium on Wednesday, the match then had to be pushed to yesterday because of downpour.

The coach disclosed he asked

his players to play their lungs out in the remaining 13 games.

He said based from yesterday performance, he is confident that his side will recover from their blushes and survive relegation from this season's Vodacom Premier League.

"I'm happy that, after a long time, we have won, this results is a relief to us all and I'm sure my players will use today motivation as stepping stone to doing well

in all of our remaining league games," he disclosed.

"We will do our best to save the team from the jaws of relegation."

Midfielder Mohamed Samatta notched KMC FC goal on the 17th minute.

The squad was reeling from a 2-0 loss to league leaders, Simba.

Before the yesterday game, KMC were holding the 19th position with 24 points from 25

games.

The side has now moved one step up with 26 matches played. JKT Tanzania head coach Mohamed Abdallah hailed his players for putting up a gallant fight despite losing and promised they will come back stronger in their future games.

"It was a good game, we played extremely well but it was just unfortunate that we did not score, there were some mistakes which we made and our opponents punished us, we will improve in our next games," he said.

In other matches, which were also postponed on Wednesday due to heavy rains in the country and took place yesterday, Shinyanga's Mwadui FC beat Polisi Tanzania 2-1 at Mwadui Complex.

Mwadui FC scored through Abubakar Kambi and Gerald Mathias while the visitors scored through Marcel Kaheza.

Iringa's Lipuli FC and Ndanda FC settled for a 3-3 draw at Samora Stadium.

Paul Nonga scored a brace and Frank Sekule scored the other goal for Lipuli while Ndanda FC scored through Omary Ramadhan and Vitalis Mayanga who scored two goals.

TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV FRIDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Mid Week Movie (r)
13:30 Kaji Za Wana
14:00 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Wakilisha (r)
16:00 Ujenzi (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Skonga
19:30 EATV SAA I
19:45 M'ADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Friday Night Live
23:00 Kurasa (r)

Friday Night Live The Weekend begins here! Listen to upbeat mixed music by the hottest DJs. Gossip, showbiz updates and exclusive interviews with celebrities from home and abroad. Don't you dare miss this.

eastafrika RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Plane F Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 Friday Night Live

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Burhani cricketers step up title chase in Paul Manyanda Memorial competition

By Guardian Reporter

ANNADIL Burhani have kept on enjoying the drivers' seat in Division B of the Paul Manyanda Memorial cricket competition, cruising to a comprehensive nine-wicket victory over Strikers in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

Strikers chose to bat once they won the toss, notching 87 runs and losing three wickets in 10 overs of the clash, which took place at Annadil Burhani oval.

Opener, Issa Kikasi, and Sanjay Bhatia put their experience to show, scoring 52 runs not out and 28 runs respectively for their squad.

In Kikasi's spell, which was the best innings, he notched seven fours and a six, Bhatia's score included two fours.

The duo's contribution was so far the only performance worth writing home about, given fellow batsmen fared dimly.

In response, Burhani chased their opponents' score zealously and ultimately emerged victorious, conceding one wicket in 7.2 overs.

Opening batsmen, Mufaddal Seifuddin and Abbas Adamjee, had the best day at the crease and they, in the end, steered their team to victory.

Adamjee ended his spell with bat in hand, notching 54 runs not out that included six fours and two sixes. Seifuddin posted 33 runs which included four fours.

Burhani are still at the top of the Division B table, given they have amassed six wins and suffered one defeat in seven matches.

They have winning percentage of 85.71 and net run rate of 1.6625. They have recorded 580 runs and conceded 542 runs in the seven games.

Strikers are placed fifth with two wins and four losses in six matches they have taken part in.

They have net run rate of -1.5571, they have scored 410 runs and conceded 460 runs.

In another development, the senior national cricket squad will play an internal trial Twenty20 match at Annadil Burhani oval tomorrow.

The trial match, as disclosed by Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) information officer Atif Salim, is part of the team's preparations for the ICC Africa Qualifiers 2020's Group A to be played in South Africa.

The official noted the squads set to feature in the trial will be made up of the 22 players selected from the ongoing camp.

The provisional squad for senior national team is training in the city for the third week in a row to shape up for the continental event.

Salim pointed out the teams will be captained by Kassim Nassoro and Abhik Patwa, who have wealth of experience, given they have represented the nation in many major tournaments in the past.

The trial match, the official noted, is open to all cricket lovers. He urged cricket followers in the city to turn up at the venue to support the players.

AT lauds Kili Marathon sponsors



The Tanzania Breweries Limited (TBL) Trade Marketing Director, Doreen Tumubebire (L), shares a light moment with one of the winners of the 2020 Kilimanjaro Premium Lager's 42 km race, which took place in Moshi on March 1. Looking on (C) is the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Brand Manager, Irene Mutiganzi. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

By Guardian Reporter

ATHLETICS Tanzania (AT) has lauded Tanzania Breweries Limited (TBL) Group for the firm's consistency in sponsoring the prestigious Kilimanjaro Marathon,

through Kilimanjaro Premium Lager brand.

The TBL Group has been sponsoring the race for 18 years now.

Commenting on the event, AT's First Vice President,

William Kallaghe, said the marathon should form on not just be regarded as a Moshi event but rather a national one.

He disclosed that Kilimanjaro Premium Lager brand

has played a big role in the race over the years.

"It is very difficult to make strides in sports without proper sponsorship. We want to sincerely thank Kilimanjaro Premium Lager for its role as this has ensured that the marathon happens every year," he said.

He stressed that the event has been attracting tourists from all over the world it hence deserves to be a national event.

He called on other sponsors to come up and sponsor athletics due to the huge interest among Tanzanians.

On his part, the Kilimanjaro Amateur Athletics Association Chairman, Liston Metacha, said they are privileged to have such a big event in their region.

He said the marathon has had a great contribution to not only the economy of Moshi but also the country's development.

Metacha called on Kilimanjaro Premium Lager and other sponsors to continue supporting the marathon every year.

The TBL Group Trade Marketing Director, Doreen Tumubebire, said they are delighted to be main sponsors of the marathon since its inception 18 years ago and now the race boasts of over 11,000 runners.

"This shows how people have realized the importance of sports in healthy living," she said.

She noted that this year they presented 23m/- as prizes for the 42km race and a bonus of 1.5m/- each to the first male and female Tanzanian runners.

This year's event was sponsored by Kilimanjaro Premium Lager-42km race, Tigo-21km race, Grand Malt-5km, Maji ya Kilimanjaro, TPC Limited, Simba Cement, Unilever, and Absa Bank Tanzania Limited.

The race's official suppliers are Kibo Palace Hotel, Keys Hotel, GardaWorld Security, Precision Air, and CMC Automobiles.

Simbu, Failuna set to camp in Kenya for 2020 Olympics

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

ATHLETICS Tanzania (AT) has said the country's two athletes will next month camp in Kenya to prepare for the coming Tokyo Olympic Games which are slated for mid this year.

Tullo Chambo, AT information officer, disclosed yesterday the association paid 5.5m/- for two athletes Alphonse Simbu and Failuna Matanga to attend training at Iten High Altitude Camp in Kenya.

He said although the two athletes have not attended the camp, AT paid their one-month fee early last month.

He noted the association, therefore, expects the two to enter the Kenya camp once they finish their personal assignments.

Tullo said the aim of AT is to ensure the two runners attend the Kenya camp up to a few days before the Tokyo Olympics.

He defended the move to pay in advance while the athletes are not attending the camp, saying it was done with a view to reserving their place as many elite athletes from around the world flock to the center to prepare for their respective events.

"We paid for their fees early February this year and we expect the two to attend the Iten camp in Kenya as soon as they finish their personal assignments," he disclosed.

"As you know Simbu is this Sunday expected to compete at Lake Biwa Marathon in Japan and Failuna has other assignments so once they are free they will join the camp," he said.

The two are the only local athletes who have sealed qualification for the Tokyo Olympics and AT promised that it will arrange good preparations for them ahead of the Olympics.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

HEAR ME MY FRIEND.
I AM NOT YOUR FRIEND!

