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National pg 3
Govt disbursed 798bn/- for public schools



National Pg 4
Cotton farmers paid 400bn/-



National Pg 5
Police hold eight Chadema followers



National Pg 7
UN Women helps communities



'President's Office, VPO civil servants leaving Dar soon'

We have invested in modern equipment in our public hospitals to address various diseases including kidney, cancer, heart and hepatitis, which serves local patients and others from neighbouring countries

By Getrude Mbago

REPARATIONS are being finalized to embark on the last phase of the total relocation of ministerial head offices to Dodoma ahead of the stated deadline in June 2020.

Government spokesman and Director of Information Services Dr Hassan Abbas said this yesterday in Dar es Salaam while responding to journalists' questions on achievements of the fifth-phase government in the past four years.

He said that five phases had already been accomplished with more than 9,000 public servants (90 percent of total) having been relocated to Dodoma.

The sixth and last phase will start soon, involving officials in the office of the President and Vice President.



He said that the exercise commenced in September 2016 and had seen ministers, permanent secretaries and their deputies relocating to Dodoma

present contractors are putting final touches for completion of key infrastructures to accommodate public officers from the two departments. "However we have seen Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan already moving to the capital city," he said.

He said that the exercise commenced in September 2016 and had seen ministers, permanent secretaries and their deputies relocating to Dodoma.

"The exercise has also seen public servants from different agencies, authorities and departments moving to Dodoma...however, those in some key authorities like Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) and some others will remain here as most of their activities are based in Dar es Salaam," he affirmed.

The government has continued to invest in

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Minister for Minerals Dotto Biteko (2nd R) presents a giraffe statue to Kenneth Oschipok, a representative of the world's largest tanzanite dealers, Diamond International and Tanzanite International of the United States. The firms' delegation visited the Mirerani area in Simanjiro district Manyara region yesterday, also touring Serengeti and Ngorongoro national parks. Others are Permanent Secretary Prof Amos Msanjila (L), Tanzania Mineral Dealers' Association (TAMIDA) chairperson Sammy Mollel (R) and Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner Anna Mghwira. Photo: Correspondent Cynthia Mwilolezi.



Leading US dealers now setting out better terms in tanzanite marketing

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

WITH over 80 percent of all tanzanite gemstones mined from the Mirerani Hills ending up in US markets, the just ended visit of mineral dealers from the United States is said to be a great step towards realizing more direct exports of the blue gems



The team comprises representatives from Tanzanite International and Diamond International from US

from Tanzania to the US.

Minerals minister Dotto Biteko, who saw off the delegation of nine mineral dealers at the Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA) yesterday, pointed out that mixed reports persist regarding the source of the rare gemstones, whether they are only found in northern Tanzania.

The visiting team was made up of representatives from Tanzanite International and Diamond International, both gemstone selling firms in the US.

"Following the mass smuggling of tanzanite in the past, consignments of the blue gems were finding their way into the

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MPs: Govt slow in disbursing agro-sector budgetary funds

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

MEMBERS of Parliament yesterday raised concern over poor funding of the agriculture and livestock sectors, insisting the areas should be given priority in budget allocations and development plans.

The legislators urged the government to ensure that monies allocated for the sectors are disbursed accordingly.

They were contributing to the Second Five-Year National Development Plan (2016/17 - 2020/21) and national budget estimates for the 2020/2021 fiscal year tabled on Tuesday by the Finance and Plan-



It is important that we set indicative prices for our strategic cash crops including tea

ning Minister, Dr Philip Mpango.

Prof Norman Sigala (Makete-CCM) said: "There should be deliberate efforts to improve the agriculture sector by ensuring availability of loans to farmers. The Tanzania Investment Bank (TIB) and other financial in-

stitutions should lower interest rates to at least 10 percent to facilitate availability of funds."

Muhea MP, Adadi Rajabu (CCM) said that both the national budget and development plans should prioritize the agr0-livestock sector. It is important for the government to establish auction markets for strategic crops such as tea, he said.

He said to boost tea farmers, the government must ensure the crop is auctioned locally instead of being auctioned in Nairobi.

"It is important that we set indicative prices for our strategic cash crops including tea," he emphasized.

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Villagers censure police for drowning of boy (15)

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

RESIDENTS of Mkunyuwa Village, Madibira Ward in Mbarali District have allegedly blamed the police force for the drowning of Jidanabi Lwenge (15) who is alleged to have fallen into a river while being pursued by the police for grazing livestock on rice farms owned by the Madidibira Smallholder Agriculture Cooperative Society (Mamcos).

Speaking to reporters at the village, the residents alleged that the deceased together with his colleague had gone to the area for watering their animals but suddenly some

armed police started chasing them.

A villager, Mwigulu Ucheyeki claimed that one boy who succeeded to escape went to report at home that the livestock had been impounded. When asked the whereabouts of his colleague he said he did not know where he had gone.

The villager said after receiving this report he went to the police station to reclaim his animals but after looking for the deceased he was nowhere to be found.

Ucheyeki said: "My cattle keeper told me that they were threatened with guns hence they started running away in different directions.



After that we asked him of the spot they were, then on the second day they found the deceased hanging here already dead."

He claimed that they have been under harassment from time to time from the police who seize livestock even if they are not within the Mamcos rice farms.

Another villager, Daniel Limbe alleged that the police are making herders in the village a private investment for profit by seizing their animals from time to time.

Sometimes they slap big fines of up to

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'President's Office, VPO civil servants leaving Dar soon'

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various areas including health and education sectors while increasing budgets and hiring more civil servants to improve service delivery.

"We have invested in modern equipment in our public hospitals to address various diseases including kidney, cancer, heart and hepatitis, which serves local patients and others from neighbouring countries," he said.

The idea of shifting Tanzania's capital to Dodoma was hatched 46 years ago by founding president Julius Nyerere, but the arrangement was not implemented due to various reasons.

In 2016, President John Magufuli announced that he will ensure that the government moved to the centrally located capital from the commercial capital Dar es Salaam before the end of his first five-year term, late 2020.

Commenting on other achievements, Dr Abbas said that the government plans to buy a third Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner, to further boost its fleet to 12 aircraft by the year 2020.

He said that the government's decision is meant to enable Air Tanzania increase its fleet and spread its wings internationally.

By the end of this year, the airline which operates aircrafts leased by the Tanzania Government Flight Agency (TGFA), expects to start flying to Guangzhou (China) and Bangkok (Thailand).

Dr Abbas said that payment processing is ongoing for another two Airbus A220-300s and one Bombardier Dash 8 Q400.

"All these are government initiatives to revive the national airline," he declared.

Responding to claims that refugees are being pressured to return to their home countries, Dr Abbas assured the general public that the exercise is voluntary and no one is being forced to return home.

"The ongoing refugees' repatriation exercise in our camps is fair and voluntary, so if there is anyone who has been issued with a compulsory notice to go home can report to the government," he stated.

In the past four years over 1600 water projects have been implemented, he said, expecting the service to reach 85 percent of the rural population by 2020.

"Currently, the government has reached 65 percent of the rural population with clean water services...in urban areas 95 percent of the population has access to clean water," he said.

He also said that the government has done a good job in fighting corruption, bureaucracy in public offices, increasing revenue collection and strengthening tax collection education among the people.

He highlighted that the restoration of discipline among public servants has resulted in increased efficiency and reliability in service delivery.

The government spokesperson referred to impressive achievements in controlling government expenditure and ensuring value for money in state-funded projects.

The construction of the Standard Gauge railway (SGR) section between Dar es Salaam and Morogoro will be completed early next year and the government has already ordered train wagons to serve the country's first ultra-modern railway line, the spokesman added.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa and other mourners in front of a casket bearing the body of his brother Mzee Bakari Majaliwa at Nandagala village in Ruangwa district, Lindi region yesterday shortly before the funeral which took place at the village. Photo: PMO.

MPs: Govt slow in disbursing agro-sector budgetary funds

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Dr Deodorus Kamala (Nkenge-CCM) said farmers need to be empowered to produce and sell competitively. He urged the government to facilitate availability and distribution of agricultural inputs. Poor distribution of the inputs affects performance of the crucial sector which contributes nearly 25 percent of

the national income, he emphasized.

Special Seats MP Sophia Mwakaganda (Chadema) said that despite the sector employing almost 70 percent of the population, the government has been disbursing fewer funds than what is indicated by allocated amounts.

"In the 2019/2020 budget we endorsed a budgetary allo-

cation of more than 98bn/- for agriculture but the government disbursed less than half of the funds," she said, insisting on timely distribution of seeds and fertilizers to farmers.

Lupa MP Victor Mwambalasa (CCM) challenged the government to fully utilize the skills and knowledge of experts from the Sokoine Uni-

versity of Agriculture (SUA).

He said the university experts can help to prepare a blueprint on how the country can properly utilize its land and water resources to improve agriculture.

Tabling an implementation report on the Second Five-Year National Development Plan (2016/17 - 2020/21) in the House on Tuesday, the minister

said the government will put more emphasis on improvement of the agriculture sector for production of raw materials that will be used in industries to be built in the country.

Dr Mpango noted that the sector was important as Tanzania strives to become an industrialized and middle-income nation by 2025.



National Assembly Speaker Job Ndugai (L) in talks with Tanzania Prisons Commissioner General Phaustine Kasike who paid a courtesy call on Speaker in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: National Assembly.

Leading US dealers now setting out better terms in tanzanite marketing

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United States and Europe but being exported from other countries," the minister noted.

In the past, tanzanite minerals smuggled from Mirerani Hills of Simanjiro in Manyara Region were being taken to the neighbouring countries of Kenya and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). From there they would be shipped to India, China and South Africa, mainly.

"Now US dealers have seen for themselves where the gems originate and will be great envoys

of tanzanite in the United States," he said, specifying that Tanzania was also working to reinforce 'Certificate of Origin' regulations for all mineral exports to curb smuggling and enforce trust among tanzanite buyers abroad.

The chairman of Tanzania Mineral Dealers Association (TAMIDA), Sammy Molle, said they have been taking the US visitors inside and around the tanzanite quarries at Mirerani, gave them a tour around the export zone wall, minerals agent offices in Arusha and the city's

gemstone trading center.

One of the delegates, Kenneth Oschipok said this was his first time to visit Africa and Tanzania but together with fellow dealers, he was surprised to discover the real source of tanzanite gems.

"And while at it, we were astounded by the beauty of the country, its tourism potential, the abundant resources and great investment opportunities. We surely must return for yet another mission," he declared.

The delegation, other than visiting Mirerani Mining Hills in

Simanjiro, also had excursions in Serengeti and Lake Manyara National Parks as well as descending into the Ngorongoro Crater.

Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner Anna Mghwira invited the team for another visit so that they may also sample a climbing stint at Africa's highest peak located in the prefecture.

When inaugurating the Mirerani Wall last year, President John Magufuli stated that more than 1760 million tons of tanzanite is yet to be lifted from

underground, and that the rare gemstones will still be mined in the next 25 years.

The president pointed out that at the current rate of extracting 54 tons per year, depleting the nearly 2 trillion tons of the rare blue gemstones from the 'Block C' quarry alone will take up to 2042, but there is even bigger chance of fresh tanzanite reserves being found as time goes by.

"Research conducted in 2015 discovered that the 'Block C' quarry

Villagers censure police for drowning of boy (15)

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50,000/- for each animal seized but without issuing any receipts, he said, underlining that they do not live in peace at all.

He said following the death of Jidanabi they were asking the government to intervene to resolve the conflict as it has taken dangerous proportions.

That now includes the loss of life, especially when they have not been told not to graze their animals in the village.

The secretary of the Association of Livestock Keepers in Mbarali District, Matagili Mbigili, appealed to the herders to remain calm during this period as their issue was

being followed up. The fifth-phase government will assist them and justice will be meted out, he declared.

Speaking on the incident, Mbeya Regional Commissioner SACP Ulrich Matei (pictured) refuted claims that the police were responsible for the death of Jidanabi, saying that he died after being overwhelmed by water when he was leading his animals across the river.

He said after the incident local residents reported the matter to Madibira Police Station and that was when the police accompanied the villagers to look for the deceased whose body they later recovered and handed him to his family for burial.

Govt sets aside 2.8bn/- for solar power in Mafia islands

By Guardian Correspondent, Mafia

THE government has set aside 2.8bn/- for solar power distribution to people living in Mafia district, Coast region.

The Deputy minister for Energy Subira Mgalu said the service will cover the islands of Chole, Jibondo, Bwejuu and Juani in Mafia district, Coast region and will incorporate three villages that have not yet received solar power.

Mgalu said at a public meeting at Chemchem village before he switched on the electricity and said that preparations for invitations for tenders will be held next month.

He said: "Some of the islands include Chole, Ibondo, Juani and Bwejuu and the government aims to supply solar power to areas that are difficult to reach so that the wananchi benefit from the services fulfilling the promise of President John Magufuli to supply power to all areas which did not have the services.

He called on the wananchi where the power connected to their areas to be ready to pay for the service for their own socio-economic development.

In the meeting one of the residents Rukia Muhamed Mbottoni thanked the government for easing the lives of the rural people for bringing to them electricity under Rural Electrification Authority (REA) which many people are now able to be connected.

Apart from Chemchem village, the deputy minister inspected the implementation of energy projects at Marimbani village.



Deputy minister in the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government Josephat Kandege (3rd L) together with Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Deputy Minister Dr Faustine Ndugulile (2nd L), CRDB managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela (2nd R), BOT deputy governor Benard Kibesse (R) and Kigamboni District Commissioner Sarah Msafiri raise hands after the launch of a CRDB loan facility for small entrepreneurs dubbed: Jiwezeshi in Kigamboni district, Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Selemani Mpochi

'Illegal cultivation, use of marijuana and khat remain a major problem facing the country'

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

ILLEGAL cultivation and use of marijuana and khat has remained a major problem facing the country with six regions mentioned to dominate the unlawful business.

Unveiling the 2018 report by the Drugs Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA) on the state of drugs in the country, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, responsible for Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and the Disabled, Jenister Mhagama said Mara, Tanga, Ruvuma, Kagera, Arusha and Morogoro leads in cultivation of the illicit drugs.

"The use of marijuana remains a major challenge in our country being consumed by Tanzanians of different ages. In 2018, security organs in collaboration with wananchi and the Anti-Drugs Unit organs apprehended 1,186 suspects engaging in the illegal business and seized some 8.97 kilos of Khat and 24.3 tonnes of Marijuana", said the Minister.

Mhagama said in the same year, a total of 7,593 cases involving 10,979 suspects were filed at various courts across the country. She said there are some 7,174

cases involving 11,045 currently going on at different courts.

She however noted that Tanzania has made a number of strides in controlling the use and import of illicit drugs.

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Tanzania has controlled usage and import of heroin by 90 percent.

Minister Mhagama asserted that six major drugs rehab clinics have been established in Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Mbeya and Dodoma to provide free rehabilitation services to drug addicts.

Until December 2018, there were a total of 8,000 drug addicts registered at the clinics for Methadone services, she said.

Mhagama said the government will continue enhancing supervision of the laws and regulations to further control importation and use of drugs. She said a number of international conventions have been ratified to boost global efforts against drugs.

Commissioner for Prevention and Treatment of the Drugs Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA), Dr Peter Mfisi the country's consumption of Methadone is 300 kilograms per year.

Dr Mfisi noted that currently, the country purchases Methadone from India at cost of between US \$ 650 and US \$ 700 per kilogram. He said funds for the medicine are provided by donors.

"We were previously purchasing Methadone from Canada at a cost of US \$ 1,500 per kilogram. We are now getting them at cheapest prices", said the DCEA boss noting a kilo of Methadone can be administered to more than 700 people per month.

The 2018 DCEA report states that Marijuana was massively used by at least 188 million people around the globe in 2017, equivalent to 3.8 percent of world population aged between 15 and 64 years.

The report quotes the 2016 UNODC estimations which indicates that 13.8 million people from 130 countries aged between 15 and 16 years admitted to have used Marijuana at least once in six months.

The world drugs report 2019 indicate that 271 million people equivalent to 5.5 percent of the world population aged between 15 and 64 years died due to drugs they used in 2017.

'Govt disbursed 798bn/- from January 2016 to December 2018 for provision of free education to public schools'

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

THE government has disbursed 798bn/- from January 2016 to December 2018 for provision of free education to public schools.

Deputy minister in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) Mwitwa Waitara told the National Assembly yesterday that he funds were directly

disbursed to schools and they were used to among others; provide meals to students, tuition fees, running costs and allowances to heads of schools and ward education officers.

He was responding to a basic question posed by Kigoma Urban Member of Parliament, Zitto Kabwe

(ACT-Wazalendo). Zitto had tasked the government to explain how much has been spent on free basic education. He also wanted to know whether the CAG is involved in auditing spending of the funds.

According to the deputy minister, the monies includes funds which were allocated to the National Examination Council of Tanzania (NECTA) for

preparing and supervising national examinations for standard seven and form four candidates.

Waitara assured legislators that expenditure of money provided for free education is audited by the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) as it is the case with all public funds which are budgeted for the central, local governments, ministries and other public institutions.

In a follow up question, the opposition MP claimed that while 10,000/- is allocated for each pupil out of which 6,000/- is capitation fund directly sent to schools while 4,000/- is for printing books in some areas schools receive only 4,200/- for each pupil.

In response, the Deputy Minister disputed the claims by the Kigoma Ur-

ban MP stressing that there is no area which has been provided with fewer funds than what is budgeted.

Meanwhile, Deputy Minister for Education, Science and Technology, William Ole Nasha, informed the House that the funds provided by GPE are not meant for only publishing books but catering for all matters in the education sector.

Govt expresses intention to export purified gold

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government yesterday expresses its intention to export purified gold in efforts to improve the sub-sector and earn more revenues.

The announcement was made by the deputy minister for Minerals, Stan-

slaus Nyongo noting that the purified gold will have at least 95 percent of the global purity standard.

He made the remarks while debating at the Tanzania Extractive Industry conference organised by HakiRasilimali, a local non-governmental organization (NGO), at the ongoing CSOs Week 2019.

The platform of CSOs working on strategic issues around minerals, oil and gas extraction in Tanzania is one of the organizations participating at the week-long event organized by among others, the Foundation for Civil Societies (FCS). Deputy Minister Nyongo was the main panelist at the yesterday's debate where

he explained that the decision to export purified gold comes after the government installs refineries in the country.

"The government has decided to add value to locally produced gold before exporting since purified gold fetches the best prices in the global market" he said, adding that the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) as reserve.

He added that the changes being undertaken in the mining sector among others also aim to create transparency and accountability. They also should help the public feel the economic gains from the natural mineral resources the country is endowed with.

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City residents walk near the ongoing construction of Ubungo Interchange at the roundabout of Morogoro Road/Mandela Expressway in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: John Badi

More than 400bn/- paid to cotton farmers - Bashe

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

MORE than 400bn/- have been paid to cotton farmers across the country, the National Assembly heard yesterday.

Agriculture Deputy Minister, Hussein Bashe said that buyers have so far paid 417bn/- to cotton farmers, insisting the remaining 50bn/- will soon be paid to farmers.

Cotton which is one among strategic cash crops is grown in 56 districts in 17 regions of Tanzania mainland.

The Deputy Minister said the government is implementing a number of strategies intended to increase cotton production in the country and protect farmers. He said the government will in the coming few days meet with private companies which includes cotton buyers and seed distributors to discuss a number of issues related to development of the crop.

He was responding to a supplementary question from Special Seats MP, Leah Komanya (CCM) who wanted to know when the government will pay cotton farmers. Komanya was

concerned that as the next farming season nears, there are still a lot of farmers who have not yet been paid.

The legislator claimed that delayed payments affects cotton farmers as most of them depend on the monies to purchase seeds.

Bashe told the House that in the coming meeting with stakeholders, the government will suggest for a new system which will see cotton buyers supplying seeds to farmers on special agreement and let them pay after selling the crop.

According to Prime Minister Majaliwa, cotton production in the 2018/2019 harvest season was 222,000 tonnes - an amount that is projected to reach 450,000 tonnes in the next harvest season.

Meanwhile the Deputy Minister informed that Agriculture Ministry will later this week meet with stakeholders in the horticulture sector since many people are now engaging in the growing of flowers, fruits and vegetables, and other plants.

He said the meeting will among other things discuss on

how to enhance production of horticultural crops, improve its quality and strengthen market systems within and outside the country. He said the strategies are key to nation's development agenda as well as transforming Tanzania into a middle-income nation.

The government, he said will continue collaborating with the Tanzania Spices Association (TASPA), Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT) farmers' cooperative unions and stakeholders in providing education to farmers engaging in horticulture and spices farming.

"We are aware of the economic potentials to be obtained through horticulture and spices farming. We have engaged the Tanzania Research Institute (TARI) to conduct research on the crops for increased competitiveness.

The Deputy Minister was responding to a question by Mkinga legislator, Dunstan Kitandula (CCM) who wanted to know the government strategies to empower farmers especially those in the horticultural sector.

'TASAF so far covered 70 pc of villages, streets, shehias totaling 9,986 people'

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

DEPUTY Minister in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance), Dr Mary Mwanjelwa said the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) has so far covered 70 per cent of villages, streets and shehias totaling 9,986 people since its

introduction in 2013.

Dr Mwanjelwa said in Dodoma yesterday when responding to a basic question by Bahi Member of Parliament, Omary Badwel (CCM).

The MP had tasked the government to explain when the other remaining villages will be covered by TASAF.

"The coming phase of the poverty eradication scheme will cover all 185 local government authorities in Tanzania Mainland and all districts in Zanzibar," the Deputy Minister informed the august House.

She said an additional 6,858 villages, streets and shehias will be covered in the next phase of the project

which is slated to commence at the end of this year.

She also warned officials who have been deducting funds meant for the poor on pretext of using the funds for development projects or providing health insurance for the beneficiaries.

"All leaders at village and ward

levels who have been deducting subsidies meant for the beneficiaries should stay warned. Nobody should be forced to contribute," she warned.

Dr Mwanjelwa stressed that the subsidy given to the poor families are meant to enable them to buy food, pay school fees for their children and cater for health care as well

as establishing small-scale projects to improve their incomes.

She noted further as part of efforts to curb cheating through ghost beneficiaries, TASAF will deploy Geographical Positioning System (GPS) to trace beneficiaries. In addition, the payment of subsidies will be made electronically.

New curricula in hides and skins sector in the offing

Distributed via ipmedia

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has called on stakeholders in the hides and skins sector who prepare curricula for higher learning institutions for short courses teaching at certificate and diploma levels to come out with better curricula so that those who graduate bring benefits to the country.

Speaking in Dodoma at the opening of the meeting that brought together stakeholders in the hides, skins, beef and dairy

sectors from both the government and private sector, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Prof Elisante Ole Gabriel said in order to get good raw materials from the hides, skins, beef and dairy sectors the experts must have studied the sectors at certificate and diploma levels must be given a good environment to ensure they use their expertise from various colleges from the curricula so that they benefit the nation.

Prof Gabriel called on the stake-

holders to evaluate better ways of teaching soon after approval of the said curricula so as to ensure students will understand without difficulties and must also be ready to receive such instructions.

Speaking about the society having profitable livestock keeping, Gabriel called on the livestock stakeholders to build a culture of using experts especially those in the middle level so that they engage in modern livestock keeping.

On his part the Director of Research, Extension Services and Training from the Ministry Dr Angello Mwilawa said the debate in preparing the curricula have come from the stakeholders themselves, and hence the Ministry incorporated various institutions including the National Council for Technical Education (NACTE) to finalize the said curricula.

Explaining the importance for the government through the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries to prepare the curricula, the Secre-

tary of Tanzania Livestock Farmers Magembe Makoye praised the ministry for ensuring the livestock sector manages well through legal and policy issues.

Makoye said the livestock sector which employs many people countrywide through training to start being given by various colleges after approval of the curricula will contribute in the enhancing the value of the skins, dairy and beef sector because livestock keepers will have their knowledge increased.

Vanilla stakeholders propose commercial plantations to ensure quality, smuggling

By Guardian Reporter, Moshi

LARGE commercial vanilla plantations could prop up in Tanzania and other African countries in the near future if the crop's stakeholders implement a suggestion offered here yesterday.

Speaking during the world vanilla conference taking place here, major players proposed the establishment of the plantations as a means to tame quality issues caused by immature harvesting, poor curing of the beans driven by rampant smuggling of the lucrative spice.

In Tanzania, the crop thrives in Kilimanjaro, Kagera, and Mbeya and Morogoro regions as well as Zanzibar.

Other African countries producing the crop part from Tanzania are the world leader Madagascar, neighbouring Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

In her presentation on quality control of vanilla beans, Dr Daphna Havkin-Frenkel from Bakto Flavors in the United States said considering the difficulties in controlling the quality of vanilla under the current climate circumstances, plantations could be the solution.

"With commercial plantations, it's easy to ensure quality by following the right procedures in planting, curing and extracting the spice," she said.

The same was echoed by Juan Guardado whose company Natural Extracts Industries (NEI) is a major buyer and exporter of Tanzanian vanilla.

He said the plantations are to come along with demonstration farms as well as training centres.

"Tanzania has the potential to join Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo in establishing East Africa as a reliable supplier of quality, sustainable vanilla pods and derivative products like vanilla extracts," he said.

Nestlé's Regulatory and Scientific Affairs Manager in Tanzania Marsha Macatta-Yambi shared her observations on the establishment of commercial plantations being as a good idea but should not leave out smallholder farmers whose livelihoods depend on the crop.

"If it comes to fruition, there should be regulations and systems that compel commercial plantations to accommodate smallholder outgrowers," she said.

Macatta-Yambi added that involvement of smallholders through cooperative societies is already showing the way and in most places working well as far as other commercial crops such as tea and coffee are concerned.

Nestlé is one of important stakeholders and has been invited to the conference in recognition of its Shared Value Prize initiative which NEI won in 2016.

Vanilla is used as spice in food, beverages and fragrances. In recent years, it has become a crop of choice among farmers in regions whose weather allow its cultivation because of its good price.

A kilogramme of vanilla goes for between 10,000,-/ and 15,000,-/ Tanzania currently produces less than 10 metric tonnes per year but has the potential to produce 100 tonnes, it was said here.



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MEDIA RELEASE

OVERSEAS VOTING FOR THE 2019 PRESIDENTIAL AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

This media release notice serves as a notification to all duly registered Namibian citizens in possession of a valid Voters' Card residing in the United Republic of Tanzania and the Rest of East Africa (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda) that the 2019 Namibian Presidential and National Assembly Elections will be held on 13th November 2019 for Namibians living abroad at the premises of the High Commission in Dar es Salaam.

The voting process will take place as follows:

Election Venue: The High Commission of the Republic of Namibia
Election Address: 3 Rufiji Road, Masaki, Dar es Salaam
Election Date: Wednesday, 13th November 2019
Time: 7am to 9pm
Who may vote: Namibian citizens in possession of a valid Voter's Card

Come Exercise Your Constitutional Right!

Your Vote is Your Voice

Issued by H.E. Theresia Samaria, High Commissioner of the Republic of Namibia to the United Republic of Tanzania

PUBLIC NOTICE



The general public is hereby informed that **Mr. Mikidadi Yasini** who worked as GSE operator in the Ramp services department is no longer an employee of NAS Dar Airco Company Limited. His employment contract ceased since October 16, 2019.

The company will neither be involved in any communication provided, transaction made, nor service rendered by him on behalf of the Company, whether in good faith or maliciously.

The general public and media are hereby informed that if you are looking for any information about NAS Dar Airco Company Limited, you are welcome to visit our offices, located at Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA), Cargo Terminal, Gate No.6. **OR** Contact us via:-

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Stakeholders in cultural tourism decry single entry payment system

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

THE government has been challenged to waive the system of single entry payments for tourists entering into national parks to boost cultural tourism in the country.

Coordinator of Serengeti Cultural Tourism, Joshua Nyansiri made the call here yesterday when speaking in an exclusive interview on the status of country's cultural tourism.

The move is likely to attract as many tourists as possible especially foreigners to visit the national parks as they can have an opportunity to see Tanzanian cultural activities, Nyansiri said.

He pointed out that with the current system tourists who pay entry fees to the national parks once they go out to watch cultural activities they are needed to pay again entry fees when they return to the parks a situation that may discourage them

to see cultural tourism.

In that regard, the government should work on the possibility of waiving that type of fees at the national parks as it hinders cultural tourism growth, he remarked.

He noted that when tourists go to villages surrounding the national parks to see cultural tourism they pay the indigenous people and therefore it is one of the income generation activities to them.

According to him, Serengeti Cultural Tourism guides tourists to see traditional activities of local communities surrounding the world's renowned Serengeti National Park such as food, houses, clothes as well as other things related to traditional activities.

When tourists visit the Serengeti National Park they are also eager to see cultural activities of local people close to it by paying some money and make the villagers earn a living, he said.



Mwanga District Commissioner in Kilimanjaro region Thomas Apson leads to burn illegal fishnets at Kiria area which were seized during the ongoing operation dubbed: Jodari. Photo: Correspondent Paul William

Police hold 8 Chadema members for allegedly inciting chaos

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

POLICE in Ruvuma Region are holding eight Chadema followers including its regional chairman Aden Mayala (37) and the party's Councilor for Rwanda Ward from Mbinga District Edmund Nditi for allegedly causing chaos at the office of the returning officer within Songea Municipal Council

offices.

Speaking to reporters in his office yesterday Ruvuma Regional Police Commander Simon Maigwa said at around 2pm within the council grounds the suspects raided and caused pandemonium in the returning officer's office.

Maigwa mentioned those held, all residents of Songea

Municipality as Belchomas Thobias (30) Madaraka Sylvester (29), Michael Samwel (32), Tito Mzimba (42), Arnold Lucian (37) and Hamissi Mwamba (34).

He explained that on the day of the incident Songea Police station received reports from an election official of Songea Municipal Council, Christopher Ngonyani that some Chadema

followers were causing chaos at the office of the returning officer Lewis Mnyambwa (46) after which the police arrived and arrested eight.

He further claimed that the suspects after arriving at the office were forcing him to return the names of their contestants for the civic elections that had been removed because they did

not follow proper procedures. The suspects will be taken to court after the police complete their investigations.

In another development, the police are holding an administrative officer from Tunduru District in Ruvuma region, Hashim Sultan Luoga (36) for knocking with his car one Rajabu Kachakacha (20) a resident

of Misufini in Tunduru who was on a motorcycle thereby causing his death.

Speaking to reporters yesterday RPC Maigwa said one day last week at around 9 pm along Songea - Tunduru road a car with registration number T 237 DBY Corola Runx that was being driven by Luoga hit the motorcyclist and his passenger

Sandali Mohamed (19) a resident of Tunduru who were then rushed and admitted at Tunduru District Hospital where Kachakacha died.

He said the suspect will be taken to court any time after investigations are complete to face charges of reckless driving on a public road and causing death.

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Ensol workers installing solar energy light along Tabata External road in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Mbeya carrot growers ask govt to decrease crops' inputs prices

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

CARROT growers in Iganjo Ward in Mbeya City have asked the government to reduce the price of agricultural inputs as compared to what it was in the last season so that they can increase production.

They issued the request yesterday at a meeting with Deputy Speaker of Parliament Dr Tulia Ackson who visited them to listen to their problems.

The farmers who numbered over 400 said they would prefer in the coming farming season the price for agricultural inputs for carrots to be reduced so that they reap more profit from the crop.

One of the carrot growers from G20 group Nicolaus Mwampeta said the carrot crop has been part of their lives as it has assisted them in many ways

including educating their children.

He said: "We, the youth, have decided to employ ourselves through carrot farming instead of other crops because it is more profitable, the only challenge is the high cost of its agricultural inputs," Mwampeta said.

The Deputy Speaker was pleased by the youths' efforts in their decision to turn to farming.

She told the youths to apart from growing carrots to ensure they dig the carrots from the ground and have them washed in the river because it simplifies the work of their customers.

She said because of this her institution Tulia Trust will assist the G20 group with a loan of one million shillings to enable the completion of their building which is now under construction.



We, the youth, have decided to employ ourselves through carrot farming instead of other crops because it is more profitable, the only challenge is the high cost of its agricultural inputs

Cattle herders accuse farmers for invasion of their allocated areas

By Guardian Correspondent, Malinyi

LIVESTOCK keepers in Malinyi District, Morogoro Region say periodic conflicts between farmers and herders in their area are a result of invasion of areas allocated for grazing by other land users for agricultural activities and human settlement.

The situation they say has driven herders, some of who

also engage themselves in farming, to find alternative grazing areas for their animals.

The herders from Malinyi District said this at a meeting with the Morogoro Regional Commissioner Loata Ole Sanare.

The chairman of the herders Samora Makwaya said many areas set aside for grazing with signboards erected have continued to be invaded, the state-

ment that was supported by many herders including Kulwa Masanja and Mahenya Kalenga who said the challenge have caused hard times to them hence asked the government to intervene.

Makwaya added that since the allocated areas are recognised on district and village maps it is better for the government to enforce the allocations it had made to reduce unneces-

sary conflicts.

They also complained to natural resources officials who shifted demarcation beacons and hence increase the sizes of their areas without incorporating the wananchi especially in Kipenyi village, Mtimbira Ward thereby causing a conflict.

Sanare called on the farmers and herders to live in harmony as all of them depend on each other in their activities.

Sanare also warned village leaders who hand out land plots to herders without proper procedures through corruption saying those who will be found out will face the wrath of the law.

He told the herders that if the sizes of herds are huge they should reduce them, and the same with farmers. "Stop these intermittent conflicts we expect these cases to end, and if there

are conflicts they should be between people," said Ole Sanare.

In another development Malinyi District Council has donated 10 motorcycles that were handed over by the regional commissioner to ward secretaries to ease their work load while collecting revenue.

Malinyi District Development Director (DED) Hawa Mposs called on those given the motorcycles to use them for the

intended purpose.

One of the ward secretaries who received a motorcycle, Mwajabu Ramadhani Hassan from Njiowa Ward praised the step saying in the past they were unable to move from one area to another due to the area's geography and due to transport challenges sometimes they were forced to leave overnight in villages the revenue they collect during the day.

UN Women helps communities take action to change social norms against leadership, political participation

By Guardian Reporter

IN the last days of October in a small community in Kongwa, Dodoma, the sun blazes down on a relatively open space where over 150 residents gather in clusters, sitting and standing wherever they can find some relief from the heat.

The latest "Bongo flavor" hits are booming from loudspeakers mounted on a white pick-up truck, while a traditional drum troupe waits to perform in the background.

At the centre, Meena Juma Chiyuyo, an aspiring politician, and Zamoyoni George Mololo "boda-boda" the meeting's MC and one of the leaders of a "boda-boda" motorcycle taxi association in the area put on an impromptu skit to energize the crowd.

Meena and Zamoyoni are members of the "WanawakeSasa" team from the Kibaigwa Ward in Kongwa. Under UN

Women Tanzania's flagship project on Women's Leadership and Political Participation, also known as the "WanawakeWanaweza" Phase II project, UN Women partnered with Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF) to form five "WanawakeSasa" teams in the districts of Kongwa, Singida Rural, Urambo, Bukombe and Misungwi this year to champion women's rights and expand the democratic space for women to participate in leadership and democratic processes.

Each "WanawakeSasa" team, comprised of 25 community influencers and leaders per district is working in their communities to transform patriarchal systems and discriminatory norms, as well as sensitizing communities on the rights and processes for women to access leadership positions.

Despite recent progress

made towards women's equal representation in leadership positions in the country, the numbers still fall short. The proportion of women in the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania currently stands at 36.8 per cent, and 37.2 per cent in the Zanzibar House of Representatives, however, only 10 per cent and 12 per cent of women have been elected through constituencies. At the local level, only 5 per cent of women have been elected as councilors in Mainland Tanzania, with 21 per cent in Zanzibar, and according to a President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government report of the 2014 local government elections, only 11 per cent of elected Local Government chairs, 1.8 per cent of village chairs and 5.4 per cent of hamlet chairs were women.

According to Ms. Erasmia Massawe, Team Leader for the UN Women "WanawakeWanaweza" project, several barriers still exist that hinder women from taking up leadership and political positions in Tanzania.

"Women face significant challenges that prevent them from both vying for and attaining leadership roles. These include poverty, which mostly affects women; gender gaps in laws and policies; a patriarchal system; male dominated political institutions; weak access to information; and lack of self-confidence among women which is contributed to by low levels of education," said Ms. Massawe.

Up until this year, the Kongwa district did not have any women village or hamlet chairpersons, but as Tanzania readies itself for local government elections, the Kibaigwa ward has seen some unprecedented changes.

"There has been a significant increase in awareness. In the past, women would only go for special seats positions, but for

the first time ever this year, five women brought forms to my office expressing their intent to compete for elected positions," said Mr. Venant Tibandolage, the Kibaigwa Ward Executive Officer.

After becoming a member of the WanawakeSasaKongwa team, Meenamade the decision to contest for a special seatsvillage council representative position. As a café owner, paralegal, and "WanawakeSasa"community mobilizer, she already has a lot on her plate, but with the knowledge she recently acquiredcame confidence and the drive to show that women can become leaders and lead effectively.

"My goal is to become an elected Councilor, and to ensure that as I make progress in my political journey, that I do whatever is in my power to help other women become leaders as well," she said.

After receiving training on women's leadership and political participation, the

"WanawakeSasa"champions have been implementing various interventions to sensitize community members.

"I meet a lot of people in my work and business, and make sure that I speak to them about it as much as I can. Sometimes a few of us team up and go to other meetings, such as village community bank meetings to speak," said Meena.

On his part, Zamayoni, the boda-boda association leader has been travelling around the district whenever he can, speaking to boda-boda groups and other community members he is able to reach. The more he talks about it, he says, the more the boda-boda drivers he works with are openly championing women as leaders.

"My dream is for more and more women to become leaders, to the point that it is not an issue anymore. We just need to focus on increasing people's

knowledge. If we keep educating communities and intensifying our efforts, I am sure we will be successful," said Zamayoni.

The "WanawakeWanaweza" Phase II project is being implemented with the support of the Governments of Finland, Sweden, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Government of Switzerland.

The project seeks to ensure women lead and participate in leadership and decision making through various interventions including gender analysis of electoral laws and policies, creating a pool of qualified women through capacity building of women leaders and aspirants, supporting gender responsive political institutions, transforming discriminatory social norms and strengthening the media to promote women's leadership and political participation.



Citizens look at two cars which were involved in head-on collision along Dodoma-Manyara road at Ndoroboni village in Chemba district, Dodoma region on Tuesday. Nobody was injured. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

TBS urge students to be ambassadors in quality, standards maintenance

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

STUDENTS in primary and secondary schools across the country have been urged to take part in standards awareness campaign and help the government to flush out substandard goods.

Speaking during an event to mark International Standards Day, a Public Relations Officer of Tanzania Bureau of Standards, Neema Mtemvu said students play a crucial role in standards issues.

She said TBS has imparted knowledge on standards to 10,757 students from some primary and secondary schools, an initiative that will enhance awareness on goods with quality standards.

They are from three regions of Dar es Salaam, Coast and Morogoro.

The International Standards Day is celebrated to raise awareness among regulators, industry and consumers as to the importance of standardization to the global economy.

Some of the schools that benefited from the knowledge on standards provided by TBS are Kihonda, Kayenzi, Kilakala, Chief Albert, Mwere A, Bungo from Morogoro Region as well as Maendeleo and Bundikani from the Coast Region.

"This is a significant initiative for we to enhance awareness on quality standards to different groups of people in order to enhance awareness on goods that meet the required standards," she said.

Mtemvu urged students to make sure they become good ambassadors in the society by ensuring that they use goods with quality standard mark thus doing away with fake and substandard products.

Also she told them to look at the quality standard mark on every commodity they wish to purchase before paying for it. This will help them to avoid health problems associated with the use of substandard and fake goods.

Speaking, some students thanked the organisation for educating them on importance of standards.

They pledged to be good ambassadors and sensitise others to avoid consuming substandard goods being imported from unofficial routes.

Villagers in Kilosa District praise leaders over issuance of CCRO's

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

KILOSA District villagers have called on the district council leaders and the region as a whole to scale up the exercise of providing Certificate of Customary Right of Occupancy (CCRO's) in all the villages to help strengthen their land rights and secure their land for different socio-economic benefits.

They say strengthening their land rights will help to reduce land use conflicts in the district.

So far more than 20 villages have received the CCRO's in an exercise being conducted by Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG), Tanzania Community Forest Conservation Network, alias (MJUMITA) and Tanzania Traditional Energy Development organisation (TaTEDO) through SDC funded Transforming Tanzania Charcoal sector (TTCS).

The exercise of providing the CCRO's is being accompanied by land use plans and Community Based Forest Management (CBFM).

In this project, Ulaya Mbuyuni, Kigunga, Nyali, Madizini and Dodoma Isanga, are some of the villages that have benefited. The villagers said they can now use the CCRO's to get loans and meet some requirements of their school going children.

Madizini village Executive Officer Cosmas Tayari told The Guardian that for many years the village was marred by land use conflicts particularly the conflicts between farmers and pastoralists but currently such conflicts have disappeared and peace and harmony is prevailing in the village.

The village Chairman Antony Gonzo said that the CCRO's will help in sustainable natural resources management through increased voice of the villagers and involvement in decision making processes. "This exercise will help improve transparency and accountability in all issues of land use and natural resources management," he said.

Speaking on behalf of women in the village, Joanita Kiwanga said that the CCRO's have come at the right time because it will strengthen vulnerable groups especially women whose lands are normally grabbed.

"There is a need for extending this exercise to other villages so that more vulnerable women can benefit. The villages chairmen should also be trained on women right to land," she said.

Commenting on the exercise, Kilosa District Commissioner Adam Mgoi commended efforts being done by the CSOs saying it is a good move because the government alone cannot do everything.

"Before this project, many areas had land use conflicts, illegal charcoal and other human activities that were not sustainable but in recent years, CBFM has improved the forest and natural

resource management in many villages," he said.

An official from TFCG, Michael Nilon-

go explained that in the beginning, the exercise started slowly but after awareness creation and education many peo-

ple are increasing taking part and so far thousands of people have been reached out.

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PwC invites you to tax training events in Dar es Salaam and Arusha. A team of experienced PwC staff will share insights on challenges encountered on a wide range of tax issues and provide updates on recent key tax changes including interpretation of Finance Act 2019 amendments and recent case law decisions.

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Date: 21 and 22 November 2019	Email: angelina.anastasatos@pwc.com
Time: 8.00 am - 4.30 pm	Tel: +255 22 219 2690
ARUSHA	
Venue: Mt. Meru Hotel, Arusha	RSVP: Melanie Masalu
Date: Monday, 25 November 2019	Email: melanie.masalu@pwc.com
Time: 8.00 am - 4.30 pm	Tel: +255 22 219 2812

The training will carry CPD points for attendance.

Register online at <https://www.pwc.co.tz/events.html>

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Immunisation to humankind is a moral obligation for all

IMMUNISATION, is the process by which an individual's immune system becomes fortified against an agent known as the immunogen. When this system is exposed to molecules that are foreign to the body, called non-self, it will orchestrate an immune response, and it will also develop the ability to quickly respond to a subsequent encounter because of immunological memory. This is a function of the adaptive immune system. Therefore, by exposing an animal to an immunogen in a controlled way, its body can learn to protect itself: this is called active immunisation.

The most important elements of the immune system that are improved by immunisation are the T cells, B cells, and the antibodies B cells produce. Memory B cells and memory T cells are responsible for a swift response to a second encounter with a foreign molecule. Passive immunisation is direct introduction of these elements into the body, instead of production of these elements by the body itself.

Immunisation is done through various techniques, most commonly vaccination. Vaccines against microorganisms that cause diseases can prepare the body's immune system, thus helping to fight or prevent an infection. The fact that mutations can cause cancer cells to produce proteins or other molecules that are known to the body forms the theoretical basis for therapeutic cancer vaccines.

Immunisations are often widely stated as less risky and an easier way to become immune to a particular disease than risking a milder form of the disease itself.

They are important for both adults and children in that they can protect us from the many diseases out there. Immunization not only protects children against deadly diseases but also helps in developing children's immune systems.

Through the use of immunisations,

some infections and diseases have almost completely been eradicated throughout the United States and the World. One example is polio.

Thanks to dedicated health care professionals and the parents of children who vaccinated on schedule, polio has been eliminated in the U.S. since 1979. Polio is still found in other parts of the world so certain people could still be at risk of getting it.

This includes those people who have never had the vaccine, those who didn't receive all doses of the vaccine, or those traveling to areas of the world where polio is still prevalent.

Active immunisation/vaccination has been named one of the "Ten Great Public Health Achievements in the 20th Century".

In the same vein, Germany has committed Euro 35 million to East African Community to be invested in vaccination programmes in the partner states.

Speaking at the EAC headquarters, Senior Policy Officer from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development recently, Claudia Imwolde-Krämer said Germany is contributing Euro 35 million to immunization programmes in the EAC.

Indeed, the Federal Republic of Germany and the EAC have historically had strong and cordial relations dating back to the founding of the EAC, 20 years ago. The two partners have been cooperating in different areas with notable achievements being realized in the health and pharmaceutical sectors; trade and customs; agriculture as well as tourism.

Germany has been supporting immunisation programmes in the region in close collaboration with the EAC and Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations (GAVI) since 2013.

The government spends at least 30bn/- annually to enhance immunisation services to prevent the community especially the children against contagious diseases across the country.

We commend efforts to move back black rhinoceros to their home region

ARHINOCEROS commonly abbreviated to rhino, is one of any five extant species of odd-toed ungulates in the family Rhinocerotidae, as well as any of the numerous extinct species therein. Two of the extant species are native to Africa and three to Southern Asia. The term "rhinoceros" is often more broadly applied to now extinct species of the superfamily Rhinocero-toidea.

They generally eat leafy material, although their ability to ferment food in their hindgut allows them to subsist on more fibrous plant matter when necessary. The two African species of rhinoceros lack teeth at the front of their mouths, relying instead on their lips to pluck food.

Rhinoceros are killed by some humans for their horns, which are bought and sold on the black market, and used by some cultures for ornaments or traditional medicine. East Asia, specifically Vietnam, is the largest market for rhino horns. Both African species and the Sumatran rhinoceros have two horns.

The family Rhinocerotidae consists of only four extant genera: White rhinoceros Black rhinoceros. The main difference between black and white rhinos is the shape of their mouths - white rhinos have broad flat lips for grazing, whereas black rhinos have long pointed lips for eating foliage.

Tanzania recently received nine black rhinoceroses from South Africa which are expected to boost population of the endangered animal in the Serengeti National Park and its wider ecosystem.

Increasingly rare animals that the translocation of rhinos from South Africa targeted species that originated from Tanzania in the first place. They have local DNA, which means we are not bringing alien species.

The move is part of Tanzania's new five-year strategy to replenish the rhino population in all precincts that the endangered mammals previously used to roam locally.

So important is the project that President John Magufuli made an early morning phone call to the board chairman of the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) Maj Gen Khamis Semfukwe, to follow up on the process of receiving the rhinos.

"The president himself is keen on the 2019-2023 rhino replenishing programme which is being executed under a special committee with support from Grumeti Fund.

TAWA will also ensure that the Maswa Game Reserve, a former rhino habitat will be replenished with the mammals in the ongoing strategy. The country is on the rebound in relation to the wildlife population of key endangered species.

According to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism it has been discovered that rhinos are also roaming in the vast Selous Game Reserve, part of which has been upgraded to become Nyerere National Park.

The rhinos being returned are descendants of animals that were captured in East Africa in the 1960s and moved to South Africa. This was one among measures to preserve the sub-species during a poaching wave in the 1960s.

These animals have been maintained as an isolated population by South African National Parks (SANParks). For decades various conservationists have recommended that these rhinos be moved back to their home region and allowed to intermingle and interbreed with indigenous rhinos of northern Tanzania and southern Kenya.

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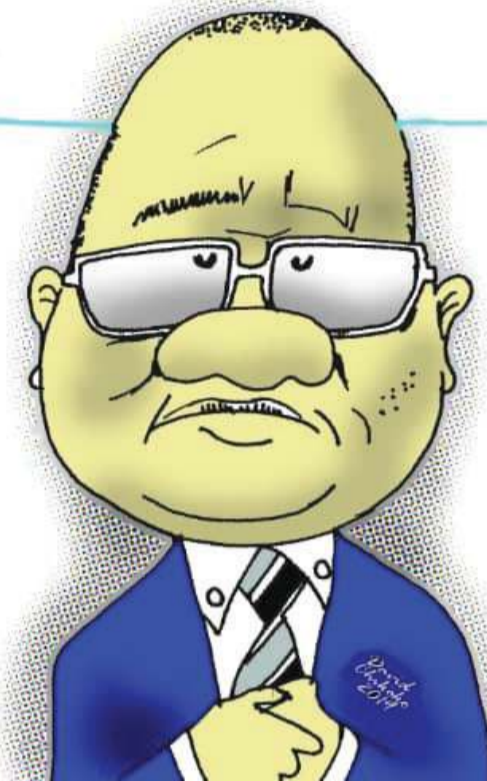
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The New CAG

His Credit

He has been collecting revenue for the Government...



His Debit

...He now has to check how it is spent.

How long will our security challenges last?

By Agunloye Adewunmi Bashiru

THE security situation in Nigeria in the past four years is worrisome. It has been a frequent occurrence of the deadly strike of Boko Haram sect, while the news of herdsmen carnage, kidnapping, banditry, cultism and many other violent related activities have been having their own free days.

All the above security challenges have now placed Nigeria on number three spot as the most terror - affected country as reported by the Global Terrorism Index.

Kidnapping for ransom, armed robbery, gang wars are the greatest challenges that the country is now facing.

The security situation in Nigeria at the moment can be compared with a Yoruba adage that says "Eewu be loko longe, longe fun ara re eewu ni", which literally means "there is danger in the farmland of Longe (Longe is name of a Yoruba Legend), Longe himself is a danger". This can be used to describe the situation in Nigeria today.

Unlike the Boko Haram insurgency that affects mostly some parts of North -East states of Borno, Yobe and others, herdsmen violent that have resulted in heavy human and material losses in the middle belt of Ni-

geria, particularly in Benue, Plateau, Adamawa, Nasarawa and Taraba States. Kidnapping is now the most virulent form of banditry in Nigeria. Individuals, groups, mostly school children have been kidnapped in various parts of the country. Kidnapping has also made travelling by road around the country to become very dangerous.

Records show that Nigeria has one of the world's highest rates of kidnapping for ransom cases among the countries such as Venezuela, Mexico, Yemen, Syria, the Philippines, Iraq, Afghanistan and Somalia.

At the moment, Nigeria is in the grip of a kidnapping crisis because the tide spans every region and is cutting across every socio-economic class.

According to the Nigerian Police, 685 kidnappings occurred across the country in the first quarter of this year alone. Thousands of Nigeria have fallen victims and millions of naira paid as ransom money, while those unlucky kidnapping victims lost their lives in the course of their abduction, or rescue operations, many of which were not made public by the authorities.

In the words of one time United States of America's Ambassador to Nigeria, John Campbell: "Nigeria is experiencing a wave of kidnappings. In the past, kidnapping has of-

ten had a political dimension. The current wave is different. It is nationwide, rather than confined to a specific region. It appears to be purely mercenary; the goal is to extract the maximum ransom possible rather than advancing a political agenda. Kidnapping victims now include the entire social spectrum, rather than being confined to those with some money or property. Nobody is exempted."

Interestingly and very unfortunate, the situation whereby the Nigerian Government itself paid ransoms to kidnappers in high profile cases called for sober reflection and the question arises that "where are we heading to as a Nation?"

A country where the police that supposed to protect the citizens are underfunded and the Force are equally under-trained to nib the current tide of kidnapping happenings across the regions of the country. Also in a country where the Chief of Army Staff, Lt. General Tukur Buratai declared that "only spiritual warfare can help defeat Boko Haram, negating the previous claimed by the military that the terrorist group has been defeated.

Boko Haram continues to destabilised the North-East where tens of thousands of people have been killed and millions displaced goes contra-

ry to the statement of the President Muhamadu Buhari that the Federal Government would bring an end to the national suffering inflicted by the notorious terrorists groups

Eight local governments in Borno State are today said to be under the control of Boko Haram and Islamic State of West Africa Province and the groups have established foothold in those areas.

Human Rights Activist, Joe Odumakin disclosed in an interview with the Sunday Independent Newspaper of October 20, 2019 (page 10) that "in the last four years they have told us different kinds of lies that they have defeated Boko Haram in Borno State. I was speaking with some guys who are from Borno State recently and they said everybody in Borno State knows where the headquarters of Boko Haram is. It is in Borno State. No security man would ever go there. So, the will is not there".

Herdsmen carnage in the Middle Belt that involved the attacks of predominantly Christian farmers by herders pose another serious problem to Nigeria survival as a nation. In 2018 alone, over 2,000 people were killed in such clashes and many thousands displaced.

God forbid, Nigeria may be heading to what leads to the activities of Boko Haram if not well managed and it may result into protracted unending conflict soon. The conflict that occasionally involving the Islamic Movement of Nigeria with Ibraheem Zakzaky as leader. Since 2015 when the leader of the sect was arrested, over 400 members of the group have been reported to have been unlawfully killed.

According to the Amnesty International, the security forces' use of automatic weapons and horrific use of force were excessive. Also, the Human Rights Watch reports that on July 22, 2019, Nigeria Police fired apparently unlawfully on a peaceful protest by the Islamic Movement Group in Abuja killing 11 protesters including a journalist and a police officer, while dozens of others were wounded.

We should not forget in a hurry that the clampdown of the sect was how Boko Haram insurgency group started in 2009.

In my opinion with the way our security challenges are being handled and managed by the Nigerian Government, there is no assurance of any lasting solution to the unending problems soon.

Sadc has spoken, it's time for sanctions to go

By Special Correspondent

THE message came out clearly recently: the illegal sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe by Western countries are not just targeted at a few individuals and firms - they have, in fact, worked against the entire Southern Africa's regional developmental agenda.

This is the precise reason why Sadc, at its meeting in Tanzania two months ago, decided to stage various activities to register the collective protest against the actions of Western hegemony that have imposed sanctions on a small African country - with devastating effects.

The United States and its Western allies who imposed the illegal measures must sit up and take heed of the undiluted voice against the sanctions that came out of SADC member

states, as they marked the day selected by the regional body to protest against the sanctions.

Southern Africa spoke yesterday, and the communication is very clear that the illegal sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe by the Western countries must be removed now.

That it was a hive of activity in many countries in the SADC region yesterday as they held various activities in solidarity with Zimbabwe against the illegal sanctions shows the extent of the injury caused by the illegal embargo.

These actions followed the declaration of October 25, as the day of solidarity with Zimbabwe in calling for the removal of the illegal sanctions.

The day was declared by the SADC Summit in Tanzania in August.

The US and its allies cannot afford to ignore the voice of all the SADC countries which has

disapproved the illegal sanctions.

It will be the highest form of arrogance if these countries choose not to take heed of the collective efforts of the region.

The marking of the solidarity day yesterday showed that the illegal sanctions are no longer about Zimbabwe alone, but have become a cause of concern for the entire region.

In fact, the sanctions on Zimbabwe have since evolved to become an economic and security issue for Southern Africa.

But yesterday's events gave the US and its allies an opportunity to redeem their images in the eyes of the inhabitants of Southern Africa in particular and Africa in general by totally removing the illegal sanctions.

The solidarity by the Southern African countries made Zimbabwe's case much stronger, as it demonstrated that other countries are also sick and

tired of the illegal sanctions regime.

If the Western countries do not remove the sanctions after yesterday's protests that reverberated throughout the region, then they are obviously going against headwinds.

To start with, sanctions imposed by the US, not only on Zimbabwe, but on other countries, have been widely criticised, including at such platforms as the United Nations.

And there are many reasons why these illegal embargoes have been discredited, apart from their illegality.

The sanctions are always unilaterally imposed, and have always resulted in the stifling of the developmental agenda of the affected countries.

This has resulted in the suffering of the ordinary people in such countries, who are the biggest casualties of the sanctions.

This has been the case in Zimbabwe, with the effects of the sanctions now having spread to other countries, not only in Southern Africa, but in Africa as a whole.

Using sanctions as tool to achieve foreign policy has since become a discredited method of relating with other countries, and this is the fact that SADC made to the US and its allies yesterday.

We expect the US and its allies to abandon this destructive route that has been disrupting relations among nations.

The policy of isolating other countries through illegal sanctions in the form of stifling aid, trade and loans can only have an effect of worsening poverty, especially in developing countries.

Gender networking activists finish 2019 jamboree, survey TGNP itinerary

By Dani Eliewaha

ONE difference between men and women when they meet, when they are numerous enough like one hundred of them or so, is that women are cheerful, they laugh, engage in merry making, cheering and on the whole their faces are bright, save if it is a funeral situation. It is uncertain if when large groups of men sit together they are anywhere as cheerful, as it often requires being put to motion by dance music or something - not this inwardly generated merry making. Men's collective cheerfulness is wanting, rare.

That is what was to be observed as to happiness and merry making of ladies when more than one thousand of them met in the 14th Gender Festival organized by the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) at its Mabibo Centre in Dar es Salaam. The four days festival was opened on September 24 and closed on the 27th.

"We are happy because during this festival there are many things that we shall learn, which shall be helpful to us in our daily activities. We are also happy because we have been well received, and the preparations have been more extensive in comparison with previous years," said Elisabeth Kipepeo, a delegate from Arusha Region, who said she had previously attended three such festivals organized by TGNP.

The recent festival was being held at a moment that TGNP was marking 25 years since its inception, and 14 years since the United Nations Secretariat organized the massive United Nations Conference on Gender and Development in Beijing, the People's Republic of China.

On the basis of remarks by TGNP managing director Lilian Liundi, TGNP was initiated as an activist organization or forum to seek women's emancipation in various fields in Tanzania. Feminist activists and scholars who met in 1993 to brainstorm, analyse and set out strategies to emancipate women from the patriarchal system, repression and exploitation in the communities in which they live, saw that TGNP would help them to agitate for systemic change, policy and resource allocation so that it isn't just men who benefit but also women and girls.

TGNP has been using various tactics including analysis and research on the Government Budget as well as legislative and policy orientations set out



by Parliament, as well as closely following up all important questions in each sector in order to build momentum for emancipation of women and pointing a finger at areas where they are oppressed," noted Liundi.

The festival was adorned with beautiful speeches and addresses from the moment it was opened by retired Ambassador Getrude Mongella, who presided over the Beijing Conference in 1995, which laid the basis for extensive constitutional changes around the world to set out more clearly the rights of women and children.

"Today is a special day for me personally. TGNP carried a forward vision and helped us organize the world conference in Beijing in 1995. You went around all over the country to ask for views on rights of women and girl children. Thank you TGNP for the good work you did since this network was started."

People all the same went into laughter when she thanked men for supporting efforts of women to seek their rights, adding: "If they had not supported us we would not have succeeded in our objectives, so we need to see men as partners of the network for women's rights and not opponents of the network," the veteran envoy said amid applause.

Ambassador Mongella praised founder president Julius Nyerere who she said highly respected women, whom in their meetings used to address them as 'my mothers.' She at the same time paid tribute to third phase president Benjamin Mkapa for having worked to enable Tanzania to attend the Beijing Conference and in

strengthening the TGNP in the following years. After completing the Beijing Conference assignment, Ambassador Mongella went on to head the Pan-African Parliament as Speaker.

Among dignitaries who attended the festival was retired prime minister Joseph Sinde Warioba, retired speaker, Anna Makinda, women MPs Margaret Sitta and Susan Lyimo, as well as the Deputy Minister for Health, Social Welfare, Gender, Elderly and Children, Dr Faustine Ndugulile.

Addressing the gathering as government representative - as gender issues fall under his docket - the deputy minister commended TGNP for good work done, and especially for the tremendous job of preparing for the 14th Gender Festival.

He said the government had formulated a grand plan for eradication of gender based violence, noting that in 2017 there were 41,000 reported cases of GBV reported countrywide, in which case it became necessary to create gender desks in police stations as well as offices of the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in order to handle those incidents.

He however asserted that there are many challenges related to GBV which have to do with local customs, traditions, poverty and lack of education among some of the people.

He urged women to contest for leadership in various elections especially chairmanship, from the local government elections, ward councillorship to parliamentary representation, insisting that women should not just look at Special Seats, as there is enhanced

dignity when an MP has been voted for by the people that MP leads.

Among activists who were memorably honored for enabling the taking off of TGNP were Dr Hellen Kijo-Bissimba, Edda Sanga, Judith Odunga, Mary Rusimbi, Vicky Mtemema, Prof. Marjorie Mbilinyi, Usu Mallya, Monica Mhoja and Scholastica Junu.

Canadian High Commissioner Anders Sjoberg and representatives of the Irish embassy and UN Women, Hodan Addou also attended the festival, where they emphasized that the issue of gender equality is not a circus but a strategic question that has been embraced by all progressive forces the world over.

They cited the issue of equal representation (50-50) for women and men in Parliament that it isn't a side issue, that to realize it requires having a country that embraces true democracy and exhibiting political will to achieve that goal.

In three days after the festival opened, participants divided themselves into different groups so that they learn from various discussion topics delivered by feminist experts and scholars. Some of the topics presented related to "25 Years of building the feminist movement," "Confronting the System of Patriarchal Globalization," along with "A strategy for feminist leadership and women's emancipation."

Other topics were 'Producing and distributing feminist knowledge,' and 'Strategies for enhancing women's emancipation and their condition.' Topic presenters were Ussu Mallya, Aggripina Masha, Demere Kitunga, Rebecca Gyumi, Edda Sanga, Anna Kulaya, Mary Rusimbi and Shakila Mayumena.

Debates were numerous in this festival including one on 'Sextortion and gender-based violence during elections,' 'Participation of women in political leadership,' 'Media organs in the revolutionary movement for emancipation of women,' 'Towards a participatory industrial economy in Tanzania: Where have we reached?' 'An empowering environment in inclusive education,' 'Investment in gender issues,' as well as 'Right and education on reproductive health' were other themes presented and debated.

Participants in the debates included WFT, TGNP, UN Women, FEMINA, TAMWA, WILDAF, WLAC, TAWLA, LANDESA, Urgent Action Fund, Prospera Africa and African Philanthropy.



Photo shows the south square of the National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai), a main venue for the second China International Import Expo (CIIE), in Shanghai

Second CIIE shines with new highlights

THE second China International Import Expo (CIIE) has been opened on Tuesday one year after the expo kicked off in Nov. 2018.

Over the past year, China has implemented multiple measures to open wider, issued a series of policies to expand market access, and taken a slew of moves to improve business environment.

These practical actions have helped China open its door wider, and ushered in a new chapter for China and the world to share opportunities and create common development.

"It takes only three days for our milk to be put onto Chinese shelves after being produced in New Zealand," said Sheng Wenhao, chairman of dairy company The Land.

"It is a strict test of business environment to sell fresh milk half a world away," Sheng added.

At the first CIIE, China declared to build a world-class business environment, and it is because of such reform of trade facilitation that the customers now have easier access to high-quality fresh milk from overseas. So far, the weekly supply of The Land in Chinese market has been expanded to 80,000 bottles from 3,000 bottles.

Opening its market and honoring its commitments of opening-up, China has suited the action to the word. On July 22, the first 25 enterprises debuted on the country's sci-tech innovation board (STAR market), and 8 days later, revised negative lists for foreign investment market access were officially rolled out, cancelling eight restrictions and further lowering access in seven sectors. In August, the new Lingang area of the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone was officially launched.

These effective measures have further reinforced the global confidence in the Chinese market.

According to statistics released by China's Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM), over 30,000 foreign-invested companies were established in the country in the first three quarters of this year, and foreign direct investment into the Chinese mainland grew 6.5 percent year-on-year to 683.21 billion yuan (\$96.4 billion) during the same period.

The World Bank Group's Doing Business 2020 report said that China's ease of doing business ranking climbed to 31 this year, up 15 places from a year ago.

These days, more than 3,000 companies from over 150 countries and regions are busy working at the National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai), where many cutting-edge technologies and debuting products are about to be unveiled.

At 10:00 am, Oct. 22, a patrol vessel was shipped to the equipment exhibition hall by two plate trucks. It is the largest exhibit this year,

and will be exhibited for the first time in Asia, said Chen Gang, chief representative of Italian shipbuilding company Ferretti in China, pointing to the giant ship that is 20 meters long, 6.8 meters high, and weighs 37 tons.

It will be Ferretti's second time to participate in the CIIE. Compared to the yachts it brought to China the last year, this high-speed patrol ship is much more advanced.

What highlights and surprises will be presented at the second CIIE?

The Scale: Around 600 multilingual signs have been added at the exhibition, and 500 temporary signs will be added on the first day of the event. 84 enterprises from Singapore and nearly 100 from New Zealand will be present at the second CIIE.

Thanks to the good reputation earned by the first CIIE, more enterprises are asking to book a booth this year. The exhibition area has been expanded twice to over 360,000 square meters, and the numbers of both the exhibitors and buyers have exceeded those in the last year.

The Quality: the latest anti-cancer drugs and the thinnest and shortest needle for insulin injection will be displayed at the second CIIE, together with a German gantry machining center and a wearable exoskeleton robot.

A garbage grinder and a patrol vessel will also finish their world and Asian debuts at the event, respectively. Besides, a large batch of exhibits including native food from all continents will be showcased. These exhibits all suggest higher quality of the second CIIE.

The Innovation: An outdoor autopilot zone and an area for Winter Olympics snow and ice sports are set up for the second CIIE to offer visitors more fresh experiences. In addition, a special platform has been established for over 10 ministries and departments to interpret policies and conduct government-business dialogues. International organizations such as the World Trade Organization and United Nations Industrial Development Organization will also release their annual reports on the platform.

The Standard: Hongqiao International Economic Forum, a parallel event of the CIIE, will become more international, representative and authoritative. Themed with "Opening-up and Innovation for Win-win Cooperation", the forum consists of five sub-sessions on "Opening-up, Regulation and Business Environment", "Artificial Intelligence and Innovative Development", "WTO Reform and Free Trade Agreements", "E-commerce in the Digital Era", and "China's 70-Year Development and the Building of a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind".

People's Daily

Experts call for better data to curb deaths during migration in Africa

By Special Correspondent in Dakar

AFRICA is thought to be the source of the most migrant deaths worldwide, yet data collection on the reasons, frequency and details of migrant mortality remains elusive.

That was just one take-away from a two-day International Organisation for Migration (IOM) conference held here on Monday and yesterday.

The Monday session convened to an open discussion of concrete areas of collaboration between actors working on the issue of migrant deaths and disappearances in Africa. It attracted the participation of more than two dozen experts and representatives of international, regional and local organisations.

The workshop, entitled 'Missing Migrants in Africa: Addressing Data and Knowledge Gaps on Migrant Deaths and Disappearances', was organised by IOM's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC) and hosted by the UN agency's Regional Office for West and Central Africa.

Despite six years of IOM work on this issue, there is not yet a comprehensive record of the number of people who have lost their lives during their migration journeys in Africa.

The only figures available are those collected by IOM's Missing Migrants Project, which show that nearly 7,500 people have died since 2014. This includes 2,040 known to have died in the Sahara Desert while migrating.

Thousands of Africans are known to have died among nearly 17,000 men, women and children lost in the waters of the Mediterranean Sea, the world's

most lethal known migratory route.

However, about two-thirds of those victims remain missing, making it almost impossible to know who those victims were and which African citizenship they held.

GMDAC's director Frank Laczko notes that these figures are likely very conservative undercounts, as the vast majority of deaths are recorded based on unverifiable eyewitness reports. Hundreds of additional deaths likely remain unreported and uncounted, an indication of the invisibility of irregular migrants and the indifference the world has for this issue.

The incompleteness of data on migrant deaths and disappearances results in the underestimation of the toll of unsafe migration across the continent.

"Better data are needed to facilitate the development of evidence-based policies and protection measures to prevent further deaths," explained Dr Laczko.

"Associated with the need to better record numbers of dead is the requisite to improve identification of those who have died, to allow more families to know the fate of their missing relatives," he added.

Addressing gaps in data on missing migrants requires concerted effort from a wider and diverse network of key stakeholders involved in collection, sharing, analysing and presentation of data on migrant deaths and disappearances.

"The Dakar workshop has engaged key actors from international agencies, non-governmental organisations, governments and academia to examine how to improve the collection, man-



agement and exchange of information between relevant actors and across sectors," said Richard Danziger, IOM's Regional Director for West and Central Africa.

The knowledge and insights gathered through the workshop are expected to inform IOM's future efforts to address the many challenges involved in collecting information on missing migrants in Africa.

These efforts include plans to establish data monitors in all regional offices as well as a new pilot research project

focusing on the families of missing migrants to better understand their needs.

IOM's Missing Migrants Project documents deaths and disappearances along migratory routes across the globe, and hosts the only existing database on deaths during migration globally.

However, there is still a need to expand and improve data collection in many regions of the world, particularly in Africa, where many experts have stated that many more migrants die or go missing than are currently recorded.

Agencies

South Africa's failure of humanity

By Zukiswa Pikoli

WALKING towards the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) offices in Tshwane, one is greeted by the smell of uncollected waste and buzzing flies. Small children, their innocence shielding them from the reality of why they find themselves on these pavements, play among it all. The pavement is lined with makeshift beds, cardboard boxes and tents.

The lattice fencing around the offices is being used to hang up laundry as the refugees occupying the UNCHR street have been there since 8 October – an effective three weeks. Interspersed in the crowds are signs detailing the reason for their presence. The United Nations of people gathered there are desperately asking to be taken out of South Africa.

Justine, who is from Democratic Republic of Congo, says she has been in South Africa since 2008 and is tired of the way South Africans treat refugees.

She describes xenophobic attacks where people are beaten, hacked with pangas and set alight and burnt to death. She says this was a common occurrence where she lives in Mabopane, a township in Tshwane.

Another woman says she thinks one of the biggest issues in South Africa is a lack of appreciation and distinction between refugees and foreign migrants.

Refugees are people who flee their home countries for fear of persecution usually because of war or natural disaster.

They have lived through trauma and violence and are seeking a place of safety or refuge as the term suggests.

Maliyamungu Ngenge, one of the leaders of the sit-in, was emphatic that the reason they were at the UNHCR is to seek assistance in mitigating against the xenophobic attacks they faced.

He said children at schools are taunted and called derogatory words like kwerekwere. Ngenge also referenced inflammatory utterances from South African leaders, most recently from outgoing Johannesburg mayor Herman Mashaba, which he felt fuelled the violence and gave South Africans licence to



harass them.

Ngenge said he had been physically attacked at least three times since the 2008 xenophobic flare-ups and in one of the attacks his shop was looted. He said South African leaders needed to urgently intervene and not be divisive.

Home Affairs' response to the crisis has been lacklustre and there has been a bottleneck with the issuing of asylum-seeker documentation, which leads to the victimisation of refugees – by police harassment or in the form of exploitation by unscrupulous employers who pay pittance wages.

Recently, Amnesty International released a report titled "Living in Limbo: Rights of Asylum Seekers Denied" which details the dire state of South

Hundreds of refugees stage a sit-in at the UNHCR offices in Tshwane on 31 October 2019. File photo

Africa's asylum-seekers management system.

"The consequence of the failures in the asylum management system is that asylum seekers live in limbo, without permanent status, for up to 19 years. The effects of this are multifaceted and include financial, physical and psychosocial elements.

They regularly have to travel long distances (900–1900km every one to six months) to renew their asylum seeker permits in order to remain documented. This affects their ability to get decent and permanent work, which can make them vulnerable to unscrupulous business people and land them in precarious employment

situations. Inability to remain documented hinders their rights to access basic education and health-care, and makes them vulnerable to harassment, arrest and detention," it noted.

While in Pretoria the police have not been called in to forcibly remove the refugees at the UNHCR offices as has been the case in the Cape Town refugee sit-in, the violence and indignity of having to prostrate themselves as they line the street fighting for their right not to be violated persists.

The government often beats its chest about being a government of the people, adhering to its inclusive Constitution that seeks to protect the human rights of all in

its society, including refugees and migrants. The Constitution specifically affirms the rights of migrants and refugees, and yet looking at how the Cape Town refugee sit-in was handled it would appear at odds with those rights. It is a very disappointing reality that people should have to resort to forcing themselves into the conscience of the government to elicit a response.

The state is still incoherent on its plan of action to rectify the issue of inefficient processing of asylum-seeker documentation. One of the issues that this refugee crisis has highlighted is the vulnerability that comes with integrating within already strained low-income com-

munities where people have little to no knowledge of what the difference between a migrant and refugee is.

The events of this past week reflect a failure of humanity to adequately provide for and protect a group of displaced and persecuted people who have fled all they know in order to survive and attempt to build a life for their families.

The expectation to do all we can to assist as a country is not because thousands of South Africans were themselves once displaced and refugees during apartheid. The issue is that helping those in need is the right thing to do. Our humanity depends on it.

DM

Survivors and activists demand increased action against TB

By Amy Green

REPRESENTATIVES of international health organisations, Indian politicians and celebrities endorsed commitments to ramp up the fight against tuberculosis (TB) – the ancient disease that currently kills more people than HIV and malaria combined – at the 50th Union World Conference on Lung Health, that took place in India last week.

But activists and survivors criticised the global lack of investment and action to help people on the ground access better quality services and safer drugs.

"You say you know the science of our diseases. We say we know the pain and stigma of living with them. You say that diagnostics are expensive and hard to provide. We say that late diagnosis destroys our health and lives. You say that developing new drugs is expensive," said Indian journalist and TB survivor Nandita Venkatesan.

"We say it is more expensive to lose our hearing, lose our sight, lose our livelihoods. You say it is difficult to increase funding for [research and development]. We say that without more government investment and support, our brothers and sisters will continue to die."

The World Health Organisation's (WHO) assistant director-general, Dr Ren Minghui, noted the impact of delaying the response against the disease.

"Each day, nearly 4,000 people lose their lives to TB. Over 15 people have left the world due to TB as soon as I complete my speech here," he said.

According to the recently-released WHO Global TB Report, there has been some progress in the fight against TB. In 2018, seven million people were reached by quality TB care, up from 6.4 million in 2017. TB-related deaths dropped from 1.6 million in 2017 to 1.5



million in 2018.

"However, much remains to be done. Around three million people with TB were reported to be not accessing quality care in 2018. This is even more acute for people with drug-resistant TB (DR-TB), with only one in three accessing treatment. Funding gaps of close to \$5-billion impeded progress in the overall TB response and for research," said Minghui.

In addition to the funding gap, newer and safer drugs for DR-TB remain too expensive for the majority of the world's patients to access.

Doctors Without Borders (MSF) activists disrupted the opening ceremony, protesting against the high cost of these newer drugs, that eliminate seri-

ous side-effects such as deafness.

"For the first time in over half a century, there are three new DR-TB drugs – bedaquiline, delamanid and, most recently, pretomanid – that can offer people a better chance to be cured, but barriers to access including high prices are preventing their scale-up by countries. Only 20% of people with DR-TB who need these newer drugs have been able to access them," MSF noted in a press release.

The majority of the world's patients receiving the blockbuster anti-TB drug bedaquiline are in South Africa, which is the first and only country using a

bedaquiline-based regimen for the first-line treatment of DR-TB.

This is significant because it removes the injectable agents traditionally used to treat DR-TB that cause severe and debilitating side-effects such as hearing loss.

TB survivor Venkatesan is one of the many DR-TB survivors who lost their hearing permanently after enduring more than five years of toxic treatment with these older drugs to ensure she was cured. In the past five months, she has received cochlear implants and is able to hear once again, but many other patients around the world will never get the chance

to hear again.

South Africa's Dr Francesca Conradie spoke about the revolutionary new regimen for drug-resistant TB that cuts the treatment time from over two years to just six months and from 23 pills a day to 23 a week. In the study, 90% of patients were cured using this regimen, compared to cure rates of less than 50% with older regimens. The regimen, called Nix-TB, uses bedaquiline, linezolid and pretomanid. Pretomanid was registered for use in DR-TB patients by the US Federal Drug Authority in August and Conradie said the drug has just been submitted to South Africa's

medical regulator.

"It's important that these drugs get to patients as quickly as possible. We need to get this safe and effective treatment registered as broadly as possible so patients can benefit," said Conradie.

However, there has been no announcement as to when these new drugs and regimens will reach people with TB, both in South Africa and elsewhere.

Newly-appointed Union celebrity ambassador actress Claire Forlani also highlighted the gap in responding to childhood TB during the conference's opening ceremony.

"More than one million children under the age of 15 became sick with TB in 2018. Of those nearly one in four died. These precious lives were lost for no reason. TB is completely curable and children with TB rarely die when they receive standard treatment. So why, over the past four years, did we let one million children die completely needlessly?"

Venkatesan reiterated the need for people on the ground to be heard, respected, included and to actually benefit from the scientific discoveries announced at this conference.

She said: "We are not cases, we are not burdens, and we are more than just patients. We are people. We have a right to life. We have a right to dignity. We have a right to information, and education, and work."

We have a right to health and to benefit from scientific progress. We have a right to know our rights and exercise them freely, especially in our healthcare."

DM

Deaf paralegals vital for timely delivery of justice to deaf women

By Guardian Correspondent

WOMEN in Tanzania face numerous problems such as gender-based violence, sexual harassment and other forms of discrimination from family to national level. "But it is worse when it comes to deaf women due to the fact that their rights are denied and have no access to justice," says a social welfare expert, Heldina Mwingira.

Poverty and illiteracy are the main factors that lead to the deprivation of deaf women's rights and lack of access to justice. Reports from the local media and government authorities show that about 55 per cent of the country's deaf women are illiterate, most of them being poor with limited prospects for decent life.

"Lack of sign language interpreters aggravates deaf women's limited access to legal aid and justice," notes Mwingira, who works with a deaf women association based in Dar es Salaam. Currently, there are about 28 sign language interpreters in Tanzania who can hardly serve the whole country.

"Deaf women face many problems and lack access to justice at the judiciary, police, at the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) and social welfare offices due to communication barriers as both service seekers (deaf women) and service providers in the formal and informal legal systems do not know sign language," she adds.

To address these problems and help deaf women to solve legal problems, an association of deaf women, Furaha ya Wanawake Wajasiriamali Vizivi Tanzania (FUWAVITA), is taking bold steps to incorporate legal aid service delivery in its core programmes with a view to helping deaf women to access justice. Recently, FUWAVITA celebrated International Week for the Deaf under the theme "The Right to Use Sign Language is a Solution to Delivery of Legal Aid to Deaf Women in



Deaf-women and members of deaf-women association (FUWAVITA) in jovial mood as they celebrate an International Week for the Deaf held in Dar es Salaam recently. Photo by Correspondent

Tanzania".

"The choice of the theme was made purposely to send a clear message to the wider Tanzanian community on the importance of sign language if we really want to remove millions of deaf women out of legal problems in Tanzania," says Bilbosco Muna, an official and sign language interpreter who works with FUWAVITA.

International Week for the Deaf, which took place at Mwananyamala public grounds on September 23-28, 2019, was sponsored by Legal Services

Facility (LSF), a nongovernmental and non-profit organisation that provides financial and technical assistance to legal aid providers in Tanzania.

Generally, the event which attracted over 1,000 people—including ordinary people, deaf women, primary court magistrates, social welfare officers from Dar es Salaam municipal councils—Temeke, Ilala, Kinondoni and Ubungu—sought to expose participants to general education about deafness, particularly the causes of deafness, the degree of deafness, the

type of hearing impairment, testing hearing sensitivity and so on.

Specifically the event intended to educate lawyers, social welfare officers, primary court magistrates and deaf women about using sign language. The assumption behind this approach is that smooth or smart communication between service providers (primary court magistrates, lawyers and social welfare officers) and deaf women will make handling of deaf women cases/problems easier and enable them to get

their rights.

Besides exposing service providers to the basics of sign language, FUWAVITA plans to do more by initiating special training to deaf paralegals (both men and women) who will go around providing legal aid to deaf women. At the moment, there are over 4,000 paralegals recruited through LSF funding who provide legal aid to communities, but most of these paralegals do not know sign language.

"In the course of helping deaf

women to solve their problems, paralegals need an interpreter, which many deaf women cannot afford... we have many reported incidents of deaf women who have lost cases, dignity, properties, divorced, forced out of their land/plot and denied their rights (in the formal and informal legal systems) due to communication barrier and inability to hire/pay sign language interpreters," says Anet Gerana Isaya, FUWAVITA Executive Director.

According to the executive director, training of deaf paralegals will go hand in hand with extensive and regular training of Dar es Salaam-based magistrates, social welfare officers and deaf women themselves on proper use of Tanzanian sign language.

This will eliminate unnecessary costs of hiring sign language interpreters and facilitate communication when it comes to handling of deaf women cases as all parties—magistrates, social welfare officers, deaf paralegals and deaf women will be talking the same language, says the FUWAVITA director, adding that "unlike in the past, there will also be confidentiality in handling sensitive cases involving deaf women and in allowing them to express themselves freely.

At the end of the day, cases of deaf women will be dealt fairly in both the formal and informal legal systems and enable them to access justice," notes Isaya.

Commenting on this social welfare expert Heldina Mwingira says "recruitment of deaf paralegals will enhance timely and efficient delivery of justice to deaf women facing legal and other problems in our country." According to FUWAVITA, recruitment of deaf paralegals will start with Dar es Salaam wards and then to upcountry regions depending on the progress and success stories registered in the pilot phase.

Organisation promises to support state initiative in fight against child abuse

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

AN international organisation—'We World' has vowed to continue supporting the government initiative in the fight against child abuse by providing education to pupils on how to report the cases to responsible authorities.

The initiative which is implemented by the organisation through the established school clubs in primary schools is basically focusing on empowering the students with ability to resist and to report any kind of violence that might happen to them.

Speaking recently during the event to present awards to pupils and teachers at Buza primary school located in Temeke district in Dar es Salaam, project manager for KITE project at 'We World' Nyawaye Gesirari said the project which is in the second phase, is implemented in collaboration with teachers who are focal person, parents and school committees both to improve child protection.

He said the organization has decided to join the fight against child violence in order to help the government plan focusing on ensuring every student is having access to basic education.

According to him, the initiative which implemented through the project dubbed 'KITE', involves 10 primary schools, six located Kinondoni district and four in Temeke district, in partnership with Kiota Women Health and Development (KIWOHEDE) specialized for child protection.

The general objective of the project is to ensure access to a safe and quality education environment in Tanzania in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) number four and five and the Tanzania Education Sector Development Plan 2016/17 to 2020/21.

The manager said that, the initiative also include Police gender desk, parents, social welfare officers and school committees in order to strengthen the fight for child protection in the country.

The event that was attended by parents, teachers, social welfare officers, was meant to acknowledge the contribution of teachers who manage to uplift the level of school academic by awarding them.

"But also the organization awarded pupils who did well in their performance in order to encourage them to do better," he said.



The initiative which implemented through the project dubbed 'KITE', involves 10 primary schools, six located Kinondoni district and four in Temeke district, in partnership with Kiota Women Health



Customer Service officer at the newly opened Exim Bank Mkwepu branch in Dar es Salaam, Helen Muhenga (L) welcomes one of the bank's customers who visited the branch yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Parliamentarians to grace inauguration of 'Tanzania ni Taifa Baba' book

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

MEMBERS of Parliament, high-profile government officials and other dignitaries are expected to take part in the inauguration ceremony of a book entitled "Tanzania ni Taifa Baba", the colorful event slated for 10th November this year in capital city.

The 39 pages book, written by Kanisa Halisi la Mungu Baba majors on depicting the blessed manner to which Tanzania has been endowed with key and peculiar things that are not found in any part under the sun.

Giving a press briefing over the event, the church's

Head of Priests, Cleric New Genesis Original said the book comprises with biblical facts to prove that Tanzania is a God's chosen nation.

"We're appealing to all Tanzanians, in respective of their religious affiliations to turn out in large number to attend the event, as well as getting copies of the crucial-spiritual book," he called.

Detailed further, he added that the aim behind the book was to bring to the light of Tanzanians and respective leaders at different levels that Tanzania is the God's chosen nation, and that it was of prudent for effective utilization of key natural resource the country has been endowed with for the glory of

God. "Many wonders are found in Tanzania, which is a special grace from God. The peace and unity prevails in Tanzania is not the outcome of any human being, but a blessing from God," he inform.

Apart from richness in rarely found animals, mineral deposits, he added, the fast development pace engineered by President John Magufuli in implementation of multi-billion projects was another indicators that God is in Tanzania.

"Eyes of many nations are now on Tanzania due to many good things that currently continue to happen within the country, which is only a blessing from God," he added.

Malnutrition rises in Africa despite global decline

By Evelyn Otieno

STUNTING - a key indicator for malnutrition - has increased in Africa since 2000 despite declining by a quarter worldwide, according to a UNICEF report.

Brian Keeley, the editor-in-chief of the UNICEF report says that malnutrition risks lowering children's economic prospects, and a better child nutrition would

sustainably improve the region's socio-economic development. For example, every dollar spent on nutrition in the first 1,000 days of a child's life results in an average benefit of US\$45.

According to the report, major causes of malnutrition in Sub-Saharan Africa include poverty, rising cost of living, and globalisation, which have led to over-dependence on staples such as

grains and tubers at the expense of nutrient-rich foods including fruits, vegetables, meat, fish, eggs and dairy.

The report released this month (15 October) shows that from 2000 to 2018 the number of children under five with stunting increased by 1.4 million in Eastern and Southern Africa and by 6.5 million in West and Central Africa.

To arrive at the report's find-

ings, a team of international experts used data sources such as workshops with mothers in 18 countries including Ethiopia, Ghana and Nigeria, and nationally representative demographic and health surveys.

"While the number of stunted children have fallen worldwide since 2000, it has risen in every region of Africa," explains Keeley. "Other forms of malnutrition,

such as iron and vitamin A deficiencies affect children's growth and development, and these are widespread in Africa".

The report says that malnourished children have poor cognitive development, leading to low educational outcomes and half of annual deaths of children aged under five.

"Investing in nutrition for children and young people is a cor-

nerstone investment if the world is to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030," explains the report, adding that malnutrition-related diseases will increase healthcare costs, cause socioeconomic losses and lower the region's gross domestic product.

Patricia Joy Mpaata, a consultant paediatrician at The Nairobi Hospital in Kenya, tells SciDev.Net

that inadequate diet and underlying diseases contribute to increasing number of malnourished children in Sub-Saharan Africa.

"Management of some cases becomes difficult because some parents opt out of well-baby check-ups when their babies turn nine months although they should continue till the children are five years old," she explains.

Zimbabwe's severe drought killing elephants, other wildlife

MANA POOLS, Zimbabwe

WEAK from hunger and thirst, the elephant struggled to reach a pool of water in this African wildlife reserve. But the majestic mammal got stuck in the mud surrounding the sun-baked watering hole, which had dramatically shrunk due to a severe drought.

Eventually park staff freed the trapped elephant, but it collapsed and died. Just yards (meters) away lay the carcass of a Cape buffalo that had also been pulled from the mud, but was attacked by hungry lions.

Elephants, zebras, hippos, impalas, buffaloes and many other wildlife are stressed by lack of food and water in Zimbabwe's Mana Pools National Park, whose very name comes from the four pools of water normally filled by the flooding Zambezi River each rainy season, and where wildlife traditionally drink. The word "mana" means four in the Shona language.

At least 105 elephants have died in Zimbabwe's wildlife reserves, most of them in Mana and the larger Hwange National Park in the past two months, according to the Zimbabwe National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority. Many desperate animals are straying from Zimbabwe's parks into nearby communities in search of food and water.

Mana Pools, a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its splendid setting along the Zambezi River, annually experiences hot, dry weather at this time of year. But this year it's far worse as a result of poor rains last year. Even the river's flow has reduced.

The drought parching southern Africa is also affecting people. An estimated 11 million people are threatened with hunger in nine countries in the region, according to the World Food Program, which is planning large-scale food distribution. The countries of southern Africa have experienced normal rainfall in only one of the past five growing seasons, it said.

Seasonal rains are expected soon, but parks officials and wildlife lovers, fearing that too many animals will die before then, are bringing in food to help the distressed animals. The extremely harsh conditions persuaded park au-



thorities to abandon their usual policy of not intervening.

Each morning, Munyaradzi Dzoro, a parks agency wildlife officer, prays for rain.

"It's beginning to be serious," he said, standing next to the remains of the elephant and buffalo. "It might be worse if we fail to receive rains" by early November. The last substantial rains came in April, he said.

An early end to a "very poor rainy season" has resulted in insufficient natural vegetation to see the animals through, said Mel Hood, who is participating in the Feed Mana project, which is providing supplementary feeding.

Most of the animals in Mana Pools "are more or less confined to the barren flood plains," where temperatures soar to 113 degrees Fahrenheit (45 degrees Celsius), she said.

Separated from neighboring Zambia

In this Oct. 27, 2019 photo, an elephant walks next to a carcass of another elephant in an almost dry pool that used to be a perennial water supply in Mana Pools National Park, Zimbabwe. (AP)

by the Zambezi, the region's once reliable sources of water have turned into death traps for animals desperate to reach the muddy ponds. Like the elephant and buffalo, many other animals in the park have gotten stuck in the clay while trying to reach Long Pool, the largest of the watering holes at 5 kilometers long.

The animals were pulled out by rangers, but they could not survive predators on the pounce for weak prey.

"The carnivores attacked it from behind," Dzoro said of the buffalo. The elephant carcass had been there for almost a week and emitted a strong stench as flies feasted on it.

At just 5% of its normal size, Long Pool is one of the few remaining water sources across the park's

plains. On a recent day, hippos were submerged in some puddles to try to keep their skin from drying out in the extreme heat while birds picked at catfish stranded in the mud.

Two others of Mana's pools have completely dried up, while the third is just 20% to 30% of its usual size and dwindling, Dzoro said.

There are more than 12,000 elephants roaming Mana's flood plains as well as an abundance of lions, buffaloes, zebras, wild dogs, hyenas and elands.

The animals are visibly affected by the drought. Some impalas show signs of skin mange. In addition to the land animals, the park has 350 bird and aquatic species, according to the parks agency.

In other parts of Mana, park authorities are pumping water from deep boreholes, but the supplies are barely enough, he said.

"We used to say nature should take its course," Dzoro said of the park's normal policy of not intervening and allowing the ecosystem to find its own balance.

"We are now forced to intervene, which is manipulative conservation, because we are not sure when and how we will receive the rain.

To avoid losing animals we have to intervene to maintain population sizes," Dzoro said.

With the acacias, other indigenous trees and grasses that provide the bulk of food for herbivores like elephants and buffaloes also decimated by the drought, authorities began supplement-

tary feeding in July.

Trucks and tractors ferry hay to various locations in the 2,196-square-kilometer park. In some spots, elephants, buffaloes and zebras are fed next to each other. The Feed Mana project has so far trucked 14,000 bales to the park, said Hood, the animal welfare campaigner.

The group has been appealing for "urgent" donations of items such as soy bean hay, grass and cubes made of nutritious grains and molasses.

"Although it may not be enough to stave off all the hunger pangs, it is certainly giving these animals a chance to survive until conditions improve," Hood said.

Zimbabwe has an estimated 85,000 elephants and neighboring Botswana has more than 130,000. The two countries have the largest elephant population in the world. Zimbabwe says it's struggling to cope with booming numbers of wild elephants and is pushing to be allowed to sell its ivory stockpile and export live elephants to raise money for conservation and ease congestion in the drought-affected parks.

Other African countries, especially Kenya, are opposed to any sale of ivory. And earlier this year the meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species voted to continue the ban on all ivory sales.

At Mana Pools, saving the animals is a challenge and officials say Zimbabwe is severely affected by climate change that has changed weather patterns.

In past years, Mana Pools would get up to 24 inches of rain per year, said Dzoro, the wildlife officer. Now it's lucky to get half that.

With such a dramatic reduction, "we can't have perennial sources to sustain animals and some of the perennial springs have dried up. Climate change is affecting us. That's why the manipulative way now is the only way to rescue our fauna," Dzoro said.

"Climate change is real for sure, we are witnessing it," he said.

Trade liberalization for development?

KUALA LUMPUR and SYDNEY

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and the World Trade Organization (WTO), all dominated by rich countries, have long promoted trade liberalization as a "win-win" solution for "all people—rich and poor—and all countries—developed and developing countries", arguing that "the gains are large enough to enable compensation to be provided to the losers".

Yet, the IMF's 2016 World Economic Outlook has warned that free trade is increasingly seen as only or mainly benefiting the well-off. The help and compensation needed by those disadvantaged by trade liberalization has rarely if ever been forthcoming, even in most developed economies.

Dubious claims

In 2001, World Bank research papers claimed a strong positive effect of trade for growth, arguing that globalization would accelerate growth and poverty reduction in poor countries. Similarly, a November 2001 IMF brief noted, "Integration into the world economy has proven a powerful means for countries to promote economic growth, development, and poverty reduction".

Earlier, its 1997 World Economic Outlook claimed, "Policies toward foreign trade are ... promoting economic growth and convergence in developing countries." A host of Fund research papers likewise advocated trade liberalization.

However, surveying a large body of influential early research, Rodriguez and Rodrik concluded, "we are skeptical that there is a strong negative relationship in the data between trade barriers and economic growth..."

Likewise, the historical record since 1870 offers no support for claiming a positive growth-openness relationship before the 1970s - the correlation was, in fact, negative during 1920-1940.



Similarly, during 1990-2003, growth was not significantly correlated with any measure of national trade openness. After all, the effects of any national trade policy also depend on the trade policies of others, especially existing and potential trading partners.

Baldwin observed that general policy advice of openness should not imply "that no government interventions, such as selective production subsidies or controls on short-term capital movements, are appropriate at certain stages of development." He cautioned, "we must be careful in attributing ... lowering of trade barriers as being a sufficient government action for accelerating the rate of economic growth."

Trump backlash

With US President Donald Trump attacking trade liberalization, the nature of the debate has changed. For him, trade liberalization mainly benefits large corporations which profit from producing abroad, depriving American workers of jobs and decent remuneration.

Trump's trade restrictions have reversed decades of uneven trade liberalization. By insisting on bilateral over plurilateral and especially multilateral free trade agreements (FTAs), he has undermined trade liberalization's advocates and their claims. With Trump, the US, erstwhile cham-

panion of freer trade, has become its nemesis.

This policy U-turn has not only strengthened earlier doubts about the ostensible benefits of trade liberalization, not only for American workers, but also for developing countries, who have long insisted that international trade gains and costs are unequally distributed among nations.

Trade liberalizers strike back. Growing scepticism about trade liberalization, even before Trump's election in late 2016, had rekindled the IMF-World Bank-WTO advocacy, e.g., in Making Trade an Engine of Growth for All, despite its acknowledgement that "trade is

leaving too many individuals and communities behind, notably also in advanced economies."

Reinvigorating Trade and Inclusive Growth is also unpersuasive, with poorly substantiated patronizing assertions, as if preaching to the converted. For the trio, the backlash is due to ignorance and failure to better advertise the benefits of free trade. Their touching faith remained unshaken despite considerable evidence, including their own, qualifying their advocacy claims.

Instead of more nuanced, and credible advocacy of multilateral trade liberalization, unencumbered by intellectual property, investment and other non-trade agreements, they can only recommend targeted 'safety-nets' and pro-active 'labour market programmes' (e.g., retraining).

UNCTAD dissent

By contrast, UNCTAD's Trade and Development Report 2018 focused, inter alia, on the 'Free Trade Delusion'. The World Input-Output Database suggests trade liberalization has favoured capital at the expense of labour.

Capital's share of export value added in manufacturing global value chains (GVCs) rose from 44.8% in 2000 to 47.8% in 2014. Exceptionally, China's labour share rose from 43.0% to 50.4%, underscoring how government policy can influence distributional outcomes.

Besides exporting primary commodities, by participating in GVCs, some developing countries now produce intermediate manufactures, typically with imported inputs and equipment. Meanwhile, South-South trade has also increased.

From the 1980s, much of inter-

national trade growth was contributed by East, including Southeast Asia, accounting for growing shares of world output and manufactured exports. By 2016, East Asia accounted for over two-thirds of manufactured exports by developing countries.

"Asia alone accounted for about 88 per cent of developing country gross exports of manufactures... and for 93 per cent of South-South trade in manufactures, while East Asia alone accounted for 72 per cent of both."

Services: great new hope

UNCTAD's report acknowledges that services, particularly those enabled by digital technologies, offers new opportunities for development. However, while the trio claim that opening up e-commerce would generally lift living standards, ostensibly because medium and small enterprises would benefit, UNCTAD notes e-commerce is dominated by a few giant transnationals.

The advantages conferred by intellectual property monopolies, incumbency, resources, name recognition and 'network effects' favour 'winner-takes-all' outcomes, strengthening domination of e-commerce, software, payments and others by a few large corporations. In 2014, for example, the top 1% of exporting firms accounted for 57% of exports (besides oil, gas and services), the top 5% for more than 80%, and the top quarter for almost all.

'Big data', secured by providing services to users, have been very profitably used by 'free' digital service providers. By 2015, 17 digital giants accounted for a quarter of the market capitalization of the top 100 transnational corporations.



Thursday 7 November 2019



CBK Governor Patrick Njoroge.

Kenya's rate cap ends after House quorum hitch

NAIROBI

President Uhuru Kenyatta's bid to remove a cap on commercial lending rates was not passed in Parliament Tuesday following a quorum hitch, potentially boosting the flow of credit to the economy and return of expensive credit.

Speaker of the National Assembly Justin Muturi Tuesday said there was no quorum to overturn the President's order, giving Mr Kenyatta's amendments an automatic passage. There were only 161 lawmakers present at the time of voting on the President's amendments, which fell below the threshold required to retain the cap on lending rates.

Lawmakers required a two-thirds majority – or 233 lawmakers – to overturn Mr Kenyatta's memorandum on the amendments and retain the cap introduced in September 2016. Mr Kenyatta had on October 18 refused to sign the Finance Bill, which proposes taxes for funding the government's annual budget, demanding that lawmakers repeal the cap.

In the amendments to the rate cap legislation, legislators shielded existing loans from higher interest rates once the cap is repealed, meaning that only new loans will be affected by the high interest rates set to follow.

The removal of the cap looks set to expose borrowers to high lending rates, which had touched a high of 25 percent before introduction of the ceiling, increasing the burden of servicing loans by individuals and small businesses. This means that banks will have their way in pricing the interest rate on loans.

The Treasury, Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) and the country's banks have blamed the rate cap for curbing private sector lending growth and reducing the effectiveness of monetary policy. Their argument is that the cap has cut private-sector loan growth because banks have avoided lending to customers deemed as risky, including small and medium-sized businesses as well as individuals who borrow for consumption.

The cap has also had an impact on the wider economy as credit-starved businesses have had to freeze expansion plans and lay off staff, ultimately hurting growth. Lawmakers had in September 2016 capped interest rates at four percentage points above the benchmark central bank rate – currently nine percent – saying they were concerned about high loan costs.

Kiambu Mue Jijom, who was behind the rate cap law, accused CBK Governor Patrick Njoroge of siding with the banks. "Even before the presidential memo was made public, the Central Bank Governor Patrick Njoroge went to New York and announced to IMF that the cap had been removed. Whose interest is he representing?" Mr Njoroge posed yesterday.

Analysts expect the news of removal of the caps to back the rally in banking stocks at the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE), which have surged since October 17 when news leaked of the possible removal of the cap.

All the 10 banks listed on the Nairobi bourse gained on what stock dealers linked to increased demand for the lenders shares on the expectation of increased profitability and stock gains. The Kenyattas, Equity Bank #ticker:EQTY CEO James Mwangi and the family of late Central Bank of Kenya governor Philip Ndegwa are among the individual investors who gained most from the rally in bank stocks.

Equity share has jumped 26.7 percent since October 17 to close trading at Sh47.65 Tuesday, while Co-operative Bank #ticker:COOP gained 26.5 percent to trade at Sh15.75, KCB #ticker:KCB (17.9 percent) and Stanbic (20 percent). KCB Group gained 21.5 percent, NCBA #ticker:NIC (16.3 percent) and Co-operative Bank (16.9 percent), I&M Bank #ticker:I&M (20 percent) and Stanbic #ticker:CFC (20 percent).

Banking sector financial performance data for the past four years shows that the lenders have managed to recover their footing after the initial hit from the rate cap, largely by turning to risk-free government lending and aggressively cutting costs.

In the year ending December 2018, banks made a record high Sh11.3 billion net profit, eclipsing the Sh10.2 billion they made in 2016, which was the last year of trading before the rate cap. The profits dropped to Sh100.2 billion in 2017.

Raha Liquid lures banks seeking cloud server solutions

By The Banker Reporter

COMMERCIAL banks seeking to host their database locally in line with Bank of Tanzania regulations have a trusted partner in Raha Liquid Telecom, the information communication technology has said in Dar es Salaam.

Raha Liquid Telecom's acting CEO, Peter Ngota said the company has all facets of ICT products, modern technology equipment and data centres with world class servers located in the country to meet Central Bank needs.

"We recently heard Bank of Tanzania penalise banks which have their databases abroad contrary to regulations, at Raha Liquid we have the solution to address such banking needs," Ngota said while noting that the company has cloud service solutions to allow banks with countrywide branches to be connected.

He said Liquid Telecom which is present in 13 African countries and acquired Raha in 2017 is a Microsoft trusted partner in Africa with state-of-the-art data storage and communications facilities through satellite and fibre cables.



Bank of Tanzania Deputy Governor, Dr Bernard Kibese.

"As we move towards industrialization ICT is an important aspect of development if we are to speed up progress through digitization," Ngota who is Raha Liquid's Head of Sales added.

Backing Ngota's observation, the company's Solutions Man-

ager, Amani Kidava and Marketing Executive, Haji Said said Raha Liquid is an official gold partner of US based Microsoft Inc hence provides reliable communication and data storage facilities.

"We have all the solutions to meet the banking industry's

needs in compliance with Bank of Tanzania regulations that require that bank's servers be hosted in the country," said Said who further noted that local servers are backed by data centers based in Nairobi, Kenya, Cape Town and Johannesburg in South Africa.

"We also have three satellite hubs to back the fibre optic system which accounts for about 65 percent of our communication system," Said added. Backing his peer, Kidava said banks have several options to choose from including enterprise solution which is very convenient.

"We also provide Vsat facilities through our partners to provide services in remote areas such as tourist hotspots, mining and gas extraction areas," Kidava said while assuring local companies that Raha Liquid is their trusted partner in business.

Last August, Bank of Tanzania's Deputy Governor in charge of Financial Stability and Deepening, Dr Bernard Kibese said in a circular that banks have three months to comply with regulations which require them to put in place primary or secondary data centre in the country.

"Any bank or financial institution which will be found not to have complied with the above requirements, shall be liable to a penalty of 5bn/-," the circular said.

Dr Kibese said the central bank will conduct inspections on the status of lenders on the new data centre rules seven days after the issuance of the circular. "Every bank or financial institution must establish a data centre within three months from the date of the circular. Any institution found non-compliant will be fined 500m/- per month until it complies," the circular warned.

BoT had issued three previous circulars to banks and financial institutions since 2014 on the requirement for data centres to be located in Tanzania instead of on servers abroad, but some lenders were yet to comply.

It said that last month it had fined Diamond Trust Bank Tanzania Limited 1bn/- for breaching regulatory rules on data and service availability. The government has tightened regulatory oversight over commercial banks and other financial institutions over the past few years.

Worst may be over for global economy amid signs of stabilisation

NEW YORK

A wave of interest-rate cuts by central banks including the Federal Reserve and mounting hopes of a US-China trade deal are buoying confidence in financial markets just as key economic indicators show signs of stabilisation after recent declines.

While a robust rebound may still not be on the cards, the relative improvement could put an end to the fears of just a few weeks ago that the world economy was barreling toward recession. Such an environment looks for now to be enough for Fed Chairman Jerome Powell and fellow monetary policy makers to take a pause from doling out monetary stimulus.

"We do see multiple reasons for a stabilisation in global growth in 2020 versus 2019," said David Mann, chief economist for Standard Chartered in Singapore, who shares the International Monetary Fund's expectation that global growth will accelerate next year.

Among the reasons for confidence: While JPMorgan Chase & Co's global manufacturing index contracted for a sixth month in October, it inched closer toward positive territory as both output and orders firmed.

In the US, the Institute for Supply Management's gauge of factory activity stabilised in October while the government's jobs report on Friday showed payroll gains exceeded forecasts and hiring in the previous two months was revised much higher. The ISM's gauge of services is also showing signs of improvement.

In Europe, there are also tentative signs of health after it was squeezed by the trade war as well as Brexit. The euro-area economy expanded more than forecast in the third quarter and while Germany may already be in recession, the Ifo Institute reported that expectations among its manufacturers edged up in October.

As for Asia, inventories of semicon-



ductors in South Korea fell the most in more than two years in September in a sign a slump in global technology is ending. Financial markets are tuning into the optimism. US stock benchmarks climbed to all-time highs on Monday and the yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose. European and Asian stocks have also advanced.

"I just look at the fiscal/monetary mix, it's the most stimulative that I think I've ever seen," said billionaire hedge fund manager Paul Tudor Jones on Tuesday. "It's no wonder that the stock market's hitting new highs. It's literally the most conducive environment, certainly in the short run, for economic growth and strength that I've ever seen."

What our economists say "Hopes for a 'phase one' trade deal and reduced hard Brexit fears have stoked sentiment – that's evident in the stock market and some of the October survey data.

Whether that becomes more than a blip on an otherwise-unbroken downward trajectory depends on whether the US and China can solidify their trade truce," – Tom Orlik, Bloomberg Economics

One key reason for the potential turn is the wave of interest-rate cuts from global central banks. Of the 57 institutions monitored by Bloomberg, more than half cut borrowing costs this year with the Fed doing so three times and the European Central Bank pushing its deposit rate further into negative territory. Rate cuts also operate with a lag so the positive effects of easier monetary policy have yet to fully flow through, meaning a further impulse likely awaits.

Powell last week hinted the US central bank may be done reducing borrowing costs as he said the stance of policy was now "appropriate" to keep the economy growing moderately. "It would take a material change in the outlook for me to think that further accom-

modation would be required," Fed Bank of San Francisco President Mary Daly said on Monday.

Trade talks Also driving sentiment is that President Donald Trump and President Xi Jinping are on the cusp of signing "phase one" on a trade deal, which could be enough for global commerce to find a footing. China is reviewing locations in the US where Xi would be willing to meet with Trump to sign a pact.

Meantime, US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said Washington has also enjoyed "good conversations" with automakers in the European Union, raising hopes that the Trump administration may not slap tariffs on imported automobiles this month.

Morgan Stanley economists reckon the contraction in global trade volumes likely narrowed in October, declining 0.6% compared to 1.3% in September. Retail, auto and semiconductor sales are all stabilising, they said in a report

this week.

Deadline extension

Elsewhere in Europe, the risks of a so-called no-deal Brexit have also diminished after the EU extended the deadline on the UK's departure until the end of January and Prime Minister Boris Johnson called a December election in the hopes of breaking the impasse between politicians.

The soft landing scenario isn't fully sealed. In May, similar hopes were building, only for Trump to ramp up tensions with China. While Washington and Beijing have signaled they're getting closer to agreeing on the first phase of a deal, it's not clear whether trade talks would continue toward a comprehensive agreement.

"If the US-Chinese trade escalates again, or if the US starts a new trade war against the only other economy of almost equal size, the EU, it could all still go wrong," said Holger Schmieding, chief economist at Berenberg Bank. "But in the absence of such new political shocks, chances are that the global downturn could peter out in early 2020 and make way for a modest upturn thereafter."

The strength of any revival may ultimately depend on the health of China's economy, which expanded in the third quarter at its weakest pace in decades and where evidence of a bottoming out in demand remains tentative.

A gauge of Chinese manufacturing dropped this month to the lowest level since February while a measure of new export orders contracted at a faster pace. At the same time, construction, real estate, consumption and services are holding up, buoying expectations that officials are managing a gradual slowdown.

Labour wants UK financial firms to publish climate-related asset risks

LONDON

The UK financial ecosystem could be in for a radical green transformation as the Labour Party unveiled plans to decarbonise the industry if it wins the general election on December 12.

An independent panel of experts, commissioned by Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer John McDonnell, published a report on Saturday with recommendations on how to reduce the financial industry's climate footprint.

They include forcing

firms, including banks, to publish climate-related risks associated with their financial assets, as well as a more climate-aligned monetary policy by the Bank of England.

"It's clear there is a long way to go before the finance sector is pulling its weight to

achieve the rapid changes our economy needs to meet our climate obligations," McDonnell said in a statement. "Labour will take on board these findings and recommendations and bring forward our own proposals ahead of the General Election."

Fossil fuel financing by UK banks exceeded \$100 billion in the three years through 2018, according to the report. And high-carbon companies are allowed access to the stock market at a low cost by the financial institutions.

While some companies

have reduced their fossil-fuel exposure and the Bank of England has taken steps to address the "implicit carbon bias" in its operations, the existing private finance sector suffers from significant shortcomings that open the door to "green washing," according to the report.



Stanbic Bank Tanzania's Bulk Note Acceptors.

Stanbic Bank set debuts new bulk note acceptors targeting SMEs

By The Banker Reporter

In a bid to encourage small and medium size enterprises (SMEs) deposit bulky cash easily, Stanbic Bank Tanzania Limited has started deploying Bulk Note Acceptors in the market.

The bank has already deployed four BNAs in Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Mbeya and Mwanza with each having capacity of 150m/-. The Dar es Salaam based lender said during the week that 10 BNAs will be deployed in the course of 2020.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam earlier this week, Stanbic Tanzania's Head of Personal and Business Banking, Brian

Ndadzungira said clients with large deposits will save time and enhance their economic productivity by avoiding banking hall queues.

"The roll-out of the BNA machines targets to simplify business operations for SMEs and boost private sector activities and their contribution to economic growth," Ndadzungira said while disclosing that the bank is reviewing models that will enhance client-centric innovation with the purpose of bringing services closer to them.

"In line with our strategy to empower customers to take control of their banking needs, we are looking to provide solutions that respond to customer needs.

This innovation will add a new layer of convenience to our clients, allowing them to focus on other productive aspects of their businesses," he noted.

The Tanzania Development Vision (TDV) 2025 has highlighted the SME sector as an important contributor to the country's long-term sustained economic development. According to Financial Sector Deepening Trust, the sector currently consists of more than three million enterprises which contribute 27 percent of overall gross domestic product and creates employment to around 5.2 million people.

"Stanbic believes further growth in the sector will be accelerated by innovative

financial solutions that encourage scaling up. It is important to create these digital innovations in order to boost activity in the private sector that will lead to an increase in jobs, better incomes and sustainable businesses," Ndadzungira added.

Among other things, the new BNAs are also aimed at creating digital avenues that will support cash collection solutions not only for SMEs but also large corporate clients. The new machines have the capacity of accepting up to 10,000/- bank notes totalling 150m/- per individual transaction which is a remarkable increase from the current 2m/- via Cash Deposit Machines in most branches.

KCB notifies national bank owners of forcible buyout

NAIROBI

KCB Group #ticker:KCB will complete the compulsory buyout of dissenting minority shareholders of National Bank of Kenya (NBK) later this month.

Some NBK investors declined to subscribe to KCB's share swap deal but will now be forced to become owners in the country's biggest bank. This will see KCB issue an additional 4.4 million shares worth about Sh200 million on top of the 142.9 million units it had allotted to the first group NBK shareholders who accepted its deal.

"We have issued the compulsory takeover notice to the minority NBK shareholders," said Lawrence Kimathi, KCB's chief finance officer. "We are halfway through the 21-day notice period and the squeeze-out will be complete by the end of this month."

In the takeover, investors including the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) participated in the stock swap at a rate of 10 NBK shares for one share in KCB. Without the compulsory buyout, the dissenting minority investors would have been left holding shares that could not trade on the NSE.

The country's largest lender is set to inject new capital into NBK once it takes full ownership of the lender which will also be de-listed from the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE). NBK's core capital fell below the statutory minimum of Sh1 billion in the nine months ended September, adding to its historical breaches of various capital ratios.

The lender's core capital stood at Sh993.7 million in the review period. Mr Kimathi said KCB is reviewing NBK's capital requirements, taking into account various factors, including the rate of loan recoveries. "NBK will be compliant in terms of capital by the end of the year," Mr Kimathi said.

KCB estimated that NBK will need up to Sh7.5 billion in new capital but the amount is subject to change. NBK, whose results will be consolidated into KCB going forward, reported a surprise earnings jump in the nine months ended September.

Its net profit rose 18.5 times to Sh407 million on the back of higher interest income and lower expenses. Exceptional items, for instance, shrank by Sh411.2 million to Sh124.2 million. Interest income increased by Sh298.2 million to Sh6.6 billion. NBK's loan book and customer deposits dropped in the review period, continuing the downward trend over the past few years.



KCB chief finance officer Lawrence Kimathi.

NBC, Rotary Club in fundraising to back various community projects

By The Banker Reporter

BAHARI Rotary Club has partnered with National Bank of Commerce to raise funds and finance community projects including clean safe water, toilets and digital learning platform at Mtakuja Secondary School at Kunduchi suburb of Dar es Salaam.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam this week, NBC Head of Small and Medium Customers, Evance Luhimbo said for

several years, the bank has been actively engaged in supporting community development activities in the country in areas including education, health and entrepreneurship.

"As bankers, we are obliged to plough back part of our profit by financing various community projects because NBC has a proven track record of providing quality banking services for over 52 years in the market," Luhimbo said.

He pointed out that NBC's management will continue to support similar projects which benefits ordinary people because their welfare is the bank's future business as a healthy, educated population is crucial as market for banking services.

Luhimbo noted that as soon as the bank received a request from Bahari Rotary club for the funding, management did not hesitate to assist hence decided

to partner with the charitable organisation to back the noble cause.

"We are informed by the conviction that a healthy community which is also empowered economically boasts a better position to contribute to national development," he added.

In recent days, NBC has given grants which include building materials for construction of classrooms in Lindi and

Zanzibar, medical equipment for Morogoro Region Referral Hospital and dissemination of financial and entrepreneurship knowledge in various schools in the country.

Some projects which have also received NBC backing include treatment of children with heart problems at Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute, renovation of libraries at Buyuni and Mtakuja primary schools in Dar es Salaam.

Saudi Arabia approves IPO of world's most profitable company

RIYADH

More than three years after Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman first raised the idea - and just three weeks after a plan to launch the share sale was abruptly shelved - oil giant Saudi Aramco announced its intention on Sunday to list shares on the local stock exchange in Riyadh. That came shortly after the Capital Market Authority approved the offering.

The number and percentage of Aramco shares to be sold will be determined at the end of the book-building period, according to the company's announcement of its intention to list. Trading is likely to start in December.

Aramco, which pumps about 10% of the world's oil, generated the most profit of any corporation last year with net income of \$111 billion - more than Apple, Google's parent Alphabet and Exxon Mobil combined. The company was targeting a \$2 trillion valuation - more than double that of Apple - but the kingdom is now ready to accept a valuation of \$1.6 trillion to \$1.8 trillion to ensure the IPO is a success, according to people briefed on the matter.3

The sale is key to Prince Mohammed's Vision 2030 plan to overhaul the Saudi economy and end the kingdom's reliance on oil exports. The proceeds from the IPO will boost the firepower of the OPEC nation's sovereign wealth fund, which already has investments in funds managed by the Blackstone Group and SoftBank Group.

Bank Rush Grabbing a role in the deal has been one of the most hotly contested mandates for global banks. More than 20 have been mandated, with the top roles going to firms including Citigroup Inc., Goldman Sachs Group Inc., and JPMorgan Chase & Co.

But the path to today's announcement hasn't been smooth. Prince Mohammed's insistence the company is worth \$2 trillion has been met with skepticism from the international investment community. The original plan to list Aramco in either New York or London has been dropped in favor of a Riyadh-only flotation.

To get the deal done, Aramco's bankers will need hefty contributions from the kingdom's wealthiest families, many of whom have already been targeted in 2017's declared corruption crackdown that saw scores of wealthy Saudis held in Riyadh's Ritz-Carlton Hotel. Authorities said they raised over \$100 billion in settlements from people it accused of graft.

Aramco must also contend with the strengthening global movement against climate change that's targeted the world's largest oil and gas companies. Many fund managers are concerned the shift away from the international combustion engine - a technology that drove a century of steadily rising demand - means consumption will peak in the next two decades.

The company has been tiptoeing toward the greater disclosure required of publicly traded firms. Aramco published annual financial statements for the first time in April, ahead of a \$12 billion bond sale. In August, the company hosted its first earnings call with analysts.

Aramco earned net income of \$68 billion and generated \$244 billion in revenue and income related to sales in the first nine months of the year, it said in the statement. It expects capital expenditure of \$35 billion to \$40 billion next year, rising to \$40 billion to \$45 billion in 2021.

Shareholders ignorance leaves CRDB with over 7bn/ uncollected dividend backlog

By The Banker Reporter

MWANA Ambilikile is a CRDB Bank Plc's shareholder by default. When his grandfather died in over five years ago, he inherited his estate which include millions worth of CRDB shares but only posses the certificate.

"I don't even know where to start from because my grandfather bought the shares over a decade ago while doing business in Iringa Municipality," he said after learning that he might be sitting on a fortune worth millions of shillings.

Ambilikile who grew up with his grandees after losing his father while an infant, is semi literate having completed primary school at his home village of Ilembulu in Njombe region. "I know that my grandfather left some money at CRDB Bank but my efforts to get access to the cash have hit snag because of inheritance bureaucracy at primary courts.

Hundreds of thousands of CRDB shareholders can't access dividend worth billions which the bank has been paying since 1997 when it first made profit. Many of the shareholders can't access their cash for various reasons including ignorance.

CRDB Group's Managing Director, Abdulmajid Nsekela to make a passion-

ate plea with the bank's shareholders to collect their dividend pay cheques which lie idle at various branches countrywide.

"We have over 7bn/- in uncollected dividend by absentee shareholders whose whereabouts we don't know as a bank," Nsekela said last week while announcing results of the bank for year ending September 2019.

"We urge our shareholders or their representatives to come forward and claim their dividend pay cheques because after sometimes we will have to remit the cash to the Central Bank as regulations stipulate," Nsekela who is also Tanzania Bankers Association Chairman noted.

The CRDB Groups chief said the massive dividend has accumulated over the years because the beneficiaries have not been collecting their annual dividend payment hence the massive backlog which will soon find its way to Bank of Tanzania.

"When we remit this to the Central Bank as regulations require, it will be an uphill task to reclaim the cash once a shareholder comes forward," Nsekela warned while declaring that the 2019 dividend which is due early next year will likely be more than last year because of the impressive performance made.

According to the bank's report for the period, net profit increased by 76 per-



CRDB Board Chairman, Ally Laay addressing shareholders during last year annual general meeting.

cent to 92.16bn/- compared to 52.25bn/- made during a corresponding period last year. Nsekela who has returned the money minting massive bank since taking over in October last year, is optimistic that the 2019 profit will be huge hence justifying bigger dividend payment.

The CRDB chief further stated that

his management will continue focusing on trade financing because it is an area of rapid growth as demand for the product in the market is on growth path thanks to President John Magufuli's administration's focus on infrastructure development.

"We are convinced that this area of trade financing is of significance and

will continue to invest heavily in this segment," Nsekela added while emphasising that another area of focus remains financing SMEs.

Earlier this year, CRDB paired with United Bank for Africa to give a guarantee of US\$730 million to the over 2,000 megawatts Rufiji hydro Power Project being undertaken by Egypt-

tian Arab Contractors Limited and El Sewady Electric Company Elsewady Electric with state power giant, Tanesco as client.

Among the highlights of the period include: the bank's balance sheet which grew by 5 percent to 6.2trn/- from 5.9trn/- reported during the period last year; loan portfolio slightly grew by 2.5 percent to 3.25trn/- while deposits increased by 7 percent to 4.8trn/-. "Net interest income increased by 22 percent year on year to reach 389.66bn/- from 319.09bn/- reported in September 2018," Nsekela added.

The Tier 1 commercial bank continued to command a 22 percent market share of industry deposits owing to its robust network of 240 branches, 551 ATMs, over 2,400 Point of Sales (POS) terminals and 11,612 wakalas who increased by a whopping 7,260 year on year.

"Our focus on operational efficiency and sales optimization is paying off. We have embarked on the digitalization journey while adhering to good governance, reduce operational costs, and improve our service delivery. As you can see, our earnings from credit books, trade finance, and foreign currency dealings have significantly increased, showing our commitment to serving each segment in the market," the youthful CRDB boss added.

Africa's fintech makeover

JOHANNESBURG

Telecoms and local start-ups are bringing digital banking to underserved areas of the continent, often in partnership with traditional banks. But working together isn't always easy.

The majority of Africans remain unbanked, without any access to financial services. This is widely seen as a serious drag on economic development and job creation. But it also presents an opportunity for fintechs, telecommunications operators and banks keen to bypass legacy structures and roll out mobile-banking solutions that are cheaper and better suited to local conditions.

"In the broader African context, fintechs and mobile operators have the advantage, as everything is leapfrogging to data-mobile solutions," says Michael Jordaan, co-founder and chairman of the South African all-digital challenger Bank Zero, "whereas banks are still very much reliant on face-to-face processes, mostly branch-based, for acquisition and servicing."

Extending financial inclusion across the continent could happen faster once banks and technology companies recognize the need to cooperate more closely. As the saying goes, it takes two to tango. But while the orchestra has struck up, the dancers are still at the initial stage of circling each other, torn between attraction and restraint.

The opportunity is there. Sub-Saharan Africa has the fastest-growing mobile-phone subscriber base in the world, according to The Mobile Economy: Sub-Saharan Africa 2019, a recent report by the GSMA, the mobile operators' trade association. By the end of 2018, nearly 400 million mobile-money accounts in the region were registered with over 130 live mobile-money services.

Expanding access to financial services and e-commerce is among the key aims behind the World Bank's decision to back Africa's digital transformation with an investment of \$25 billion between now and 2030, which it hopes will be matched by the private sector.

A joint fintech agenda from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund calls for countries to "enable new technologies to enhance financial service provision." While underlying downside risks for vulnerable customers, such as data breaches and excessive borrowing, the report concludes that technology-based solutions are more efficient, reduce costs and can rapidly be scaled up.

Most of the potentially disruptive fintech platforms are being developed by local tech start-ups, according to the GSMA report. And Alex Vines, research director for Risk, Ethics and Resilience at London-based think tank Chatham House and head of its Africa



Michael Jordaan, co-founder and chairman of Bank Zero.

program, thinks "African innovation will become more significant globally in the long term."

Vines sees established hubs like Nairobi, Cape Town, Lagos and Accra expanding rapidly and distancing themselves further from potential competitors—thanks in part to their magnetic attraction for human talent nurtured elsewhere. These centers also have a business base large enough to help start-ups raise the capital needed for scaling up, and subsequently to protect them from predatory governments.

This "critical mass" is essential, says Vines. "Many entrepreneurs in countries like Zambia, Tanzania and Uganda don't scale up, because that would only attract the unwanted attention of the political elite."

While recognizing that local tech companies are often best at reaching out to rural areas and coming up with solutions specific to local conditions, Sanyade Okoli, CEO of Lagos-based Alpha Africa Advisory, says that "for fintechs to be successful and sustainable in the long term, there needs to be a viable business model." Just as with tech entrepreneurs in other parts of the world, "with some tech start-ups, it's not always clear where the revenue streams are coming from."

Greater opportunity

The lower the level of financial inclusion in a country, "the greater the opportunities for fintechs—and consequently the more likely that the regulator will take a tolerant view of the range of their activities," says Chris Steward, a portfolio manager at Cape Town-based Investec Asset Management. That is certainly true in Kenya, where dominant telecom player Safaricom pioneered mobile payments and has struck deals with banks including Commercial Bank of Africa and KCB Bank, allowing them to lend to customers and take deposits via an M-Pesa platform.

Not all these relationships run smoothly. Nine years ago, Safaricom teamed up with Kenya's second-largest lender, Equity Bank, to launch the M-Kesho mobile-banking app, but

the initiative flopped amid disputes over revenue sharing. This year, the two parties decided to revive M-Kesho through a new partnership whose stated aims are to enhance access for young people and rural communities.

As a licensed bank, Equity's role is primarily to tackle regulatory barriers to the mobile platform's ability to take deposits and make larger loans. In the future, it also hopes to leverage its strong regional presence to expand M-Kesho into neighboring Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda, where rival M-Pesa has no presence. But since Safaricom has more than twice the number of customers and controls the means of distribution, it is clearly the senior partner. Equity Group has come to "a humble acceptance that Equity is a subset of Safaricom," says CEO James Mwangi.

When it comes to alliances between telecom operators, fintechs and banks, the bigger, the better. This is likely to be the case in Nigeria, where the dominant mobile group MTN has been granted a superagency license to offer a limited range of mobile payments and money transfers. With access to a huge pool of potential customers currently using its voice services, MTN will pose a challenge to Nigeria's traditional banks and to its largest fintech company, Paga, whose more than 12 million users are serviced by a network of 14,000 licensed agents. Moreover, MTN has the financial firepower to set up its own network and compete on price with Paga and other fintechs, which have focused primarily on peer-to-peer transfers or bill payments.

"The superagency license permits only a restricted range of products and functionality," says Steward. "To progress further, you need a full banking license from the central bank, which has made only slow progress, partly because of its bureaucratic processes but also because it may want to license several operators at the same time so as to create a competitive market." Incumbent banks might also be trying to delay the licensing of new rivals.

Lebanon's central bank commands lenders to halt dividends and hike capital by 20%

BEIRUT

Lebanon's central bank governor instructed all lenders to raise their capital requirement by 20 per cent in two phases and, for the first time, ordered them to halt distributing dividends, as the regulator seeks to ease growing pressure on the financial system in the face of potential additional downgrades by ratings agencies.

Lebanese banks have to increase their capital requirements 10 per cent by the end of December and another 10 per cent by the end of June 2020, according to a central bank circular issued on Monday and seen by The National. The regulator briefed banks not to distribute dividends for the 2019 fiscal year, said the circular, which is effective immediately.

The measures come in the wake of rate cuts of Lebanon and its banks by Fitch and Moody's Investors Service this year and in anticipation of additional downgrades if the deteriorating economic climate in the country, which led to the resignation of prime minister Saad Hariri last month, does not improve and liquidity risks worsen.

Last week, Fitch Ratings downgraded two of the country's largest banks further into junk, or non-investment grade levels, while Moody's warned Lebanon's sovereign rating was in danger of a deeper downgrade within three months and placed its banks

under review for a rate cut as well. The actions of the agencies come amid nationwide protests demanding reforms and changes in the political system that has governed the country since the end of a 15-year civil war in 1990. The protests are the largest Lebanon has seen since the assassination of former prime minister Rafik Hariri in 2005, which led to Syria withdrawing its troops from the country after a 29-year presence there. Citizens blame Lebanon's political elite for widespread corruption and nepotism, which they say contributed to the country accruing \$86 billion of public debt equivalent to 150 per cent of gross domestic product debt.

The country saw an outflow of capital estimated at about \$3 billion in the first nine months of the year, due to its deteriorating economic climate and heightened political tensions, according to the Institute of International Finance.

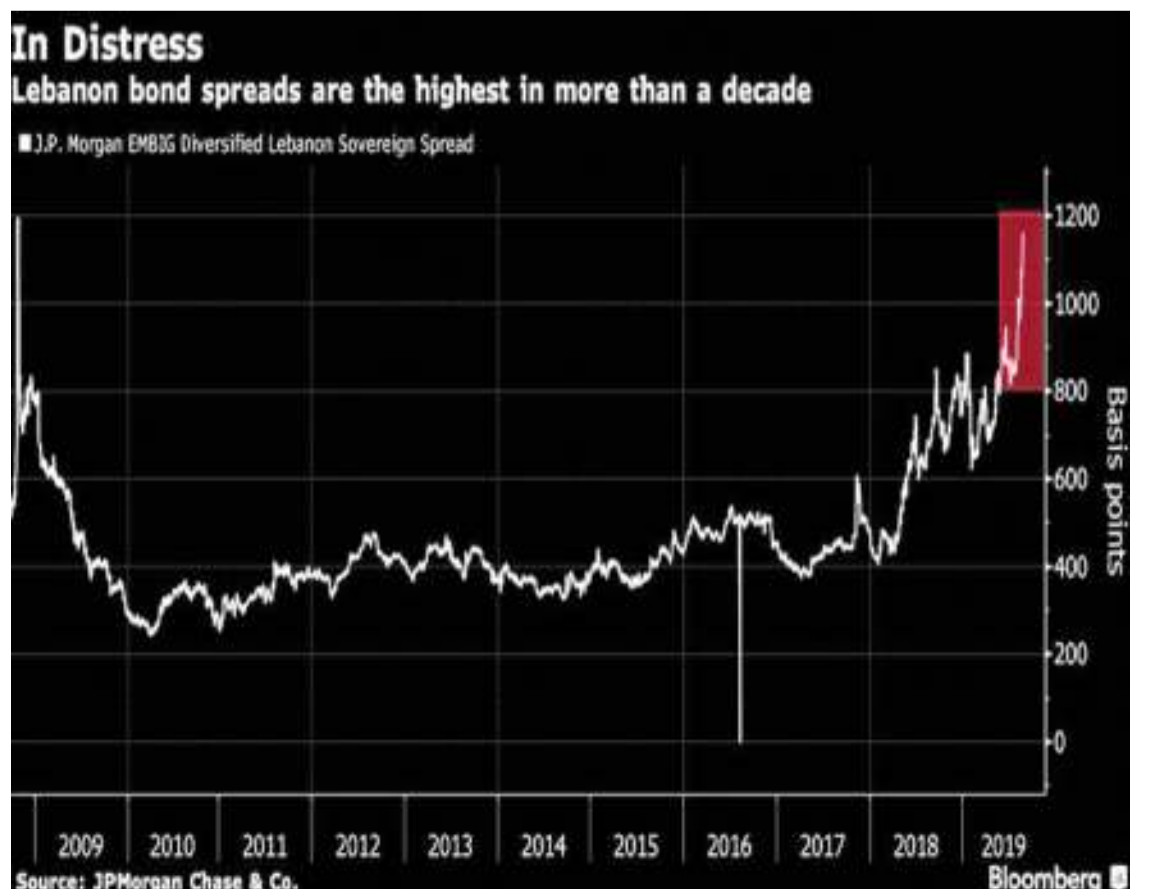
Capital inflows to Lebanon, largely in the form of foreign direct investment and non-resident deposits, have slowed sharply in the past 18 months, leading to a significant decline in official reserves and the emergence of a black market, Garbis Iradian, IIF's Mena chief economist and colleagues wrote in a report released on Monday.

"This is a precautionary measure ... to strengthen the

core capital of the banks in this challenging environment," said Nassib Ghobril, chief economist of Byblos Bank. With protests continuing since October 17 amid the authorities' failure to agree on durable fiscal measures and structural reforms, yields on 10-year dollar-denominated sovereign bonds of Lebanon have increased further to around 19 per cent.

"Prospects for recovery of non-resident capital inflows hinge on achieving political stability (formation of a new government) and implementation of deep reforms, which would support confidence both at home and abroad," Mr Iradian said. Lebanese banks resumed operations last Friday after a two-week closure due to nationwide protests seeking reforms and changes in the governance of the country.

Lebanon's economy has struggled since the start of the conflict in neighbouring Syria in 2011 and the political power sharing system, which represents various sects in the country, has held back successive governments from implementing required structural changes recommended by the International Monetary Fund. Lack of reform progress has hindered the country's ability to unlock \$11bn pledged by donors at an international conference in Paris last year.



WORLD

UK PM's party under fire for doctoring Brexit video of rival

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson's election campaign launch got off to a poor start on Wednesday, when his party chairman was forced to defend distributing a doctored video clip of a rival Labour Party politician.

As Britain heads towards a Dec 12 election that could shape the fate of Brexit, some politicians have expressed concerns that misleading information - known as "fake news" - could spread swiftly across social media.

Johnson's Conservatives distributed a doctored video clip of Labour's Brexit spokesman Keir Starmer, editing out a key response in an interview to give the impression that the party had no answer for Brexit.

Starmer was grilled by ITV on Tues-

day over the party's Brexit plans, including rigorous questioning on its policy of trying to negotiate a new divorce deal and then holding a referendum in which its lawmakers might then campaign against the agreement they had struck.

In a heavily edited video of the interview published by the Conservatives, Starmer was shown being asked by ITV presenter Piers Morgan why the EU would give a Labour government a good Brexit deal.

Starmer was shown apparently blinking, started, faltering and uncomfortable behind the red slogan: "Labour has no plan for Brexit."

Yet in the actual interview, Starmer did not falter but answered immediately: "Well Piers, I have been talking to the EU, to political leaders across the EU 27 countries for three years and I know



Britain's main opposition Labour Party lawmaker Keir Starmer speaks during the Brexit debate inside the House of Commons in London Oct 19, 2019. (AP)

very well what the parameters are of any deal that they would do with a Labour government."

Conservative lawmaker Johnny Mercer said the video he had tweeted had been doctored and apologised.

"It would appear this has inexplicably been doctored at the end. I apologise and will remove it. The original interview was bad enough - I have no idea why this needed altering," Mercer said.

Yet Conservative Party Chairman James Cleverly, speaking to ITV on Wednesday, repeatedly refused to either accept that the clip had been doctored or to apologise.

"The reason we clipped the video was to make it

shorter because Keir's answers rambled on," Cleverly said.

ITV journalist Morgan, an admirer of late Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, said the Conservatives had doctored the clip.

"I just find that absolutely staggering: to shamelessly re-edit a video to make it look like something completely different, give a completely misleading and different version to what actually happened to make your opponents look stupid," Morgan said.

"And when you are caught - you just don't have the good grace to say: 'Yeah, we shouldn't have done that - I'm sorry.'"

Agencies

Global community hails Xi's 'encouraging' speech at CIIE

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping's keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the second China International Import Expo (CIIE) on Tuesday was hailed by the international community as encouraging and inspiring.

Dow Wilson, president and CEO of Varian Medical Systems, said: "After hearing President Xi's remarks on open world economy and shared opportunities, I have full confidence in China's development."

"I am also deeply encouraged, especially under the current

global environment with uncertainties. President Xi's remarks sent a very positive and stable signal, which definitely further built up our confidence as a multinational company. We have more positive outlook in China's economic development and market potentials," said Wilson, who attended the opening ceremony.

"The grand event of CIIE speaks loud of China's opening. It shows China's promise to further reform and opening up," he said.

Pascal Soriot, CEO of the Anglo-Swedish pharmaceutical multinational company AstraZeneca, said Xi's speech of "Openness and



Cooperation for a Shared Future" was very encouraging since it further voiced China's commit-

ment to promoting a new round of high-level opening and sharing the development opportunity with the world.

"We believe it's a very encouraging message for both Chinese and overseas enterprises that China adheres to economic globalization and free trade," said Soriot, who listened to Xi's speech.

The speech of Xi once again released a strong signal for expanding opening and demonstrated the responsibility of China as a major nation to share China's opportunities and build a bright future with the world, Soriot said.

Professor Rafia Abbasov of

Azerbaijan's National Academy of Sciences said against the backdrop of increasing uncertainties facing the world economy, Xi's speech charted the course for the international community to overcome potential crises and achieve common development.

Vernon Johnson Mwaanga, Zambia's former foreign affairs minister, hailed Xi's speech in an interview with Xinhua on Tuesday, saying developing countries must be assisted to embrace the new technology through training and other means of knowledge sharing so that they are not left.

Xinhua

Thai PM says Cambodia's Sam Rainsy unlikely to be allowed in

BANGKOK/PHNOM PENH

THAILAND is unlikely to allow entry to Cambodian opposition founder Sam Rainsy, Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha said yesterday, after the self-exiled dissident said he planned to return to Cambodia via Bangkok.

At a news conference in the Thai capital, Prayut referred to Thailand's ties with Cambodia as a fellow member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) grouping.

"According to our commitment to ASEAN, we will not interfere in each other's internal affairs, and we will not allow an anti-government person to use Thailand for activism," Prayut said.

"I have ordered this, so he probably won't get in."

Earlier yesterday, Sam Rainsy (pictured) said he will return on Saturday to face arrest amid a crackdown at home on members of his banned party and Malaysia's

detention of two party activists trying to return.

He has long vowed to return to Cambodia on Nov 9, which is Cambodia's independence day, to lead demonstrations against the one-party rule of longtime Prime Minister Hun Sen, who has vowed to arrest anyone supporting what he calls an attempted coup.

"For those of you who know me, this may just be the last time you will see me alive as a free man," Sam Rainsy said in a video message posted on Twitter.

Sam Rainsy also tweeted a photo of his airline ticket from Paris to Bangkok, from where he would travel to Thailand's border crossing with Cambodia. Hun Sen has ordered airlines not to allow him to board flights into Phnom Penh.

Thailand last week turned away Mu Sochua, vice-president of the banned Cambodia National Rescue Party, when she flew into Bangkok's main international airport.

Mu Sochua later flew to Indone-



sia, where the Cambodian embassy on Wednesday requested she be arrested after she attempted to hold a news conference.

Dozens of other opposition ac-

tivists who fled fearing arrest have also vowed to return with Sam Rainsy.

On Monday, Malaysian authorities detained two Cambodian op-

position activists while they were waiting to board a flight to Thailand. Malaysia withdrew an order to deport them to Cambodia after an appeal, a rights group said.

Sam Rainsy fled to France four years ago following a conviction for criminal defamation in which he was ordered to pay US\$1 million in compensation. He also faces a five-year prison sentence in a separate case.

He denies any wrongdoing and says the charges were politically motivated. At least 48 opposition activists have been arrested this year and accused of plotting to overthrow the government.

The CNRP's leader in Cambodia, Kem Sokha, was arrested in 2017 on treason charges and remains under house arrest.

Later the same year, the Supreme Court dissolved the CNRP, preventing it from fielding candidates in the 2018 election, in which Hun Sen's party went on to win every seat in parliament. **Agencies**

Appointment of Russia's ambassador to UK not linked with election campaign – Kremlin

MOSCOW

ANDREI Kelin's appointment as Russia's new ambassador to Britain is in no way connected with the election campaign in that country, Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov told the media.



"The appointments of chiefs of diplomatic missions are never connected with the internal political agendas of the countries to which they are appointed. There is no such connection this time and there cannot be any," Peskov said.

He described Kelin as one of Russia's brightest diplomats. "Just as the ambassador of any other country his main mission is to promote the development of relations between his home country and the host country," Peskov said, adding that Russia's ambassador to Britain was faced with a no easy task.

Russian President Vladimir Putin on November 5 signed a decree to appoint Russia's former OSCE envoy Andrei Kelin (pictured) as Russia's ambassador to Britain. The decree was published on the official Internet-portal of legal information.

From 2015 and up to his latest appointment Kelin was the director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's pan-European cooperation department. In 2011-2015, he was Russia's permanent representative at the OSCE in Vienna.

Russia's previous ambassador to Britain in 2011-2019 Alexander Yakovenko is currently in charge of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Diplomatic Academy. **Agencies**

Scientists declare climate emergency as US quits Paris accord

WASHINGTON

A GLOBAL team of over 11,000 scientists from more than 150 countries have declared a climate emergency and warned the catastrophic threat if humanity failed to address the climate crisis.

The rallying cry came after the United States formally began the process of withdrawing from the Paris Agreement on Monday, making it the only nation among nearly 200 signatories that abandoned this global agenda on combating climate change.

In a paper published on Tuesday in *BioScience*, a journal of the American Institute of Biological Sciences, the massive alliance of scientists warned that "untold human suffering" is unavoidable without deep and lasting shifts in human activities that contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and other factors related to climate change.

"Climate change has arrived and is accelerating faster than many scientists expected," said the paper's co-author William Ripple with Oregon State University.

The scientists provided a set of mitigating actions in areas of energy, short-lived pollutants, nature, food, economy and population.

They suggested replacing fossil fuels with low-carbon renewables and eliminating subsidies to fossil fuel companies. Emissions of methane, soot and other short-lived climate pollutants should be swiftly cut.

Also, they urged to convert the economy to one that is carbon free to address human dependence on the biosphere and to stabilize a global human population that is increasing by more than 200,000 people a day.

Contrary to scientists' proposals, the Trump administration rolled back environmental rules made in the Obama era to prop up the coal industry by allowing it to emit more greenhouse gases into the air.

In August, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed to abandon federal regulations that require the oil and gas industry to install technology that monitors and curbs methane leaks in wells, pipelines and other operational facilities.

The EPA finalized a rule in June to overturn the Obama-era attempt to restrict emissions from coal plants by relying more on cleaner fuels. Trump once called climate change a "hoax" and his administration considered efforts to fight global warming just to "be a waste of your money," a position met with widespread criticism both at home and abroad. **Xinhua**

A British student in Beijing says Chinese people are united as one

THOMAS Lindesay still remembers vividly the day of October 1 when he participated in a mass pageant as part of the grand celebrations for the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

"It was really impressive and I felt that everyone else was just as excited as I was on the way from the Beijing Railway Station to the Tian'anmen Square," he said.

He expressed his excitement to have participated the celebrations as a member of the formation underscoring a community with a shared future for humanity and witnessed the historic moment for China.

Thomas (pictured) is a sophomore at the School of International Studies, Peking University. In 1987, his father

William Lindesay came to China and traveled from the Jiayu Pass to the Shanhai Pass of the Great Wall. After that, he decided to live in China and actively help protect and research the Great Wall.

The celebrations, as Thomas said, were of great significance, both for himself and his entire family. While he was participating in the mass pageant, his father was invited to watch the event on the viewing stand. "I will never forget it," said Thomas.

The spectacular activities for the 70th anniversary of the founding of the PRC enabled the British student to better understand China.

He recalled that everyone in the pageant was spirited and cheerful and couldn't help but shout and jump in joy

as they passed the Tian'anmen Square, while those on the viewing stand would wave hands towards them to express their enthusiasm.

"Such passion conveys the love of ordinary Chinese people towards their motherland and makes me see how the nation is united as one," said Thomas, adding that it is the unity and hard work of the Chinese people that has led to the huge achievements in China.

Thomas grew up in China. He thinks that the New China has made great achievements and witnessed dramatic changes in its economic and social development in the past 70 years.

"Such dramatic changes and fast and sustained development in a long time are mainly due to the country's policy of reform and opening-up," he pointed



out. Thomas remembers that he could basically find taxis under the Xiali brand on the streets of Beijing when

he was a child. Now, the transportation infrastructure here has improved and cars under various brands are running on the road.

Furthermore, Thomas believes that he can barely live without such services as mobile payment, food and express delivery, which have developed rapidly in China.

Thomas has visited the Jiankou section of the Great Wall hundreds of times, where he would pass by an overpass construction site.

"Every time I went there, I would see some progress in the construction, which somehow mirrors the speed of China's development," said Thomas, pointing out that China has paid more attention to high-quality development in recent years, especially ecological

progress. When he was 4 years old, he climbed the Great Wall for the first time and picked up trash there as his father did as a volunteer.

"The local government has taken many measures to protect the ecological environment of the Great Wall, such as arranging cleaners there, which could be very helpful," said Thomas.

The celebrations for the 70th anniversary of the founding of the PRC are not only a review of the 70 years' development in the past, but also a demonstration of the country's confidence and determination for the future progress, Thomas pointed out.

"I am fortunate to be a part of it and look forward to witnessing a better future of China," he added.

People's Daily

Democrats claim victory over Trump-backed Kentucky governor, seize Virginia legislature

WASHINGTON

U.S. Democrats claimed an upset win in Kentucky on Tuesday over a Republican governor backed by President Donald Trump and seized control of the state legislature in Virginia, where anti-Trump sentiment in the suburbs remained a potent force.

The outcomes of Tuesday's elections in four states, including Mississippi and New Jersey, could offer clues to how next year's presidential election could unfold, when Trump will aim for a second four-year term.

In Kentucky, Democratic Attorney General Andy Beshear, whose father, Steve, was the state's last Democratic governor, scored a narrow victory over Governor Matt Bevin despite an election-eve rally headlined by Trump.

In a speech in Lexington, Kentucky, on Monday night, Trump - who won Kentucky by 30 percentage points in 2016 - told voters that they needed to re-elect Bevin, or else pundits would

say the president "suffered the greatest defeat in the history of the world."

The remarks reflected the extent to which Bevin, 52, sought to nationalize the campaign, emphasizing his support for Trump amid a Democratic-led impeachment inquiry of the Republican president in Congress.

While the result was a significant setback for Trump, who remains relatively popular in Kentucky, it may have had more to do with Bevin's diminished standing in the state. Opinion polls showed Bevin may be the least popular governor in the country, after he waged high-profile fights with labor unions and teachers.

Beshear's upset win could also bolster Democrats' slim hopes of ousting Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who is on the ballot himself in the state next year.

At a rally on Tuesday night, Bevin refused to concede, citing unspecified "irregularities," even as Beshear called on the governor to honor the results.



Trump asserted on Twitter that his rally had helped Bevin avoid a bigger loss and boasted that Republicans had won several other statewide races.

"@MattBevin picked up at least 15 points in last days, but perhaps not enough (Fake News will blame Trump!)," the president wrote.

Meanwhile, Democrats wrested both chambers of Virginia's legislature from narrow Republican majorities, which would give the party complete control of the state government for the first time in a quarter-century.

Trump has avoided Virginia, where

Democrats found success in suburban swing districts in last year's congressional elections, as they did in states across the country. Tuesday's election, which saw Democrats prevail in several northern Virginia suburbs, suggested the trend was continuing.

In Mississippi, where Republican Governor Phil Bryant was barred from running again due to term limits, Republican Lieutenant Governor Tate Reeves defeated Attorney General Jim Hood, a moderate Democrat who favors gun rights and opposes abortion rights.

Like Bevin, Reeves campaigned as a staunch Trump supporter in a state that Trump easily won in 2016. The president held a campaign rally in the state last week alongside Reeves.

In New Jersey, Democrats were expected to maintain their majority in the state's general assembly, the legislature's lower chamber.

VIRGINIA IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The Virginia contest drew heavy attention and money from both parties.

Former Vice President Joe Biden, a Democratic presidential front-runner, visited Virginia over the weekend to campaign with several statehouse candidates, and Republican Vice President Mike Pence held a rally on Saturday.

Other Democratic presidential contenders, including U.S. Senators Elizabeth Warren, Kamala Harris, Amy Klobuchar and Cory Booker, have also campaigned with local candidates.

In one notable race, Democrat Shelly Simonds, who lost a state House of Delegates race in 2017 via random draw after the election ended in a tie, won a rematch against Republican David Yancey.

Virginia's Democratic gains came despite a year of scandal for the party's top officials in the state. Governor Ralph Northam barely endured a political firestorm after his yearbook page was shown to have photos of someone in blackface and another person in a Ku Klux Klan costume, while Attorney General Mark Herring admitted to wearing blackface himself in college.



Rwanda seeks to market products at 2nd CIIE

KIGALI

AS Rwandan companies were set to showcase local products at the second China International Import Expo (CIIE), a Rwandan official said the country wanted to market its products at the event and see how to penetrate the vast Chinese market.

Rwanda wants to ensure that Chinese consumers will buy Rwandan products and support different initiatives of Rwanda in agriculture and other sectors, Philip Lucky, head of investment department of Rwanda Development Board, told Xinhua on Monday.

The official made the remarks on the sidelines of 2019 China Brand Show (Rwanda) and Chongqing Export Commodities (Africa) Itinerant Exhibition in Kigali, capital city of Rwanda.

Rwanda also wants to create partnerships between Rwandan and Chinese companies so that Rwandan companies can be able to source good technologies from China and bring them into Rwanda, said Lucky (pictured).

Lucky added that the partnerships can also create opportunity for financing as some Rwandan companies are struggling to get necessary financing to support their initiatives and projects.

Moreover, as Rwanda needs more investors from China, the expo provides an opportunity for introducing investment opportunities available in Rwanda, he said.

Xinhua

US diplomat: Moon-Abe meet is 'encouraging sign' for ties

SEOUL

THE United States was very encouraged by a recent meeting between the leaders of the Republic of Korea (ROK) and Japan, a top US diplomat said yesterday, as strained ties threatened to undercut three-way security cooperation on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

US Assistant Secretary of State David Stilwell arrived in Seoul on Tuesday as relations between the ROK and Japan, key US allies, have plunged to their worst state in decades after the ROK's top court ordered

Japanese firms to compensate wartime forced labourers last year.

But the ROK President Moon Jae-in and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe had an 11-minute conversation on the sidelines of an international conference in Bangkok on Monday, also attended by US officials, the first time they had met in more than a year.

"Very encouraged while we were there to note that President Moon and Prime Minister Abe had the opportunity to talk," Stilwell (pictured) told reporters after meetings with the ROK officials. "That's an en-

couraging sign as we watch the relationship improve."

His visit came as an intelligence-sharing pact between the ROK and Japan is set to expire this month. Seoul decided not to renew the agreement, known as GSOMIA, amid a spiralling political and trade row, a decision that Washington has criticised.

Stilwell met with the ROK Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha and Vice Foreign Minister Cho Sei-yong, but did not respond to a question on whether they discussed the situation.

The ROK's foreign ministry said Kang explained efforts to



craft a "reasonable solution" to the feud with Japan.

"The US side said those efforts are encouraging and agreed that such efforts should

continue going forward," the ministry said in a statement.

Stilwell met the ROK's deputy national security adviser Kim Hyun-chong and they had "detailed, constructive and forward-looking" discussions on the GSOMIA, defense cost-sharing talks and other issues, the ROK's presidential Blue House said in a statement.

December summit?

The ROK and the United States are also expected to discuss how to reinvigorate stalled denuclearization talks between the United States and the DPRK.

Envoys from the United States and the DPRK met in

Stockholm last month for the first time since US President Donald Trump and the DPRK leader Kim Jong Un agreed in June to reopen negotiations after a failed summit in Vietnam in February.

But the meeting in Sweden broke down, with the DPRK's envoy saying the US side failed to show flexibility.

They could hold another round of talks as soon as mid-November as Kim set sights on a summit with Trump in December, a ROK lawmaker said on Monday after being briefed by a spy agency.

Agencies

East African policymakers gather in Eritrea's capital amid call for regional integration

ADDIS ABABA

SOME 300 policymakers and economic sector stakeholders drawn from 14 East African countries on Tuesday kicked off a high-level meeting on regional integration in Asmara, the capital of Eritrea amid call to sustain regional integration.

The three-day meeting, mainly emphasizes augmenting regional integration as a vital impetus "to sustain the exceptional economic growth experienced by East Africa over the past decade."

The meeting, which is being held under the theme "How to Leverage New Opportunities for Regional Integration," is a flagship UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) annual meeting focusing on East Africa, which is taking place in the Eritrean capital for the first time.

Osman Saleh, Eritrean Foreign Affairs Minister, addressing the opening session of the high-level meeting, emphasized the remarkable human and natural potential of the East African region which can transform lives of individuals.

"The Horn of Africa, after decades of conflict, is breathing air of hope, togetherness, peace and stability, critical to regional integration," the Eritrean foreign minister said.

About 300 decision-makers and economic stakeholders are attending the meeting representing 14 countries served by the ECA's East Africa Office, including Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya,



Osman Saleh, Eritrean Foreign Affairs Minister

Rwanda, Somalia, and South Sudan, according to the ECA. Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary of the ECA, also underscored the importance of increasing regional trade and implementing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement.

"By trading more among ourselves, we can build the equitable and balanced economies which can hold the promises the youth is looking for, and realize the dream of a prosperous Africa. In East Africa alone, the implementation of the AfCFTA could result in 1.8 billion U.S. dollars welfare gains and the creation of 2 million new jobs," the ECA chief told the meeting.

The ECA, noting that East Af-

rica has been experiencing strong economic performance with an average growth rate of 6.6 percent since 2014, also stressed concerted efforts as the sub-region "is still facing structural challenges."

"Climate change, refugee crises or health risks are transnational issues affecting several countries in the region. Such regional challenges require a regional response," the ECA said in a statement issued on the margins of the meeting. Andrew Mold, acting director of ECA's East Africa Office, also stressed during the meeting that "cross border problems affecting the region need a cross-border answer. Enhanced regional cooperation is needed to make regional growth more sustainable

and inclusive."

The meeting, which runs until Thursday, is expected to discuss strengthening regional cooperation, from the socio-economic and political standpoint to the issues of regional trade and job creation, it was noted.

Experts and policymakers attending the meeting will also analyze regional economic and social performance and hold experts' sessions about key economic sectors including energy, tourism and the blue economy.

The 23rd edition of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts and Senior Officials is organized by the ECA in collaboration with the Eritrean government.

Agencies

EU's Barnier warns of tough times ahead on UK trade deal

LISBON, Portugal

EUROPEAN Union Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier on Tuesday drew the battle lines for the upcoming free trade talks with the UK once it has left the bloc and warned Britain not to undercut EU standards.

Barnier (pictured) said the trade talks after Britain leaves as expected on Jan 31 might be as tough as the long-running Brexit divorce negotiations, which have consumed much of the last three years. He said whatever trade agreement emerges, it will cost UK businesses, since they would now be outside the 28-nation bloc.

Currently, there is seamless trade and zero tariffs under common regulations since the UK is part of the EU and has unfettered access to a market of almost half a billion consumers.

With its Brexit departure, the UK hopes to maintain as much access as possible to that wealthy market while at the same time be free to revamp its whole economy, unshackled from EU rules and regulations.

Barnier's message was clear - there is no way that will happen.

In the EU, there are fears that Britain will transform itself into a low-regulation economy that would undercut stringent EU social, environmental and other standards.

Barnier warned that "the UK



should not think that zero tariffs, zero quotas will be enough. The EU will insist on zero tariffs, zero quotas and zero dumping."

"There will be more economic competition - OK - between the EU and the UK, and that is normal. But the EU will not tolerate unfair competitive advantage," he warned at the Web Summit in Lisbon.

Outgoing British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has insisted he wants a "best-in-class" free trade agreement, which comes down to the best trade deal that still allows the UK to diverge from EU standards, and potentially head to a US-style low regulation economy.

The EU definition of "best" is different, Barnier said.

"For us, it means a free trade agreement whose aim is not only economic and financial profit with zero tariffs and zero quotas but which is also in the interest of the people, their environmental and living standards," he said.

Current plans call for Britain to leave the bloc on Jan 31 and end a transitional trade period as soon as the end of 2020. Considering that major international trade deals can often take over half a decade to clinch, that seems a precipitously short time.

Barnier told the Web Summit that by next summer, it will be clear if the Brexit trade transition period will have to be extended beyond the end of next year.

Agencies

Second CIIE attracts half a million professional buyers

THE second China International Import Expo (CIIE) attracted over 500,000 professional buyers, said Ren Hongbin, China's assistant minister of commerce, at a media briefing.

The figure has outnumbered that in the previous year, and that of even most international professional exhibitions, Ren added.

According to him, these buyers are from every field of the national economy. 31 percent are from the manufacturing sector, and 23 percent from the

whole sale and retailing sector.

Equipment, sci-tech life, as well as food and agricultural products are the three most attractive exhibition sectors for the buyers. Among the domestic buyers, 67 percent are in the private sector.

The group of overseas professional buyers is expanding rapidly. The first CIIE attracted a total of 3,600 foreign buyers, while the figure has soared to 7,000 this year, which indicates the international attraction and influence of the event.

The second CIIE has 15 guest-of-honor countries, up from 12 in the previous year. Among the 64 participating countries, 24 are new to the event, accounting for over 1/3 of the total. 24 are from Asia, 8 from Africa, 17 from Europe, 12 from America and 3 from Oceania.

The theme and topics of the second Hongqiao International Economic Forum, as well as the list of speakers and guests of its sub-sessions have been unveiled on the internet.

The topics have been expanded from economy and trade the last year to comprehensive economic sectors, and the number of sub-sessions has also been added to five, covering more areas.



At the media briefing, vice mayor of Shanghai Xu Kunlin introduced the urban services that Shanghai will offer during the second CIIE.

Based on the success of the first one, the second CIIE further optimized field services and has built an all-round service system.

Xu said that 20 Chinese-English bilingual robots was introduced at the CIIE to guide the visitors, and 180 more volunteer interpreters stationed at the exhibition, covering the six official languages of the United Nations as well as Korean.

Besides, the catering sector has also been reinforced. More catering service providers are now working to ensure food supply capability during peak hours.

People's Daily

The
Guardian

SPORT



Travis Tygart

Russia, US go toe-to-toe at anti-doping meeting

KATOWICE, POLAND

THE fight was about doping.

The United States delivered haymakers. Russia came back with jabs.

The proverbial blows were delivered Wednesday in a vast conference room in Poland during a pair of 3-minute speeches that cut through the tedium of an otherwise sleepy rule-making forum held by the World Anti-Doping Agency.

Those speeches – one from Travis Tygart of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, the other from Russian sports minister Pavel Kolobov – illustrated the wide gap in perceptions about what, exactly, has transpired over the past five years in the wake of a government-backed doping scheme in Russia that has upended the Olympic world and, most recently, imperiled the country's eligibility for next year's games.

"We cannot allow one country's proven state-sponsored doping system to steal medals and glory from clean athletes," Tygart said. "The Tokyo Games will be at least the fifth Olympic Games where state doping, and not clean athletes, are the issue."

Not far from Tygart sat Kolobov, whose turn at the microphone came about a half-hour later and was filled with familiar Russian talking points.

"Now, there has become a vital need for a new generation of athletes," Kolobov said, reminding the audience "that sport is out of politics, that sport unites."

Russia, with occasional encouragement from WADA and the IOC, has often portrayed the push for harsh sanctions as a being driven by political interests in the West.

Tygart and many of his Western counterparts have turned to the evidence from a pair of WADA-backed investigations – one in 2015 and one in 2016 – that uncovered a state-sponsored doping system designed to win medals at the Sochi Olympics and other major events.

WADA has struggled to bring the country back in line.

It agreed to reinstate a reconfigured Russian anti-doping agency in exchange for data from

the Moscow testing laboratory that would be used to corroborate cases stemming from the scandal.

But earlier this year, proof emerged that the data has been tampered with, leading to a new investigation, the results of which should be revealed later this month.

The Russian imbroglio is not a major agenda item this week, but there was no pretending the issue – the corruption as well as the way WADA and the IOC have handled it – hasn't been front-and-center at this conference.

"We must have a strong, independent WADA – not a weak service provider some have enjoyed over the last several years," Tygart said, as WADA president Craig Reedie and many of the agency's executives looked on.

America's newly appointed White House anti-doping representative, Kendel Ehrlich, piled on in her own speech later, saying the Russia scandal has dragged on far too long.

"We recognize the need for process, but also recognize the need for swift action to preserve the reputation of WADA," she said.

Also speaking: the Russian anti-doping agency's new CEO, Yuri Ganus.

Ganus has been critical of his own country in his quest to make sure his agency isn't penalized for the acts of others. His main argument is that the misdeeds in Russia were committed under previous management. He called for WADA to take a "wise and differentiated approach in deciding on this issue."

"Independence is determined by the length of the dog's leash," Ganus said.

WADA's decision, which could, in turn, be appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport, could very well determine whether Russia will be allowed to compete next year in Tokyo.

One thing the Russians and Americans have in common: They view it as a cut-and-dried case.

"We discharged all the obligations that depended on us," Kolobov said. "Throughout these years we have been in closer cooperation with WADA than ever before."

AP

Shakira plans a Latin tribute at upcoming Super Bowl

BARCELONA, SPAIN

COLOMBIAN music star Shakira says she will pay homage to Latin culture alongside Jennifer Lopez at the 2020 Pepsi Super Bowl Halftime Show in Miami.

Speaking Monday in Barcelona, Spain where she lives with her long-term partner, Spanish soccer star Gerard Piqué, and their two children, Shakira told The Associated Press she was fulfilling a dream which also had "a very important purpose."

"To celebrate that culture, to showcase it in a country where Latinos have also struggled a lot," she said. "I

feel really humbled and with a great responsibility in my hands to represent the Latino community."

The Grammy winner, who turns 43 on Feb. 2, the day of the Super Bowl, is currently promoting a documentary and live concert album from her 2018 "El Dorado World Tour," to be released worldwide on Nov. 13.

In late 2017, Shakira left fans worried after she was forced to postpone the European part of the tour due to a vocal cord hemorrhage.

"That was probably one of the most difficult times of my life. It was really a nightmare," she recalled. "I didn't know if I was ever going to sing again."

At the time, doctors recommended surgery that carried risks. Shakira chose not to have it, and her voice slowly recovered. But it meant she couldn't speak for long periods of time – a real challenge for a mother of two young children.

"I healed miraculously, really, because the doctors were convinced I needed a medical procedure," she said, adding that without support from her fans she wouldn't have been able to return to the stage.

"I felt so much gratitude, so much joy to be able to sing again," she said. "I think at some point in my life I had taken it for granted."

LeBron 3rd straight triple-double, Lakers rally past Bulls

CHICAGO

LeBron James and Anthony Davis watched and cheered as Kyle Kuzma powered a big fourth-quarter run for Los Angeles.

Sure, James was his usual brilliant self. But Kuzma's performance was a big deal for the rolling Lakers.

James had 30 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds for his third consecutive triple-double, and Los Angeles rallied to beat the Chicago Bulls 118-112 on Tuesday night for its sixth straight victory.

Kuzma scored 11 of his 15 points in the final period during his third game after missing the start of the season with a right ankle injury. The 24-year-old guard got hurt while playing for USA Basketball this past summer.

"I'm getting there," Kuzma said. "It's a process, I know. It's all about being patient right now because I haven't really had much basketball time since August."

Kuzma averaged 18.7 points and 5.5 rebounds per game last season. The Lakers are hoping he can provide a viable third option alongside the leading duo of James and Davis.

"Kuz got into a rhythm, and that's what he's capable of," James said.

Los Angeles trailed by 19 before outscoring Chicago 38-19 in the fourth during the finale of a three-game trip. Kuzma began the quarter with seven straight points, part of a 16-0 run that lifted the Lakers to a 96-93 lead with 8:12 left.

James was on the bench for most of the big spurt, and Davis watched the entire run from the sideline.

"A.D. was in foul trouble. Bron was exhausted," Lakers coach Frank Vogel said. "Both of those guys needed to stay on the bench and other guys needed to step up, and they did."



Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James, right, drives to the basket past Chicago Bulls' Otto Porter Jr. during the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2019, in Chicago. (AP Photo)

Chicago lost for the fifth time in six games. Zach LaVine scored 26 points, and Wendell Carter Jr. had 11 points and 11 rebounds in his third straight double-double. Coby White and Otto Porter Jr. each scored 18 points.

"This one hurts," LaVine said. "We were beating them up until the fourth quarter. We're showing we can play with these teams. We know we're talented. We've had 10-, 12-, 16-point leads on a lot of teams, but we're losing games. It's frustrating."

The Bulls used a 16-2 run to open a 60-42 lead with 2:49 left in the first half. Carter's two foul shots made it 63-44 with 2:10 to go.

"We've got to learn to finish,"

coach Jim Boylen said. "They finished and we didn't."

Kuzma got some help as the Lakers rallied in the fourth. Quinn Cook scored eight of his season-high 17 in the final period. Dwight Howard had a key block on White during the big run.

James helped close it out after he checked in with 8:37 remaining. He found Davis for an alley-oop jam that made it 114-101 with 2:04 left.

Davis finished with 15 points and seven rebounds in his first game in his native Chicago since he was acquired in a trade with New Orleans.

TRIPLE THE FUN

James became the first player to post three consecutive triple-doubles for the Lakers

since Magic Johnson had four in a row in 1987.

"It comes with team success for me," James said. "A triple-double means absolutely nothing to me if it's not in a win."

OLD FRIENDS

Boylen worked for Vogel for two seasons with the Indiana Pacers. Vogel called Boylen "one of the smartest basketball men I've ever worked with," and Boylen also heaped praise on his former boss.

"Frank's a worker. He's a defensive-minded guy," Boylen said, "so I think we were kindred spirits there. He's a really good person and he was very sharing and caring with me."

AP



Hundreds of fans line the arrivals hall at OR Tambo International Airport to greet Siya Kolisi as he emerges with the Webb Ellis trophy. AP

King Kolisi revels in support as thousands welcome Boks home

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa captain Siya Kolisi said the country's underprivileged children should "keep dreaming and keep believing" as he carried the Rugby World Cup trophy through thousands of fans on the team's return home on Tuesday.

Kolisi led the Springboks to victory in Japan when they beat England 32-12 in the final in Yokohama on Saturday, a third title for the country after 1995 and 2007, and the first under a black captain.

His rags-to-riches tale has been inspirational for many, and the raucous welcome the side received showcased the full range of the Rainbow Nation as fans from all walks of life spent hours waiting for a glimpse of the players as they emerged in groups from different flights.

The biggest cheer was reserved

for Kolisi, who grew up in an impoverished township and has written his name not only into rugby folklore but also into the history of South Africa as a beacon of hope for those who face a bleak future.

"The kids must keep dreaming and keep believing," he told reporters. "Anything can be overcome. When I was young, I was just focused on going to training each day, preparing myself for the opportunity just in case it ever came."

"I am proof it can be done. We don't want it to be so tough for anybody else, we want to make it easy for the future."

Kolisi said the players felt the support from back home during their time in Japan, with a TV screen in their hotel constantly replaying videos from fans, or images of ordinary South Africans celebrating their

victories.

STAR-STUDDED SUPPORT

He added that the team had also been inspired by messages from tennis great Roger Federer, whose mother was born in South Africa, and New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady.

"I am a huge Federer fan, so when he sent the message it was special. Tom Brady as well, that was amazing for us as a team."

The Boks' next encounter will be against an as yet unnamed opponent in the 2020 June International window, and Kolisi is hopeful that the core of the World Cup-winning side will be kept together.

"We would love to stay together as a team, but that will be down to the coach. A lot of us have committed to staying in South Africa for that," Kolisi said.

REUTERS

AP

Khaka stripped of Arsenal captaincy amid controversy

LONDON

ARSENAL midfielder Granit Khaka has been stripped of his captaincy and left out of the Gunners' Europa League game against Portugal's Vitoria, manager Unai Emery has confirmed. Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang will skipper the club in his place.

"I had a meeting with him and told him he is no longer in the captain's group," the Mirror website quoted the Spaniard as telling reporters on Tuesday.

Aubameyang takes over the permanent role, although he was also not in the 18-man travelling squad for the match in Guimaraes and Hector Bellerin is likely to stand in instead.

"He [Khaka] accepted my decision. We need to carry on and focus on tomorrow's match. I needed to take a decision and now it's closed," said Emery.

The decision comes amid a swarm of controversy stemming from Khaka's angry reaction to being booed by fans after being substituted in the Gunners' draw with Crystal Palace last month.

Khaka taunted home fans and removed his shirt when storming off the pitch after he was substituted and appeared to swear at his team's own supporters, as well as waving his arms taunting supporters to jeer louder and cupping his ear.

Khaka was absent from Arsenal's shootout loss to Liverpool in the Carabao Cup on Wednesday, with Bellerin wearing the captain's armband as the Gunners exited the competition in the round of 16. And he was not in the squad for the team's 1-1 Premier League draw against Wolves on Saturday.

Immediately following the incident against Palace, Emery said Khaka was devastated about the row and hailed his commitment to the club in training and in games.

The Switzerland international said his actions were caused in part by what he perceived to be harsh treatment from the club's fans on social media and during matches and that it boiled over that day at the Emirates.

In a post on his Instagram account, Khaka wrote: "The scenes that took place around my substitution have moved me deeply. I love this club and will always give 100% on and off the pitch.

"My feeling of not being understood by fans, and repeated abusive comments at matches and in social media over the last weeks and months have hurt me deeply.

"People have said things like 'We will break your legs,' 'Kill your wife' and 'Wish that your daughter gets cancer.' That has stirred me up and I reached boiling point when I felt the rejection in the stadium on Sunday." (Agencies)

Liverpool to play 2 teams in Carabao and FIFA CWC

LONDON

LIVERPOOL have announced they will use two squads as progression in the Carabao Cup meant their quarterfinal meeting with Aston Villa would clash with their FIFA Club World Cup tournament.

After beating Arsenal in the fifth round, Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp had threatened to forfeit the Carabao Cup unless a sensible date for their next fixture could be found.

"Liverpool Football Club can confirm our Carabao Cup quarterfinal tie at Aston Villa will take place on Tuesday Dec. 17, 2019," a statement on the club's website read.

"As a result, we will be utilising two playing squads simultaneously, with one squad participating in the FIFA Club World Cup in Qatar and another in the Carabao Cup.

"The club would like to take this opportunity to underline that while this is not an ideal scenario, it is an outcome which was arrived at with the best interests of the competition, our fellow clubs and ourselves as the sole motivating factor.

"We would like to thank the EFL for their efforts to accommodate us and we can confirm alternative dates were discussed, but ultimately none were considered suitable without compromising the scheduling of the competition itself or plac-

ing an undue strain on our playing staff."

In response, the EFL have warned Liverpool that the players selected for the game "must meet the competition's selection requirements."

Speaking after Liverpool's 2-1 win over Genk in the Champions League on Tuesday, Klopp said it was too soon to decide exactly how to approach the two games.

"We asked Aston Villa if they could come to Qatar and we could play the game there," joked Klopp.

"We don't know exactly how we do it, we have an idea but it's too early to speak about it. We had to make a decision, we made that decision because all the other alternatives were more problems than solutions and didn't work out.

"We said this way we can do as good as is possible. In the next couple of weeks we will decide exactly how it will look," he said.

Asked if the club had faced pressure from FIFA and the English Football League (EFL) over the situation, Klopp said: "Kind of. You want to be really in trouble with FIFA? I'm not sure. You want to be really in trouble with the EFL, probably not. We respect the competitions."

The German said his main issue with the League Cup was playing two-legged semifinals at a busy time in the campaign. (Agencies)

Guardiola walks back claims Mane is a diver

MILAN

MAN City boss Pep Guardiola backed down in his war of words with Jurgen Klopp by claiming he never intended to brand Liverpool striker Sadio Mane a diver.

Klopp launched a defence of his team and Mane after Guardiola appeared to suggest the Senegal international was prone to diving. Mane has won penalties in Liverpool's last two Premier League home games against Leicester and Tottenham and was booked for diving during the dramatic 2-1 win over Aston Villa on Saturday.

But speaking ahead of the Champions League clash with Atalanta in Milan, the City manager backtracked.

"My son and my daughter all the time when they [Liverpool] win in the last minutes, ask me how lucky they are and I say at the time 'it's not lucky,'" Guardiola told a news conference on Tuesday.

"What Liverpool has done the last season and this season many, many times last is because they've this in-

credible quality and his incredible talent to fight until the end.

"It was far away from my intention to say Sadio is this type of player because I admire him a lot. Even with that for Jurgen it [against Leicester] is a penalty, for the referee it was a penalty, for the VAR it was a penalty. I was the wrong guy, or maybe not I don't know, to think it was like this a penalty.

"Of course like Jurgen said he knows Sadio better than me. So it was a praise for Liverpool, not just one action. To say it's lucky again? No.

"It happens many times in Anfield and away because they push and they push that's why it's nice to face them and try to compete with them. Hopefully I can clarify everything for Jurgen."

Speaking on Monday, Klopp also aimed a dig at Guardiola by saying he "wouldn't mention tactical fouls" -- an issue raised in the past by Jose Mourinho, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and Manuel Pellegrini. (Agencies)

Chelsea, Ajax draw European thriller as Liverpool win and Barca stumble

PARIS

JORGINHO scored two penalties as Chelsea came roaring back from 4-1 down to draw 4-4 with nine-man Ajax in a Champions League classic on Tuesday, while holders Liverpool claimed a narrow victory and a stuttering Barcelona were held.

There was also a rousing comeback win for Borussia Dortmund over Inter Milan and a big success for Valencia, but the greatest drama came at Stamford Bridge.

Ajax appeared to be heading for a stunning victory when Hakim Ziyech set up Donny van de Beek to put them 4-1 ahead 10 minutes into the second half.

Before that, Jorginho quickly levelled from the spot after Tammy Abraham's own goal gave the Dutch champions a second-minute lead, but a Quincy Promes header and a Kepa Arrizabalaga own goal made it 3-1 at the break.

After conceding again, Cesar Azpilicueta poked in from close range for Chelsea to pull it back to 4-2, and then came the crazy moment midway through the second half which really gave them hope.

In one fell swoop, Italian referee Gianluca Rocchi sent off Ajax's Daley Blind and dismissed Joel Veltman for a second caution for a handball in the box seconds later. Jorginho then converted the resulting penalty.

Teenager Reece James made it 4-4, and Chelsea thought they had gone in front when Azpilicueta fired in, but that goal was disallowed for an Abraham handball.

"I can't explain the game. For all the things we might analyse back, the



KRC Genk's Mbwana Samatta scores their first goal against Liverpool during their Champions League - Group E match at Anfield in Liverpool, Britain on Tuesday. REUTERS

madness of the game, we are here for entertainment I suppose and anyone who watched that has to say what a game of football. Respect to Ajax, what a spectacle," Chelsea boss Frank Lampard told BT Sport.

The result means Ajax, Chelsea and Valencia are level on seven points atop Group H, with the Spaniards coming from behind to beat Lille 4-1.

Nigerian striker Victor Osimhen put Lille ahead at half-time, but Dani Parejo's penalty restored parity and Valencia then scored three times in the last eight minutes.

Adama Soumaoro's own goal was followed by a stunning Geoffrey Kondogbia strike and a Ferran Torres effort. Lille are eliminated.

- "Job done" for Klopp -

Liverpool won 4-1 in Genk two weeks ago and looked on course for another comfortable victory against the Belgians when Georginio Wijnal-

dum gave them the lead at Anfield.

However, with manager Jurgen Klopp resting several players ahead of this weekend's clash with Manchester City, the reigning European champions were pegged back.

Tanzanian striker Mbwana Ally Samatta headed Genk level before the interval, and it took a fine strike by Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain to win the game.

"The plan was to win the game and we did that, so job done," admitted Klopp.

Liverpool are top of Group E, a point above Napoli, who could have qualified for the last 16 with a win against Salzburg but were held to a 1-1 draw.

- Haaland scores again -

Erling Braut Haaland's early penalty -- the 19-year-old's seventh Champions League goal this season -- gave

Salzburg the lead, before Hirving Lozano equalised.

In Germany, Inter looked to be heading for a second straight win against Dortmund as they raced into a 2-0 half-time lead with Lautaro Martinez and Matias Vecino scoring.

Yet Dortmund fought back in the second half to win the game as Achraf Hakimi grabbed a brace either side of a Julian Brandt goal.

It is a result that leaves Dortmund second in Group F, three points ahead of Inter and one behind Barcelona, who are still top despite a 0-0 draw at home to Slavia Prague.

- Messi denied -

Lionel Messi almost scored one of his finest goals, hitting the woodwork at the end of an exhilarating run in the first half.

Barcelona had not failed to score in a home Champions League group game in seven years and this result followed a shock weekend defeat at Levante.

"We haven't been convincing, either on Saturday or today, and we know there is a lot of pressure now on the team. We have to respond," said coach Ernesto Valverde.

RB Leipzig top Group G after goals by Diego Demme and Marcel Sabitzer gave the Germans a 2-0 win at Zenit Saint Petersburg.

Lyon are two points behind them in second following a 3-1 defeat of Benfica.

Joachim Andersen and Bertrand Traore scored for Lyon either side of a goal from Memphis Depay, who has now netted in all four Champions League games this season. Haris Seferovic scored for Benfica. AFP

Could Haaland vs. Mbappe be the next Messi vs. Ronaldo?

Distributed via ipmedia

BY GABRIELE MARCOTTI, SENIOR WRITER, ESPN FC

A COUPLE of Wednesdays ago, with memories of Kylian Mbappe's hat trick in 39 minutes still dancing in my head, I pondered the Erling Braut Haaland question and suggested on Twitter it would be "neat" if the pair developed some sort of redux version of the Cristiano Ronaldo vs. Lionel Messi duopoly over the next 15 years.

In addition to the usual white noise nonsense that any mention of the latter pair will bring -- "It's not a real rivalry because Cristiano/Messi is so much better than Cristiano/Messi" -- plenty raised the following, very legitimate, query.

"Mbappe has nearly 200 senior appearances which is roughly three times that of Haaland. He has three full seasons in Ligue 1 under his belt, whereas Haaland has thus far played in Norway and Austria. He has 33 caps and has won a World Cup as a protagonist. Haaland has played for Norway twice. Mbappe is 20 months older so Haaland can catch up, sure, but why would you even suggest that the pair belong in the same conversation?"

Perhaps one of the reasons is that Haaland himself raised the issue.

Back in January, he was asked by Norwegian daily Verdens Gang about his development. "Maybe it has gone fast if you compare me with a Norwegian 18-year-old in the fourth tier, but not if you compare me to Mbappe ... then it's going very slow," he said.

Stop and think about it for a moment. What kind of kid that age, fresh off a move to Salzburg -- not Real Madrid, but Salzburg, who for all the fizzy drink hype of its sponsor is still a little bro in the Taurine Empire -- compares himself to Mbappe, a world champion and the second most expensive player in the history of the universe? This is the sort of stuff Zlatan Ibrahimovic might say. (It's not a coincidence that Haaland has no qualms about comparing himself to the Big Swede either: "He's a fellow Scandinavian, someone will have to take over from him one day." Or Muhammad Ali. Or Kid Rock: "They call me cocky and I say what?!? It ain't bragging if you back it up!")

Has he backed it up? And are these two the next iteration of Messi vs.



Erling Braut Haaland

Ronaldo?

Haaland made five appearances (four of them as a substitute) for Salzburg last season as he settled into an entirely new culture, scoring one goal. He scored 11 goals in five games for the Norwegian Under-20 team, although nine of them came in a single game against Honduras that his team won 12-0. (Still, that tells you something: what kind of guy runs up the score like that in a meaningless game? Either a flat-track bully or a striker who is singularly obsessed with scoring.)

Which brings us to this season. He's scored 20 goals in 13 appearances in all competitions, including six in the Champions League where he's currently the top scorer. This is where the knee-jerk gang -- "it's only Norway/Austria" -- come in. OK, sure. It was only Austria when Sadio Mane played there too, and he turned out fine.

More to the point, those six Champions League goals weigh heavily: they came against Genk, Napoli and Liverpool. (He had the flu at Anfield and only played a half). Or, from a different perspective, he has scored three goals in three halves of football against Kalidou Koulibaly and Virgil Van Dijk.

How's that for a solid case?

Where was Mbappe at his age, three months removed from his 19 birthday? Well ahead, actually. He had notched 42 goals in 92 top-flight appearances for Monaco and Paris Saint-Germain. He led France to the U19 Euros, and he'd scored six Champions League goals. That said, it's worth remembering that numbers are just part of it. At that same age, Ronaldo had scored all of six goals for Sporting and Manchester United; he'd go on to notch another 600. Lionel Messi had 12 for Barcelona by that age; he would also go on to score a whole lot more.

Mbappe is undoubtedly further along than Haaland at this stage, but they're still setting up for that kind of head-to-head comparison. Conversely, we can all come up with prolific youngsters who didn't quite sustain the same level of excellence throughout their careers: think Michael Owen or Raul, outstanding footballers who, for different reasons and in different settings, slowed down and never achieved Messi/Ronaldo levels of production well into their 30s. (While we're at it, Mbappe may not either: most of his story is yet to be written too.)

The eye test matters too and it tells you that Haaland is an oversized center-forward who is strong as an ox, yet also technically sound and boasting a highly refined sense of space and movement. That last one matters on a team like Salzburg with its obsessive pressing, but it also matters because it tells you that this is a kid who has spent a long time thinking about the game. Teenage

Zlatan at Ajax was undeniably a more gifted player, but he was also an individualist who indulged his freelance riffs. Teenage Haaland at Salzburg is keenly aware of his role in the band and how, if anything, playing in harmony makes his solos sound even better. Throw in his obsessive training regimen, hunger and personality and the foundations are all there.

We can only go by what we've seen so far. Haaland looks like a special talent, but so did many other young strikers before him. It's only now, with hindsight, that we trot out flaws about why they never made it. Usually it's one or more of the following: weak character, over-reliance on athleticism, personal issues off the pitch, lack of continuing technical and tactical development and, of course, injuries. That's the bad part. The unwritten part. What's coming down the road. Haaland, so to speak, was born with a silver spoon: a whole collection of them in fact. He has the tools to control his own future, but only to a point.

In that sense, he's a 19-year-old kid who wonders what the next two decades will bring. However bright the future may seem, however strong his personality and work ethic, however impressive his maker made him, he's like the arrow flying forth from the archer's bow. The aim is accurate and the arrowhead strong and straight, but there is so much that can knock him, and Mbappe, off course.

So let's just enjoy it while it lasts -- and may it last until they hang up their boots for the last time.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Chelsea, Ajax draw European thriller as Liverpool win and Barca stumble

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Ndayiragije announces Taifa Stars squad for AFCON qualifiers



Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) secretary general, Wilfred Kidoo (R), speaks to reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday on senior national soccer team's preparations for AFCON qualifiers' match against Equatorial Guinea, scheduled for next week at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam. Also in the picture (L-R) is Hajji Manara, who heads a committee for drumming support for senior national team, and Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL) Marketing Manager, Anitha Rwehumbiza, whose firm is the team's main sponsor. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

TANZANIA'S senior national team 'Taifa Stars' head coach, Etienne Ndayiragije, has announced a 27-man squad for next week's Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers against Equatorial Guinea and Libya.

Ndayiragije has kept faith in the two goalkeepers, Juma Kaseja and Metacha Mnata, who were part of his previous squad, while David Kissu of Kenya's Gor Mahia has earned his first call up following his good form whilst turning out for the Kenya Premier League defending champions.

Keeper Said Kipao of Kagera Sugar has been dropped.

There is, moreover, no place for shot stopper Aishi Manula, who has kept five clean sheet in his nine appearances for Simba SC this season, while Kaseja and Mnata, who turn out for Yanga and KMC FC respectively, have looked vulnerable during respective outfits' turbulent start to the

new Vodacom Premier League season.

Since Ndayiragije's appointment and coupled with the recent form of Kaseja with the senior national team, Manula's days as the default number one goalkeeper at the squad remain in the history book.

Also included in the squad is Zambia-based striker, Eliuter Mpepo while England-based Adi Yusuph has been axed after making his first competitive appearance for Taifa Stars in an international friendly encounter with Rwanda last month.

Vice-captain, Himid Mao, has

been left out of the squad due to club commitment in Egypt having been stranded in the country after playing for Taifa Stars in last month's friendly against Rwanda.

Another notable omission is that of Azam FC midfielder Mudathir Yahya, who has fought his way back to good shape after missing the start of this season through injury.

Tanzania has been drawn in Group J of the 2021 AFCON qualifiers with Tunisia, Equatorial Guinea, and Libya.

The top two teams from the group will qualify for the 24th edition of the African Cup of

Nations tournament to be hosted in Cameroon in 2021.

Taifa Stars will kick-off their campaign in the qualifiers next week when they host Equatorial Guinea in Dar es Salaam on November 15 before traveling to face Libya four days later.

Taifa Stars;

Goalkeepers: Juma Kaseja (KMC FC), Metacha Mnata (Yanga), David Kissu (Gor Mahia)

Defenders: Salum Kimenya (Prisons), Mohamed Hussein, Gadiel Michael, Erasto Nyoni (Simba SC), Kelvin Yondani (Yanga), Dickson Job (Mtwara Sugar), Hassan Kessy (Nkana FC, Zambia) and Bakari Nondo

(Coastal Union)

Midfielders: Jonas Mkude, Mzamiru Yassin (Simba SC), Abdul-aziz Makame, Feisal Salum (Yanga), Salum Abubakar, Frank Domayo (Azam FC) and Hassan Dilunga (Simba)

Forwards: Miraji Athuman (Simba SC), Ayoub Lyanga (Coastal Union), Shaban Idd, Idd Selemani (Azam FC), Ditram Nchimbi (Police Tanzania), Kelvin John (Football House), Farid Mussa (Tenerife, Spain), Simon Msuva (Difaa Hassan al Jadida, Morocco), Ayoub Lyanga (Coastal Union), Eliuter Mpepo (Buildcon, Zambia), Mbwana Samatta (Genk, Belgium)

TODAY @ 18:00

THURSDAY

11:00 DADAZ (live)
12:00 Mpya
15:00 FUNGUKA
16:00 Bongo Hills
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:30 MADALA
21:00 Bongo Hills

eNewz is your one stop show for everything entertainment. It covers celebrity interviews, gossip, what's hot, what's not, trending online and offline and what happened in history.

eastafrica RADIO

05:00 EA Breakfast
09:00 Supamix
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Mponda to lead Malawi at COSAFA U-20 Championship

LILONGWE

THE Football Association of Malawi (FAM) has appointed former Flames assistant coach Peter Mponda as the interim head coach for the U-20 national football team.

Mponda's mandate is to lead the team at the 2019 COSAFA men's Under-20 championship to be held in Lusaka, Zambia from December 4-14.

The former Flames captain will be assisted by Audrey Makonyola and Christopher Nyambose.

Sibusiso Padambo has been retained as goalkeeper trainer while Aubrey Nankhuni and Victor Jobo are team manager and team doctor respectively.

Alfred Gunda, FAM General Secretary, confirmed the appointments and said all members have since accepted the offers.

"FAM, in consultation with the Coaches Association of Malawi, arrived at the decision to engage the panel for the COSAFA Assignments," Gunda disclosed.

"They were handed the offers last week and got down to work already drawing programmes for the camp and identifying players upon their acceptance of the offers."

He added that FAM and government are currently finalising the process of advertising for full time Under-20 and Under-17 coaches, to be supported by the Ministry of Sports, Youth and Culture.

"The advert will be floated in the media soon. Government gave us a green light to employ full-time coaches for U20 and U17 and the formal process will start shortly. But for the COSAFA, which is urgent, we will go with an interim panel," he said.

Reacting to the appointment, Mponda, who was Flames assistant coach for two years under Belgian head coach Ronny Van Geneugden, said he is ready for the challenge.

"It is always an honour to serve the country and I am ready to lead the boys. I have been to the COSAFA Under-20 competition as assistant coach twice so I know what it takes. We will talk more about our plans when we name the squad over the weekend," he said.

The Under-20 squad is expected to start preparations on Monday, November 11 at the Mpira Village in Blantyre, and the squad will be announced by the end of this week.

Mkwasa admits to having big responsibility as Yanga prepare for Ndanda FC clash

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi



Charles Boniface Mkwasa

AHEAD of his first Vodacom Premier League match in charge against Ndanda FC, Young Africans (Yanga) interim head coach, Charles Boniface Mkwasa has admitted the responsibility of coaching the club weighs heavily but he is confident of success.

Mkwasa's appointment came after the sacking of Mwinyi Zahera on Tuesday following a 3-0 defeat to Egypt's Pyramids FC in this season's CAF Confederation Cup group stage play offs' return leg match played in Egypt.

The club, in a statement, confirmed that: "Mkwasa will take charge of the first team with immediate effect

and will remain in place until a new head coach is announced."

"He will be assisted by Said Maulid, while Dismas Ten will be the team manager and coordinator on an interim basis," the statement added.

On his return to the Jangwani Street-based side on Tuesday, Mkwasa said: "It's a big responsibility, taking on the role as coach, but we have to face the challenges ahead. We start training today and after that we will go through and see what has to be done."

The club legend will start work immediately and his first match in charge will be an away fixture against Ndanda FC at Nangwanda Sijaona Stadium on Friday in a must win game.

Yanga have four catch

up matches as they find themselves 14 points behind league leaders Simba.

He issued a rallying cry that the all is well in the squad and all that is needed at the moment is unity and peace in the club.

"The atmosphere in the team is magnificent, the boys are in good morale. These are things that come and go but I urge for peace in and unity in the club to forge ahead," he added.

Mkwasa's place in Yanga's folklore means he is likely to receive a rapturous welcome when they play their next home match against KMC FC on November 20 after the international break.

He is regarded as one of the club's legends after donning the famous green and yellow

jersey for 10 consecutive years from 1979 to 1989, when he retired to pursue his coaching career.

He has previously served the club as an assistant coach and secretary general.

Ndanda FC, meanwhile, have adapted well to life without their on and off coach, Malale Hamsini.

They are unbeaten in the last two matches since Hamsini was unceremoniously sacked.

Last season Ndanda FC went unbeaten against Yanga by drawing both games.

They held Yanga to 1-1 draw at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam in November, 2018 before claiming a 1-0 home win at the Nangwanda Stadium in Mtwara in April, 2019.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

