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Arab League waddles in as Kenya, Somalia sea boundary row gets worse

NAIROBI

THE diplomatic standoff between Kenya and its neighbour Somalia over the marine border in the Indian Ocean took a new turn yesterday after the Arab League issued a statement condemning Nairobi.

The Arab Parliament, an organ of the Arab League, issued a statement quoted by a section of the Kenyan media which claimed that Kenya was drawing up an illegal map that includes taking away Somali territory.



The Arab Parliament said Kenya should keep off the territorial boundaries which have been the subject of a diplomatic standoff between the two countries for a while.

Publicised by the Somali Foreign Ministry, the statement claimed that Somali waters were Arab waters, citing a blanket mass of waters occupied by the 22-member states under the Arab League to which Somalia is part.

The Arab Parliament said Kenya should keep off the territorial boundaries which have been the subject of a diplomatic standoff between the two countries for a while.

"The Arab Parliament calls on Kenya to stop its hands on Somali territorial waters, which are an integral part of the Arab waters, and rejects its false pretensions to draw up a new, unfounded map while rejecting its threats to interfere in Somalia's internal affairs," the ministry said, translating the Arabic communique issued by the Arab Parliament.

The Arab League is a regional bloc of Arabic-speaking North African and Arabian Peninsula countries.

In issuing the statement, the Arab Parliament has effectively been dragged

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Govt begins free dengue testing, fumigation to contain outbreak



EYESORE: Garbage lies abandoned at the Mbagala Rangi Tatu round-about in Dar es Salaam yesterday, seriously inconveniencing road users and residents of the area as well as endangering public health. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

The government has also ordered a fog machine for mass fumigation which is expected to arrive in the country next month to be used to kill mosquitoes that spread the disease by targeting their breeding grounds, she said

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE government yesterday announced that testing for dengue fever is henceforth free in public health facilities as well as fumigation in affected areas, in an effort to contain the current outbreak of the epidemic.

Announcing the plan to tackle the disease, Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister Umy Mwalimu told the National Assembly that the government through Medical Stores Department has already procured 30,000 testing kits that have been distributed in areas affected by the disease.

"We have already purchased 60,000 litres of insecticide out of which 11,400 have been distributed to district councils in Dar es Salaam region, 48,600 litres distributed to councils in Geita region, 8,092 litres in Kagera region, 12,308 litres delivered to Kigoma region, 7,616 litres for Lindi region and 9,048 litres for Mtwara region," the minister elaborated.

Another 36,000-litre consignment has been ordered and will be distributed to other regions where the disease has been reported namely Coast, Morogoro, Tanga and Singida.



The mosquito becomes a carrier when it takes the blood of a person infected with the virus. After about one week, the mosquito can then transmit the dengue virus when biting a non-affected person.

This comes as a huge relief as patients had to part with payments of up to 50,000/- and 80,000/- in private hospitals to be tested for dengue fever.

The minister said that so far 4,320 cases of the disease have been recorded with at least four confirmed deaths. Of these, the commercial capital Dar es Salaam leads the pack with 4,029 recorded patients and three deaths. The country's administrative capital, Dodoma has recorded three diagnosed cases and one death, while Tanga region had 207 cases, Coast 57 cases, Morogoro 16 cases, Arusha three cases and Singida and Kagera two cases each.

The government has also ordered a fog machine for mass fumigation which is expected to arrive in the country next month to be used to kill mosquitoes that spread the disease by targeting their breeding grounds, she said.

Earlier in the week, minister Mwalimu told the House that the only way to contain the disease is to come up with a way to kill female

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TCRA wants Nyerere Mausoleum at Terminal III to boost tourism

By Henry Mwangonde

THE new Terminal III of the Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA) is being billed to construct a mausoleum of the Father of the Nation if the regulatory authority's proposal intending to boost tourism, is adopted.

Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) executive director James Kilaba issued this proposal yesterday after TCRA board members toured the just completed terminal set



I don't think this will be possible. The parliamentary budget committee made a false step because we are legally recognized and operate in accordance with the law

to be operational in August.

He said the mausoleum and other enhancing artifacts would serve as an important communication point for a portion of tourists arriving in the country.

"The place is named after the country's founding father. There are tourists who would be interested in obtaining such information, in which case it needs to start being offered right from here," he stated.

In setting up the facility,

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Drug trafficking: Nigerian handed 30 years jail term

By Guardian Reporter

THE High Court Division for corruption and economic crimes yesterday sentenced a Nigerian national to 30 year in prison after convicting him of attempting to traffic in narcotics via the Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA) last year.

Judge Sirrilius Matupa said the prosecution proved beyond reasonable doubt that Christian Ugbechi had carried 56 pellets of heroin weighing 947.57 grams when he was intercepted by police officers upon search



After going through witness accounts and exhibits, the court agreed with the prosecution that the accused person committed the crime of drug trafficking," the judge said.

and release of the same at JNIA in January last year.

The prosecution had produced 11 witnesses including the arresting officer and 22 exhibits that proved that the offender indeed committed the crime, the judge told the court in the sentencing.

"After going through witness accounts and exhibits, the court agreed with the prosecution that the accused person committed the crime of drug trafficking," the judge said.

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Cleaners find an abandoned foetus blocking airplane's toilet in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG

Cleaners found an abandoned foetus blocking the toilet of an plane in South Africa yesterday, the domestic FlySafair airline said, prompting the off-loading of passengers and a police investigation.

Foetus is an unborn or unhatched offspring of a mammal, in particular an unborn human more than eight weeks after conception.

The foetus was discovered by cleaning staff as the plane was being prepared and passengers boarded for an early morning flight from the coastal city of Durban to Johannesburg.

"Upon final preparations of the waste management system for the departure of flight, our technical crew discovered what appeared to be an abandoned foetus," the airline said in a statement.

Police confirmed the incident and said they were investigating.

Passengers were asked to disembark the plane and their journeys were re-scheduled.

"We will be doing everything within our power to aid authorities in the necessary investigations and thank our loyal customers for their patience with the resultant delay," said FlySafair executive Kirby Gordon.

Meanwhile, The Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) is tracking foreigners in Kenya who deal in fake goods in order for them to be prosecuted and deported and for assets to be recovered.

Officials from the Multi-Agency Anti-Illicit Trade Outreach (MAAITO) said the government will take the fight against the vice a notch higher by going after the culprits' assets.

It will also trace funds stored outside the country.

"We're taking stock of people engaging in this business within our borders. We're not only inspecting and seizing counterfeit products but also unmasking individuals in the entire chain, all the way from manufacturing, importation, wholesale to retail," the ACA's Executive Director, Elema Kalake, said on Thursday during in Athi River, where counterfeit goods worth Sh32.8 million were destroyed.

"We want to find the complete chain of criminals including the foreigners behind retail outlets. The foreigners are doing the illicit business with the aid of Kenyans. We are working with agencies such as the Asset Recovery Agency and the Department of Immigration to recover monies [obtained from] the illegal trade.



It's briefing time at Alexandria International Library yesterday for National Assembly Speaker Job Ndugai (2nd-R, foreground), who is on an official visit to Egypt. Photo: National Assembly Office.

TCRA wants Nyerere Mausoleum at Terminal III to boost tourism

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the country would remember the founding father and help tourists to know more about the country's history or airport background.

The tour was aimed at enabling board members to see for themselves the stage of completion of the project, as well as brainstorm on enhanced facilitation of tourist communication at the new terminal.

Earlier, the board members toured the new University of Dar es Salaam Library to see how TCRA can help widen technological applications for communication as an electronic library.

TCRA board chairman Dr Jones Killimbe said that the completion of the project was a great achievement in the line up of various strategic projects that the government was implementing.

"This is the real meaning of

infrastructure development. We believe that we are on the right track and that more will come in the near future," he declared.

Balton Komba, the site engineer for the project said already the contractor has handed it over to the government with final touches more or less finished and the facility is ready for scheduled launching.

The airport's Terminal 1 was built to handle 500,000 passengers annually. Then

Terminal 2 boosted the handling capacity to 1.5 million passengers and Terminal 3 ramps up the capacity to six million passengers a year, on the basis of remarks by the minister for Works, Transport and Communications Isack Kamwelwe during an inspection tour of the facility in April.

Terminal 1 was confined to handling national leaders and small aircraft, while Terminal 2 caters for significant numbers of local and foreign passengers

on a daily basis. Over the past year JNIA handled around 2.6 million local passengers and 3.8 million foreign visitors.

With 6.4 million passengers in the year, it was clear something had to be done to cater for the ever-increasing number of passengers, he asserted.

Construction of Terminal III was initially slated for completion in December 2017, then extended for a year and then twice extended this year, to May 2019 and finally to August.



Livestock and Fisheries ministry permanent secretary Prof Elisante ole Gabriel (C) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on a meeting for six institutions under the ministry aimed at restructuring and improving their services. He is flanked by National Ranching Company acting board chairman Magembe Makoye (R) and Tanzania Meat Board chairman Prof Faustin Lekule. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala.

Drug trafficking: Nigerian handed 30 years jail term

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Drugs and Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Drugs Act, the judge said the offender who was found guilty on Wednesday must spend 30 years behind bars for his crime.

One of the prosecution's witnesses was the officer commanding Airport Police Station, Dickson Haule who told the court that on the day of arrest-January 28, 2018, he was informed of the incident by the arresting officer and he proceeded to the Interpol section and witnessed as the 56 pellets were being taken out of Ugbechi's backpack.

In his defence, Ugbechi had argued that on the day he was arrested, he was searched three times and nothing was found, demanding that CCTV footage of the event be produced by the prosecution.

But the judge declined to entertain the argument, saying that the then defendant attempted to control the way prosecution adduced evidence

in the case. To the contrary, the judge said the evidence adduced pointed to the guilt of the Nigerian.

The judge went ahead to say that the witnesses and the exhibits adduced by prosecution included a report from the Government Chemist that confirmed that the substances with which the Nigerian was nabbed with were indeed narcotic drugs.

In his concluding remarks before the Judge handed down the sentence, State Attorney Constantine Kakula called for harsh punishment to serve as a lesson to other drug offenders especially foreigners why try to make Tanzania a gateway in drug trafficking.

But defence lawyer Jeremiah Ntobesya prayed for leniency, arguing that his client had already stayed behind bars for one-and-half years during the trial. He said his client has a wife and two children to fend for and was suffering from heart ailments.

Govt begins free dengue testing, fumigation to contain outbreak

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Aedes aegypti mosquitoes that spreads the disease, plus destroying their breeding grounds.

The mosquito becomes a carrier when it takes the blood of a person infected with the virus. After about one week, the mosquito can then transmit the dengue virus when biting a non-affected person.

The current outbreak has been

wreaking havoc in the country since April and has been spreading from one region to another, pushing health authorities to map out urgent control measures.

The worst dengue outbreak in Tanzania was in 2014 when more than 400 patients in Dar es Salaam were diagnosed with the disease, which killed at least three, including a doctor who caught it while attend-

ing to patients. Dengue fever is said to affect about 390 million people around the world every year, as a tropical disease found in most parts of Africa and Asia.

As there is no curative drug or vaccine for dengue, health experts then recommend measures preventing mosquito bites and effective palliative care like infusion of fluids and using painkillers.

Arab League waddles in Kenya, Somalia sea boundary dispute

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into the dispute that has been filed to the International Court of Justice, for which it is evidently in contempt, observers noted.

In 2014, Somalia sued Kenya at the ICJ seeking to redraw the maritime boundary that currently runs eastwards from the land border. The dispute affects about 100,000km2 of sea said to contain huge deposits of hydrocarbons.

By press time yesterday, Kenya

had not responded to the statement by the Arab Parliament.

At the Arab League Summit of 2001-Amman, the Arab states agreed to create an Arab Parliament, and came up with a resolution to give Amr Moussa the Secretary General of the Arab League, the power to start and create the Parliament.

In 2004, in the Ordinary Arab League Summit in Algiers was the official date where all Arab

League members agreed to send representatives to the temporary Parliament sessions that took place in the headquarters of the Arab League in Cairo, with each member state sending four members. Plans were set out to permanently house the new legislature with a building under construction in Damascus.

The Parliament was based in Damascus until May 22, 2012 when the sessions were suspended and transferred to Cairo.



The French Ambassador to Tanzania, Frédéric Clavier, addresses guests at a France-Tanzania alumni reception held at his residence in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. Left is an official with the alumni's network, Prof Israel Monday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Govt spent 2.4bn/- to install speed governor devices'

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has so far spent 2.4bn/- to install speed governor devices—Vehicle Tracking System (VTS) to up country buses, the National Assembly heard yesterday.

Fitting of the devices was done by a Malaysian firm—Bsmart Technologies in collaboration with the Tanzania Computer Centre.

Eng Atashasta Nditije, Deputy Ministry for Works, Transport and Communication said this when responding to a question posed by Special Seats MP, Cecilia Pareso (Chadema) who wanted to know the amount of monies the government had so far spent in installing

VTS systems.

End Nditije noted that funds used to fit VTS in up country buses were generated from the various collections made by the Surface and Marine Transport Regulatory Authority (SUMATRA).

The Vehicle Tracking System (VTS) helps police and owners to locate the location of the vehicle and its speeding across the country.

Vehicle tracking systems are hardware and software bundles that track vehicles, record the driving habits of employees, issues status reports and alerts when incidents or other events occur.

The Deputy Minister added that the

system is managed and supervised by SUMATRA through its center located in Mikocheni, Dar es Salaam.

According to SUMATRA, a total of 2,840 up country buses have been fitted with electronic car tracking system in an initiative expected to reduce operational costs and road accidents.

Surface and Marine Transport Regulatory Authority (SUMATRA) Director General, Gilliard Ngewe was recently quoted saying that 76.4 per cent of road accidents in the country were caused by human errors committed by drivers on one hand and pedestrians on the other hand.

The Minister of Work, Transport

and Communication, Dr Isack Kamwele said during the official launch of VTS system that all stakeholders in the country work together in reducing road accidents.

He ordered all buses owners to be honest and use the VTS system and Sumatra to take stern measure for those who misuse the VTS system in accordance with the law.

All drivers should install VTS first, before they have a road licence. Kamwele recommended also that the government vehicle and other min buses should be installed with track system because the government works hard to make sure the road accidents are reduced.

France to enhance varsity partnership with Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

THE French embassy in Tanzania is set to organise the first higher learning education fair as part of efforts to strengthen cooperation between French and Tanzanian universities.

The French government plans to attract more foreign students in their universities whereas the target is to welcome half a million foreign students by 2027. Currently, there are 320,000 foreign students in France.

France Ambassador to Tanzania, Frédéric Clavier made the revelation when speaking at the Alumni France-Tanzania reception event held at the Ambassador's residence in Dar es Salaam on Thursday.

"We also want to multiply online courses, partnerships between universities and dual diploma to allow students from across the African continent to have a diploma from French university", said the Ambassador insisting France has opened doors for African students especially those from the East African region.

"France is the 4th largest host country of international students in the world, after the United States, United Kingdom and Australia. France is the first non-English speaking host country", he noted.

Ambassador Clavier said to achieve its goal the French government will double the number of university courses in English. He said that by end of 2019, more than 1000 courses will be fully taught in English.

For the past ten year, the number of diplomas offered in English has increased by five folds in French universities. More than 200 higher

education institutions offer training in English in the fields of business, management, science, engineering, technology, environment and health.

He added: "France through its new strategy—'welcome to France' welcomes many students from East Africa to further their career in France and then return to develop their countries economy"

He said students will also benefit with intensive courses in French as a foreign language before leaving or at the beginning of their semester. He said the courses are a real asset to students for their career in order to ease trade with French speaking countries.

The Ambassador noted that studying in France makes students belong to the France-Tanzania Alumni which could help students to find jobs from French companies operating in Tanzania.

To facilitate Tanzanian students to study in France, he said the embassy launched, a few months ago, three information points 'Study in France' under the umbrella of Campus France. Two of the information points are in Dar es Salaam and one in Zanzibar.

President of the France-Tanzania Alumni, Prof Israel Monday called upon Tanzanian students going for studies in France to study hard. He said France is one of best countries in the world where everyone would like to be trained.

"French universities and higher learning institutions are determined to give you the best education and skills", said Prof Monday urging Tanzanian students to make use of the information points to get information about France scholarships and admissions at French universities

WB experts to train officials to improve business environment

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

WORLD Bank experts are expected in the country to train officials involved in the improvement of Tanzania's business environment, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investment), Angellah Kairuki has said.

Responding to a question from Special Seats legislator, Rukia Ahmed (Chadema), the minister told the National Assembly that the government was determined to improve the country's standing in World Bank's Ease of Doing Business reports.

The legislator had wanted to know when the government will remove obstacles to doing business to attract more local and international investors.

Kairuki said: "I want to assure Tanzanians that our

country's standing in Doing Business reports will improve. We have invited experts from the World Bank so they can train our focal points and what they are required to do to improve the business environment".

She said the government invited the WB experts in the year 2006 and in 2007 whereas the country's ranking improved.

The minister asserted that during the past few days, she had held discussions with World Bank officials in Dar es Salaam and Washington DC.

Kairuki noted that though the government has undertaken a number of reforms in its 2019/20 budget, they will not have an impact in this year's World Bank Report because the deadline for reforms to be tracked and accommodated in a par-

ticular year's report is May. Tanzania's ranking in the World Bank's Ease of Doing reports has been unsatisfactory during the past few years.

Deputy Minister for Trade and Industry, William Ole Nasha said the government was undertaking several reforms in line with the Blueprint for regulatory reforms to improve the business environment in Tanzania which was approved by the cabinet during the 2017/18 financial year.

He said in line with the Blueprint, the government has scrapped a total of 114 fees and charges from those payable to operators in the agriculture and livestock sectors.

He said the government was aware of the various challenges in doing business which includes too many

regulatory authorities. He said with the implementation of the Blueprint Tanzania will have conducive business and investment environment.

Ole Nasha said the government has scrapped a number of levies and taxes in the various sectors in its 2019/2020, the move gears to improve the country's business climate. He said the initiatives also aims at increasing foreign direct investments (FDI).

He said according to 2018 reports by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Tanzania is leading in the number of FDIs in the East African region, with investments valued \$ 1,180 million followed by Uganda with projects valued \$700 million.

ACT-Wazalendo challenges govt to reinstate VAT on sanitary pads

By Guardian Reporter

KIGOMA Urban Member of Parliament, Zitto Kabwe (ACT-Wazalendo) has challenged the government to rethink its decision to reinstate Value Added Tax (VAT) on sanitary pads insisting the need for research to measure successes attained during the exemption previous year.

Contributing to the 2019/2020 budget estimates tabled in the parliament last week by Finance and Planning Minister, Dr Philip Mpango, Zitto said reinstatement of the taxes on sanitary towels depicts a negative image of the country internationally.

He said last year when Tanzania's exempted VAT sanitary pads, other countries like India, South Africa and Australia did the same.

Dr Mpango said the government resolved to abolish VAT exemption on the products since the measure could

not facilitate availability of essential product to the intended beneficiaries at reasonable price but instead benefited traders.

Zitto noted that the government's decision might be good, but there is a need to examine whether one year VAT exemption on the towels was enough to measure targeted results.

He however said the government increased import tax on imported crude edible oil in the 2018/2019 budget in order to protect local manufacturers, but the move has not been successful. He said before the increase of taxes on imported crude edible oil, the country produced 6.6 million tonnes of seeds, but the production has dropped to 1.6 million tonnes in 2018.


"The government should take actions to save local manufacturers and promote production of edible oils by using locally produced seeds", he said. Commenting on budget estimates,

the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) also proposed for zero import duty on crude edible oil.

According to CTI maintaining 25 percent import duty on crude edible oil increases production cost to industries which use the product as raw material hence affecting their competitiveness at internal and external markets.

Reading the 2019/2020 budget speech in the National Assembly Thursday last week, Finance and Planning Minister, Dr Philip Mpango said the government will impose an import duty of 25 percent on crude edible oil such as sunflower oil, palm oil, groundnuts oil, olive oil and maize corn oil for one year.

The government plans to spend 33.1trn/- for recurrent and development activities, an increase of 1.94 percent compared to the 2018/2019 budget which was 32.48trn/-.



NOTICE OF THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING 2019

[Issued under Article 13 of the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club Constitution, 2017]


NOTICE is hereby given that a Special General Meeting of the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club will be held at the Roof Terrace of the Club on Thursday 27th June, 2019 commencing at 6:00PM.

AGENDA:

1. To read the Notice convening the Meeting and confirmation of the agenda.
2. To receive the Report of the audited accounts for the preceding year in accordance with Article 13(d) and Club financials.
3. At the discretion of the Chairman, to consider any other business of which the Special General Meeting is competent to discuss.

Issued in Dar es Salaam this 06th day of June, 2019

By Order of the Management Committee.


Ivan Tarimo
HONORARY SECRETARY

Experts underline importance of making environment issues part and parcel of school curriculum

By Correspondent James Kandoya

ASSISTANT Lecturer at Ardh University (AU), Dennis Tesha has underscored the need to incorporate urban planning, environment and land related issues in the school's curriculum to eliminate unnecessary informalities.

He said this yesterday during the community outreach awareness programme organised by AU to the residents of Goba suburb in Ubungo municipal council, Dar es Salaam region.

The event was part of celebrations to mark the 2019 Public Services Week.

Tesha said there is a need to disclose opportunities available in the land issues from different experts in property facility management, solid waste processing management and water harnessing process.

He said the public should be sensitized to use among others

services from Ardh University such as architectural drawings, interior designing and landscape designing to build standards houses.

He said currently more than 75 percent of city residents live in informal settlement which normally characterized by a number of disputes.

"We need to incorporate urban and city planning issues in the school's curriculum to help students learn and inculcate a culture of land planning at early stages of growth," he suggested.

He said that Goba is among the growing areas hence the need for the residents to be given the knowledge on land planning.

According to him, if the community is given in detail the knowledge about land issues, they can be part of change hence reduce land disputes in their respective areas.

"Our University has provided the government and councils with competent experts who have managed well land issues and therefore reduce disputes such as double allocations," he said.

He said the university has introduced a number of courses such as economic, accounts and finance to ensure that the public is served well in evaluation matters.

Tanzania joins other countries in the world to celebrate public services week every year.

It is celebrated to honor the contribution to society by the nation's army of public service workers, from nurses to teachers, firefighters and administrators.

Ardhi University, formerly known as the University College of Lands and Architectural Studies is a public university offering trainings for more than 60 years.



Kagera regional commissioner Brigadier General Marco Gaguti signs a guest book shortly after launching a TPB Bank at Karagwe yesterday. Looking on (R) is the bank's board chairman, Dr Edmund Mndolwa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Standards bureau issues prerequisites for production of alternative carrier bags

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

THE government has issued production prerequisite for manufacturers, distributors and importers of non-woven carrier bags that would enable them to conduct their business without any problem.

Speaking to reporters yesterday in Dar es Salaam the Director General of Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) Dr Yusuf Ngenya, mentioned the requirements as gram per square meter (GSM70).

He said the bags should be recyclable, must show trade mark, carrying capacity and certified by the Standards watchdog.

He said that no non-woven carrier bags would be imported or produced in the country without sticking to the stipulated requirements.

Dr Ngenya warned all manufacturers who would continue to produce, distribute or import the carrier bags without following required procedure.

"TBS would not hesitate to

take stern measures against those who will disobey to follow the requirements immediately," he said.

According to him, the organisation has already convened a meeting with manufacturers of the specific bags to inform them on the new requirements.

Last month the Standards Watchdog introduced new standards for alternative plastic carrier bags urging all manufacturers to adhere to new regulation.

The newly standards which are TZS 2292: 2018 and TZS 2130: 2018 were introduced by TBS early this year.

The standards which fall on compulsory requirement were introduced before the government decision to ban plastic carrier bags.

"We urge manufacturers of alternative plastic carrier bags to adhere to the new standards for their benefit, TBS Acting Director General Lazaro Msasalaga as quoted as saying.

He said the officials of the

Standards Watchdog will launch a crackdown to nab all manufacturers who would not adhere to the new standards.

Msasalaga revealed that already TBS has suspended licences for plastic materials used in packaging.

He said they have also stopped receiving new applications for plastic materials manufacturing licences.

Statistics shows, TBS had a list of more than 1,700 manufacturers who had been licenced to manufacture plastic car-

rier bags before it was banned by the government early this month.

Already the government has formed eight organs that would take part in crackdown to arrest people involved in illegal business.

The government announced the ban on the plastic carrier bags effective June 1, this year, citing biodegradability of plastic bags, which can last 10 to 20 years in marine environment or more on the ground, leading to deadly pollution of the atmo-

sphere. It said importers and exporters of plastic carrier bags that have been banned by the government will be entitled to a fine of up to Shilling 20m/- should they defy directives.

In his 2019 budget speech in the National Assembly, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, announced May 31st 2019 as the last day to use plastic bags in the country, saying no one will be allowed to manufacture, import, sell or use the plastic bags.



Energy deputy minister Subira Mgalu (R) switches on power when launching it at Kilimani ward's Bicha Secondary School in Kondoa District, Dodoma Region, on Thursday. Looking on (foreground) are councillor Bakari Kambi (L) and a representative of the school's student community. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Mozambique to introduce new currency within 9 months

MAPUTO

THE government in Mozambique is working on modalities to introduce a new currency, which will be the sole legal tender for domestic transactions, within the next nine months, President Emmeron Mnangagwa has said.

Speaking in the sidelines of the 12th US-Africa Business Summit in Maputo, Mozambique, yesterday,

President Mnangagwa said it is necessary that we have our own currency since it is presently difficult to determine the level of money supply in the economy.

"Then of course there is an issue which is critical also for any economy: this is the question of currency. I am not aware of any country which has no currency of its own, but that is not my field - I am a lawyer - but I am told that except for Zimbabwe

I haven't been told of another country which doesn't have its own currency," he said.

"Even poor countries have currencies from what I hear, so we intend to introduce our own," he said.

Separately, Finance and Economic Development Minister Professor Mthuli Ncube also indicated that a new currency would likely give tailwinds to the country's economic growth efforts.

"But I think the long-term goal, as His Excellency has said, you cannot develop without your own domestic currency, without the monetary sector leg in terms of macro management - that is very, very critical."

The government, he said, has successfully brought both the fiscal deficit and current account deficit under control and, therefore, this could critically support the new currency.

Prof Ncube noted: "So, in terms of macro fundamentals, actually, maybe we were a bit unlucky, but the fundamentals are in place. So there is no way that issuance of Treasury Bills or fiscal deficits are causing growth in money supply and, therefore, posing risk to currency value. That is not the case. So it's something else that is driving the parallel rate - so many speculators."

Websites crucial factor in corporate success - report

By Guardian Reporter

WEBSITE has been cited as new factor that determines success or failure of a company in today's digitally driven world of cutthroat competition in the corporate world.

Studies by experts show that a company's website is often the first place that consumers, investors and job seekers go to learn more about an organisation. Stating the company's values and what it does, the design, functionality and navigation are what make a difference.

This is according to Bowen Craggs & Co., a London-based corporate communications research and consultancy which has since 2007 ranked the effectiveness of the websites of the world's largest corporations. This past week it published its annual list of the best corporate websites - a top 30 narrowed down from a universe of 200 sites.

"A poorly designed or badly functioning site can cast a company in a very negative light. The site has to tell a persuasive, engaging story about who the company is. And of course, some companies do this far more effectively than others," the forms says in its report.

The ranking is compiled by starting with a list of the world's 200 largest companies, based on market capitalization; it then rates each company's website in a variety of categories. The companies are graded in eight areas: construction, message, contact, usefulness to society, investors, media, job seekers and customers. (For more information on the methodology, click here.)

Topping this year's list is Switzerland-based food and beverage company Nestlé, which was in a three-way tie for second place in last year's ranking. Bowen Craggs co-founder David Bowen said during the unveiling of the report that although Nestlé faced a great deal of criticism over the years, it managed it well.

He noted that one of the company's strengths is its "Ask Nestlé" page, where the public can find answers to questions about Nestlé's brands, policies and products.

"That's a rather remarkable section that they've had for a few years, but they keep on polishing it," said Bowen. "They take those questions on quite straight, they don't try and avoid them."

Several companies tied for the index's top 10 spots. British oil and gas giant BP and GSK, a British pharmaceutical company, tied for second place. The ranking doesn't include a third-place ranking, since two companies tied for second place.)

Bayer, the German pharmaceutical and life sciences company, captured fourth place, while fifth place was another tie, with the spot shared by Italian oil and gas company Eni and British-Dutch consumer goods company Unilever.

Again, since Bowen Craggs doesn't list a sixth-place spot because of the fifth-place tie. Seventh place, another tie, went to Swiss healthcare company Roche and British-Dutch oil and gas company Shell (which means that there is no eighth position on the list). Tied for ninth place is BASF, the German chemical company, and ING, a Dutch banking and financial services corporation.



Arumeru district commissioner Jerry Muro addresses Meru Council businesspersons on Thursday at a meeting at which they aired various grievances. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

'Govt finalises guidelines review for PPP agreements after amendment'

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has assured development stakeholders of putting an appropriate enabling environment to ensure that all Public Private Partnership (PPP) projects are timely and smoothly implemented to bring the most required impacts in the country.

The Commissioner of PPPs in the Ministry of Finance and Planning, Dr John Mboya revealed this on Thursday in Dar es Salaam at the stakeholder's consultative workshop on PPPs.

"We will work to ensure that there are no obstacles coming across to thwart the implementation of the projects...we are currently also finalising

guidelines review process for PPP agreements following the amendment of the PPP Act last year," he said.

According to him, the government recognises the role of private sector in bringing about socio-economic development through investments, so supporting it remains crucial role.

He noted that partnerships (PPPs) have been identified as viable means to effectively address constraints of financing, management and maintenance of public goods and services.

Last year, the government amended the Public Private Partnerships (PPP) Act with the major aim to increase efficiency in planning, decision and approval of the joint projects for mutual

benefits.

Dr Mboya commended World Bank and other partners for its continued support as it has been helping the government in fulfilling the PPPs goals.

He said that the government is currently also working on developing model documents for small, low-risk PPPs.

The model documents have been developed with World Bank assistance through the Tanzania PPP Support Program funded by the United Kingdom's Department of International Development.

World Bank PPPs expert, Caroline Chema urged the government to ensure that it simplifies the whole process of acquiring PPP agreements to

enable timely implementation of the projects.

According to her, if well designed and implemented in a balanced regulatory environment, PPPs can bring greater efficiency and sustainability to the provision of public services such as water, sanitation, energy, transport, telecommunications, healthcare, and education.

The World Bank Group helps governments design PPPs and create a balanced regulatory environment to ensure a more efficient and sustainable provision of public services and infrastructure.

Songas donates 108m/- to promote sustainable fishing in Kilwa District

By Guardian Correspondent, Kilwa

A gas-to-power company—Songas has donated 108m/- (USD 46,993) to Sea Sense to support the implementation of a one-year capacity building, education and outreach program to promote sustainable fisheries in Kilwa District.

Speaking during the handover event held on Thursday in Dar es Salaam, Songas Managing Director, Nigel Whitaker said the move is geared to maintain the country's rich biodiversity and promote sustainable fisheries.

He said that supporting the blue economy is among the flagship commitments of the company and that they are committed to support capacity building initiatives that contribute to improved livelihoods of the people in Kilwa. "Marine resources conservation and protecting the ecosystem is vital for the wellbeing of the coastal communities; we support Sea Sense initiatives to instill knowledge and skills that will ensure the prosperity of the fishing communities."

Songas has supported Sea Sense since 2017, an organisation that works closely with coastal communities to design and implement a range of marine conservation initiatives that reduce threats to marine wildlife and promote harmony between wildlife and the communities that reside alongside the coast. Songas will be donating another \$41,087 in 2020 to support the same.

"We expect to impact more than 1,000 people, including women who engage in small-scale fishery" said Sea Sense Executive Director, Joana Trindade.

"We also aim to improve the ecosystem and unlock economic opportunities for the communities upon comple-

tion of the outreach and training," she added.

Sharing his sentiments on marine conservation, Kilwa District Fisheries officer, Ahmad Habib highlighted: "The blue economy has the potential to support the country in realising its ambitions to become a middle income country by 2025. I encourage other companies to invest in such initiatives for the sustainability of our marine resources for generations to come."

Tanzania is recognised for its marine biodiversity boasting a network of coral reefs, seagrass meadows and mangrove forests which provide food and shelter for a range of fish and invertebrate species. Some of the country's most unique marine wildlife species are found in the coastal waters of Kilwa District including marine turtles, whale sharks, dolphins and whales.

Unsustainable fishing practices continue to cause degradation of marine habitats and contribute to loss of the country's biodiversity that have an effect on the fishing and tourism sector which sustain the livelihoods of the coastal communities.



The blue economy has the potential to support the country in realising its ambitions to become a middle income country by 2025. I encourage other companies to invest in such initiatives for the sustainability of our marine resources for generations to come

Malawi political tension rises to threaten stability, economy

By Guardian Correspondent

CIVIL Society Organisations (CSOs) nationwide demonstrations organised by the Human Rights Defenders Coalition (HRDC), to demand the stepping down of Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) Chairperson Jane Anshah for the mismanagement of May 21 tripartite elections has sent a clear message that unless she resigns there will be 'no peace' in the land.

They charge that she should accept the blame for accept-

ing election results that were tampered with tippex which propelled the incumbent Peter Mutharika to win the elections. Civil society organisations, backed by opposition Malawi Congress Party and UTM Party, have vowed to explore other options until she and other commissioners resign.

The demand for Anshah to resign has added to the already soaring political temperature that has engulfed the country following disputed election results which the opposition is challenging in court. The op-

position has refused to accept Mutharika as a legitimate president, saying elections were rigged.

Incidentally, the political tension is adversely affecting the country. The local currency, Kwacha, which has been stable for several years, hovering between K715-K730 to a dollar, has depreciated to all time low to over K800 per dollar despite the tobacco market being at the apex.

Malawi was scheduled to host an International Trade Fair in the commercial city of Blantyre

next month, but the event has been postponed because the political climate is unfavourable. Businesses have also been affected. They are not operating optimally. Demonstrations are happening almost daily, forcing businesses to close their premises to protect their valuables from being looted or vandalised.

Some workers opt to participate in the demonstrations to exercise their democrat right. Unwittingly, man-labour hours are lost and production has suffered. The overall effect is that

the economy will take a knock the longer it takes to resolve the impasse.

While the disputed elections have roots in the altering of results using tippex, Malawi needs to reform her electoral laws so that the president is elected by half of the population rather than just a simple majority. Leaders have exploited ethnicity and regionalism strategy to win the election because the first-past-the-post only requires a simple majority. For example, Mutharika only won with 38%, meaning that the majority of the

voters, 62%, rejected him.

A proposal to amend the electoral law to provide for 50+1 was shot down by the ruling Democratic Progressive Party. They believed that mathematically they could still win elections. The Southern Region from which the party draw its largest support, could be exploited on ethnic and regional lines and emerge victors. The strategy has worked. Both Mutharika and DPP have been overwhelmingly voted in the South Region where they have banged most votes.

However, this will pose a

huge challenge for Mutharika to govern effectively. Already the opposition has scooped all positions in parliament: speaker, deputy speaker and second speaker.

The 'winner takes all' system is producing a president who does not enjoy the support of the country because the majority did not vote for him.

While 50 + 1 does not guarantee that development will be shared equitably among all the regions, it is a stamp of approval that the president enjoys widespread popular majority.



Tanzania's High Commissioner to Kenya, Pindi Chana (2nd-R), with Medical Stores Department officials when she toured the agency's pavilion at the ongoing Africa Public Service Day conference exhibition in Nairobi yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

SOS embarks on another project to help vulnerable children in Iringa Region

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya,

Iringa

ABOUT 900 vulnerable children in Iringa Region will benefit from family strengthening and community engagement projects to be implemented by SOS Children's Villages Tanzania.

Speaking during the launching of the project yesterday SOS Acting Project Coordinator for Iringa District, Francis Mwakitiga, said the project will cover eight public primary schools for a period of three years (2019-2021). The educational project which will also involve caregivers is supported by the Denmark-Hempel Foundation.

He stated that the objective is to enhance family's

capacity to ensure children rights to care, protection and development are fulfilled. He said under the project, SOS will provide capacity building programmes to primary school teachers and parents.

He stressed that the project will also address some of the most urgent material needs at the schools in terms of books, reference material and other teaching aids.

"We will work closely with district education officers to ensure a sense of ownership is nurtured so as to replicate the intervention to additional schools and enhancing the sustainability of the programme," he said.

SOS Children's Villages Tanzania Director, David Mulongo insisted to continue strengthening partnership with Iringa Region leaders

towards improving the livelihood of children living in difficult environments.

Mulongo asked the community to support the growth of children since the issue of child caring is cross-cutting, requiring parents, teachers and stakeholders to closely watch their development.

He said that 600 children and 300 vulnerable caregivers will benefit from the project to be implemented in four public primary schools in Iringa rural district.

"This is not our project, it is the project which requires full engagement of stakeholders to be able to achieve targeted objectives", said Mulongo adding the aim is to increase access to quality education by 2021.

UN's Migration agency council picks Ethiopian diplomat as head

ADDIS ABABA

ETHIOPIA'S representative to the United Nations office, Zenebe Kebede, has been elected president of the council of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

According to the official statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kebede was elected at the 24th session of the Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance, held on Wednesday in Geneva, after being introduced by the Namibian delegation, which received unanimous support from member states.

As the United Nations' leader on migration, the Council is responsible for guiding the work of the organization.

IOM is an intergovernmental organisation founded in 1951, based in Geneva, which deals with migration issues, has local offices in more than 100 countries, and since September 2016 has been associated with the UN.

IOM's mission is to promote humane and orderly migration by providing services and advice to governments and migrants.

It also works to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, be they refugees, displaced persons or other uprooted people.



Construction of a roadside trench in progress near the Simu 2000 commuter bus stand at Ubungu in Dar es Salaam, as found yesterday. Photo: John Badi

TFDA pleads for potential mitigation measures to control food contamination from aflatoxins

By Correspondent Devota Mwachang'a

THE Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA) has called for potential mitigation measures to control food contamination from aflatoxins since the poison has so far affected the health and lives of people in Tanzania, Kenya and some other parts of the world.

World Health Organization (WHO) statistics show that approximately 600 million people worldwide, as well as 1 out of 10 people suffer every year

from eating unsafe food. Of the number, 420,000 people die and between them, 125,000 are children under five years.

TFDA acting director general, Adam Fimbo said this when speaking at the two days capacity building seminar for journalists held in Bagamoyo district, Coast region to impart them with knowledge on issues related with food safety.

Fimbo said that aflatoxin contamination occurs in food at any point along the value chain, starting from farm before crops are harvested, dur-

ing harvest and post-harvest operations such as drying, transportation and storage.

"Unsafe food can cause health effects such as diseases and even death if the patient does not get proper and timely treatment. Many diseases arising from unsafe food are largely affected by low awareness of the community about food safety issues and therefore not taking into account the principles of access to safe food," said Fimbo.

Crops affected by aflatoxin are cereals including maize,

millet, wheat, rice and oil seeds such as nuts, sunflowers and cotton. Others are spices such as pepper, black pepper, curry powder and dried root crops include cassava and sweet potatoes.

The authority's senior food risk assessment officer Dr Analice Kamala mentioned the types of food that are most likely to be contaminated with aflatoxins as maize, peanuts, dried spices and tree nuts.

It is estimated that 208 million people in Africa depend on maize as a source of food.

Out of 22 countries in the world, where maize forms the highest percentage of calorie intake, 16 are in Africa.

Dr Kamala said that in 2016, a total of 68 people in two districts of Chemba and Kondoa in Dodoma region were reported to consume aflatoxin whereby 20 among them died.

In Kenya, 265 people suffered and 125 died due to aflatoxin in 2004.

"The symptoms for people who have eaten contaminated food and a large amount of sulfur include, abdominal

pain, vomiting, swelling of the stomach, fever, diarrhea and convulsions which can lead to death.

TFDA director of food safety, Candida Shirima called upon stakeholders in the food value chain to consider safety of food products at all the stages.

TFDA principal food risk analysis officer, Agnes Mneney said food business is the leading business in the global and regional markets.

She said that Tanzania through TFDA is implementing the World Trade Organisation

(WTO) agreement to protect public health by regulating importation and distribution of unsafe food into the market.

Country officer for the partnership for aflatoxin Control in African (PACA) Dr Happy Magoha said PACA is coordinating and supporting aflatoxin management across Africa's health agriculture and trade sectors.

Magoha said PACA is working with countries in implementing its pilot projects on aflatoxin management. The countries are Senegal, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, Nigeria and Gambia.



Stella Ikupa (R), a deputy minister in the Prime Minister's Office, shares a light moment in Moshi yesterday with Tanzania Association of the Deaf and Blind chairman David Shaba shortly after launching a Sense International Tanzania empowerment programme for youth. Photo: Godfrey Mushi

Mkinga authorities raise concern over increase in child abuse incidents including rape and abduction

By Correspondent George

Sembony, Mkinga

MKINGA District authorities have raised concern over increase child abuse incidents including rape, abduction and other gender-based violence at Mtimbwani ward, in Tanga region.

Speaking in Mkinga recently during celebrations to mark the Day of the African Child, the district's vice chairman, Jumaa Rashid said that despite efforts and voices raised over GBV, the district has been hit by a wave of increased gender based violence and child abuse incidents.

The Day of the African child is commemorated every year

on 16 June since 1991. On the 16 June 1976, thousands of black children took to the streets in Soweto, South Africa to protest against the inferior Bantu Education System.

"There is a wave of criminal acts that are happening in our society despite voices raised against them, most of them happen in Mtimbwani ward", he said adding that a young girl was raped some past few days while another one was married off illegally.

He expressed dismay that most of the incidences occur within the community but they are not reported to security organs. He accused parents of conspiring with their children to hide the culprits.

The vice chairman also

revealed that human trafficking is rampant in the district where many young girls and boys are taken to work in up country regions and some abroad without proper procedures.

Rashid linked the increased incidences of early marriages with parent's greed for money which makes them choose to marry-off their daughters to get wealth.

He commended World Vision Tanzania for helping to end GBV through provision of educational programmes to the villagers. World Vision Tanzania programme coordinator, Evodia Chija said that since their entrance in the district things have begun to change by setting education

programmes for stakeholders and helping to improve learning infrastructures.

Mkinga District social welfare officer, Sosthenes Mtena reported that school pregnancies have dropped where by there were 9 girls who got pregnant in 2017 and only one in 2018. She said that until May this year, a total of seven girls have dropped out from school due to various reasons including teen pregnancy.

Mtena said challenged parents to change their mindsets and let their girls continue with education until higher levels. She said some of the parents prefer marrying off their daughter as soon as they completed primary education.

Tech firms to check suppliers after mining revelations in the country

By Guardian Correspondent

ELECTRONICS companies, including Canon, Apple and Nokia, are re-evaluating their supply chains following reports they may be using gold extracted from a Tanzanian mine that has been criticised for environmental failures.

Over the past 10 years, at the North Mara goldmine - which is operated by London-listed Acacia Mining - there have been more than a dozen killings of intruding locals by security personnel.

More recently, the Tanzanian government has imposed penalties on the mine and ordered the operators to build an alternative to its tailings reservoir, which is used to store the byproducts of mining.

Nokia and Canon said they would review their supply chains in the light of findings from the Green Blood investigation by the Guardian in collaboration with a collective of journalists led by Forbidden Stories.

Apple said it was "deeply committed to the responsible sourcing of materials that go into its products".

Under Tanzanian law, no mine should operate within 200 metres of a home or 100 metres of a farm, but Acacia told the Guardian it had not been able to meet this requirement.

The company has built a wall in some areas, improved security training and introduced a grievance mechanism, which have led to a marked reduction in conflict over the past two years, but locals claimed there were still accidents and violence as a result of incursions, and toxic wastewater continued to seep from the mine into residential areas and waterways nearby.

Acacia says it is working to resolve these issues, but meanwhile it is supplying gold to world markets.

Acacia says it sends gold ore from North Mara to refineries in Switzerland and India. The gold is flown directly from an airstrip at North Mara two or three times a month. Passing through a major airport, most likely Dar es Salaam, it then goes to a refinery for processing.

Forbidden Stories has found some of it goes to MMTC-PAMP, a Swiss-Indian venture, which supplies many companies in the tech industry (which use the gold for conductors on circuit boards) and recently partnered with Google Pay.

Contacted by Forbidden Stories, several of these companies said they would review their supply chains.

Nokia said it would contact the refinery and industry regulators. "Based on allegations we have also directly reached out to MMTC-PAMP and are awaiting a response. We will follow up on information received, to determine further action, and if allegations are confirmed, this smelter will be red-flagged and we will

ask our supply chain to divert business from this smelter."

Canon echoed other companies in noting that the MMTC-PAMP smelter had passed the conflict minerals audit conducted by the Responsible Minerals Initiative (RMI).

"We are not aware of any relationship between human rights abuse mining in Tanzania and MMTC-PAMP India. We will carefully review your report after it is published and then consult with the RMI (of which Canon is a member) to take appropriate steps as necessary," a spokesman said.

Apple said: "If a refiner is unable or unwilling to meet our standards, they will be removed from our supply chain."

The US Company said it had stopped working with 60 refiners and would continue investigating and holding supply chains to the highest standards.

MMTC-PAMP said it conducted due diligence on every supply chain under its responsible precious metals policy, which aims to tackle human rights abuses, conflict, money laundering, terrorist financing and environmental concerns.

In the case of North Mara, the refiner said it was satisfied the mine had taken adequate measures to remediate human rights claims, which were mostly historical and largely related to police operating in the mine. But it recognised that more needed to be done on the environment.

"As part of our ongoing compliance monitoring, we take any new allegation very seriously and immediately contacted the mine to ensure that your allegations refer to known historical facts, except for the recent environmental claim," said Hitesh Kalia, risk and compliance officer at MMTC-PAMP.

"We have also obtained confirmation from the mine that they are addressing the environmental claim promptly. Finally, it goes without saying that should there be any additional information or allegation that is brought to our attention, we will investigate the same and take the necessary action immediately."

MMTC-PAMP is certified by the London Bullion Market Association, the most prestigious trade association in the industry. Yet there are concerns that scrutiny by such bodies focuses on small-scale miners rather than multinationals, that there is not enough attention to environmental standards and local laws, and that responsibility gets diluted along the supply chain.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development is trying to improve transparency. "Right now responsible sourcing is clearly part of the cost of doing business. It's part of the commercial need of a company to access markets and financing, among others," said Tyler Gillard, due diligence expert from the OECD.

Minister reiterates the government's resolve to better investment climate

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investment), Angela Kairuki, has assured investors of improved businesses and investment climate.

Kairuki made the statement recently when speaking at the closure of a two-day horticultural forum organised to promote investment opportunities in the agricultural sector.

The forum which had been organised by the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) in collaboration with the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) and Tanzania

Horticultural Association (Taha).

She said that by creating conducive business environment for investors, the government will also benefit from increased revenues. She said the government is aware of the private sector's contributions in the growth of the country's economy and that it is ready to support investors in all the sectors.

"Revenues collected by the government are spent to improve provisions of social services as well as construction of infrastructures which are key in the socio-economic development. We value the contribution of the private sector including those in the horticulture sector.

According to the Tanzania Investment Center (TIC), the horticulture sector earned the country \$ 764 million in 2017 up from \$ 64 million in 2005.

Meanwhile, TIC executive director, Geoffrey Mwambe challenged residents in the southern highland regions to make use of the forum by engaging in large scale vegetable and fruits farming. He said that vegetables grow better in the regions due to its climatic conditions.

Some of the regions where fruits and vegetables can be grown include Tanga, Manyara, Kilimanjaro, Arusha and all the regions in the southern highland zone.

Mwambe said the centre is ready to assist any of the investors interested in engaging in large scale farming of fruits and vegetables.

Earlier, TAHA director general, Jacqueline Mkindi said the major challenge that Tanzanian vegetable farmers face is lack of reliable markets. She called upon the government to construct cold rooms in vegetable cultivating regions to facilitate proper preservation of the products.

The forum which brought together over 600 visitors from six countries including Italy, South Africa, India, Finland, Belgium, Malawi and the Dutch was geared to increase production in

vegetable farming, bringing the benefits of self-raising to individual farmers and the nation as a whole.

Other areas were to provide financial services for vegetable crops production and productivity for its farmers, attracting investors for processing of vegetable, marketing, architecture and innovations in the use of technologies, improving infrastructures including road and storage of packaging and storage of vegetable to prevent damage before and after transportation and to help small-scale vegetable farming industries.



Education, Science, Technology and Vocational Training deputy minister William ole Nasha speaks at Children's Day event organised by the Tanzania chapter of Women in Law and Development Africa (WILDAF) and funded by UKAid. It was held in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. Others are human rights defender Felistas Kalomo (C) and WILDAF-Tanzania director Anna Kulaya. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Kili-Sar CEO scoops the first EA CSR Leadership Awards for 2019

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Chief Executive Officer for the Moshi based Kilimanjaro Search and Rescue (Kili-Sar) Ivan Braun yesterday won the CEO of the year award in the first East Africa CSR Leadership Awards 2019 held in Dar es Salaam.

The awards are aimed at recognising individuals and organisations that have done extraordinary things in various sectors by a global re-known award entry World CSR Day.

During the ceremony, one of Tanzania's multinational company Motisun group emerged winner of the best Employer of the year award.

Some of the things that were recognised in the winners include best women leaders, best leadership practices and managers who have contributed to change in an organisation.

About 90 companies from East Africa participated in the competition gala held in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

"The awards take us to the world and take us back to our work places emotionally we are empowered to do more than what we have done," said Subhash Patel chairman and managing director for Motisun group.

Last year, Kili-Sar scooped four prestigious awards for offering best services in search and rescue for tourists climbing Mt Kilimanjaro and Mt Meru.

It was awarded by the Mauritius-based World Human Resource Development Congress for good services in rescuing tourists and other people who scale mounts Kilimanjaro and Meru.

The company recently launched Africa's first modern high altitude medical clinic in Moshi municipality. It is the first outside the United States.

Kili-Sar is the only mountain search and rescue company. Best Employer Brand Award, Best Award, and Best Company Award.

According to him, the rescue team of the Kili-Sar consist of highly skilled doctors, nurses and paramedics committed to saving lives of mountain climbers.

SADC chairperson urges member states to ensure brighter future for African child

By Guardian Reporter

SOUTH African Development Community (SADC) chairperson Dr Hage Geingob who is also President of the Republic of Namibia has called upon members of the region to do more to ensure a brighter future for the African child.

He urged SADC member countries to scale up interventions in favour of the African child and youth.

The global theme for this year's commemoration was "Humanitarian Action in Africa: Children's Rights First".

He challenged the entire SADC

Region to act in concert as governments work together for the protection of the rights of the African child within the framework of the SADC minimum package of services for orphans, vulnerable children and youth, and other regional instruments.

President Geingob said: "This

is a day to pause, reflect and act for the future of the African child. Namibia has done considerable work on protecting the rights of the child, ranking in the top ten child-friendly countries in Africa". He said the Namibian Constitution provides for the protection of the rights of children and gov-

ernment has social protection mechanisms for orphans and vulnerable children. "With the entry into force in February 2019 of the Child Care and Protection Act 3 of 2015, government is shifting gear by creating a new architecture to consolidate the gains of the past 29 years. In doing so, Namibia is scal-

ing up interventions and commits to do more to realize a brighter future for the youth and the African Child," he noted.

Namibia has ratified all the major conventions and protocols in the area of Children's Rights, and was recently ranked 7th in Africa in the Child Friendliness Index

compiled by the African Child Policy Forum. The Day of the African child is commemorated every year on 16 June since 1991. On the 16 June 1976, thousands of black children took to the streets in Soweto, South Africa to protest against the inferior Bantu Education System.

No elephants have been hunted in Mozambique's wildlife preserve in more than a year, officials declare

By Guardian Correspondent

ONE of Africa's largest wildlife preserves says it's been a year since it found an elephant that was killed by poachers.

The last time an elephant in the Niassa Reserve was recorded killed by a poacher was May 17, 2018, according to the Wildlife Conservation Society, which assists Mozambique's government in managing the reserve.

The drastic decline in poached elephants is credited to a new rapid-intervention police force, an increase in surveillance by helicopters and Cessna aircraft and tougher legal action, said Joe Walston, Senior VP of Global Conservation Programs at WCS.

"Any one of those things alone isn't going to be successful, which is why it has taken so long to be able to get us to a point where we've been able to get poaching under control," Walston told CNN.

The Niassa Reserve is in a remote region of northern Mozambique, where thousands of animals have been killed in recent years.

The rapid-intervention police force is better armed than the reserve's normal rangers and is empowered to arrest suspected poachers. Walston said that the ability to make arrests is important to deter and prevent poachers from coming to the reserve.

There is a massive amount of habitat available

in Niassa, with land spanning about 17,000 square miles - which is larger than Switzerland. Because of this, it is one of the few places left in Africa capable of supporting a large population of elephants.

But high levels of poaching between 2009 to 2014 cut the number of elephants from about 12,000 to a little over 3,600 in 2016, according to an aerial survey.

From 2015 to 2017, efforts to stop poaching decreased the number of killings to about 100 animals a year. History has shown that the elephant population has the ability to bounce back quickly after numbers dip low. Walston said conservationists saw this happen after a poaching crisis in Africa over a decade ago.

"Once it was got under control, the elephants rebounded quite quickly," he said. "So, we're expecting, hopefully, a fairly rapid return."

But while conservationists like Walston are hopeful about the future of elephants in Niassa, he said it is important to continue to expand the efforts that are working - something that costs money and requires collaboration.

He said Mozambique alone does not have the funds to support anti-poaching efforts and relies on outside investment and partners to capitalize on the progress made in 2018.



A vendor hunts for customers for canistel fruit, not particularly abundant in Tanzania, along the Mwenge section of Dar es Salaam's Sam Nujoma Road yesterday. He gave the going price as 500/- each. Photo: John Badi

UN Widows Day addresses poverty, injustice millions of women do face

INTERNATIONAL Widows Day is a United Nations ratified day of action to address the poverty and injustice faced by millions of widows and their dependents in many countries. The day takes place annually on 23 June. International Widows Day was established by The Loomba Foundation] to raise awareness of the issue of widowhood. The significance of 23 June is that it was on that day in 1954 that Shrimati Pushpa Wati Loomba, mother of the foundation's founder, Lord Loomba, became a widow. One of the foundation's key goals is to highlight what it describes as an invisible calamity. A 2010 book, *Invisible, Forgotten Sufferers: The Plight of Widows Around the World*, estimates that there are 245 million widows worldwide, 115 million of whom live in poverty and suffer from social stigmatisation and economic deprivation purely because they have lost their husbands. As part of the Loomba Foundation's awareness campaign, this study was presented to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on 22 June 2010.

The first International Widows Day took place in 2005 and was launched by Lord Loomba and the foundation's president, Cherie Blair. By the sixth International Widows Day in 2010, events were held in Rwanda, Sri Lanka, the United States, the UK, Nepal, Syria, Kenya, India, Bangladesh and South Africa.

On 21 December 2010, the United Nations General Assembly formally adopted 23 June as International Widows Day, endorsing by unanimous acclaim a proposal introduced by President Ali Bongo Ondimba of Gabon.

As well as formally recognizing 23 June as a day of observance, the accompanying resolution called upon member states, the United Nations system and other international and regional organisations to give special at-

tention to the situation of widows and their children.

In Tanzania, widow inheritance (also known as bride inheritance) is a cultural and social practice whereby a widow is required to marry a male relative of her late husband, often his brother. Examples of widow inheritance can be found in ancient and biblical times in the form of levirate marriage.

The practice was meant as a means for the widow to have someone to support her and her children financially, and to keep her late husband's wealth within the family bloodline.

At the time it was initiated, women were responsible for the house chores and men were the providers, therefore if the woman lost her husband, she would have no one to provide for the remaining family.

Because her in-laws would not want someone outside of the family's blood line to inherit her late husband's estate, she was required to marry within the family.

This can have various forms and functions in different cultures, serving in relative proportions as a social protection for, and control over, the widow and her children.

She may have the right to require her late husband's extended family to provide her with a new man, or conversely she might have the obligation to accept the man put forward by the family, with no real prospect of turning him down.

if her birth family will not accept her back into their home.

The custom is sometimes justified on the basis that it ensures that the wealth does not leave the patrilineal family. It is also sometimes justified as a protection for the widow and her children.

A form of widow inheritance existed in ancient Judaism, where it is known as levirate marriage

UN Public Service Awards promote the role, professionalism and visibility of public service

THE United Nations Public Service Day is celebrated on June 23 of every year. The prestigious UN Public Service Awards are given away on this day. The UN Public Service Day was designated by the United Nations General Assembly's resolution to celebrate the value and virtue of public service to the community. The United Nations Economic and Social Council established that the United Nations Public Service Awards be bestowed on Public Service Day for contributions made to the cause of enhancing the role, prestige, and visibility of public service.

The day also marks the anniversary of the date when the International Labour Organisation adopted the Convention on Labour Relations (Public Service), in 1978. This Convention is a framework for determining working conditions of all civil servants across the world.

The United Nations (UN) Public Service Award is the most prestigious international recognition of excellence in public service. It rewards the creative achievements and contributions of public service institutions that lead to a more effective and responsive public administration in countries worldwide. Through an annual competition, the UN Public Service Awards promotes the role, professionalism and visibility of public service.

In 2003, the UN General Assembly, in its resolution, designated June 23 as the UN Public Service Day to celebrate the value and virtue of public service to the community. The UN Economic and Social Council established that the United Nations Public Service Awards be bestowed on Public Service Day for contributions made to the cause of enhancing the role, prestige and visibility of public service.

The United Nations Millennium Declaration emphasized the role of demo-

cratic and participatory governance in assuring the rights of men and women to live their lives and raise their children in dignity, free from hunger and from the fear of violence, oppression, or injustice. It also noted that good governance within each country is a prerequisite to making development a reality for everyone and to freeing the entire human race from want.

Experience demonstrates that without good governance, nationally or internationally, and an efficient, competent, professional, responsive and highly dedicated public service, sustainable development and livelihood are jeopardised.

The former UN Secretary-General, in his speech at the World Youth Forum in 1998, stressed the importance of public service by encouraging the world's youth to enter into this field. He said, "In this changing world of new challenges, we need, more than ever before, dedicated and talented individuals to enter public service. More than ever before, we need people like you sitting here today, to make the choice of service to humankind."

The overall purpose of the United Nations Public Service Awards is to recognise the institutional contribution made by public servants to enhance the role, professionalism, image and visibility of the public service (Economic and Social Council decision 2000/231). It can be translated into the following more specific objectives:

First, to reward service to citizens and motivate public servants worldwide to sustain the momentum of innovation and the improvement of the delivery of public services;

Second, to collect and disseminate successful practices and experiences in public administration in order to support efforts for improvements in country level public service delivery;

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What does the fragmentation of the WTO mean for global trade?

By Daouda Cissé

THIS article is part of the author's research that explores trade and investments, trade policies and China's domestic and overseas political economy.

In 2001, the World Trade Organisation (WTO) admitted that "more than half of global trade today is conducted under preferential trade agreements, both regional or multilateral."

Based on the principles of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the WTO, countries can establish custom unions and free trade areas (FTAs), which can be extended to free trade agreements, economic unions and common markets in order to strengthen regional trade integration. However, the possibilities offered by the WTO and GATT have limitations: they have in fact created geographical trading blocs (the European Union, North American Free Trade Agreement, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Mercado Común del Sur, etc.), which come with restrictions (for instance tariffs and tax imposition), and do not fully enable multilateral trade between wider WTO members.

Besides tariffs and taxes, such restrictions include policy regulation related to anti-dumping, standards and subsidies and more and more environmental protection and sustainability.

The failure of WTO members to conclude the Doha Round [2001-2006] of negotiations led to the weakening of the organisation and the growing establishment of regional trade agreements and free trade agreements globally. To safeguard their economic and trade interests, governments integrate particular markets in order to circumvent trade barriers and tariffs or benefit trade policies with some countries they can better trade with based on their comparative advantages and competitive advantages. However, the establishment of existing and new mega regional trade blocs and FTAs led to protectionism, tensions and contentious trade deals between the world's trade leading countries at times to counter emerging and developing economies. That led to the proliferation of FTAs in the 1990s and mega FTAs in the 2000s.

More and more regional efforts to create common markets



for regional trade liberalisation and openness brought countries from the same continent to gather around regional trade blocs. These different drivers (FTAs and regional trade blocs) even led to mega FTAs that bring together countries in different continents to tie trade partnerships and agreements (Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement-CETA, Trans-Pacific Partnership-TTP, Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership-TTIP, China-Australia, EU-Japan; etc.). However, it is important to mention that these regional trade blocs and FTAs are not without tensions as some of them are still pending to really materialise with lengthy negotiations underway. Through these negotiations, countries weigh their trade advantages and drawbacks against each other based on production factor, tariffs and more recently environmental protection and sustainability.

While the WTO has always fostered a global multilateral trade, the current global trend in trade is increasingly based on regional trade through regional trade agreements (RTAs) between regional blocs and FTAs. One of the main objectives of the RTAs is to reduce trade barriers.

Some observers believe that regional trade agreements deepen market integration and complement efforts by the WTO to liberalise international markets, while acknowledging that regional trade agreements can open up markets. Others con-

tend that these agreements also distort trade and discriminate against non-member countries.

Beyond regional trade, there is a growing trend to establish transpacific and transatlantic trade and partnerships mainly based on FTAs. Such an approach has led to negotiations to establish the TTP, which now is the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and fosters negotiations for the possible establishment of the TTIP between the United States and Europe.

The TTP, now the CPTPP brings together Canada, Japan, Australia and other countries in the Asia-Pacific region (with the stepping down of the United States in 2017), which aim at trading based on some of the WTO's principles.

The TPP has been thought to be one of the major transregional trade partnerships. The US strongly supported the TPP under Obama's presidency. The main ideas behind such support were to counter China's growing economic and trade influence in Asia as well as to foster commercial ties between the US and a number of Asian countries (even though countries like Canada, New Zealand joined the TPP for instance). However, under President Trump the US stepped down in 2017 from the TPP, as Trump does not see the US to support such a trade partnership.

Even though Donald Trump was harsh with China during

his presidential campaign over unfair trade, delocalisation of American companies to China in search of cheap labour and production costs, the US withdrawal from the TPP was very welcome by Chinese officials. But economic tensions between the US and China remain and are even growing today with what is considered to be "a trade war" between the US and China with recent trade barriers and tariffs imposed on both sides.

While major steps were made to finalise the TPP in 2015, Trump's willingness to save American economic and trade interests are taken as a shock by other TPP members. It seems that the US is more interested in fostering bilateral trade deals with its partners in order to have easy control over them during bilateral trade negotiations.

The TTIP brings together the US and the EU (even though negotiations are underway), which are global trading leaders and partners. It is becoming quite clear that, if successful, these partnerships will determine the future of global trade in the coming decades.

Trade between countries or different regional trading blocs has become unequal based on trade policies and regulations around tariff and nontariff arrangements to determine which products and under which circumstances a country can trade or not with another country.

In 2013, the US and the EU started to negotiate a trade and investment partnership, which will lead to the establishment of the TTIP. If concluded, the TTIP will be the largest ever achieved free trade and investment agreement. It will represent 50 percent of the world's gross domestic product and a third of global trade. This will determine the future of global trade and economic interactions.

With the TTIP, European countries will be more aligned with the American rules of the game, which aim at protecting their multinationals' interests rather than being ruled by European policies. The TTIP aims at fostering trade and investment integration between its member countries by eliminating market protection and tariff barriers. But the issue of the harmonisation of policies and regulations remains a thorny one, which could jeopardise the EU-US negotiations.

Furthermore, the CETA (between the US and the EU) and NAFTA (US, Canada and Mexico) were negotiated for their member countries' best interests even though interests can be imbalanced from one-member country to another.

"Daouda Cissé is an independent researcher based in Montreal, Canada."

Seafarers UK providing vital funding to support needy seafarers and their families

LONDON

SEAFARERS UK (previously King George's Fund for Sailors) is the leading grant-making charity that has been helping people in the maritime community for over 100 years, by providing vital funding to support seafarers in need and their families. The charity supports organisations and projects that make a real difference to people's lives across the merchant navy, fishing fleets, royal navy and royal marines.

In 2018, Seafarers UK awarded £2.46m in grants to support 56 maritime welfare charities.

As an 'island nation' the UK depends on its seafarers to defend its shores, trade with other countries and import essential fuel and food. The job of a seafarer is therefore vital, but also demanding and hazardous with a much greater chance of injury than many other professions. A large number of those serving will be facing problems of very different kinds; long periods of separation from friends and family, extended periods of duty, fatigue, and working heavy machinery whilst being exposed to harsh weather. Such dangers and difficulties can lead to disability, depression, debt, relationship



breakdown, homelessness or even death. Seafarers UK's funding enables seafarers to access advice and information, adapt to life on shore, re-train and find new employment. It also improves their quality of life by helping to provide the essentials of daily living that a small pension (or none) cannot cover. Often it may be the family of a seafarer who has been injured, held hostage or who has subsequently died that require assistance. Because Seafarers UK works closely with all of the organisations that support seafarers and their dependants, the charity can target donations where they will make the biggest difference.

Seafarers UK receives no government funding and relies on donations and fundraising to

be able to carry on providing long-term aid. Without this, there simply wouldn't be the level of support it is able to provide today and that each year gives hope and help to over 160,000 seafarers and their families when they need it most.

The First World War took a terrible toll on merchantmen and warships: in one fortnight in 1917 many thousands of sailors and over 400,000 tons of shipping were lost. Many of those men had a family to support, and towards the end of the war many small charitable organisations were set up to support the injured and bereaved.

In the City of London, far-sighted ship-owners and officers realised that what was most needed was an umbrella organisation that could take a realistic overview of the need and direct resources to where they

were needed. They set up a Fund for that purpose and His Majesty King George V took a deep and immediate interest, giving both his name and an establishing donation of £5000 to the new organisation.

During subsequent conflicts, and in the intervening years of peace, King George's Fund for Sailors continued to provide both immediate and long-term support to the casualties of war, and to others who have paid a high price for a life at sea.

The charity has always supported veterans, the injured and the bereaved, but as an umbrella organisation, its focus is on the needs of the whole maritime community. In the modern world that means the charity also deals with such issues as homelessness, unemployment, the strain on separated families, the

poverty and hardship that afflict shoreline communities (e.g. when fish stocks dwindle or merchant vessels grow too large for local docks).

In 2005 King George's Fund for Sailors changed its name to Seafarers UK.

Seafarers UK is a leading provider of grants to maritime charities and charitable maritime projects, working to help serving and ex-serving seafarers and their families who are experiencing hardship. Seafarers UK operates a continuous grant making process and assesses applications on a rolling basis.

Each year Seafarers UK campaigns on behalf of seafarers across the Merchant Navy, Royal Navy and Fishing Fleets to raise awareness of the UK's maritime sector in its entirety - and thereby increase public understanding of the challenging lives of many seafarers.

The charity's considerable influence is also being applied elsewhere for effective campaigning. Seafarers UK is a member of Maritime UK, the pan-industry promotional body, for whom Seafarers UK chairs its 'Careers Promotion Forum'.

Since 2010 Seafarers UK has coordinated and promoted an annual Seafarers Awareness Week which each year focuses on a different theme.

In 2018 Seafarers Awareness

Week (23-30 June) promoted maritime employment opportunities, including shore-based jobs.

In 2019 Seafarers Awareness Week will take place 8-14 July, culminating on Sea Sunday. The 2019 theme will be focusing on raising awareness of the UK's commercial fishing industry, especially the skippers and crews of fishing vessels of all sizes, from under-10m beach-launched boats, to the huge pelagic trawlers operating out of major ports.

The annual Seafarers UK campaign 'Fly the Red Ensign for Merchant Navy Day' launched in 2015, and takes place on Merchant Navy Day on 3 September. The campaign encourages public bodies to fly the Red Ensign, the official flag of the UK Merchant Navy, ashore atop civic buildings and on prominent flag poles to raise public awareness of the UK's dependence as an 'island nation' on seafarers past, present and future.

In 2018, the campaign saw more than 800 Red Ensigns flown ashore on Merchant Navy Day.

Seafarers UK receives no statutory funding and relies on supporters, donors and volunteers to be able to carry on providing the long-term aid. Annually, Seafarers UK runs a number of fundraising events to raise vital funds to continue providing essential support to seafarers in need and their families and dependants.

By Ross Harvey

WE have to pursue co-existence and shared benefits rather than a crude utilitarianism that wilfully endorses cruelty.

When I read Ron Thomson's response to my article questioning the wisdom of reintroducing elephant trophy hunting to Botswana after a five-year moratorium, I was reminded of British abolitionist William Wilberforce's opponents who defended the Atlantic slave trade on the grounds that it was a "necessary evil".

William Wilberforce was a British politician, philanthropist, and a leader of the movement to abolish the slave trade. A native of Kingston upon Hull, Yorkshire, he began his political career in 1780, eventually becoming an independent Member of Parliament for Yorkshire.

John Pollock, who penned the epic Wilberforce biography, wrote: "A Grosvenor uncle of Wilberforce's young friend Lord Belgrave spoke third, arguing that the Trade was nasty but necessary; in Dolben's summary: '...The wisest thing we can do is to shut our eyes, stop our ears and run away from the horrid sounds without enquiring about it, or words to this effect.' I invite Thomson to read the biography, as he might find echoes of this defence of slavery in the logic he applies to the ecological management of elephants. Defenders of slavery argued that its abolition would lead to an immediate loss of the British colonies. The colonial attitude, of course, remains pervasive among those who defend the trophy hunting of elephants. It is fascinating that those who defend hunting tend to argue that "the West" must stop lecturing Africans about how to manage their elephants. But it was Western hunters who shot elephants out to the point where Africans had to establish reserves, dispossessing and crowding out local communities in the process.

Fortress conservation and green militarisation are direct functions of past colonial activi-

Elephant culling and hunting is throwback to defending slavery

ties. And a major part of the reason that local communities are so upset at being excluded from national parks has much to do with how they were established in the first place. Public relations efforts to paint trophy hunters as the imperial saviours of poor African communities are laughable.

As with colonialism and slavery, sport hunting of elephants will eventually be abolished. The history lesson is that Wilberforce won out, with the brutal slavery trade abolished 20 years after his battle had begun. The hunting of elephants for sport is a similarly barbaric activity, with its proponents arguing that hunters kill the animals they love for the sake of conservation. This is a morally untenable position. Beyond that, the conservation value of hunting is being questioned, and its ostensible indirect benefit through monetary and bushmeat contributions to "communities" is rapidly declining. Botswana reintroduced hunting on the premise that an exploding elephant population had exceeded its carrying capacity. But Thomson, having defended hunting his entire career, agrees that hunting is not a population-control method and "will have no ecological impact whatsoever on the elephant over-population problem that certainly exists". He argues that elephant management in Botswana has nothing to do with hunting or politics but everything to do with establishing a "management solution to a population of elephants that is very obviously grossly in excess of its habitat's sustainable carrying capacity". But he himself notes that hunting will not solve this purported problem, so it remains unclear as to what it has to do with establishing "best practice" for elephant management. Thomson appears to want



to return to the grand old days of culling. He cites no science in support of his view that carrying capacity has been exceeded. The anecdotal reference to his own experience and to the late Dr Graham Child's notes are touching but do not make the "habitat destruction" argument self-evidently true. The "Child Observations", as Thomson calls them, are factual, but seem to ignore the ecosystem engineering role that elephants play. Thomson cherry-picks these types of observations to defend the view that elephants are mere marauding habitat destroyers.

Thomson asked for the science - perhaps the hyperlinks in my article were not working - that "did not see any ecological reason to artificially change the number of elephants in Chobe National Park"; here it is: No fewer than 24 authors contributed to "The Return of the

Giants: Ecological Effects of an Increasing Elephant Population" published in *Ambio*, a scientific journal, in 2004. The following quote may suffice:

"Much of the Chobe elephant problem has concerned the role of elephants in the disappearance of the riverine Acacia woodlands on the elevated alluvial plains along the Chobe River. As we have shown, these woodlands were probably a transient artefact, caused by artificially low densities of large herbivores following rinderpest and excessive hunting of elephants about 100 years ago, creating a window of opportunity for seedling establishment. Now that these woodlands have all but disappeared, their re-establishment would require drastic reductions in herbivore populations, including not only elephants, but also smaller browsers like impala. "Our studies have confirmed

that the ecosystem along the Chobe riverfront has changed profoundly since the 1960s, probably reverting towards a situation somewhat similar to the one before the excessive hunting of elephants and the rinderpest panzootic.

There is, however, little evidence of a reduction in the carrying capacity for other large herbivores, in fact the dominating species of browsers, grazers and mixed feeders have increased in numbers concurrently with the elephants.

We do not, however, see any ecological reason to artificially change the number of elephants in Chobe National Park, either through culling or opening new dry season ranges by providing extra water from boreholes."

Further to this, 16 scientists co-

authored a piece in *Science Advances* in 2015 that shows us that what Thomson refers to as "destruction" is more appropriately understood as conversion: "African elephants convert woodland to shrubland, which indirectly improves the browse availability for impala and black rhinoceros.

By damaging trees, African elephants facilitate increased structural habitat complexity benefiting lizard communities. Predation by large predators (for example, lions) on small ungulates is facilitated when African elephants open impenetrable thickets. African elephants are also great dispersers of seeds over long distances." Thomson asks where do "these seeds come from when the trees that once produced them have all been destroyed by too many elephants?" But this ignores seasonal variation. Elephants migrate and the trees (generally) recover. Insisting on "carrying capacity" as the primary factor to determine elephant population size betrays Thomson's worldview that "there is nothing 'natural' about wildlife management".

His view is that the natural order is there mainly to serve man. Eden would be a garden composed of Thomson's calculations of what would best do this. That attitude subverts the call to steward responsibly to one of mere domination. Thomson laments that "today, all over southern Africa, our national parks are being managed as 'elephant sanctuaries' - at great cost to biological diversity" and that we should all be ashamed of ourselves for having allowed this.

As one might expect, Thomson can barely hide his love for culling, which he views as the only serious "management solution". He is furious that "governments will not cull even the most excessive of elephant populations" and blames biological diversity destruction on this decision alone.

Against all science, and reverting to the view that wildlife management is akin to managing an agricultural establishment, Thomson says the optimal carrying capacity in southern Africa is "in the vicinity of one elephant per 5km²". Therefore, Botswana on its own may be able to sustainably carry "infinitely less than 50,000" - though he admits he doesn't know.

By Nimi Mweta

Why TASAC scrapping of annual delivery order fees is entirely rational policywise

THE government is under pressure to rethink its decision to scrap delivery order (DO) fees that were charged by shipping agents to importers of goods. Shipping agents, via the Tanzania Shipping Agents Association (TASAA) has lately issued an appeal asking the government to reverse that decision. It says among other things that the government stands to lose 1.5bn/- in uncollected revenues annually, which is questionable as a reason.

This stance of the shipping agents is an illustration of the sort of things that President John Magufuli was cautioning the private sector and business stakeholders as a whole in his last week State House open forum. The shipping agents have strategic considerations for their objections which have little to do with public revenues, and they front the whole issue of maximum revenues as primary to decision making, which isn't correct.

In any case, the government would already have thought out about the revenue aspect and whether the fees' impact on port business justifies the rule, or it should be scrapped. So far the agents have not shown why the board decision was wrong, merely saying the government will lose revenues and that they will have to cut jobs for that reason. But plainly, who in any business sector doesn't cut jobs depending on operational conditions?

In his remarks at the State House meeting, the president was insistent that the private sector and business generally should be taken into consideration wholesomely, where all of it matters, and not pitting certain sectors against others. This issue is an example where those who stand to gain from fees that inconvenience business people tell the public that the government will lose money by scrapping it, as if any policy action that adds to revenue

is good, even when it hampers business growth, and by implication, hurts development prospects. This is what isn't stated in claims about revenues.

The shipping agents said that some of the taxes the government was obtaining through DO fees include a 0.3 percent levy that is paid directly to the regulator—Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC), city levy (0.3 percent), maritime education levy (0.3 percent) and the 18 percent VAT equivalent to US \$ 7 for each local delivery order issued. A single agent may have a minimum of up to 100 DOs issued per year, their spokesman noted.

In that case he put up the position that the government action will result into a drastic drop of corporate tax, as it received corporate tax of 2bn/- from 15 members of TASAA in the past year. Only later did the spokesman assert that the removal of DO charges "will lead into a majority of shipping agents failing to survive." That too isn't evident as there are other sources of revenue apart from the delivery order fees, and to say they aren't enough for revenues (perhaps because the work can be automated thus avoiding agents pacing up and down as many ports are in the course of doing) isn't much. The public isn't expected to ensure that shipping agents make ends meet at their own convenience, so the government needs to scrap fees that are inconvenient or singularly meant to ensure the sustenance of operators.

Going through the TASAC position also noted in a leading report on the issue, it said that DOs were issued by agents for their own convenience and that it should not be a source of revenue.



President John Magufuli

The regulator declared that shipping agents have statutory sources of revenue as provided in the Shipping Agencies Regulations of 2018. It means that earlier something else occurred on account of lobbying, to impose fees on importers for the sake of agents, as it were. And as agents pay taxes on this income it is sacrosanct.

The TASAC board observed that DOs were issued by carrier to fa-

facilitate completion of carriage contract which was entered earlier between the carrier and the shipper. It said release of import cargo should be done on the basis of original bill of lading, without further issuing of delivery orders backed by fees, etc. It means either the DO is retained as a technicality or it is scrapped if it was only meant to yield incomes and pseudo-revenues.

This objection to the scrapping

of delivery order fees as a statutory requirement on the part of importers is an illustration that the president's effort at removing bottlenecks in the doing business environment will not be easy.

It is all the same positive that not all public bodies are in a resisting mood concerning the levelling of the playing field, as the regulator is moving from an expected public sector and indigent operators' bias to seeking a

workable framework for business as a whole.

In that case the discussions at the State House forum weren't breaking new ground entirely but seeking to consolidate reforms that have been demanded by various organisations and institutions, the World Bank in particular. It is hence time that work is done in that direction; stakeholders need to accommodate change, not fight it.

An economic no-brainer: Empower women, empower economies

NEW YORK

AS the first woman to lead the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and a leader in advocating for increased investment and action toward gender equality, Christine Lagarde helps Deliver for Good explore the steps needed to build sustainable financing and economic opportunities for girls and women.

Evidence shows that girls and women play a significant role in boosting economic growth, reducing inequality, and strengthening financial resilience for families and their communities. For example, when companies have a higher percent of women on their boards, it results in greater financial stability for their business. Research further reveals that when women have access to financial services, economic growth booms - creating a ripple effect benefitting entire families, communities, and countries, across generations.

Evidence like this forms the basis for the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) commitment to identify the case for investing in programs and policies that prioritize girls and women. Now, the IMF is releasing several new reports to further demonstrate, and call for, strengthening women's economic participation and leadership within sectors. It isn't just the right thing to do, it's the smart thing to do with significant social and economic returns on investment.

In this conversation with Katja Iversen, President/CEO of Women Deliver, Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of the IMF, sheds light on the importance and urgency of investments that advance gender equality and equity for girls and women around the world. As the first woman to lead the IMF, and a leader in advocating for increased investment and action toward gender equality, there is no one more qualified to help Deliver for Good explore the steps needed to build sustainable financing for girls and women.

Katja Iversen: As part of its core mandate, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) works to help countries build and maintain strong economies. How do girls and women factor into this mission, and how does the IMF put this into action?

Christine Lagarde: Empowering girls and women can be critical to economic

development in countries.

The IMF has found that the positive economic effects of greater gender equity cover several crucial dimensions of an economy's performance. It can boost growth, reduce income inequality, help economies diversify their exports, and partly mitigate the economic effects of demographic change. Therefore, even besides the obvious moral and social dimensions, empowering women is an economic "no-brainer."

An economy should work for women—helping, not hindering.

As well as conducting research in these areas, the IMF has increasingly taken gender considerations into account in our policy advice, programs, and capacity development. For example, since 2015 we have actively incorporated gender analysis and advice in 39 of our annual economic health checks with member countries, known as Article IV consultations. We are now moving to incorporate gender analysis and advice into broader country work.

IMF-supported programs have contained measures to help empower women economically. With the Jordanian authorities, for instance, we have discussed reforms to help women including more flexible working hours, greater access to childcare, and more efficient and affordable public transport. Under its IMF-supported program, the Egyptian government has increased funding for public nurseries and other facilities to help women seeking work.

Our capacity development work has included training courses, technical advice, and peer-learning workshops with country authorities. These have covered areas such as gender budgeting, which seeks to understand the impact of fiscal policies on gender equity goals.

Katja Iversen: Research shows when women have the opportunity to participate in the formal labor force and have an income, it increases their influence and decision-making power within their families and communities. It also shows that women to a larger extent reinvest their earnings in their children's health and education, creating a ripple effect that benefits future generations. Beyond the social benefits, can you also expand on the economic benefits of empowering

Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of the IMF



girls and women?

Christine Lagarde: Empowering women can transform lives and society. Women's empowerment can strengthen an economy in several ways—greater gender equity can support growth, social inclusion, and economic resilience.

A recent study by IMF found that the macroeconomic benefits of greater gender inclusion are actually even greater than previously estimated.

It looked at the economic consequences that men and women bringing different skills and ideas to the workplace can have. Because of these differences, men and women actually complement each other, creating more value than if workplaces were less gender diverse.

As a result of such complementarities, raising women's participation in the labor force - including in leadership - can bring greater gains than raising male participation.

It is estimated that if a country with a 30 percent gap between women's and men's labor force participation could close that gap, then GDP would increase by 25 percent. Between 3 and 7 percentage points of that rise in GDP would be from productivity gains caused by greater gender

diversity.

It is important to note as well that men would stand to win—because higher productivity would help to increase men's wages.

This kind of research provides the IMF - and decision makers at large - with a robust analytical foundation on which to make the case with our member country authorities that empowering women truly matters not only from a moral perspective but from an economic one too.

Katja Iversen: Despite the fact that we know women's participation in the economy drives both social and economic benefits, women continue to face a range of barriers - legal, social, and cultural. For example laws that prevent women from opening bank accounts or social norms that place women primarily in the informal, unpaid care sector. What solutions/recommendations can the IMF and financial institutions provide to tackle these barriers?

Christine Lagarde: IMF research shows that when legal barriers are removed, women's participation in the workforce increases. In half of the countries studied, when gender equity was reflected in the law, women's participation in the labor force increased by at least 5 percent-

age points in the following five years. The IMF highlights these legal barriers and their economic costs in our discussions with member country governments.

Aside from removing legal obstacles, the IMF regularly offers recommendations on other ways to help women participate in the economy.

In many advanced economies, our advice to governments tends to focus on how women can juggle work and family life—including ensuring parental leave provisions, affordable and high-quality childcare, and tax policies that do not penalize secondary earners (who are usually women).

In many emerging and developing economies we emphasize education. Gender gaps in education can be reduced through higher public spending on education, better sanitation facilities, reduced teenage pregnancy rates, and delaying the age of marriage.

It is evident that women are making economic contributions that often are not reflected in the official statistics. For example, women carry out the majority of care work—work that they are often not compensated for financially and for which they may not receive necessary support. The IMF is working on a paper on the value of unpaid care work too help inform this debate.

Lastly, we emphasize the need for greater financial inclusion of women because improving access to finance, including by women, has major macroeconomic benefits.

This year, for the first time, we released gender-disaggregated supply-side data on financial inclusion through the IMF's Financial Access Survey (FAS) which highlighted factors that help to close the gender gap in financial access, such as simplified deposit accounts regulations. The FAS has also identified lack of gender-disaggregated data in many countries. We will continue to work with country authorities to improve the availability and comparability of financial access data.

Katja Iversen: From borrowers to regulators, there are relatively few female leaders in the financial sector.

We have heard you champion the importance of gender balance and diversity on boards of financial institutions by explaining that it "will perhaps lead to better decision making and fewer unnecessary risks." You are the first woman to serve as Managing Director of the IMF. Why does this matter and what are some key actions that can be taken to move toward gender parity at all levels in the financial sector?

Christine Lagarde: Globally, women hold less than 20 percent of board seats in banks and bank supervision agencies and account for less than 2 percent of bank CEOs. Interestingly, many developing economies have higher shares of women on bank boards and banking supervision boards compared to advanced economies.

Research reveals that greater shares of women on bank boards and banking supervision boards are associated with greater bank stability.

Banks with higher shares of women leaders have higher capital buffers and lower non-performing loans ratios. Banking systems with more women on supervisory boards are less likely to get in distress.

What can we do to help more women succeed in finance? It is important to repeatedly emphasize to young women that banking isn't solely a "man's job." Strong female mentors are valuable, as are further efforts to make work environments more women-friendly, including through flexible working practices.

As an industry, the financial sector is lagging behind on that front.

More broadly, not just in finance, I used to think that there should not be quotas, but I have changed my mind on that. To work, quotas should be distributed along the hierarchy of a company, and there needs to be a pipeline from which women are selected.

Policies in use in Europe continue to wreak havoc across the Mediterranean

By Special Correspondent

ONE year on from Italy's decision to close its ports to humanitarian vessels and the first political stand-off over the fate of people rescued in the Central Mediterranean Sea, at least 1,151 vulnerable men, women and children have died, and over 10,000 more have been forcibly returned to Libya, exposed to additional unnecessary suffering. These avoidable deaths expose the human cost of reckless European migration policies, said Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and SOS MEDITERRANEE.

"The response by European governments to the humanitarian crisis in the Mediterranean Sea and Libya has been a race to the very bottom," said Annemarie Loof, MSF Operational Manager.

"One year ago, we implored European governments to put people's lives before politics. We pleaded for a humane response; for an end to the dehumanisation of vulnerable people at sea for political gain. Yet one year on, the European response has reached deplorable new lows."

The reality is, even with fewer and fewer humanitarian vessels at sea, people with little alternatives will continue to undertake this deadly sea crossing regardless of the risks. Frédéric

Penard, Director of Operations, SOS MEDITERRANEE

Stand-offs at sea: the new "normal"

Since the Aquarius search and rescue vessel, operated by SOS MEDITERRANEE in partnership with MSF, was blocked from entering Italian ports one year ago, stand-offs in the Central Mediterranean Sea have become the new "normal", with over 18 incidents publicly documented. These stand-offs add up to a combined 140 days, or over four months, that 2,443 vulnerable men, women and children have been stranded at sea while EU leaders debated their futures.

The fallout from the criminalisation of saving lives at sea is not only affecting humanitarian vessels but eroding the very principle of rendering assistance to people in distress at sea. Commercial and even military ships are increasingly unwilling to respond to those in distress due to the high risk of being stranded at sea and denied a place of safety to disembark.

For commercial ships that conduct rescues, they are placed in an extremely difficult situation where they must risk a stand-off or return vulnerable people to Libya in violation of international law.

"One year ago, we warned that the dangerous and inhu-

mane political stand-offs at sea should not set a precedent. Yet this is exactly what happened," said Sam Turner, MSF Head of Mission for Libya and Mediterranean. "This political deadlock among European countries and their inability to put lives first, is only more shocking today as fighting continues to rage in Tripoli."

The response by European governments to the humanitarian crisis in the Mediterranean Sea and Libya has been a race to the very bottom. Annemarie Loof, MSF Operational Manager

Pushed back to a cycle of violence Since the end of April, vulnerable people have tried to flee Libya in increasing numbers, with over 3,800 boarding unsafe boats to attempt the crossing. While UNHCR and other organisations such as MSF have called for the humanitarian evacuation of refugees and migrants out of Libya since the start of the conflict in Tripoli, the reality is for every person evacuated or resettled this year more than twice as many have been forcibly returned to Libya by the Libyan Coastguard.

European leaders support these returns knowing exactly the cycle of exploitation, torture, sexual violence and arbitrary detention that these people are exposed to in Libya.

"The lack of humanitarian



vessels in the Central Mediterranean during this period should put to rest the unfounded allegation of a "pull factor," said Frédéric Penard, SOS MEDITERRANEE's Director of Operations. "The reality is, even with fewer and fewer humanitarian vessels at sea, people with little alternatives will continue to undertake this deadly sea crossing regardless of the risks. The only difference now is people are nearly four times more likely to die compared to last year, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM)."

One year since the first stand-off at sea MSF and SOS MEDITERRANEE continue to call on all EU member states to:

Urgently provide proactive and sufficient search and rescue capacity, including competent and responsive coordinating authorities in the Mediterranean Sea to prevent unnecessary loss of life.

End punitive actions against NGOs trying

to provide lifesaving assistance in lieu of such capacity.

Withdraw existing political and material support to the system of forced returns of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants to Libya to be placed in arbitrary and inhumane detention.

Establish sustainable, reliable and predictable disembarkation systems offering places of safety where survivors will be treated humanely, provided with appropriate services and will be able to seek asylum.

Over the weekend of 9 and 10 June 2018, the Aquarius search and rescue vessel, operated by SOS MEDITERRANEE in partnership with MSF, rescued 230 people and received an additional 400 from Italian naval and coastguard ships.

Although the rescue and transfers of these 630 people were initiated and coordinated by the Italian Maritime Rescue Coordination

Centre (MRCC), the Italian authorities denied Aquarius authorisation disembark them safely in Italy as per international maritime law. Eventually, on 11 June, the Spanish government intervened and offered to let the Aquarius disembark in Valencia. Aquarius informed the Spanish and Italian MRCC that due to overcrowded conditions, safety and security concerns, Aquarius could only sail safely to Spain with a maximum of 100 survivors on board.

On 12 June, after a 48 hour stand-by, and despite MSF's and SOS MEDITERRANEE's concerns about the humanitarian and medical impact of the sea journey to Valencia, the Italian authorities instructed Aquarius to transfer 524 people back to Italian ships and sail with the remaining 106 rescued on a four-day journey to Spain.

On June 17, the Aquarius and Italian coastguard and navy ships disembarked all 630 people in Valencia, Spain.

Can Africa tap into 'debt-for-nature' plan to protect its forests?

By Michael O'brien-Onyeka

AFRICAN countries may want to explore the opportunities presented by a recently-passed United States law that offers cuts in debt obligations to eligible nations that commit to channel the saved funds to protect their critical forests and coral reefs.

The Tropical Forest Conservation Reauthorization Act (TFCA) has reactivated a "debt-for-nature swap" program, that has generated the equivalent of \$339 million in local currencies since 1998 to protect 67 million acres of forests in 14 countries. The law creating the program had lapsed in 2014 but was reauthorized early this year.

Amid heightening rates of

deforestation and limited conservation budgets in many parts of Africa, the TFCA program has the potential to unlock supplementary resources for countries on the continent to protect their key forests and coral reefs.

So far, only one country in Africa-Botswana-has successfully tapped into the program, securing \$8.3 million in debt reduction and channeling the funds into restoration of important forests, including in the world-famous Okavango Delta and the Chobe National Park.

The main TFCA beneficiaries have largely been countries in Latin America and Asia, which secured 19 of the 20 'debt-for-nature' deals concluded since

the program's inception. For instance, Costa Rica signed two agreements and saved \$53 million in debt repayments that then went into forest conservation. Indonesia sealed three deals that cut its debt to the U.S. by \$41.2 million; the saved funds were channeled into conservation on the island of Sumatra.

The debt-for-nature model has proven successful in protecting key reservoirs of nature around the world ever since Bolivia and Conservation International pioneered the model in 1987.

Back then, Conservation International purchased a portion of the country's foreign debt in exchange for securing commit-

ments for enhanced protection and management of nearly 3.7 million acres of tropical forest in the heartland of the Amazon. This deal helped debt-for-nature swaps take root as an innovative tool for financing conservation.

On the back of the AFR100 Initiative commitment by African countries to bring 100 million hectares of land in Africa into restoration by 2030, Africa needs all the resources it can get to better protect its forests, which play a significant role in the continent's socio-economic development.

The forests provide a range of vital ecosystem services including fresh water, hydroelectricity, biodiversity protection, climate

mitigation, food security and jobs among others.

TFCA funds can be used for a wide range of activities including establishment and maintenance of nature parks and reserves, watershed protection, sustainable natural resource management, conservation training programs, and identification of medicinal uses of tropical forest plant life, to name but a few.

And the latest version of the TFCA law includes coral reefs. It is well-known that two-thirds of coral reefs - a crucial natural resource - are threatened with degradation across the globe, including in Africa.

Securing them should be a priority since they help to pro-

vide food, jobs and protection for almost a half of the world's population.

This also presents additional opportunities for Africa's 38 coastal states to invest in marine conservation, including mangrove protection and restoration.

TFCA deals have proven to catalyze additional funds from other sources, thus enhancing the pool of resources available for forest protection. For instance, of the \$339 million generated in local currencies by TFCA since 1988, the U.S. government invested \$233 million, while a number of non-government organizations, such as Conservation International, contributed

\$22.5 million.

It is up to individual countries in Africa to evaluate the nature of TFCA agreements and weigh if they align with their national interests and priorities. To be eligible for TFCA, countries must have a tropical forest of global or regional significance and meet certain political and economic criteria. TFCA deals are negotiated and finalized bilaterally between the U.S. government and their counterparts in the interested countries.

To help create a better future for Africa's forests and people, eligible countries on the continent may want to consider the new opportunities created by the 'debt-for-nature' program.



The Economist to hold Global Illicit Trade summit in Addis

By Birhanu Fikade

THE Economist Events, an entity within The Economist Group that runs The Economist magazine and The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), is set to come back once again to Addis Ababa to organize and hold a "Global Illicit Trade" summit by the end of June.

According to the Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Association (ACCSA), a partner for the summit to organize The Economist Events said that, the summit is set to be held on June 25, at Hyatt Regency to convene conversations on illicit trades and financial outflows from Africa.

The half-day summit will deliberate on three pertinent panels of discussions. The growing trend of underground economies, as indicated in the program agenda, Northwest Ethiopia is given attention as a place where numerous weapons are slipping in from Sudan.

This trend is what The Economist Group chose to highlight as Africa is becoming a hotbed for terror for Al Qaeda and ISIS.

The panel that will deal with the Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) will look at how Africa and Ethiopia in particular, are dealing with the matter. Based on the Global Financial Integrity's

estimates, Ethiopia is allegedly to be losing an average of 2.2 percent of its GDP to IFFs per year. However, the assessments are that Africa is responding in a hobbling manner.

Hence, the summit will seek ways on how "multi-stakeholder actions across the government, financial institutions and civil societies," could be "prioritized and incentivized," to deter the illicit outflows.

The way forward as the fourth industrial revolution anchored with the vast expanse of ICT and artificial intelligence; illicit trade is also becoming more "revolutionized."

It is to be recalled that back in 2015, the well-established global policy influencer, The Economist Group, has held its first day "Ethiopia Summit" heralding the need to privatize major state-run enterprises and ease the monopoly grip of the government on the economy.

Though, the Ethiopia Summit was intended to be regularly held, however, it took The Economist Group to come back after four years.

Back then, Pratibha Thaker, the then regional director of the Middle East and Africa department with The Economist Group was willing to host regular meetings depending on how things turn out and shape up in Ethiopia.

SDGs, currently off-track, call for bold decisive action

WASHINGTON DC

IT has been four years since governments agreed on the most ambitious set of international commitments to fight poverty and inequality to date. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), otherwise known as the Global Goals, are 'a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.' The goals ambitiously aim to "Leave No One Behind."

Yet, 4 years into the SDGs, we starting to see that we're quite off-track to achieve the goals and many are being left behind.

We need to see nations, civil society, the private sector and individuals monitor each goal in its own right, without failing to see how the goals - and these actors meant to address them - are all inherently connected.

But focusing just on the implementation of the goals and indicators is technical and only part of the formula needed to achieve the SDGs. More importantly, we also need to be honest about the real political challenges keeping us from achieving the goals.

We need bold, decisive action now - we have run out of time for platitudes and empty promises.

We are approaching a few key moments in the process - the High-Level Political Forum will bring key stakeholders together, July 9-18, and the 2019 UNGA will be a critical moment to check in on progress, and adjust course on the SDGs.

We have a lot of work to do to make sure the SDGs don't fail - and everything at stake. We need to bring global leaders together to seriously consider the commitments we made and ensure that UN forums are strengthened to be places for increased mutual accountability and political agreements.

And we must also watch as movements and issues evolve around us. The SDG's must follow its track, but it must also be adaptable and react to these dynamic issues and actors driving them.

Oxfam is committed to further all 17 SDGs through its campaigning, advocacy and program work and will continue to challenge the status quo and to work with other CSOs and partners in order to help ensure the global community secures the will, means and mechanisms required to achieve the SDGs.

Civil Society Space

Effective realization of the SDGs depends on a free, vibrant, and protected civil society. Civil society is a key partner in ensuring success for the entire SDG agenda. If civil society is to be called up on to convene, lead and hold this process accountable, it must also be given the opportunities to do so, both in countries and in global decision-making bodies.

In many nations ostensibly signed up to the SDG's, civil society space is shrinking. Civil society need resources and respect to uphold their crucial piece - without them this process will fail.

Gender

Gender issues must be considered in their own right, and they must also be factored in across each of the goals and issues. Women, just as men, must be able to lift themselves out of poverty and this can only happen through a full realization of their human rights and by ensuring gender equality.

The majority of people living in poverty are women and girls; with less income and fewer assets than men, they comprise the greatest proportion of the world's poorest households, and that number is growing. Women are afforded less opportunities to make decisions about their futures, through policy or even in communities.

Evidence shows that unless the poorest countries can make huge strides in tackling both poverty and economic and gender inequalities, it will be impossible to meet global goals, and the SDGs as a whole will fail. This is yet another example of how all of these goals are inextricably linked - if women and girls don't have a chance to realize their potential, no one will.

Tackling Inequality, Climate Change - and How to Pay for it all

In the last several years, inequality has risen on the international agenda, ranking regularly as a top risk in the World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report. Fighting extreme inequality has become a widely cited cause and symptom of millions of people's struggles and frustration.

Tackling economic inequality has also become a key principle in the development strategies of major institutions, including the IMF, the World Bank, the OECD and the UN, with a specific SDG 10 targeting inequality.

Oxfam has argued that extreme in-

Cecilia, 43, and her grandchildren are pictured amongst drowned maize in the village of Malambwe, southern Malawi, on April 3, 2019. Cecilia farmed 1½ acres, but two thirds of her farmland was flooded, due to Cyclone Idai. Vegetables were washed away, interplanted between maize, which drowned. Cecilia's house, where she lives with her six children and two grand-children, collapsed with flooding caused by Cyclone Idai. File photo



equality impedes poverty alleviation, slows economic growth, compounds gender inequality, drives inequality in health and education outcomes, undermines economic mobility over generations, fuels crime, undermines social cohesion, and harms democracy."

Climate change is another issue escalating in urgency both from institutions and thought leaders, as well as the general public. And, we are seeing more and more the connections being made between climate change, who is affected by it most, and who is contributing.

Climate change is at its core, a consequence of our deeply unequal global economy. The richest countries and people are overwhelmingly responsible for causing this crisis and often feel the least of its consequences.

It's largely women and minorities on the front lines of extreme weather; with the lowest paid, least secure jobs; in unsafe housing, and without enough information or resources to prepare for or recover from disasters.

Tackling each of the SDG's takes money, obviously, but four years

after the world endorsed the goals and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, there has been very little progress filling the SDG financing gap - leaving us without the resources necessary to achieve what we have set out to do.

But four years into this ambitious vision, financing levels mobilized are totally inadequate to implement the goals effectively. There is a reported gap of \$2.5 trillion, and despite this, trends are going in the wrong direction.

Too many of the solutions governments propose, such as the reliance on private sector finance to close this gap, are not being realized. And many innovative financing proposals exaggerate and miscalculate their potential to meet the demands of those who are being left behind by the SDG agenda.

They in fact risk further increasing inequality at the very moment when inequality most threatens humanity's progress. This financing challenge isn't just about filling the financing gap. It's also about taking concrete measures to make sure the right types of finances, the types of finance that

help fight poverty, inequality, and gender inequality are being used.

Without financing and actions to improve the quality of that finance, we're actually pushing some further into poverty, not just leaving them behind.

In order to meet the promises they set out in the SDGs, the world's governments must use all available tools to mobilize additional resources. Tightening rules to prevent tax dodging at all levels could have a significant impact.

Fairer trade rules and labor rights are also important examples of where global collective action is needed to help rebalance the power and resources.

We must also continue to recognize the significant potential of aid, or Official Development Assistance (ODA), to reduce inequality both between and within countries, which will give countries more resources to meet all of the goals - not just those explicitly calling out inequality. This redistribution is not an act of charity, it's a matter of justice that will help every country ensure a more stable, equal and safe future.

Looking Ahead

We need all people - wherever they sit on the geographic, gender, economic, age spectrum - to all recognize their role in this crisis and act accordingly. The SDG's have the potential to be a powerful, game-changing agenda that can change countless lives.

But we can't let ourselves believe that its current pace and results can have those effects - we need to hold the process and its leaders accountable, and we need this to be helpful guiding principles for real people's everyday life-changing work to save our planet and give those who need it the tools to lead safe, healthy, fulfilling lives.

During the HLPF, UNGA, other summits and meetings, and every day in between, we need to see sweeping, committed and coordinated action from nations, leaders, companies and individuals to have enough impact to avert a true economic and climate crisis. We need to see action like our planet's and billions of lives depend on it, because they do.

IPS

More megacities, more pressure on forests

ANKARA

WITH two-thirds of the world's population projected to be living in cities by 2050, increasing pressure continues to be placed on forests which are being cleared to make way for agricultural production.

China, India and Nigeria are set to drive a surge in urbanisation, with the percentage of the global population living in urban areas increasing from around 55 percent currently, to 68 percent in the coming decades, according to United Nations figures.

Luc Gnacadia, former Minister of Environment of Benin and former Executive Secretary of the U.N. Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) says as more people move to cities - where incomes and rates of consumption are generally higher - more pressure is put on forests to produce more animal and processed food products, which require more clearing.

"The system that we have, that is mining natural resources, using it for consumption patterns that are wasteful, that system is still in play," Gnacadia told IPS on the sidelines of the International Soil Congress in Turkey, which ended Jun. 19.

"It is less people producing more for cities, which means that they may be just mining the soil, mining the forest and causing us to be more and more vulnerable to climatic shocks and contributing to it."

Gnacadia said forests are being lost because of what he described as the misuse of land in agriculture.

He said agricultural expansion globally is taking place by encroaching on existing pristine ecosystems, including

forests.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the U.N. said on Tuesday that expanding plantation and sprawling urban areas are placing greater pressure on forests and resources, hurting rural communities and exacerbating the effects of climate change.

"If we want less of this, we must first consider the land potential and clearing capacity; what can the land be used for must be clearly identified before we make decisions," Gnacadia said.

"When we use the land for agriculture, we must clearly map the land and identify where the land is in good health and make sure that we avoid degradation. Whatever we do must have one aim. We use the land but we make sure that we do not lose its productivity, and we do not deplete all of its nutrients.

"For the lands that are experiencing some degradation, we must make that we do whatever we can to reduce it... you must assess if there's still, in socio-economic terms, potential for restoring it, bringing it back to life. If it is, then you have to do it."

While there were just 10 megacities worldwide in 1990, this number has tripled to 33, with populations of more than 10 million people. The number of megacities is expected to rise to 43 by 2030, mostly in developing countries.

Tokyo is the world's largest city with a population of approximately 37 million people, followed by New Delhi with around 29 million and Shanghai with 26 million. However, India's capital is forecast to surpass Japan's most populous area by 2028.

UNCCD-Science Policy Interface co-chair Dr. Mariam Akhtar-Schuster says countries need to put in place an inte-



While there were just 10 megacities worldwide in 1990, this number has tripled to 33, with populations of more than 10 million people. The number of megacities is expected to rise to 43 by 2030, mostly in developing countries. Credit: Desmond Brown/IPS

grated land use planning mechanism to be able to satisfy the demands and needs of households, and at the same time sustainably manage and conserve the natural environment

"We have to consider that urban people also have a demand for firewood, cooking wood and construction material. These are all taken from forests," Akhtar-Schuster told IPS.

"If an unregulated expansion of urban areas takes place then nearby forests will be affected, but even if forests are not logged

for housing, they are a source for firewood, for cooking and this can lead to an immense degradation process."

Akhtar-Schuster stressed that it is a governance issue and "you have to create procedures and regulations, how much wood is allowed to be taken out of forests and how far forests control mechanisms have to be in place to avoid illegal logging and the removal of wood for daily demand."

Urban planning should also consider that infrastructure for energy is needed, Akhtar-Schus-

ter said, adding that forests are very vulnerable to human use and this needs to be taken care of.

"I am not saying that forests should not be used, but they have to be used sustainably and that means you have to put in a lot of regulations especially is urban expansion takes place," Akhtar-Schuster said.

"It takes years and years and years until a small sapling turns into a real big tree and this time dimension needs to be considered in any planning. You have to have a very long vision if you

want to manage your forests sustainably and you will always have to check the condition whether there's a natural rejuvenation of forests taking place, you will have to check that the age structure of forests close to urban areas always remains healthy."

Global demand for commodities like rubber and palm oil have driven changes in land use, especially in countries such as Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, where governments have granted businesses leases and land concessions to boost their economies.

BUSINESS

IMPRESSIONS

Taha's Mkindi bags another prestigious East African Woman Leadership Award

By Guardian on Saturday Reporter

JACQUELINE Mkindi, the enterprising Tanzania Horticultural Association (Taha) Group CEO, took home yet another award this week.

Mkindi who is credited with championing the rapid growth of a multi-million dollars horticulture industry in the country was named winner of East Africa's Woman Leadership Award 2019 by Women's Leadership Congress and Awards (WLCA).

At a colourful ceremony held in Dar es Salaam, WLCA's Executive Director CMO Asia, Aalok Pandit said Mkindi was picked because of her exemplary leadership and entrepreneurship skills that have transformed a once stagnant subsector into a dollar making industry transforming lives of multitudes of smallholder farmers in the process.

"World Women Leadership Congress and Awards presents East Africa's Women Leadership Award to Jacqueline Mkindi, Chief Executive Officer, Taha Group," said Dr Pandit in a statement.

Dr Pandit said the awards celebrate and acknowledge women leaders, who exhibit the spirit of entrepreneurship, innovation, leadership and excellence. Mkindi has been a dominant figure in the horticulture industry for the past 12 years.

Way back in 2004 when Mkindi joined the subsector, there were less than 50 horticultural farmers in the country who targeted the export market which earned the country US\$60m per annum. But today, Taha has amassed over 2.5 million both large-scale and smallholders farmers into a single bloc fortified by a common set of business oriented interests.

With an annual growth rate of 12 per cent, the horticultural industry earned the country, the industry earns the economy nearly US\$800m in annual revenue thanks to Taha Group CEO's leadership.

The latest award affirmed that Mkindi who is a graduate from Sokione University of Agriculture in Morogoro and a recipient of several other prizes in recent years, is a regular dominant figure in the rapidly growing agribusiness subsector in the country.

The Taha Group CEO is also a recipient of Tanzania Women Achievement Award (TWAA) in 2014 when she was named as the greatest achiever in Agriculture Category and thereafter added Clouds Media Group's 'Malkia wa Nguvu' Award in 2017 as the most influential



Taha Group's CEO, Jacqueline Mkindi brandishing her Women's Leadership Congress and Award shield in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Photo: courtesy of Taha.

woman for the year.

"I'm humbled. I never knew that the world was watching my steps. I have been working just to help my fellow Tanzanians excel in the horticulture business. I didn't realise that it has been so loud," Mkindi said after receiving her award.

She said the award which has been given to her belongs to all horticulture farmers across the country and staff at Taha Group who have been working extra time for the industry to grow and attract global attention.

"Indeed, she is an icon of strength and a champion in the horticulture industry who has transformed our lives," said Augustine Namfua, a young horticulture farmer who relinquished his white-collar job several years ago and ventured into

the horticulture business, thanks to Mkindi's inspiration.

"She uses her talent for not only raising the profile of the industry, but also for helping us individual horticultural farmers to grow," explained Namfua who is behind the Albatinos Vegetables initiative in Arusha region.

After having successfully managed to transform the nascent horticulture industry, Mkindi is now taking on a much bigger new challenge, championing growth of the entire struggling agricultural sector.

Mkindi was elected Agriculture Council of Tanzania (ACT) chairperson earlier this year, targets to enable the country get a lion's share of US\$1 trillion worth of Africa's food and agribusiness market by 2030.

The new ACT Chair hopes to continue working with all stakeholders in placing agriculture at the heart of the country's industrialisation agenda hence allow its rapid growth. Maintaining the momentum already spawned by her predecessors in transforming ACT into a vibrant, sustainable and professional private sector organisation is on her to do list.

"I will strive to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of ACT in improving enabling environment for agricultural investments," she charged.

Indeed, value addition in agriculture is critical, as it has the potential for generating employment, raising productivity, transferring skills and technology, increasing competitiveness, substituting imports and enhancing exports which eventually contributes to long-term national economic development.

Although increasing, the inflow of foreign direct investment to the agriculture sector remains low at between 2 and 3 percent of the US\$31.4 million total foreign direct investment in 2011. Mkindi observed that rapid urbanisation and rising incomes have been contributing to increased demand for value-added products in the agricultural sector.

"However, on the supply side, the underdeveloped agro-processing industry has so far failed to provide significant levels of import substitution for the urban food market," she noted while pointing out that her role is to mobilise the private sector seize the existing opportunity.

The mismatch between demand and supply for value added food products resulted into tripling the country's food import bill between 2006 and 2013 to US\$963.9 million, according to official data, a development which Mkindi wants urgently addressed.

REMUNERATION

This is just how much South African ambassadors are paid

JOHANNESBURG

An ambassador for the Republic of South Africa earns a minimum of just over R1 million per year - which many tend to put aside as savings because their expenses are covered.

Senior ambassadors, typically posted to the world's most glamorous cities, have base salaries of just under R12 million a year before various allowances and perks. But those posted to violent hotspots are not entirely forgotten either: in terms of a hardship scale, tougher postings come with much more frequent trips back home, paid for by the state.

In return those ambassadors are expected to promote South African economic growth through trade, to promote SA by telling its story - and to never leave their post without express permission. Some details about the job of an ambassador are never talked about. How and why an ambassador is selected, for instance, is considered sensitive because it may offend host nations.

Other details - such as actual levels of remuneration - are not strictly secret, but are simply not available thanks to the opaque nature of the public service. This week, however, former ambassadors concurred, and the department of international relations and co-operation (Dirco) confirmed, that ambassadors are paid as either directors or chief directors in the civil service. That puts them at level 13 or 14 on the pay-scale used for civil servants. Level 13 comes with a minimum salary of R1,005,063 per year, and level 14 jobs are currently going at R1,189,338 per year.

But for ambassadors, that is not the end of their remuneration. They also receive cost-of-living allowances, or colas, and in the past those have been - according to a government investigation - extremely generous. "My allowance was much bigger than my salary," one former ambassador said this week.

In 2016 South Africans had a rare insight into the cost of such allowances thanks to a "performance and expend-

iture review" by an agency of the National Treasury that sought to identify the cost drivers of foreign missions.

Dirco declined to participate in the study, but the Treasury drew data from the government accounting system and found that, in 2013 and early 2014, colas ranged between R600,000 and R1.3 million per year.

This, it said, was "exceptionally generous", coming in at 50% higher than allowances paid to staff of the United Nations - who have to pay for their own accommodation - and 60% higher than allowances then paid to foreign diplomats of the United States of America. The allowances are not taxed.

Dirco later promised to review the way in which allowances are calculated, but said it could not simply reduce such payments without renegotiation of the dispensation for foreign service workers. In terms of traditional international diplomacy ambassadors have a specific traditional role to play, with much required by way of protocol. In reality, former ambassadors say, the job is relatively easy if sometimes taxing: promote South Africa in every possible way.

"You need to shake a lot of hands," said one former ambassador. "It is important to be at the right events," said another. Being visible and accessible helps when it comes to promoting trade and investment, an overriding priority. It also helps to be known in the right circles in the host country if a South African citizen gets into trouble and needs help.

Ambassadors have a great deal of leeway in which to achieve those objectives, their former peers say; they report little to no day-to-day oversight of their work. There are just two critical rules: never, ever leave your post, and always be reachable.

"It doesn't matter if you are just a short hop across the border, you cannot leave the country without permission," said one. But being in the country you are posted to is no good if your government can't reach you, hence the second rule: always be at the other end of the phone.

INVESTIGATION

Mines' dirty secrets echo on three continents

By Marion Guégan, Cécile Schilis-Gallego

The "Green Blood" series pursued the investigations of several reporters who faced threats when covering possible environmental damage and other abuses by mining companies. Reporting on environmental issues can cost journalists their jobs, the land they live on and even their lives. The more journalists cover these issues aggressively, the more they are provoking powerful interests that will retaliate and block access to information.

This is particularly true of the mining industry. For the first time, 40 journalists from 15 countries organised by Forbidden Stories were able to go into the field, track supply chains and use open source tools to look into mines in India, Tanzania and Guatemala that once tried to cover up their activities.

In Tanzania, journalists have struggled to report on the impact of a gold mine - owned by Acacia Mining, whose majority shareholder is Canadian giant Barrick - in the North Maragore. Forbidden Stories found a dozen journalists - foreign and local - who have been arrested, threatened or censored by Tanzanian authorities, for

reporting on the mine.

Even getting close to the mine - more than a thousand kilometres from Dar es Salaam, the biggest Tanzanian city - is often dangerous. In 2011, four journalists were brought to a police station after being arrested while they were on their way to report on deaths in the vicinity of the North Mara gold mine.

Forbidden Stories traced the gold from the North Mara mine all the way to the MMTC-PAMP refinery in India, which prominent tech companies such as Apple, Canon, and Nokia that promote themselves as ethical and environmentally friendly - as well as more than 500 other companies - list the company as one of their suppliers in documents filed with a U.S. regulatory agency. The Tanzanian gold could thus end up in coveted high-tech phones and computers.

"During our due diligence performed on North Mara, we took the NGO's reports very seriously and challenged the mine on the issues raised," said Hitesh Kalia, a risk and compliance officer at MMTC-PAMP. Canon and Nokia both highlighted that the Indian refiner had previously been audited and found



Artisanal miners at North Mara Gold mine. NB: This is an extract from Guatemala, India and Tanzania.

conformant. "If allegations are confirmed, this smelter will be red flagged and we will ask our supply chain to divert business from this smelter," said a Nokia spokesperson. Apple shared a similar statement.

Yet, around the mine, villagers have had to live for decades with the environmental consequences of

gold mining. In place of artisanal mining, Acacia and its predecessors developed industrial mining, with even higher quantities of by-products such as heavy metals, which were later found at high levels in the water nearby. In May, authorities fined the company 5.6 billion Tanzanian shillings (\$2.4 million U.S. dollars) for alleged

pollution from North Mara's tailings dam.

Acacia Mining told Forbidden Stories that it "has already recognised the need for additional tailings management" and that it "has commenced planning and design for a new tailing storage facility." Environmental offences aren't the only ones that the mining

company has been accused of. Nongovernmental organisations have documented 22 alleged killings by the police or mine security workers since 2014, as well as numerous beatings and rapes. The victims? For the most part miners who formerly worked on a smaller scale where the mine now stands. They are called "intruders"

by the company. In a statement, Acacia Mining said it had consistently refuted various allegations from both NGOs regarding unlawful deaths and human rights issues. "In the four years between 2014 and 2017 six people are reported to have lost their lives on the North Mara mine site as a result of confrontations with members of the local police," they added. A Barrick spokesperson said that, as a shareholder, the Canadian miner does not exercise operational control over North Mara.

Forbidden Stories, along with a reporter from the Guardian (United Kingdom), met Lucia Marambela, a 44-year-old woman who says she was raped twice in 2010 at the site.

Marambela was caught by men while she was looking for gold from the mine, a fate she says is common for women in the area. "When we were tired of running, they would end up catching us and bringing us with them," she says. "They would throw us in their vehicle and take us to an isolated place, near a small airfield, far from the view of passersby." She says one man would then rape them, while the others were on the lookout. "Once

they've finished their dirty work, they let you go, get in their vehicle and go back to work," she said.

With the privatisation of the Tanzanian mining industry, North Mara villagers lost their former primary source of revenue: artisanal mining. "The company's acquisition of their land destabilised their livelihoods, and this company did not compensate them adequately," said Mary Rutenge, a lecturer at Mzumbe University in Tanzania.

"In emerging economies where people depend on natural resources and those natural resources are very valuable to industry or to the government, that can become a very dangerous situation for journalists who are covering their extraction," according to Meaghan Parker, executive director of the Society of Environmental Journalists.

Especially since it can sometimes be difficult for environmental journalists working in remote areas to be recognised as such by authorities. "The line between activists and journalists can be very blurry," said Parker. "The activists protesting and the journalists covering are both at risk."

DONATION

Pan African Energy hands over 300m/- public primary school to Kilwa district

By Guardian of Saturday Reporter

NATURAL gas producer from Songo Songo Island of Kilwa district in Lindi region, Pan African Energy Tanzania (PAET), has handed over a newly constructed satellite primary school valued at over 300m/- to Kilwa District Executive Director, Rennatus Mchau during the week.

In a statement yesterday, the Dar es Salaam based company said through its robust corporate social responsibility, it invested in the new school to support government efforts to improve the education sector in the country.

PAET's Corporate Social Responsibility Manager, Andrew Kashangaki said the company's quest to support the education sector in its area of operation was not an afterthought because it was a pre-determined strategic decision by the management.

Kashangaki said the decision was made by PAET's management on concerns that people who reside in the locality of its business premises are in need of such a facility. "Building upon our existing high impact social development projects, designed to deliver



PAET's CSR Manager, Andrew Kashangaki (R), Kilwa District Executive Director, Rennatus Mchau (C) and Kilwa Ward Councillor, Musa Kinjokwile sample desks at the newly constructed primary school at Migeregere village in the district after a handing over ceremony during the week. Photo: courtesy of PAET.

sustainable enhancements to the Kilwa District communities, PAET has continued to expand its CSR Programme in the country," he said.

The PAET CSR manager further noted that the gas mining company's mission stresses contribution to the economic and social

success of the people in the districts where it operates because it recognizes an inseparable relationship between healthy businesses and educated.

He pointed out that PAET is equally glad to note that its social contribution to the society is being valued by the community, saying that

the positive reception given by the public pushes the company to accelerate its drive to provide the requisite support to Kilwa district.

"Overall, we believe that the project will raise educational standards in Migeregere village and the surrounding villages hence increasing the potential

for the community to seek and find more lucrative employment, and generate more opportunities for both individuals and the community," he added.

Speaking after receiving the school's buildings, Kilwa District Executive Director, Rennatus Mchau paid tribute to PAET's management

noting that its social service investment aligns with the government's priorities.

"Kilwa District Council has always placed education very highly on its list of priorities. It is our belief that this satellite school will be a base to develop students' capacity, which will be key in improving basic human needs in Migeregere and neighbouring villages," Mchau said.

He also called upon the villagers to take care of the premises while expressing hope that the new classrooms will allow students improve their performance and grow into strong and responsible individuals.

"PAET's support to Kilwa District Council through the construction of the classrooms will allow approximately 1,200 students per annum to access education in comfortable conditions that are conducive to effective learning," the DED added. The 300m/- project includes six standard classroom blocks, 12 latrines, three staff latrines and 138 desks.

PAET has been producing natural gas from Songo Songo Islands which it ships to Ubungo for the generation of electricity.



South African Police pilot Refilwe Ledwaba.

MODELLING

Flying the South African flag well beyond the clouds

JOHANNESBURG

Many women have raised the South African Flag high and continue to do so in their different walks of life. One woman who stands out or should we say soars high is Refilwe Ledwaba. A social entrepreneur, qualified Pilot on both Fixed wing and Helicopters, qualified flight instructor and an academic who is passionate about youth development and the economic empowerment of women in Africa

Growing up in Limpopo, Refilwe was not exposed to a lot of choices when it came to careers. It was in the older days when there were set careers; doctors, lawyers, teachers and nurses. Ledwaba went on to study Bachelor of Science at the University of Cape town and it was during this time that the aviation fire was lit in her.

Traveling back to school from the holidays, she was flown by a female pilot for the first time in her life and this ignited a passion for aviation she never knew she had. She made sure she graduated with her BSc and soon after, she started her aviation classes.

Fast forward a couple of years later, Refilwe Ledwaba is not only the first black woman to fly for the police but she is also the founder and executive director of Girls fly programme in Africa (GFPA) foundation, a STEM education programme in Africa currently operating in South Africa, Botswana and

Cameroon.

Recently, she was chosen by the world's iconic number one Whisky, Johnnie Walker, to be part of their inspiring advert, Keep Walking SA. - In 1820 John Walker came up with the world's number one whisky brand, which was passed on from generation to generation.

This brand is the true epitome of taking strides towards success and challenging new levels of potential. The Keep Walking slogan of the brand is in line with the pioneering individuals that have teamed up with Johnnie Walker on this campaign. The purpose of this campaign was to inspire people from all walks of life, by showcasing the lives of ordinary South Africans doing extra-ordinary things.

Keep Walking SA is a campaign whose narrative is powerful as it speaks to breaking boundaries, opening industries, inspiring those around you (friends, communities) a NATION. It also speaks to moving forward, regardless! And being honest about it. Refilwe was the perfect person to join the other brand ambassadors as she is the true definition of keep walking.

Her passion for flying is contagious, and it's that which has driven her to keep walking and working on her dream of developing South Africa's next generation of female aviation experts and Africa's future leaders in science.

RECOGNITION

Username Investments CEO to receive prestigious African Business Personality Award

NAIROBI

Reuben Kimani, CEO, Username Investment Limited is the 2019 recipient of the African Business Personality Award at the Voice Achievers Award. The prestigious award seeks to recognize outstanding men and women who have made substantial contributions towards the advancement of Africa and its people.

The award is on its 10th anniversary and for the first time, it will be hosted in Nairobi. The winners are Africans and friends of Africa, who in pursuit of their businesses and services to humanity have distinguished themselves in various fields of human endeavour across Africa.

The other renowned awardees alongside Reuben include; Her Excellency, Mrs. Isaura Nyusi, First Lady of the

Republic of Mozambique, Dr. Kizza Besigye, Prof. PLO Lumumba, Hon Ababu Terrah Namwamba, Hon Esther Passaris, Lady Justice Joyce Aluoch (rtd), Arch Bishop Arthur Kitonga, Dr. Kennedy Wainangu, Hon. Patriciah Mutheu Musyimi, Raphael Obonyo among others. The names of the awardees have been published on the Magazines website.

In a letter dated 6th June, addressed to Username Investments CEO, The Voice African News Magazine noted that; It was a unanimous choice because of Reuben's un-paralleled contribution as a businessman of repute, manager of people and giver to worthy causes within Kenya where he has positively impacted the lives of citizenry through creating employment during this scare period of jobs in the country.

INTERVIEW

Theresia Sudi, high-flying Tanzanian Emirates cabin crew member, speaks

In this interview, Emirate Airlines Tanzanian cabin crew member Theresia Sudi (pictured) talks about her 11 year ordeal at one of the world's largest airlines, excerpts:

For many who travel by air, it is a common assumption that being a cabin crew member is easy. Can you clarify what it takes to work as cabin crew?

At Emirates, the main characteristics they look for is professionalism, empathy, progressive nature, one who has vision and is cosmopolitan. Additionally, before we start flying, we go through an immersive six weeks training at the Emirates Training College in Dubai. Once we start flying, we are mainly responsible of our passengers' requirements, comfort and overall safety on board.

Apart from serving delicious meals on board we are mainly for the safety of everyone onboard including the aircraft itself. Before anyone boards the aircraft we will ensure that the aircraft is safe to fly by conducting security search to all areas of the aircraft and safety checks for all the equipments that will be needed in case of emergency. We are also first aid responders onboard. The training we receive make us competent to deal with any medical situation that will arise during the flight weather it is mild or severe. We can deal with very delicate and extreme situations like birth on board or death on board.

What are the challenges of being an Emirates cabin crew member?

It's not a simple job being a cabin crew especially when you are constantly meeting people from different background and cultures. Travelling to different countries and experience different time zones can make our job a bit challenging.

Cabin crew members need to carefully manage their rest time according to departure time of the next flight. Very often we need to sleep in the morning or afternoon to accommodate a flight that departs during afternoon or at night. Despite all the challenges we love our job dearly. We have a bonus opportunity to travel to many cities around the world and learn different cultures.

How long have you been working with Emirates?

I have been working with Emirates for approximately 11 years and still enjoying travelling and exploring different parts of the world.

What is your experience working for a company like Emirates?

The experience is unexplainable. Emirates Airlines is a very cosmopolitan company with more than 120 different cultures, 150 destinations in 80 countries across six continents. To work with such diverse cultures is not always easy, one has to have a better understanding of various cultures and beliefs.



Emirates has groomed me to handle various situations with professionalism and diplomacy. I have learnt differ-

ent ways of communications and it is not always my way but rather our ways because everything that we do, we do

it in a respective manner by considering our differences. From body language, tone of voice, accents, ambiguity

and many more, we embrace diversity.

Do you meet a lot of fellow Tanzanians who are cabin crew as well?

Yes I do meet them once in a while despite our busy schedule which and travelling itinerary which takes us to different locations globally, we still find time to be together on our days offs and sometimes I get to fly with them aboard the same flight.

What has been your most memorable destination since joining Emirates?

After travelling the world for 11 years it is very hard for me to choose the most memorable destination because everywhere that I have been to, has its uniqueness in terms of attractions and features. I have been to more than 70 countries with more than 130 destinations but I can say I was extremely fascinated the first day I went to New Zealand. This destination is the furthest point I have been to in the world. I couldn't imagine a country as far as New Zealand could be accessible with just one direct flight but now we are flying there nonstop from Dubai. It is the longest flight in the network with 17 flying hours.

How often do you visit your family and friends in Tanzania?

The biggest advantage of being a cabin crew member is that you can visit your country as many times as possible and I am using that opportunity very well. I am happy I can see my family and friends in Tanzania at least two to three times every month.

ENGAGING

One-track mind: How my Fitbit took over my life

By Selina Denman, DUBAI

Last night, I slept for six hours and 10 minutes, although only 30 of those minutes were spent in deep sleep. A sizeable 47 were spent awake. So far today, I have clocked up 4,652 steps, consumed 987 calories (29 per cent of which were in protein form) and my resting heart rate is averaging around 72 beats per minute. I have also received various semi-patronising messages on my phone and wrist, encouraging me to “take a stroll”, “log my breakfast” and “remember my goals.”

Exactly how many minutes I have spent logging, checking and tracking all these details in recent months is a whole other question. I have, like many others before me, become a slave to my Fitbit. Not to mention my calorie-counting app. And the My Zone exercise tracker. I am essentially distilling my everyday existence into a series of numbers.

I initially invested in a Fitbit because I thought it would be good to

know how many steps I was taking every day. As a largely sedentary office worker and long-time commuter, I thought it would be the perfect motivator to get me moving more. As it turns out, I was OK on the step front, getting close enough to the 10,000 mark most days.

The big shock was how little sleep I was getting. In my head, I was on a solid seven to eight hours of high-quality slumber most nights. But the Fitbit told a different tale. In truth, I average between five and six hours of sleep most nights, and the majority of that falls into the “light” category. And while I have always had a pretty good idea of what foods are considered healthy and nutritious, my calorie-counting app has encouraged me to be more mindful about portion size and more balanced in my approach to various food groups.

But our slightly obsessive culture of “tracking” can yield both positive and negative results. The myriad devices and apps that we use to measure the minutiae of our everyday existence offer up a stark, unapologetic, unflinching view of



Fitness trackers can yield positive results when it comes to our health, but they can also be time-consuming, disheartening and encourage OCD tendencies.

our daily habits. For many people, it's the wake-up call required to introduce change. Others respond to the fact that it's a results-orientated way to take control of their health.

However (and I can attest to this), the health-tracking process can also be time-consuming, disheartening

and encourage OCD tendencies. Many studies suggest that it is unsustainable in the long term - people either get bored or, having been confronted by their repeated failure to clock up 10,000 steps or eat fewer than 1,500 calories or whatever other goal de jour, are too disheartened to continue.

At the Cheltenham Science Festival this month, neurologist Dr Guy Leschziner maintained that sleep-tracking apps can actually be counter-intuitive to getting a good night's sleep. “We've seen a lot of people who have developed significant insomnia as a result of either sleep trackers or reading certain things about how devastating sleep deprivation is for you,” he said.

He also said that the latest compulsion to analyse our sleeping habits is part of a wider movement to “metricise our lives”. The problem with this is that we are trying to apply hard and fast logic to something that is immensely complicated. Health isn't simple maths. Health is the result of an endlessly complicated array of factors - and to imagine that the little rubberised gadget on your wrist can offer up all the answers can lead to gross assumptions

and oversimplifications.

There's also the danger that these technological aids drown out genuine self-reflection and systemic behavioural change. Did you take that walk this morning because you were genuinely trying to do something positive for your health, as part of a wider, long-term effort to overhaul your lifestyle, or because you wanted to up today's step count?

Instinct has held us in good stead for millennia - and maybe these apps are making us forget to listen to our bodies. After all, how you are feeling is more important than how you are tracking. That number says nothing about whether a certain type of food makes you feel groggy or energised. It cannot measure the elation you feel after completing a particularly gruelling workout, or the satisfaction of filling yourself with a meal that is both tasty and healthy.

Your body will tell you that it prefers moving to sitting; it will tell you that it operates better after a good night's sleep; that you need a glass of water rather than a snack; or a snooze instead of a Starbucks coffee.

And the holy grail of 10,000 steps is an arbitrary number, after all - it is believed to have originated in Japan, as part of a marketing campaign to promote a pedometer called the Manpo-kei, which literally translates as “10,000 steps meter”. You may have completed those steps, and been rewarded by a shower of fireworks on your Fitbit monitor, but were they a slow and sauntering 10,000 steps or 10,000 steps completed with purpose?

I will be trying to remind myself that tracking should be viewed more as a catalyst to encourage a change in behaviour, rather than the be all and end all when it comes to our every move.

ON RECORD

Ninja, the world's most popular gamer, writing book to teach gaming secrets

NEW YORK

The world's most popular video game streamer will soon be a published author, thanks to a three-book deal from Penguin Random House. Tyler “Ninja” Blevins has become a global superstar in the past year after building a reputation as one of the best “Fortnite” players in the world.

Ninja boasts more than 22 million subscribers on YouTube, along with 14 million followers on both Instagram and Twitch, Amazon's video game streaming service. He saw his popularity skyrocket after playing “Fortnite” with Drake last year, and was named one of Time's 100 Most Influential People of 2018.

Now Blevins is sharing some of his gaming expertise in a new book called “Ninja: Get Good, My Ultimate Guide to Gaming.” The book is designed for players ages 10 and up, and covers a wide range of topics. Readers can expect to learn how to build a gaming PC, how to practice and improve in their favorite games, how to build a competitive

team, and how to form an online community.

“Ninja: Get Good” will be released on August 20, alongside “Ninja's Notebook,” a journal with stickers, writing prompts, and blank pages for players to document their foray into the world of competitive gaming.

Ninja will also co-author and star in a graphic novel called “Ninja: The Most Dangerous Game.” In the story written for young adults, Ninja is trapped in a new video game and must find a way to survive and make his way home. The book is being co-authored by Justin Jordan, who has worked on DC's “Green Lantern” franchise and helped create “The Strange Talent of Luther Strode,” artist Felipe Magaña will provide illustrations. “Ninja: The Most Dangerous Game” is due out on December 3rd.

In a recent interview with “Los Angeles Times,” Ninja said he wants to be known for more than just “Fortnite,” and his new book deal could be an important step in expanding his repertoire.



SUNDAY 16 June

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Watoto Wetu
10:00 Isidingo
11:45 Albu Yako
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt
12:50 Bongo Movie rpt: Mahabusu
14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
15:00 Mwangaza
16:00 Korean drama: The great queen Seonduk
16:45 Mjue zaidi
17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Mizengwe rpt
18:45 Matukio ya wiki
19:30 Igizo: Mtego
20:00 Habari
21:05 Mizengwe
21:00 Bongo Movie: Mahabusu 2
22:00 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino)

MONDAY 17 June

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 Habari
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Igizo: Elininyo
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Kimya Milele
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Jungu kuu rpt
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Mjue Zaidi
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Telenovela: Destiny (Destino)
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza Huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:10 Aibu yako rpt
18:15 Mapishi rpt
18:30 Kesho Leo
19:00 Afya ya Jamii
19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari
21:05 Insta Bet
21:15 Dakika 45
22:10 Series: Iris
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera
02:00 CNN International

TUESDAY 18 June

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 Habari
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
9:55 Habari za saa

10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Shamsam za pwani
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Shamsam za pwani
11:25 Igizo: Mtego
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Afya ya jamii rpt
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Uchumi na biashara
13:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt : TFDA
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Series rpt: Iris
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza Huru
16:30 Watoto wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 The great queen Seonduk
19:00 Jarida la wanawake
19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari
21:00 Tanzania yetu
21:30 Kipindi Maalum: Miaka 50 ya Total
21:45 Chetu ni chetu
22:15 Telenovela: Destiny (Destino)
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 CNN International

WEDNESDAY 19 June

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Korean: The Great queen Seonduk
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Korean: The Great queenSeonduk
11:15 Jagina
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt
13:00 Dakika 45
14:00 Series rpt
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mizengwe rpt
18:30 Ijue Sheria
19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TFDA
19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari
21:00 Aibu Yako! Hata wewe?
21:10 Kipindi Maalum : Tanesco
21:40 Ripoti Maalum
22:15 Series: Iris
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera
2:00 CNN International

THURSDAY 20 June

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Mjue Zaidi rpt
11:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:30 Usafiri wako

9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Igizo: Kivuko
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Igizo: Kivuko
11:15 Ripoti Maalum rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Ijue Sheria
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Sanaa na wasanii
13:30 Tanzania yetu
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Series rpt: Iris
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza Huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Jagina
19:00 Usafiri wako
19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari
21:00 Malumbano ya hoja
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 CNN International

FRIDAY 21 June

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo
11:30 Usafiri wako
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Jagina rpt
13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt
14:15 Series rpt: Iris
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto wetu
17:00 The Base
17:30 Ibadu ya kiislamu
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe
18:30 Shamba lulu
19:00 Uchumi na biashara
19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipima joto
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 CNN International

SATURDAY 22 June

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Mjue Zaidi rpt
11:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:30 Usafiri wako

12:00 Mapishi
12:30 Series rpt: Iris
14:45 Igizo rpt: Kivuko
15:15 Igizo rpt: Elininyo
15:45 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
16:00 Igizo rpt: Kimya Milele
16:30 Igizo: Mtego rpt
17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Igizo: Ahadi
19:00 Sanaa na wasanii
19:30 Jungu Kuu
20:00 Habari
21:00 Kipindi maalum: Insta Moja
21:10 Igizo: Kimya Milele
21:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo
22:00 Isidingo rpt
01:00 CNN International

SUNDAY 23 June

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Watoto Wetu
10:00 Isidingo
11:45 Aibu Yako
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt
12:50 Bongo Movie rpt: Mahabusu 2
14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
15:00 Mwangaza
16:00 Korean drama: The great queen Seonduk
16:45 Mjue zaidi
17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Mizengwe rpt
18:45 Matukio ya wiki
19:30 Igizo: Mtego
20:00 Habari
21:05 Mizengwe
21:00 Bongo Movie: Mkwewe
22:00 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino)

THURS 20 June

06:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 CNN International News
09:00 Al Jazeera
10:00 Kumekucha
10:30 Kumekucha Michezo
11:30 Kumekucha Kishindo
12:00 Sports Gazette
12:30 Out n' about rpt
13:00 Series rpt: Stars & Scars
13:45 Series rpt: The land of wind
14:30 Business Edition rpt
15:00 Korean Drama rpt: Emperor of the sea
16:00 Dakika 45 rpt
17:00 In good shape
17:30 Meza Huru
19:00 Turning the spotlight
19:30 Tanzania yetu
20:00 Series: Stars & Scars
20:45 Series: The land of wind
21:30 Capital Prime News
22:00 Capchat rpt

Al Jazeera

06:00 Al Jazeera
08:00 CNN International News
09:00 Al Jazeera
10:00 Kumekucha
10:30 Kumekucha Michezo
11:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
12:00 Innovation rpt
12:30 The Decor rpt
13:00 Series rpt: Stars & Scars
13:45 Series rpt: The land of wind
14:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt
15:00 Korean Dram rpt: Emperor of the sea
16:00 CNN International
16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt
17:30 Meza Huru
19:00 Drive it
19:30 Eco@Africa
20:00 Aibu yako
20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition
20:45 Series: The land of wind
21:30 Capital Prime News
22:00 Malumbano ya hoja rpt
00:00 Al Jazeera

Sat 22 June

08:00 CNN International
09:00 Drive It rpt
09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt
10:00 Culinary delight rpt
10:30 Innovation rpt
11:00 Out n' about rpt
11:30 Sports Gazette rpt
12:00 Usafiri wako rpt
12:30 Eco@Africa rpt
13:00 Business edition rpt
13:30 Korean Drama rpt: Emperor of the sea
14:30 Telenovela rpt: The land of wind
17:15 Tanzania Yetu rpt
17:45 Bundesliga kick off
18:15 Capchat rpt
19:15 Mizengwe
19:30 The Decor
20:00 Iron Chef.
21:00 Out n' About
21:30 Movie: Time bomb
23:00 Stars & Scars rpt
01:00 Al Jazeera

Sun 23 June

08:00 CNN International
09:00 In good shape
10:00 Capchat rpt
11:00 Sports Gazette rpt
11:30 Iron chef rpt
12:00 Jagina rpt
12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt
13:00 Shamba lulu
13:30 Series rpt: Stars & scars
15:15 Aibu yako
15:30 Drive it rpt
16:00 Dakika 45 rpt
16:45 Mizengwe rpt
17:00 The Decor rpt
17:30 Meza huru
19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt
19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights
20:00 Korean Drama rpt: Emperor of the sea
21:00 Shift
21:15 Capchat live
22:15 Series rpt: The land of wind
00:00 Al Jazeera



At his peak, Tyler “Ninja” Blevins has made as much as \$500,000 playing video games.

TYCOONS

Forbes needed to expand their self-made list because more women are amassing fortunes

NEW YORK

New women are populating the Forbes' rich lists, and we're here for it. The most recent Forbes' latest rich lists already have people talking, and what appears to be piquing the interest of the masses are the newcomers on the list. Forbes says they expanded this list to a third more than last year's list.

According to Forbes, “women are creating more new businesses and amassing fortunes than ever before.” Two prime examples of this are Serena Williams and Rihanna.

Serena Williams is the latest entrant into Forbes' List of America's Richest Self-Made Women list, and as a result, is featured on the cover. Serena's fortune has come through a number of streams - one of which is her tennis prize money. Forbes notes that it

amounts to \$89 million over her 24-year professional career.

Kylie Jenner has been named the youngest self-made billionaire of all time by Forbes magazine, thanks to the booming cosmetics company she founded three years ago.

While Serena is still playing tennis, she has also recently revealed her business ventures. Serena branched into fashion with S by Serena in 2018, and what she only recently started speaking openly about is her company, Serena Ventures.

In an interview with Business of Fashion, Serena says she started her investments back in 2014, saying she focuses her investments on companies founded by women and people of colour, which is where 60% of the investments have gone, according to Forbes.

WORLD

President Trump warned Tehran a US attack was imminent, called for talks

DUBAI

IRANIAN officials told Reuters yesterday that Tehran had received a message from U.S. President Donald Trump warning that a U.S. attack on Iran was imminent but saying he was against war and wanted talks on a range of issues.

News of the message, delivered through Oman overnight, came shortly after the New York Times said Trump had approved military strikes against Iran on Friday over the downing of a U.S. surveillance drone, but called them off at the last minute.

"In his message, Trump said he was against any war with Iran and wanted to talk to Tehran about various issues," one of the officials told Reuters, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"He gave a short period of time to get our response but Iran's immediate response was that it is up to Supreme Leader (Ayatollah Ali) Khamenei to decide about this issue," the source said. A second Iranian official said: "We made it clear that the leader is against any talks, but the message will be conveyed to him to make a decision."

"However, we told the Omani official that any attack against Iran will

have regional and international consequences," the official said.

After weeks of rising tension following a spate of attacks on oil tankers in the Gulf region, Iran said on Thursday it had shot down an unmanned U.S. military surveillance drone with a surface-to-air missile.

Trump indicated after the drone's downing that he was not eager to escalate a stand-off with Iran over its nuclear and ballistic missile activities and support for proxies in various Middle East conflicts.

He said the unmanned drone may have been shot down in error by someone who was acting "loose and stupid", though adding: "This country will not stand for it."

The incident aggravated global fears of direct military confrontation between the longtime adversaries.

STOKING TENSIONS

The New York Times quoted a senior administration official as saying U.S. warplanes took to the air and ships were put in position for a retaliatory attack, only for an order to come to stand down without any weapons being fired.

Targets had included Iranian radar



US President Donald Trump

and missile batteries, the paper cited senior administration officials involved in, or briefed on, the deliberations, as saying.

The strikes were set for early in the day to minimize risk to the Iranian military or to civilians, the Times added. It was unclear if attacks on Iran might go ahead later, it said.

Russia accused the United States of deliberately stoking dangerous tensions around Iran and pushing the situation to the brink of war.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov called on Washington to weigh the possible consequences of conflict and said the Times report showed the situation was extremely dangerous.

Some global airlines re-routed flights to avoid Iran-controlled airspace over the Strait of Hormuz and Gulf of Oman after the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration barred U.S. carriers from the area until further notice.

Tensions with Iran have increased since Trump's withdrawal last year from a 2015 nuclear accord with Iran that he denounced as flawed to Tehran's advantage.

Washington then imposed fresh sanctions to throttle Iran's vital oil trade and Iran retaliated earlier this week by threatening to breach limits on its uranium enrichment set by the nuclear deal with six world powers.

The sanctions have choked Iran's economy,

scuttling its oil exports and barring it from the dollar-dominated global finance system, dimming the promise of a trade bonanza for Tehran for having curbed its nuclear capabilities under U.N. monitoring.

IRAN FIRES BACK

Iran said it shot down the unarmed Global Hawk surveillance drone while it was spying over part of its coastal territory. Washington said it was shot down over international airspace in the Strait of Hormuz. Independent confirmation of the drone's location when it was brought down was not immediately available.

The drone's destruction exacerbated tensions in the Gulf, a critical artery for global oil supplies where six oil tankers have been damaged by explosions in the past six weeks.

The Islamic Republic has rejected U.S. allegations it was behind the tanker attacks, but global jitters about a new Middle East conflagration disrupting oil exports have triggered a jump in crude prices.

"The U.S. wants the current Iranian regime to come to the negotiating table and to stop their support for terrorism, pursuit of ballistic missiles, nuclear program cover-ups and human rights abuses," tweeted U.S. Ambassador to Germany Richard Grenell. "Our European partners share these goals."

European powers - fellow signatories of the nuclear deal with Iran say more evidence is needed to pinpoint responsibility for the tanker strikes.

They have sought to keep the nuclear deal alive despite the U.S. pullout, but Tehran has told them and other world powers who signed the accord that they must rein in Trump's aggressive stance toward Iran or it too will bow out of the deal.

Saudi Arabia, Washington's main Gulf ally and the world's No. 1 oil exporter, said Iran's aggressive behavior had created a grave situation and the kingdom was consulting other Gulf Arab states on next steps.

Iranian Defence Minister Amir Hatami told Iran's Labour News Agency on Friday Washington was trying to set the world against Tehran: "It seems that all of this is in line with an overall policy for creating Iran phobia and creating a consensus against the Islamic Republic."

Agencies



Jeremy Hunt (L), and Boris Johnson

Boris Johnson, Jeremy Hunt in runoff for UK prime minister

LONDON

BRITAIN'S next prime minister will be a man in his 50s who went to Oxford University - either Boris Johnson or Jeremy Hunt, the two finalists selected Thursday in a race to lead the governing Conservative Party.

Johnson, a flamboyant former foreign secretary and ex-mayor of London, topped a ballot of 313 Conservative lawmakers with 160 votes and is runaway favorite to become the party's next leader. He has led in all five voting rounds of a contest that began last week with 10 contenders.

Hunt, Britain's current foreign secretary, came a distant second with 77 votes and will join Johnson in a runoff decided by 160,000 party members across Britain.

Johnson tweeted that he was honored to have gotten more than half the votes cast by party lawmakers. He said "I look forward to getting out across the UK and to set out my plan to deliver Brexit, unite our country, and create a brighter future for all of us."

Hunt said on Twitter that he knew he was the underdog "but in politics surprises happen."

The winner of the runoff, due to be announced the week of July 22, will become the new Conservative leader and the country's next prime minister, replacing Theresa May.

Hunt edged out Environment Secretary Michael Gove, who got 75 votes, after Home Secretary Sajid Javid was eliminated earlier Thursday.

The result spares Johnson a showdown with Gove, his former ally-turned-archrival. The two men jointly led the "leave" campaign in Britain's 2016 EU membership referendum, but Gove scuttled Johnson's subsequent bid to become prime minister by deciding to run for the job himself, in a race ultimately won by May.

This time around, many in the party doubt that anyone can beat 55-year-old Johnson, a quick-witted, Latin-spouting extrovert admired for his ability to connect with voters, but mistrusted for his erratic performance in high office and his long record of inaccurate, misleading and sometimes offensive comments. "Boris will say absolutely anything in order to please an audience," historian Max Hastings told the BBC on Thursday. "Boris would have told the passengers on the Titanic that rescue was imminent."

Hunt, who has been culture secretary and health secretary, is considered an experienced, competent minister, but unexciting. The 52-year-old politician bills himself as the "serious" candidate, in an implicit contrast to Johnson. He will try to halt Johnson's momentum by picking away at his rival's plans for Brexit as the two speak to party members at meetings across the country over the next few weeks.

Agencies

S. African president vows to have stolen public money returned

CAPE TOWN

THE South African government will do what it can to ensure that all the stolen public money be returned, President Cyril Ramaphosa said on Thursday night.

"We need to ensure that public money stolen is returned and used to deliver services and much needed basic infrastructure to the poorest communities," Ramaphosa said while delivering his State of the Nation Address (SONA) in Parliament.

The new Special Tribunal under the Special Investigative Unit (SIU) will start its work within the next few months to fast track civil claims arising from SIU investi-

gations, which are currently estimated to be around 14.7 billion rand (about one billion U.S. dollars), according to the president.

"We have asked the National Director of Public Prosecutions to develop a plan to significantly increase the capacity and effectiveness of the NPA (National Prosecution Authority), including to ensure effective asset forfeiture," Ramaphosa (pictured) said.

The decisive steps the government has taken to end state capture and fight corruption, including measures to strengthen the NPA, SIU and other law enforcement agencies, are achieving important results, he said.

But there is still much more



work to do, Ramaphosa noted.

"We will build on the work we have already begun to address problems of poor governance,

inefficiency and financial sustainability," said Ramaphosa.

He affirmed his commitment to building an ethical state in which there is no place for corruption, patronage, rent-seeking and plundering of public money.

"We want a corps of skilled and professional public servants of the highest moral standards and dedicated to the public good," the president said.

He assured that his government will create an enabling environment, use public resources wisely and invest in developing the country's human potential.

"We would like business to consider the country's national strategic objectives and social con-

siderations in their decisions and actions.

"We agree that labor should advance the interests of workers while, at the same time, promoting the sustainability of businesses and the creation of jobs," said Ramaphosa.

Civil society needs to continue to play its role in holding government to account but must also join us in practical actions to attain our common goals, he said.

"We look to the parties in this Parliament to be a vital part of this partnership, lending support, insights and effort to promoting the national interest," said Ramaphosa.

Xinhua

Chinese, US negotiators to pave way for meeting at G20

SENIOR officials from China and the United States will communicate in preparation for the meeting between their heads of state in Osaka, Japan, during the G20 Summit next week, the Ministry of Commerce said on Thursday.

China hopes that the US will create the "necessary conditions and atmosphere" for evenhanded dialogue, ministry spokesman Gao Feng said. The US should listen to its industries, call off its "wrong practices" and solve problems through consultation and cooperation, he said.

On Tuesday, President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump spoke by telephone and agreed to meet at the G20 Summit next week. News of the planned meeting raised

hopes for a possible breakthrough in the stalled trade talks between the two countries.

As the world's two largest economies, the US and China have complementary economic structures and very close ties, and there is a huge intersection of interests between the two sides, Gao said.

He stressed that China believes the two countries will be able to find a proper solution to their problems through dialogue as equals and due consideration of legitimate concerns.

Gao added that China firmly opposes unilateral imposition of tariffs and trade bullying amid trade differences and will take necessary countermeasures.

"We hope that the US will put an



early end to the wrong practices and avoid further losses to businesses and consumers on both sides, especially with a recessionary impact on the world economy," he said. Huang Qifan, vice-chairman of the China Center for International Economic Exchanges, said it is US importers who bear over 95 per-

cent of the costs caused by the US government's additional tariffs on Chinese goods.

The US government threatened to place and increase tariffs on about US\$500 billion worth of Chinese imports, but 60 percent of them are actually products manufactured by the US companies in China. Hefty tariffs will harm the interests of US firms operating in China, Huang said.

Major US tech businesses are often closely interconnected with the Chinese market, he said. So the US government's tightened restrictions on Chinese firms, like telecommunication giant Huawei, undoubtedly do no good for US companies, he added.

A trade war between China and

the US should be avoided as it is dangerous for both countries and the rest of the world, said Chen Dongqi, an economist at the National Development and Reform Commission's Academy of Macroeconomic Research.

"Amid the trade tension, there are important hidden opportunities that are conducive to China's self-reliance and high-quality development," Chen said.

For instance, in response to the US government restrictions, Chinese companies are more likely to speed up commercial use of domestically developed technologies and invest more in research and development to break key bottlenecks and develop core technologies, he said.

Xinhua

US law-of-the-jungle mentality won't work in the era of globalisation

By Wu Yuehe

SOME U.S. officials are really "good" at impeding the development of Chinese enterprises, and Senator Marco Rubio who went restless these days is one of them.

The Senator filed legislation on Monday that would prevent China's Huawei from claiming patent fees in U.S. patent courts. It sparked huge criticism on social media, triggering widespread condemnation from across the world.

Even U.S. netizens couldn't believe that this man who undermines the U.S. patent system is actually a senator.

Ranked as the 7th most conservative among the 100 senators in U.S. congress in 2017 by American Conservative Union, Rubio has supported quite a lot of things that were widely opposed by the international community, including endorsing the U.S. withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and the strict sanctions on Iran.

Besides, he also holds a conservative attitude on climate change, and encourages U.S. government to meddle in domestic affairs of Venezuela.

Rubio, who spares no effort on anti-China actions, has been trumpeting that

imposing additional tariffs on Chinese imports will be "good" to the U.S., and even fabricated an absurd argument that "surrender to China would damage America long term."

What Rubio did has been reflected in most of the motions against China proposed by the U.S. Congress in recent years. He even challenged China's national sovereignty, such as attacking El Salvador's decision to establish diplomatic relations with China and teaming up with Republican Senator Cory Gardner to propose an amendment to restrict U.S. funding to El Salvador.

With strong ideological prejudices, the "Rubios" observe the world with biased attitudes and see only strategic competitors. Based on double standards, these people create evil ideas about how to stifle and suppress others. Yet inside they are intimidated by Chinese enterprises, and that's why they regard a private Chinese company as a "threat" to the big power of the U.S.

Driving Huawei out of the U.S. market is "10 times more important than a trade deal with China." The remark of Steve Bannon, who is referred to as a living fossil of Cold War by U.S. media and calls on the

U.S. to "restrict access to capital market to Chinese companies", have exposed the true intention of these people. Such provocative statements have fully revealed the nature of these US politicians.

Huawei's recent demand for patent fees from the U.S. company is totally reasonable and rule-based market behavior. After all, there must be justice in the world. Huawei cannot just provide large number of its patents in core network technologies, wireless communication infrastructure and IoT technologies to the U.S. for free.

Some Americans are obsessed with robbery. Even though they are reiterating

intellectual property right protection, all they want is to take advantage of others. In front of private interests, these sanctimonious politicians have already thrown away their pretended image of an advocate for democracy and rule of law.

Unfortunately, the global industrial chain is at a mess. Due to the pressure from some American officials, Huawei has to lower its revenue expectations, which leads to indirect impact on some U.S. companies including Micron, Qualcomm, Qorvo, Skyworks, and Western Digital.

People's Daily

Xi highlights support for DPRK, cooperation

By An Baijie

CHINA would like to offer as much help as possible to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to address its legitimate security and development concerns, President Xi Jinping said on Thursday.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remark while meeting with Kim Jong-un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK, during his two-day state visit to the country.

Xi received a grand and warm welcome, with more than 250,000 DPRK people turning out to greet him. The visit, Xi's first as general secretary and head of state, and also the first of its kind in 14 years, comes as the two neighboring countries are celebrating the 70th anniversary of their diplomatic ties.

China would like to enhance coordination and cooperation with all relevant parties including the DPRK to play a positive and constructive role in promoting the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the peace of the region, Xi said.

Noting that the peninsula issue is highly complicated and sensitive, Xi underlined the need to examine the development of the peninsula situation from a strategic, long-term view and maintain peace and stability on the peninsula.

Xi spoke positively of the DPRK's efforts to maintain stability on the peninsula and promote the region's denuclearization, and said that the international community hopes that Pyongyang and Washington continue with their talks and come to terms.

Kim said that over the past 12 months, the DPRK has taken many positive measures to prevent tensions from rising and handled the situation of the peninsula. However, these efforts did



A grand welcome ceremony is held by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) side for General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Sunan International Airport in Pyongyang, DPRK, on Thursday. (Xinhua)

not receive a positive response from the relevant parties.

The DPRK is ready to remain patient and, at the same time, relevant parties should meet the DPRK halfway in seeking solutions that answer the legitimate concerns of all sides, Kim said.

The DPRK spoke highly of China's significant role in the process of addressing the peninsula issue, Kim said, adding that the DPRK would like to enhance communication and coordination with China to promote a political resolution of the peninsula issue.

During the talks, Xi and Kim agreed that the two countries should remain true to their original aspirations, join hands in moving forward and create a better future for the two parties and the two countries.

Xi pointed out that he had held four meetings with Kim since last year, dur-

ing which the two leaders wrote new chapters in China-DPRK relations and forged a deep friendship.

Xi expressed gratitude for the grand and warm welcoming ceremony hosted by Kim, saying that he could feel the deep feelings between the two countries everywhere, from his landing at the airport until his arrival at where he will stay.

The visit is aimed at deepening the China-DPRK friendship and promoting a political resolution of the Korean Peninsula issue, Xi said. He added that the two sides will take the opportunity of the visit to draw a blueprint for a bright future for China-DPRK relations.

China strongly believes that the China-DPRK friendship meets the will and fundamental interests of the people of both countries and corresponds

to the trend of the time, Xi said, adding that it is also a strategic choice made by the two sides that cannot be changed no matter how the international situation changes.

As China-DPRK ties have entered a new historical period, Xi said that China attaches great importance to friendly and cooperative ties with the DPRK.

It is always the firm policy of the Party and government of China to maintain, strengthen and develop China-DPRK relations, he said.

Xi called on the two countries to enhance high-level exchanges to guide the development of bilateral ties amid complicated changes in global and regional situations.

The two sides should enhance strategic communications and exchange views on major issues in a timely man-

ner to build a good environment for the development of bilateral ties, Xi said, and the two countries should expand practical cooperation to bring more benefits to the people of both sides.

In their talks, Xi also stressed the importance of deepening mutual learning on the experience of governance, enhancing training of each other's officials and boosting exchanges in such areas as education, health, sports, media, youth and local government.

On behalf of the Workers' Party of Korea, the government and the people of the DPRK, Kim expressed a warm welcome to Xi, saying that the general secretary's visit, amid his tight schedule, is a great encouragement and shows political support for his party, government and people.

The visit is helpful for the two countries to recall the 70-year process of DPRK-China relations, map out the future for bilateral ties and demonstrate the unshakable traditional friendship between the two countries, Kim said.

Noting that he completely agreed with Xi's analysis and plan regarding DPRK-China relations, Kim said that it's the firm stance of his party and the government of the DPRK to inherit and promote the friendship with China from generation to generation.

Kim said that he cherishes the deep friendship with Xi and attaches great importance to the consensus reached by the two leaders.

The DPRK would like to take the visit as an opportunity to promote strategic communication with China, deepen exchanges in all areas and promote bilateral ties to a higher level, Kim said. The DPRK would like to learn from China's experience and dedicate itself to developing the economy and improving people's livelihoods, he said.

Xi and his wife, Peng Liyuan, were greeted by Kim and his wife, Ri Sol-ju, at Pyongyang Sunan International Airport upon their arrival. **Xinhua**

No one in S. Africa will go hungry in next 10 years - president

CAPE TOWN

NO one in South Africa will go hungry within the next decade, the country's president Cyril Ramaphosa promised on Thursday.

The promise is "fundamental" for the newly elected administration to "eradicate poverty and reduce inequality," the president said in his first State of the Nation Address since his party won the national election on May 11.

To achieve the goal, the country must improve its social wage, reduce the cost of living, and create employment and other economic opportunities, said Ramaphosa.

The wealth gap in South Africa is one of the largest in the world, with less than 10 percent of the population having more than 80 percent of the country's total wealth.

To address the issue of the working poor, the country has implemented a National Minimum Wage (NMW) at 3,500 rand (about 243 U.S. dollars) per month or 20 rand an hour (about 1.4 dollars) since Jan. 1 this year.

Ramaphosa said that early indications are that many companies are complying, and a commission is expected to find out the impacts of the NMW on employment, poverty, inequality and wage differentials by September.

The president also detailed his administration's housing, education and public health goals, among other things. "In the next five years, the government will accelerate the provision of well-located housing and land to poor South Africans," he said.

It aims to provide more skill-training and economic opportunities for the disabled population as part of the ways to alleviate poverty across the society, and to address the issue of around half a million disabled children who were out of school. **Xinhua**

Palestinian Authority faces worst financial crisis amid tension with Israel

RAMALLAH

PALESTINIAN officials warn that the financial situation of the Palestinian Authority (PA) is facing the risk of collapse due to the crisis of tax revenues with Israel and the decline of donor countries.

The financial crisis now is the most serious in PA's history, especially as it pushed PA's financial debts to the amount of 3 billion U.S. dollars.

This comes in light of the unprecedented contraction of the Palestinian economy, as well as the economic deterioration due to the decline of international projects and the suspension of projects funded by the United States of America.

The PA has been facing a severe financial crisis since Israel's decision to deduct funds from Palestinian tax revenues, on the pretext that the PA pays financial dues to the families of killed Palestinians and prisoners in Israeli jails.

Originally, Israel deducted 3 percent of the total tax worth over 1 billion dollars a year. In February, Israel began to deduct about 10 million dollars in tax revenues collected for the PA.

The PA has refused to receive any amount of tax revenues from Israel, and has so far maintained its position that the funds must be transferred in full amount.

The Palestinian government was forced to borrow from local



banks to continue paying 50 percent of the public servants' salaries, while the total salary bill was more than 200 million dollars per month.

The head of Palestinian monetary authority Azzam Shawwa (pictured) said that the Palestinian banking system is strong and safe and is still able to deal with the Palestinian financial crisis.

However, in statements made to the official Palestinian news agency Wafa, Shawwa called on the international community and the Arab countries to honor their commitments to the PA to overcome the financial crisis, pointing out that it is worsening day by day.

Hussein Al-Shaikh, a member of the Central Committee of Abbas' Fatah party, said that the financial siege "intensifies" on the PA under its boycott of the U.S. administration and its rejection of the initiative of "Deal of the

Century" that Washington is making peace with Israel.

Officials in the PA said that the crisis lies in the limited alternatives to fill the deficit in the budget after the cessation of U.S. aid and the decline of international aid to it, which worsen the serious consequences of the Israeli decision on tax funds.

Palestinian businessmen inside and outside the Palestinian territories have announced an initiative to grant the Palestinian government a concessional loan of 150 million dollars over the next three months.

The Palestinian businessman Munib al-Masri told Xinhua that the initiative, which involves 70 Palestinian businessmen, aimed to emphasize that the private sector is supporting the position of the Palestinian leadership, in order to meet its financial obligations.

Al-Masri explained that the

loan will be implemented by the end of August at a rate of three percent.

For his part, Palestinian government spokesman Ibrahim Melhem told Xinhua that the initiative will enable the government to pay its financial obligations, especially the payment of the salaries of public officials.

Melhem suggested more communication with the international community and the Arab countries to provide a financial safety framework for Palestine.

The economic analyst from the West Bank, Haitham Daraghme, said that since the establishment of the PA, it has relied on foreign aid and tax revenues mainly for its budget and financial obligations.

"The local revenue, which accounts for 30 percent of the Palestinian budget, has also fallen as a result of the lack of payment of government salaries which led to a weak purchasing power in the Palestinian markets and hence further decrease in revenues," Daraghme said.

Because of different positions of the Arab countries, the Palestinian government has to take more fiscal austerity steps to ease economic deterioration.

On June 23, Arab finance ministers are scheduled to hold a meeting at the headquarters of the Arab League in the Egyptian capital Cairo, on a Palestinian request to discuss the financial crisis of the PA and its risks. **Agencies**

Putin says efforts to modernise Russian economy evident this year

MOSKOV

RUSSIANS will see results of the country's national projects, which are designed to modernize the national economy and raise living standards, as early as this year, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday.

"The results should be felt now -- this year, next, and so on. This should also affect levels of income and salaries," Putin said during his annual live call-in session.

In May 2018, Putin signed a decree for a roadmap that sets targets for the national development in a wide range of spheres up to 2024, including improving economic growth and speeding up technology development.

The Russian government aims to make "the Russian Federation one of the five largest economies in the world" by 2024, with economic growth rates higher than the world average and inflation at a level not exceeding four percent, according to the decree.

Russia needs to change the structure of its economy to make it high-tech and digital and inclusive of artificial intelligence in order to expand infrastructure and raise labor productivity, Putin said.



In addition, he warned that the United States is trying to weaken the Russian economy with the way it did to China when it went on an offensive against Chinese telecom giant Huawei.

"Let us take a look at the attack on Huawei. What are its reasons? And what's its idea? It has only one goal -- to contain the development of China, which has become a global competitor of another global power, the United States," Putin said.

"The same is happening to Russia. And it will keep happening," he added.

Therefore, Russia should boost its economic capabilities to secure its position in the world, the Russian president said.

"If we want to occupy a wor-

thy place under the sun, we must become stronger, primarily in the economic sphere," Putin said.

Nevertheless, Russia has no intention to follow the example of the former Soviet Union and seek superpower status, Putin said.

"We do not strive to have this status because it implies certain elements of imposing one's influence on other states and entire regions," Putin told reporters after the end of the call-in session.

He said Russia has no desire to impose its "lifestyle, political system and so on" on its neighbors.

"They repeat the same mistakes ... and build their policies precisely in an imperial style," Putin said, referring to the United States. **Agencies**

DPRK makes new strides in economic construction

By Mang Jiuchen

KIM Jong-un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) and chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), called on all party members to concentrate all the efforts on socialist economic construction at the Third Plenary Meeting of the 7th Central Committee of the WPK. It indicated that DPRK's socialist construction has entered a new stage.

During the past year since the DPRK assumed the new strategy,

Kim frequently inspected factories, construction sites, nursing homes and power stations.

At the same time, the DPRK launched a campaign to increase production, encouraging the whole society to actively engage in economic construction and strive to overfulfill its annual production target. The campaign achieved satisfactory results.

"When we strive hard with an indefatigable spirit on the principle of self-reliance by adhering to the Party's new strategy line, our country's strength will redouble and our people's dreams and ideals will come

true," Kim said in his 2019 New Year's speech, emphasizing that the might of the independent socialist economy should be further strengthened.

At the First Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK held in April, Kim said that the major task facing the DPRK in the struggle of the present stage for building a powerful socialist country is to firmly consolidate the material foundation of socialism by concentrating all the efforts of the country on the economic construction, and the trend of present political situation demands

that the DPRK hold higher the banner of self-supporting and self-reliance.

In the streets of Pyongyang, publicity posters calling for self-reliance and self-support of the people's economy and improvement of the people's living standards are seen everywhere, showing the country's determination and will to develop its economy.

This year, the DPRK has reached important outcomes in infrastructure construction and national economic development, the Korean Central News Agency reported in May.

From January to April, the country rebuilt and repaired more than 370 kilometers of roads and over 120 bridges, constructed river dams that can hold 523,400 cubic meters of water, renovated dams that can retain 989,000 cubic meters of water, and dredged more than 760 kilometers of watercourses.

The country's power sector organized power plants to renovate production equipment, accelerate technological transformation and step up the construction of hydroelectric power stations, including Orangchon and Tanchon power stations.

In addition, Sunchon, Tokchon, and Bukchang districts stepped up efforts to secure new coal beds with rich reserves and favorable mining conditions and worked hard to increase production, in a bid to provide large amounts of coal for various sectors of the national economy.

Metallurgical plants such as the Kim Chaek iron and steel complex took dynamic efforts to improve iron-making, steel-making, and steel rolling technologies, continuously enhancing iron production.

The DPRK has also taken a series of measures to improve

the living standards of urban and rural residents.

In mid-April this year, the Taesong department store officially opened in Pyongyang after more than a year of renovation and expansion, becoming the largest integrated store in the eastern part of the city.

With a basement and five floors above the ground, the department store enables citizens to purchase a wide variety of supplies ranging from food, clothing, cosmetics, furniture and home appliances.

People's Daily



Hannah Green, of Australia, walks on the 18th green during the first round of the KPMG Women's PGA Championship golf tournament Thursday, June 20, 2019, in Chaska, Minn. (AP Photo)

Green putts her way to the lead at Women's PGA

CHASKA, MINN.

HANNAH Green of Australia got just about everything wrong in the KPMG Women's PGA Championship except what mattered: Her score.

Green didn't have wet weather gear when she teed off Thursday at Hazeltine as it started to rain – she doesn't like rain pants, anyway, because they make too much noise. On a long, tough course at Hazeltine National, she missed nine greens and never had a tap-in for par.

No matter. She took 23 putts, none on the par-5 seventh when she holed a bunker shot, and she kept bogeys off her card for a 4-under 68 for a one-shot lead over Hyo Joo Kim and Mel Reid.

"I guess I just had a lot of luck today with putts going in and getting good bounces," Green said.

Kim set small goals to help her on a big course. She wanted to hit 12 greens and take no more than 30 putts, and she accomplished both in her 69. Reid played in one of the final groups and finished strong, hitting just inside the hazard right of the 16th fairway, taking her shot over a tree and grandstand and onto the green.

Hazeltine was as tough as advertised, playing at 6,831 yards – just 244 yards short of the Pebble Beach scorecard last week at the U.S. Open.

It was long enough that Ariya Jutanugarn not only carried a driver for the first time all year, she hit it – twice.

"Made bogey" she said with a laugh after her 70.

And it was tough enough – especially with a mixture of rain, wind, a drop in temperatures, sunshine and more rain – that only 16 players broke par and 20 players shot 80 or high. One of them was Michelle Wie, who returned from two months off with an injured right wrist and matched her highest

score as a pro with an 84. She was happy to be playing golf again, which made her score feel even worse.

"I'm not entirely sure how much left I have in me," Wie said as she began to cry. "I love being out here."

Green had everything going her way except for being prepared for the elements. She opened with a 15-foot par putt. She followed with a 20-foot birdie putt on the par-5 11th, which played so long in these conditions – 557 yards – that she had 7-iron for her third shot. Most of the pars she saved were in the 6-foot range.

"I don't really think I ever had a tap-in putt for my par putts when I missed the green," she said. "I made all of them. Very happy with that." She also had her own cheering section.

Karrie Webb, Australia's most prolific major champion, has been offering scholarships to two amateurs for the last several years. They are with Webb this week, and followed Green along. They're all staying in the same house, cooking and working on a 2,000-piece puzzle they wanted to finish in time for their barbecue Saturday.

This is meaningful to Green because she was a Karrie Webb scholarship winner four years ago, coming over to America for the U.S. Women's Open – the first golf tournament she saw as a spectator. She even toured the media center, and there she was Thursday evening answering questions about her round.

"That was a real eye-opener for me, and I guess it's pretty cool now to be doing that today," Green said.

The rain wasn't too much of a burden. A Hazeltine staff member brought out extra towels. Her boyfriend ran back to the house to get a heavier jacket to cope with the chill. She might even buy rain pants.

Jutanugarn is so powerful off the tee that she typically doesn't carry a driver. The Thai is just as effective with a 3-wood or a 2-iron.

Hazeltine made her change. AP

Plot that wounded Ortiz unraveled because of many mistakes

SANTO DOMINGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

ALBERTO Rodríguez Mota had one job: taking a photo of the man that his crew of hired killers was supposed to fatally shoot at an outdoor cafe, according to Dominican authorities.

But the lighting was bad. And the target, an auto-shop owner, was sitting behind a white beverage cooler. In the photo sent to the hit man, he looked like a dark, blurry figure in white pants, the Dominican police chief and attorney-general said.

Hours later, on the evening of June 9, the hitman approached a hulking figure in a dark top and white pants and fired a single shot into his back. Instead of killing his intended target, he had wounded David Ortiz, the baseball superstar almost universally adored in his native Dominican Republic and much of the sports-loving world.

As the former Red Sox slugger lay on the floor of the Dial Bar and Lounge, the hitman's motorcycle driver skidded in a panic and was grabbed by enraged fans, who beat him bloody before handing him over to police. Within an hour of being put into motion, the plot began to unravel. A series of amateurish mistakes soon led to at least 11 arrests. The hired killers seemed to be incapable of doing anything right, from targeting their victim to covering their tracks.

As Ortiz recovers in a Boston hospital, officials say he was the victim not of a bizarre plot against a beloved sports figure but a string of incompetent criminal mishaps that included misidentifying the most famous Dominican in the world, an instantly recognizable 6-foot-3 inch, 250-pound international celebrity.

"It's like they left this in the hands of boys," said Daniel Pou, an independent consultant on public security. "Without a doubt, it was amateurish."

According to the official account, Mota sat down by himself at the bar in Santo Domingo, ordered a beer and waited. When night fell, he got up, phone in hand, and moved out of view in a video that authorities shared with reporters. That's when officials say he took the blurry picture of Sixto David Fernández, who arrived about two hours before the shooting and requested a table so he could accommodate friends that would soon join him, including Ortiz.

As Fernández waited, Rodríguez sat back down and sent the picture to a low-level drug



In this Oct. 10, 2016, file photo, Boston Red Sox's David Ortiz waves from the field at Fenway Park after Game 3 of baseball's American League Division Series against the Cleveland Indians in Boston. Officials say Ortiz, who was shot in the Dominican Republic on June 9, 2019, at an outdoor cafe, was the victim of incompetent criminals who were trying to kill a man next to him. (AP Photo)

dealer nicknamed Chuky sitting in an overcrowded prison more than 60 miles away. Once Chuky – real name José Eduardo Ciprián – received the picture on a phone smuggled into prison, he shared it with his top outside contact: Gabriel Pérez Vizcaíno, aka Bone, who then showed it to a small group of mostly young, skinny, tattooed alleged hit men just minutes before the shooting, authorities said.

The picture of Fernández shows him in a black T-shirt sitting at a table with the white cooler blocking the view of his legs. Authorities say the suspects mistakenly assumed he was wearing white pants as they gathered at a nearby gas station. By that time, Ortiz had arrived and taken a seat with his back to the street. He was wearing a black T-shirt, white pants and thick gold jewelry.

Shortly afterward, authorities said, the suspected hit man, Rolfy Ferreyra, approached Ortiz from behind, fired and then fled on a motorcycle allegedly driven by Eddy Feliz García. Minutes later, the driver skidded and fell off his bike and was accosted by fans, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press.

In the hours that followed, the suspects' demands for payment were refused because they shot the wrong person, according to national police director, Maj. Gen. Ney Aldrin Bautista Almonte.

"No, you guys made a mess out of this," he said the suspects were told.

In response, the suspects kidnapped Pérez, Chuky's contact outside of prison. They did not release him until Chuky gave them 50,000 Dominican pesos, roughly \$1,000.

Officials did not say when Pérez was kidnapped, but they noted in documents obtained by the AP that a day after the shooting, he tried to get rid of evidence by selling the iPhone 6 used in the attack. Authorities also recovered the gun, which had been buried in the garden of one of the suspect's home. His mother turned it in, according to court documents.

Within three days of the shooting, authorities had detained 10 suspects, all of whom have been ordered to spend one year in preventive prison as the investigation continues.

"They made a lot of mistakes," Francisco Domínguez Brito, a former attorney general, said. "This was basically

improvised."

The arrests have helped authorities in the United States file charges in unrelated cases. On Thursday, the suspected shooter, Ferreyra, was indicted on cocaine and heroin possession charges and also a charge of conspiracy to distribute drugs in New Jersey. He also faces state charges in two armed robberies in 2017.

Meanwhile, federal authorities are still looking for the suspected mastermind of the shooting: Victor Hugo Gómez, an associate of Mexico's Gulf Cartel who is wanted on federal charges, including heroin and cocaine possession in an unrelated case in Texas.

Dominican officials said he ordered the shooting of his cousin, Fernández, because he believed he ratted on him to local authorities in a 2011 drug case that led to his imprisonment, where he met a friend of Chuky who also is charged in the Ortiz case.

Fernández, whom authorities say does not have a criminal background, could not be reached for comment. A person who answered Fernández's phone Thursday said he was not available. AP

Pelicans take Zion Williamson with No. 1 pick in NBA draft

NEW YORK

ZION Williamson plays with force and ferocity, a Hulk in hightops who looks as though he'd never show a soft side.

Draft night proved otherwise. Williamson was the No. 1 pick of the New Orleans Pelicans – a surprise to nobody who watched basketball this past season. But afterward he couldn't hide his emotions, even though he along with everyone else knew what would happen Thursday night.

"Because I love the game of basketball," he said. "You can hear people say things like, 'Oh, that it was likely I was going to go No. 1.' But I guess you don't know until you actually go through it. Hearing my name called and I was able to make it on stage without a tear, shake the commissioner's hand, but in the interview my mom was standing beside me, and my emotions just took over."

There might be tears of joy in New Orleans, too, after the Pelicans were able to get the Duke powerhouse who is considered one of the most exciting prospects in years.

The 6-foot-7, 285-pounder compiled a college career worth of highlights into just one season, becoming the third freshman to be voted player of the year by The Associated Press.

His assault on the rims made him a favorite of college basketball fans, but his game is more than just dunks. Williamson averaged 22.6 points and 8.9 rebounds while shooting 68% from the field.

Wearing a white suit, he hugged members of his family and NBA Commissioner Adam Silver after his name was called first at Barclays Center.

Williamson will step into an open position in New Orleans, which recently agreed to trade All-Star Anthony Davis, the last freshman to win the AP award, to the Los Angeles Lakers.

"I'm going to do anything to win. I'm just going to do anything to win," Williamson said.

The Memphis Grizzlies also quickly addressed a positional need by taking Murray State's Ja Morant with the No. 2 pick. The Grizzlies agreed to trade Mike Conley, their longtime point guard, to Utah a day earlier.

They got a good replacement in Morant, who led Division I with 10 assists per game as a sophomore



Duke's Zion Williamson, right, poses for photographs with NBA Commissioner Adam Silver after being selected by the New Orleans Pelicans as the first pick during the NBA basketball draft Thursday, June 20, 2019, in New York. (AP Photo)

while averaging 24.5 points.

"I have some big shoes to fill in Mike Conley," Morant said. "He's a great player. I wish him

the best. Like I said before, it just means the Grizzlies see a lot in me."

RJ Barrett then made it two

Duke freshmen within the top-three picks when the New York Knicks took the guard who actually edged out Williamson to lead the Atlantic Coast Conference in scoring. Knicks fans hoped they would get Williamson after finishing with the worst record in the league but seemed happy to end up with Barrett, loudly cheering and chanting "RJ! RJ!" when the pick was announced.

"That was great," Barrett said. "I'm glad that the city wants me here as much as I want to be here."

DeAndre Hunter of national champion Virginia was taken fourth but won't be teaming up with Williamson. The Pelicans acquired the rights to the pick in the Davis deal but agreed to trade it shortly before the draft to Atlanta. The original trade can't be official until July 6, so Hunter was outfitted with a Lakers hit

and the draft board behind the stage listed the pick as belonging to the Lakers.

The Cleveland Cavaliers then took Vanderbilt guard Darius Garland, who played in just five games because of a knee injury.

Then it was another pick who won't be playing for the team that made it, with Jarrett Culver taken at No. 6 by Phoenix with a pick that the Suns agreed to trade to Minnesota for the No. 11 pick.

That turned out to be Cameron Johnson, the second North Carolina player to be drafted after Chicago took Coby White at No. 7. Kentucky then had two straight picks, with PJ Washington going 12th to Charlotte and Tyler Herro 13th to Miami.

Duke did even better by placing three in the top 10. Cam Reddish went 10th to the Hawks, making the Blue Devils the only team to pull

off that feat since Florida placed Al Horford third, Corey Brewer seventh and Joakim Noah ninth after winning the 2007 national championship.

The trades caused some confusion in Barclays Center beyond just players wearing hats of teams whose uniforms they won't wear. A brief "Brooklyn! Brooklyn!" chant broke out when the Nets were on the clock at No. 17, but the Nets had already agreed to deal that pick to Atlanta in yet another trade that won't become official until July 6.

Nickeil Alexander-Walker, Brandon Clarke and Mfiondu Kabengele followed Barrett into the NBA, giving Canada its best showing with four first-round picks. The overall record for draft picks from outside the U.S. was set when France had five players selected in 2016.

AP

Super Eagles seek fourth African title in Egypt

CAIRO

ON paper, Nigeria and Guinea are the automatic picks to progress to the knockout stages from Group B at the as they are both ranked higher and more experienced than both Burundi and Madagascar who are making their tournament debuts.

But, on the pitch, this will be a totally different story as the two new entrants to the AFCON have proved to be tough with Burundi especially, who qualified ahead of the likes of Gabon led by Arsenal striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang.

Nigeria head coach Gernot Rohr has warned his side not to try and underrate anyone in the group as the Super Eagles seek their fourth African crown, starting off their campaign with the group matches in Alexandria.

The Super Eagles, ranked third best in Africa and 45th in the world ave won the tournament three times.

They qualified as Group E winners, topping with 13 points after four victories, a draw and a loss. They finished just a point ahead of South Africa, who handed them their only loss in the qualification process.

Nigeria return to the Africa Cup of Nations after missing the last two editions and having played in last year's FIFA World Cup in Russia, are regarded as one of the favourites to lift the title in Egypt. The last time they won was in 2013 when they beat Burkina Faso 1-0 courtesy a Sunday Mba goal.

The other times they have won the title was in 1980 and 1994 when it was hosted in Tunisia.

Though he admits it will be tough, German Rohr says his side will be in Cairo to compete for the honours especially with the weight of expectations of a whole Nigerian population on their shoulders.

"I think lot of teams can dream to win this trophy. We have the experience from the World Cup but again, we have a young team. We were the youngest at the World Cup and probably we will still be the youngest at the AFCON."

Rohr has put in a blend of youth and experience in his squad but the most positive addition is the return

of influential midfielder John Obi Mikel who had not played for the team since the World Cup in Russia.

The tactician has also included In-form Villarreal winger Samuel Chukwueze and fellow FIFA U-17 World Cup winner Victor Osimhen in the final team for Egypt and will be in line for their senior team debuts.

Chukwueze has been on form for the Yellow Submarines in the Spanish La Liga scoring five goals in 26 appearances and he was picked up ahead of the more experienced Kelechi Iheanacho who has struggled at Leicester City.

But he will have to compete for a place in the starting team with the experienced Odion Ighalo who was the top scorer in the qualifiers with seven goals. In their ranks, the Super Eagles also have Arsenal forward Alex Iwobi and the ever green Ahmed Musa.

They open their campaign today against Burundi in Alexandria.

Nigeria's group matches: Nigeria v Burundi - (June 22), Nigeria v Guinea (June 26), Madagascar v Nigeria (June 30)

Full Squad

Goalkeepers: Francis Uzoho (Anorthosis Famagusta, Cyprus); Ikechukwu Ezenwa (Katsina United); Daniel Akpeyi (Kaizer Chiefs, South Africa)

Defenders: Olaoluwa Aina (Torino, Italy); Abdullahi Shehu (Bursaspor, Turkey); Chidozie Awaziem (Rizespor, Turkey); William Ekong (Udinese, Italy); Leon Balogun (Brighton, England); Kenneth Omeruo (CD Leganes, Spain); Jamilu Collins (SC Paderborn 07, Germany)

Midfielders: John Mikel Obi (Middlesbrough, England); Wilfred Ndidi (Leicester City, England); Oghenekaro Etebo (Stoke City, England); John Ogu (Hapoel Be'er Sheva, Israel)

Forwards: Ahmed Musa (Al Nassr, Saudi Arabia); Victor Osimhen (Royal Charleroi, Belgium); Moses Simon (Levante, Spain); Henry Onyekuru (Galatasaray SK, Turkey); Odion Ighalo (Shanghai Shenhua, China); Alexander Iwobi (Arsenal, England); Samuel Kalu (Girondins Bordeaux, France); Paul Onuachu (FC Midtjylland, Denmark); Samuel Chukwueze (Villarreal, Spain)

side's earliest elimination from the Copa since 1983 edged closer.

"It's very frustrating not to win, we've played twice and not won either game, that was not what we thought would happen. It would be crazy if we did not qualify," he told reporters.

"What hurts the most is we are not functioning as a team, we need to keep searching to how to form the best team possible but there's no time. Now we have one game left and the only hope we have left is to win it."

A member of Jorge Sampaoli's back-room staff, Scaloni was an uninspiring choice to become Argentina's next coach when Sampaoli was sacked after the chaotic 2018 World Cup and his inexperience is showing at his first major tournament.

The 41-year-old experimented with more than 50 players in nine games before the Copa, including trying out eight goalkeepers.

Not all of Argentina's problems lie with Scaloni, though, as he is the fourth coach to have taken charge since the 2014 World Cup and the national team set-up seems beset by short termism.

There are also problems in player development and emerging talent. To take one example, only four of Argentina's starting 11 against Paraguay played in last season's Champions League.

REUTERS

Five Africa Cup of Nations players you should know but don't... yet

BY ED DOVE, SPECIAL TO ESPN

THE 2019 Africa Cup of Nations, which kicks off with hosts Egypt facing Zimbabwe in Cairo on Friday, will bring together some of football's household names and some of its far less heralded stars, -- as the biennial continental showpiece does every edition.

We all know Mohamed Salah, who will feature for the Pharaohs in the tournament-opening fixture; the Liverpool and Egypt star is one of the most recognisable football players in the world. But what about Romario Baggio Rakotoarisoa?

Here are African players who may not enjoy the international reputation of some of their peers, like Salah, but who, nonetheless, represent some of the Afcon's most intriguing tales.



Tadeo Lwanga: The Engineer

While other footballers may question what they'll do once their playing career comes to an end, Uganda's Lwanga has it all figured out.

The reigning Vipers SC Player of the Year is nicknamed 'The Engineer' in the Uganda Premier League, due to his background and training as a computer engineer.

The defensive midfielder attended Makerere University in Kampala from 2011, where he obtained a Bachelor's in IT -- specialising in software engineering -- and he told ESPN that the prospect of a future in the industry is "always" on his mind.

"My dad wanted me to be an engineer, whereas my mum wanted me to be a doctor, but I decided to take Dad's path because I was well conversant with software and I had so much passion for them," Lwanga said.

"Luckily, I got enough points in my A level [exams] to qualify for the final intake."

Lwanga, who's been included in Sebastian Desabre's 23-man Cranes squad after impressing for the home-based Uganda side at the 2018 African Nations Championship in Morocco, is a cultured and cerebral defensive midfielder who brings his off-field learning into his game.

"I get to understand quickly what coaches want me to do to," he told ESPN.

"Clearly, education is knowledge."

Baghdad Bounedjah: The Goal Machine



become a cult hero in Qatar with Al Sadd, for whom he's broken numerous goalscoring records since signing from Tunisian club Etoile du Sahel four years ago.

He's the only Algerian player to score 100 goals for a non-Algerian



club, and he posted a Qatari-record 39 goals in the 2018-19 season (in just 21 starts), as Xavi Hernandez's side secured their 14th Qatar Stars League title.

Bounedjah is already Al-Sadd's all-time top scorer -- despite signing as recently as in 2015 -- and his popularity overseas has transferred back to his homeland, where, in 2018, he pipped Riyad Mahrez to the Algerian Footballer of the Year award.

Since the start of 2018, Bounedjah has scored seven hat-tricks in all competitions, and he averaged a goal or an assist every 49 minutes in the league last term.

Some may point to the 'quality' of the Qatari league as the reason for Bounedjah's verdant run, but having scored 60 goals in 2018 -- more than either Cristiano Ronaldo or Lionel Messi -- he's nevertheless a player to be feared in Egypt.

Romario Baggio Rakotoarisoa: It's All In A Name

African football has produced many players with beautiful and unforgettable names over the years, from Angolan duo Akwa and Love, to Zambia's Toaster Nsabata, to South Africa's MacBeth Sibaya, to Zimbabweans such as Danger Fourpence, Teenage Hadebe, Limited Chikafa, or Have-A-Look Dube.

However, Madagascar's Romario Baggio Rakotoarisoa has to rank right up there with the very best.

Footballers being nicknamed after other players is not a rarity in football, let alone in the African game -- both Trezeguet and Pele could feature at the Nations Cup -- there aren't too many who carry the name of two sporting greats.

Perhaps Rakotoarisoa, who plays for Madagascar's Fosa Juniors, is the only player named after two players who opposed one another in a World Cup final.

The midfielder wasn't even born when Italy and Brazil clashed in the 1994 World Cup final, won by Romario's Selecao after Baggio -- the Player of the Tournament -- infamously skied his penalty over the crossbar in the shootout, the first required to settle a final.

"My parents decided [my name]," Rakotoarisoa told ESPN. "I don't know exactly why, but they were the two best players."

Despite being named after two of the most exciting offensive players of the 1990s, the Fosa Juniors captain will anchor Madagascar's midfield for their debut Afcon appearance, having risen to prominence in a much more defensive capacity than his namesakes.

And, for a Malagasy who had ample excuse to support either Italy or Brazil from childhood, Rakotoarisoa has proved contrary here, too.

"No," he told ESPN, when asked whether he favoured the Selecao or the Azzurri.

"My team are France!" One suspects his parents will still be proud...

Ismael Athuman Gonzalez: The Son of Kenya



Many of the players set to contest the Nations Cup have taken unlikely pathways -- or the road less travelled -- to arrive at the tournament, but few have enjoyed quite the journey of Athuman.

Another defensive midfielder, the 24-year-old is the son of a famous Kenyan acrobat and contortionist -- Said Ali 'Billy' Athuman Mbaga -- who left his homeland as a young man to pursue his fortunes overseas.

He fell in love with a Spanish woman, and Ismael was born in Maspalomas, Las Palmas, in 1995.

The midfielder, who once trialled at Manchester City, cannot speak Swahili, but he is no stranger to all things Kenyan.

His father played a key role in inculcating his son in the culture of the East African nation, and Athuman must be one of the only people born on Spanish soil to be a fan of Gor Mahia, Kenya's biggest football club.

The midfielder, who can also play in the centre of the defence, is



Tresor Mputu

currently with Las Palmas' B team following spells with Fuenlabrada and Grenada B.

He was handed his first call-up to the Harambee Stars by Stanley Okumbi in 2016, and acknowledged that it was "a dream come true" to represent the land of his ancestors.

"I always felt if a chance to play for the country of my father came, I would grab it with both hands," Athuman said recently.

"Most football players dream about playing for their countries. So definitely this has been a dream come true for me.

"Once I got the call up in 2016, I did not think twice."

Tresor Mputu: Back In The Limelight

Mputu once appeared primed to be the next big thing in the African game, with legendary manager Claude Le Roy comparing him with Samuel Eto'o.

Despite persistent rumours of a move away from Tout Puissant Mazembe, the club with whom he played for 12 years between 2002 and 2014, Mputu remained in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and was consistently considered among the best players plying his trade on the continent.

He won successive CAF Champions Leagues with Mazembe -- as captain -- in 2009 and 2010, and was shortlisted for the BBC African Footballer of the Year award in 2009, the same year in which he won CAF's Africa-based Player of the Year prize.

However, his fortunes declined in 2010, when he was handed a one-year ban for attacking a referee at the Cecafa Club Cup.

Despite having trialled with Arsenal in 2007, the European interest predictably dried up, although Mputu did secure a switch to Angola's Kabuscorp in January 2014.

This move ended sourly, as Mputu was banned for two years by Fifa -- between 2015 and 2017 -- following a contractual dispute with his Angolan employers.

The move away had appeared to have signalled the end of the playmaker's international career, after featuring for the Leopards at the 2013 Nations Cup, as he wasn't called up by the Congolese between June 2013 and the Afcon qualifier against Congo-Brazzaville in November 2018.

However, his return appears to be timed perfectly, and the 33-year-old could be approaching his career swansong with the DRC, for whom, after a five-year hiatus, he'll be pulling the strings in his favoured No.10 role once again.

"[Mputu's] still important," Leopards defender Beaubo Ungenda told ESPN. "He helps us every time we need someone to control the play; he's the playmaker who knows how to make the key passes.

"I believe that he and Cedric Bakambu, who likes deep passes, will be a great duo in Egypt if they maintain their recent form."

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Kessy cleared for AFCON finals opener

SPORT

Super Eagles seek fourth African title in Egypt

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Nigeria looks to avoid possible Burundi banana skin

CAIRO

THE Super Eagles will be playing their first Africa Cup of Nations match since 2013 when they face debutants Burundi at the Alexandria Stadium on Saturday night. The Nigerians have missed the last two AFCON editions.

Coming up against a side making their first appearance, Nigeria are seen as favorites heading into the tie and will be under pressure to deliver against a quick and high pressing Burundian side in their first ever meeting.

Burundi qualified as runners up in their group and they did so without losing a match winning three games and picking a similar number of draws. They promise to be no pushovers and have vowed to put their best performance.

Building up to AFCON, Burundi played two friendly matches, drawing 1-1 with Algeria in their first game in Doha, Qatar before losing 2-1 to Tunisia in Rades courtesy of a late goal by Naim Sliti.

Nigeria who won the tournament in their last appearance in 2013 have reached 13 semi-finals in their last 15 appearances at the competition. Since 1982, they have never failed to make it past the group stages and their worst performance since then was a quarter final exit in 2008 when the tournament was hosted in Ghana.

Coached by German Gernot Rhor, they will look to continue the tradition and winning their opening game against Burundi will be a key step in ensuring they keep their hopes of a fourth African title alive. The Nigerians have always posted mixed results in their opening day matches, but a majority of them have been won.

Their worst ever day one performance was in 1990 when they lost 5-1 to Algeria.

In their build up matches, Nigeria drew 0-0 with Zimbabwe and lost 1-0 to Senegal

Players to watch:

Burundi

Cedric Amissi - The pacy winger has scored in each of the last four games in national team colors and played a starring role in the team's qualification. His creativity and eye for goal should be a threat for the Nigerian backline.

Abdul Razak Fiston - The JS Kabylie forward scored six goals in qualification and was the second top scorer in the qualifiers after Nigeria's Odion Ighalo.

Saido Berahino: Berahino switched allegiance to Burundi and has been rewarded with being handed the captain's armband for the competition, taking over from Karim Nizigiyimana. As one of the most exposed players in the team, all eyes will be on Berahino to guide Les Hirondelles.

Nigeria

John Obi Mikel - The midfielder returns to the team for the first time since their World Cup campaign in Russia in 2018 and his leadership from the middle of the pack will always be crucial for the super eagles. He is among the only three players in the tournament to be playing at his second AFCON in Egypt having been with the squad in 2006.

Odion Ighalo - Having carried on his scoring form to Russia, the striker who scored seven goals during qualification will carry the burden of scoring goals for the Nigerians at the AFCON.

Alex Iwobi - The Arsenal man scored the goal that took Nigeria to the World Cup in Russia, but his pace and skill on the wing will be expected more when he makes his AFCON debut for Nigeria this year.

(AGENCIES)

By Guardian Reporter

TAIFA Stars' right fullback, Hassan Kessy, has been given greenlight by the Confederation of African Football (CAF) to feature for the side in their opening match in the AFCON Finals against Senegal, slated to take place at the June 30 Stadium in Cairo, Egypt tomorrow.

In a statement released by Tanzania Football Federation (TFF), the continental governing body has allowed Kessy to take part in the match after the body had concluded the suspension he had in the qualifiers already ended.

Kessy was shown two yellow cards in the qualifiers and the booking was expected to force him out of the opening match.

The defender's suspension, though had ended af-



Hassan Kessy

ter the AFCON Qualifiers match against Cape Verde, which took place in Dar es Salaam.

Taifa Stars head coach, Em-

manuel Amunike, therefore, can use the player in the match, should the latter be in the former's program.

The defender was shown two yellow cards in Taifa Stars' two away matches versus Uganda Cranes and Cape Verde, a sus-

pension that ended after he had missed out on Taifa Stars' return leg against Cape Verde.

Taifa Stars are in Group C of the continental showdown alongside Senegal, Algeria and Kenya.

The Tanzania squad, which is competing at the AFCON finals for the first time after 38 years of absence, will start the group games against Senegal tomorrow.

The team will then Kenya before winding up the group stage by confronting Algeria.

Skipper Mbwana Samatta, speaking shortly before Taifa Stars' trip to Egypt, assured Tanzanians that the squad is ready for the finals.

"We are ready for the AFCON finals, everyone is looking forward to games, others may think that we will not do well, but the fact is that we are ready and am sure of good results," he said.

Coach Amunike has assembled a very good side which is expected to compete and not simply making numbers.

Taifa Stars have such players like Samatta, who plays in Belgium and Simon Msuva and Hassan Kessy, who play in Morocco and Zambia respectively.

The team is also made up of experienced and that include Kelvin Yondani and John Bocco.

Taifa Stars technical bench hopes the team can perform well in the opening match and the remaining two encounters with Kenya and Algeria.

The squad's players have been training on the pitch and learning a variety of tactics via watching videos of the opponents' previous assignments.

Taifa Stars had been camping in Egypt from June 7 to focus on intensive preparations for the showpiece.

Simba SC ropes in Sudan striker

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

MAINLAND Premier League champions Simba SC have signed Sharaf Eldin Ali from Sudan top club, Al Hilal, on a one-year deal.

Simba yesterday posted the pictures of the Sudanese player and later released information that they have signed the player on a one-year deal.

The Msimbazi Street based side described the player as well experienced in Confederation of African Football (CAF) games and he is also a regular in Sudan national team.

"We have signed Sharaf Eldin Shiboub Ali Abdalrahman, who was playing for Al Hilal FC Sudan, he is a complete player who on two occasions was named the best midfielder in the Sudan Premier League, he is also a regular in Sudan national team," one of the squad's board of directors' members, Salim Abdallah, disclosed in the post.

Ali has been described by



Simba SC member of board of directors, Salim Abdallah.

CAF website as a complete and during this season's CAF games he helped his side reach the quarterfinals of the CAF Confederation Cup.

However, more details on the contract were not released, but Simba recently said they will so far recruit players who have helped their former clubs reach at least the quarterfinals of the CAF games.

Meanwhile, Yanga have said they had discussions with their player Ibrahim Ajibu who is reported to have denied signing a new deal with the Jangwani Street based club.

Ajibu has been linked with a move back to Simba SC where he made his name few years ago.

Yanga vice-chairman Fredrick Mwakalebela yesterday said they discussed with Ajibu on a new deal and now it is up to the player to decide on where to go.

"We have already had discussion with him, now it's up to him to either sign the new deal or not, but on our part we did our best by engaging him for discussions," he said.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

