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Govt to counter massive deforestation



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Enhancing women's participation in Parliament



JPM, Mkapa eulogise fallen President Moi

Former president Benjamin Mkapa said in a statement that he had learnt with profound sadness the passing on of Kenya's second president who he described as of one of the greatest African statesman

By Henry Mwangonde

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday led a cross-section of leaders in mourning following the death of former Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi who passed yesterday morning.

In his condolence message, President Magufuli said Tanzanians will remember him for his remarkable leadership and efforts to strengthen the East African Community (EAC) relationship.

"On behalf of the Tanzania government, I pass my heartfelt condolences to the president of Kenya and all Kenyans for the loss of retired president Daniel Toroitich arap Moi.

Former president Benjamin Mkapa said in a statement that he had learnt with profound sadness the passing on of Kenya's second president who he described as among Africa's

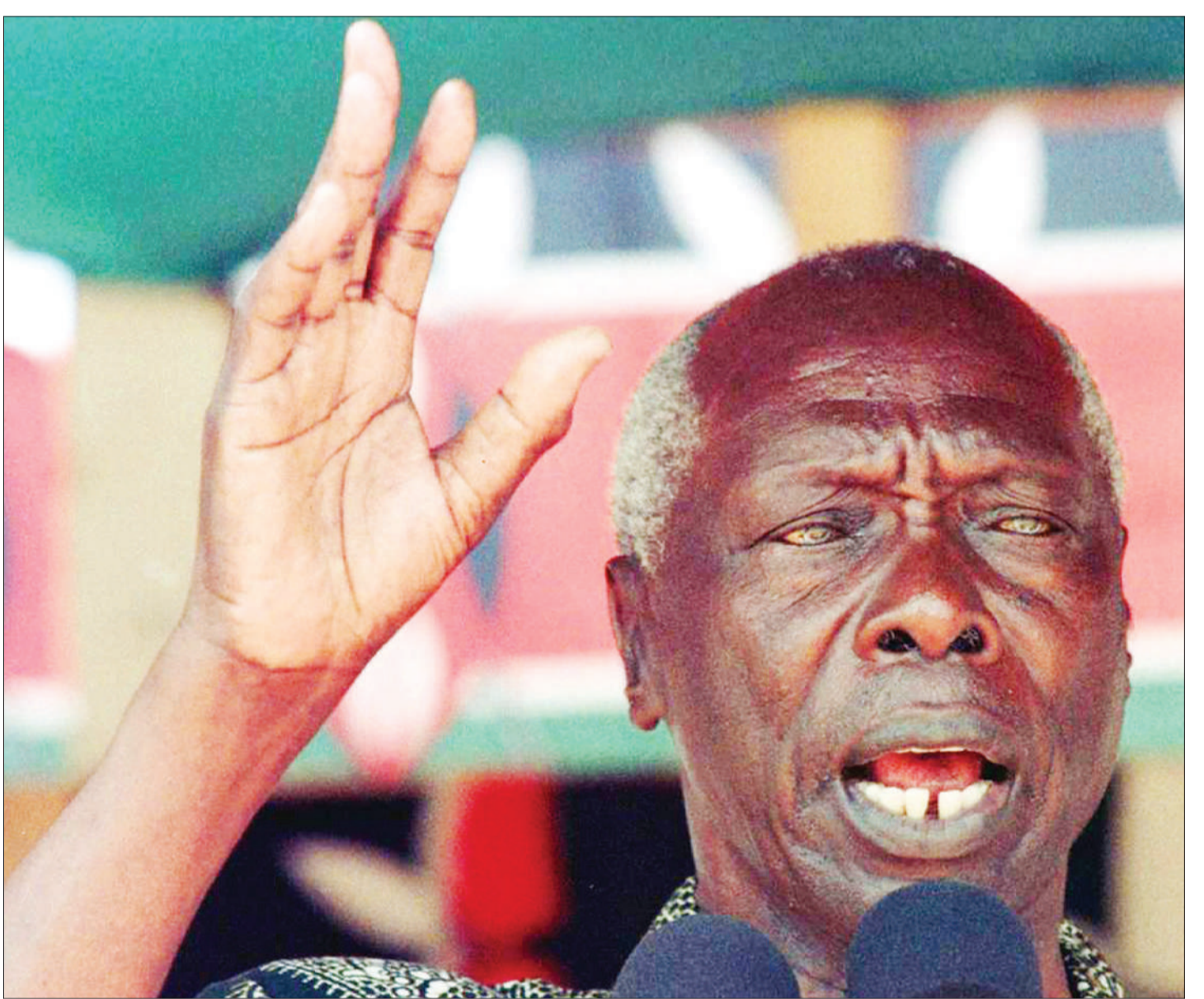
great statesmen.

"It is hard to eulogize any man. It is even harder to eulogize a man whose life spans nine and a half decades and almost three quarter of which was dedicated to the service of his beloved country Kenya and the continent of Africa in general. I have known President Moi for countless years but I had the opportunity to work more closely with his when we were both leading our countries," he said.

The late Moi worked closely, harmoniously and bilaterally with leaders of the Great Lakes region to promote peace and stability in our region.

"He played a key role in reviving the East African Community and to me, this as well as his contribution to the consolidation of

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Mwamposa, seven aides now bailed

By Guardian Reporter

PASTOR Boniface Mwamposa (pictured) who was in police custody in connection with a stampede that killed 20 people over the weekend in Moshi municipality, Kilimanjaro Region has been released on bail.

Police spokesman David Misime said in a statement that Mwamposa has been set

free alongside seven other suspects who were being grilled by detectives over the incident of last Saturday.

Upon news of the incident, Inspector General of Police Simon Sirro dispatched a team of detectives to Moshi to work on the matter with senior detectives in the region.

"The investigation is ongoing. Once it is complete we will announce the next course of action," the statement affirmed.

Sixteen other people were injured in a stampede after the open-air faith healing event was being finalized by stepping on anointment oil placed in a basin at the exit gate.

Home Affairs Minister George Simbachawene said Mwamposa was arrested for questioning because he had prolonged the time he was allowed

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Coronavirus: Dar airport health staff boost slated

By Guardian Reporter

THE government is to increase the number of health workers at the Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA) to enhance screening for the coronavirus disease that has killed more than 400 people in China and other countries.

This was said yesterday by the Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Ummy Mwalimu during a visit at Terminal III, as passengers from many parts of the world were arriving, inspect how prepared are health workers at the key entry point.

"I have seen for myself the huge number of passengers arriving. We have few experts so their



WHO yesterday said that the deadly coronavirus outbreak does not yet constitute a 'pandemic'

number has to be increased immediately to ease the congestion," she said.

She aired the view that the vital isolation area where any passengers suspected of carrying the deadly virus are to be kept is not enough as there is only one room that can't be shared between men and women, thus JNIA must designate an extra room.

She expressed appreciation for the Tanzania Airports Authority (TAA) in cooperating with the airport's health unit, putting in place essential equipment, including special disinfectants for hand washing, to be used by arriving passengers.

She also directed allocating a room or desk for

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Norway gives 10bn/- project aid for refugee camps zone

By Guardian Reporter

THE government of Norway has given 9.9bn/- to Kigoma Region for implementation of various development projects around refugees camps.

Speaking in Dodoma at the fourth meeting on the procedures of cooperation with the United Nations and partners in the Kigoma Joint Programme (KJP) yesterday, an advisor on political issues from the Norwegian Embassy, Hans Corneliusen (pictured) said the money is given as assistance to the region.

The money has been channeled through KJP with Norway expressing an intention of continued cooperation with Tanzania to improve the economy of Kigoma Region especially communities surrounding the refugee camps.



Opening the meeting, Kigoma Regional Commissioner Brig Gen (rtd) Emmanuel Maganga said KJP has brought great changes in the region.

Things that are clearly associated with KJP include improvements in the health sector, education, road building and modernizing markets, he said.

"KJP has helped in economic growth of our region. If the residents see development progress they will cooperate well with those in refugee camps as they are still in our country," he stated.

KJP Coordinator Evance Sangicha said the project is a four year programme whose implementation began in 2017 in seven areas involving 16 agencies or companies.

He said the project covers health, water, agriculture, education and women empowerment, eradication of gender and children based violence, energy and environment.

The money will be allocated to four KJP areas - agriculture, water, eradication of gender and children based violence along with women and

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Electricity matters, but poor human capital is SA's real problem

BY ALANNA MARKLE AND JAKKIE CILLIERS

ACTION must be taken to solve South Africa's electricity crisis, and quickly. That is the conclusion of modelling from the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), which finds that even in the best case scenario, South Africa will experience 'sustained and rising load shedding' that inhibits economic growth to at least 2022.

It is disheartening that South Africa faces yet more economic anaemia. A renewed focus on the country's energy crisis highlights a key barrier to growth, but in the long run, others are just as important and far harder to resolve.

Research by the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) hopes to answer the question: Just what will it take to consistently grow the country's economy? Using the International Futures (IFs) modelling system, an ISS report will be released on the topic in March. To look forward though, we must first look back.

South Africa has been on an economic divergence pathway since the 1980s. Mainstream analysis is that it is caught in a middle-income trap. This is classically defined as a situation where a country cannot compete with the low cost of labour in low-income countries, but doesn't have the technological prowess to compete with high-income countries.

But South Africa's growth struggles may go deeper. Its economic position is the result of the skewed, two-legged structure of its economy: a small, skilled and highly productive (private) sector on the one hand, and a large, poorly skilled and unproductive (unemployed and informal) sector on the other - with a substantive public sector somewhere in between.

This structure is rooted in apartheid, and has been exacerbated by the global financial crisis, poor governance, bad policy and lack of implementation, and state capture. The resulting weak growth pattern has set the country on a pathway of divergence, not only from high-income countries, but also from its middle-income peers.

In 1980, South Africa's GDP per capita was valued at nearly 40% of that of the United States. This drops to less than 25% in 2044 in the business-as-usual Current Path scenario developed by the ISS's futures analysis. This is a stark con-



trast to countries like South Korea and Hong Kong. Even India, with its massive poverty challenges, is catching up with South Africa (Figure 1).

So where is South Africa going wrong? Beyond electricity shortages, bad policy and an ideological antipathy towards private sector-led growth efforts, our analysis reveals that poor human capital is by far the largest structural drag on South Africa's economy when compared to its peers.

This is an unexpected conclusion in a country that also suffers from a lack of investment and numerous self-inflicted constraints. The lingering effects of the HIV/AIDS epidemic plays a

Poor health and education systems are the main culprits behind South Africa's weak long-term growth outlook. File photo

role, but the impact of apartheid, subsequent implementation challenges and weak health and education systems appear to be the main culprits.

The most telling metric in education is test scores - a proxy for quality. South Africa's scores on globally standardised tests put it at the bottom of the list among upper-middle-income countries (Figure 2).

Looking at health, South Africa's mortality profile more closely resembles a low-income country, with its high concentration of deaths from communicable dis-

eases and injuries. Many of these could be prevented through a well-functioning universal health-care system. However, public health and safety concerns such as high levels of violence and malnutrition, particularly among young children, must also be addressed.

In the short term, the government will be right to focus on resolving the crisis in electricity. It must also continue pushing to reform state-owned enterprises including restructuring Eskom and restoring investor confidence.

In the medium term, it must

work more effectively with the private sector (since the public sector is highly indebted and inefficient), and enhance innovation by investing in research and development as well as information and communications technology infrastructure.

There is no quick fix, and immediate priorities will shift over time. But no crisis should fully overshadow South Africa's fundamental human development needs. So, while the country stabilises policy, roots out corruption and restructures state-owned enterprises, it also needs to fix na-

tional health and basic education, pursue early childhood development, and invest in vocational training.

None of this is possible without much more rapid economic growth. And that, in turn, is only possible through public sector reform and a partnership between the public and private sector. Even then, this is going to be a generational challenge.

Alanna Markle, Researcher and Jakkie Cilliers, Head, African Futures and Innovation, ISS Pretoria

Luanda Leaks and the politics of anti-corruption

BY PETER FABRICIUS

IT'S clear to just about everyone but herself that Angola's Isabel dos Santos became Africa's richest woman not through hard work and business acumen, but mainly through all the jobs, contracts and other breaks her father illicitly gave her when he was president.

Even so, is his successor President João Lourenço going after her and her brother out of a sincere desire to clean up Angola's notorious corruption? Or does he have less honourable motives?

After Dos Santos snr stood down in 2017 and Lourenço took over, he fired Isabel from her job as chairperson of Sonangol, the state oil company. He later fired her half-brother José Filomeno dos Santos from his position as head of Angola's sovereign wealth fund. Since then Lourenço's administration has pursued them in court for alleged embezzlement of millions of dollars and tried to recover the assets.

Isabel steadfastly protests her innocence, accusing Lourenço of a politically motivated witch hunt against her and her family. She insists she made her fortune - estimated at over US\$2 billion - by skill and industry.

She persisted with this narrative even after the recent Luanda Leaks, the publication by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) of some 715 000 documents detailing her business dealings. They reveal how her father launched and bolstered her career by awarding her companies public contracts, tax breaks, telecom licences and diamond mining rights.

This undercut her persistent claim to be a self-made business woman. The leaks also show how many Western consultants, banks and other businesses clandestinely supported Isabel's ventures, including by moving vast amounts of money off-shore to tax havens.

Unabashed, she issued a statement

saying the ICIJ revelations were 'completely unfounded.' This is an orchestrated and well-coordinated political attack by the current regime in Angola, which sees me as a threat,' she added - the last an apparent reference to her previous vow to run for president against Lourenço.

Her brazenness suggests she believed her munificent father would hand power to someone who would protect his family's fortunes. And for a time it looked like that would happen. According to independent analyst Paula Roque, just before elections to replace Dos Santos snr, ruling party elders agreed to wipe the slate clean of all graft up to that point, provided no further corruption occurred. This meant no prosecutions for past corruption and no recovery of stolen assets.

But then the ruling People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) did worse than expected in the elections and Lourenço's legitimacy was questioned by widespread allegations of rigging. The Angolan economy was doing badly, mainly because of a plunge in the international oil price and the fact that the corrupt Dos Santos regime had done nothing to shield the country from such fluctuations.

JLo, as Lourenço is nicknamed, decided he needed to go after the hugely unpopular Dos Santos family members and their cronies to shore up his support and that of the MPLA, some analysts believe. Even with the recent Luanda Leaks revelations, questions about Lourenço's motives and game plan remain valid. Is he really pursuing a vendetta against his predecessor to bolster his own fragile political position?

Is he perhaps creating space at the trough so that his own cronies can enrich themselves? Or is he really cleaning out corruption as a basis for rebuilding the crippled Angolan economy to the benefit of all its people, who remain among the poorest worldwide?



Is Angola's Lourenço going after Isabel dos Santos to fight corruption or to boost flagging support? File photo

Former journalist and now anti-corruption activist Rafael Marques de Morais, for many years a fierce critic of Dos Santos, told AFP recently that: 'There is a real will to take back the country ... because the state has been privatised by the Dos Santos family and their friends.' But he believes Lourenço is mounting a lonely crusade, frustrated by an MPLA riddled with

corrupt old guard politicians.

Alex Vines, head of the Africa Programme at Chatham House, is more sceptical. 'There are folk around the president that deserve judicial scrutiny and Isabel is correct that there is an arbitrary element to these actions,' he told ISS Today. 'Over the last year, as his honeymoon has thinned out, there are also signs that JLo is becoming

more reliant on family - especially his brother General Sequeira João Lourenço.'

Vines is by no means sympathetic to Isabel dos Santos's profession of innocence. When Dos Santos snr stepped down in September 2017, the state of Angola's economy required JLo to move against the Dos Santos regime's vast business interests, he says. 'Angola has been

in recession since 2016 and turning around the economy is joint priority No 1, as is ensuring that the MPLA is regenerated and positioned for the next general elections in 2022.'

Nor does Vines believe Lourenço is intent on simply replacing one set of snouts at the trough with another. 'JLo's Angola is different. The primary moves against the Dos Santos family were to help JLo consolidate power, reform the economy and renew the party.' This explains why the original case against José Filomeno dos Santos was dropped once the expatriated funds were repatriated.

Vines says 'economic recession has stunted the honeymoon for JLo. Many Angolans (especially urban dwellers) are frustrated and want to see progress. JLo has shown himself to be much more sensitive to public opinion than his predecessor and putting the Dos Santos family central in his reform cross hairs plays well.'

Roque agrees that Lourenço has been strategic in his approach. 'JLo took on the anti-corruption fight to rescue the MPLA and consolidate his own power base. The economy is in a shambles and the country had no international credibility ... JLo really had little choice and the anti-corruption mantle served many purposes.'

But hounding the Dos Santos family isn't enough. Lourenço has also opened up Angola's political space which was tightly closed under Dos Santos. Unless he can revive the flagging economy, even his political reforms will count against him, giving greater freedom to his opponents to attack him.

Peter Fabricius, ISS Consultant

Illegal industrial fishing hampers small-scale African fisheries

By John Cannon

FISH are an indispensable source of food and protein for communities in many African countries. But the growth in industrial-scale fishing fleets around the continent has put that resource and the livelihoods it supports at risk, according to a recent analysis.

In a study published recently in the journal *Fish and Fisheries*, a team of researchers shows that nearly 6% of the industrial fishing effort in the waters around 33 African countries and territories occurs in zones reserved for small-scale fishing communities. In some places, that figure is much higher in what the authors describe as “the most common form of illegal fishing in the region.”

These incursions threaten the sustainability of fish stocks, create conflict over those resources, and endanger the lives of the fishers themselves, said Dylia Belhabib, the study’s lead author.

“In West Africa, for example, 250 people every year die in collisions with industrial vessels within their artisanal waters,” Belhabib, principal investigator for fisheries at the NGO Ecotrust Canada, said in an interview. “And this is not a small number.”

The study builds on data from the research platform Global Fishing Watch, which tracks the positions of fishing vessels through their onboard automatic identification system, or AIS. This system was initially designed to keep ships from running into each other. But it has since become an indispensable tool for authorities and conservation groups to verify that fleets are complying with the laws of the country in whose waters they’re operating.

In 2018, researchers developed an algorithm based on how a fishing vessel moves through the water that uses the satellite-relayed AIS information to pinpoint when and where it’s actually hauling in fish. For this study, Belhabib and her colleagues compared this information with maps of the slice of the ocean that each country or territory controls – what is known as an exclusive economic zone, or EEZ – along with the boundaries of any designated artisanal fishing areas. Most, but not all, of the coastal countries and territories in Africa set aside part of their marine environment for local fishing communities. In general, such regulations prohibit some or all forms of industrial fishing within a specific range, up to 44.4 kilometers (24 nautical miles) from shore.

The team calculated fishing effort in kilowatt-hours using the time spent fishing and the size of the vessels. In their analysis of where that effort occurred between 2012 and 2016, the researchers found that large fishing boats have levied a heavy toll on some countries’ artisanal zones. In Somalia’s waters, for example, 93% of industrial-scale fishing happened in a zone where the law prohibits fishing by these boats.



Fishers at work in artisanal fishing pirogues with seine nets off of the Senegalese coast, Kafountine, Casamance.

“This is massive,” Belhabib said. “It means that they barely fish outside of the prohibited zone.”

The team also verified each ship’s name and country of origin using data from Global Fishing Watch along with official records and media reports. It can be tricky to parse this information, since vessels sometimes fly a different country’s flag to disguise their origins: A Chinese ship might fly a Ghanaian

flag, for example. But the data showed that South Korean, European Union – of which most were Greek, Spanish and French – and Chinese flags were most common after flags from African countries.

Belhabib said the origin countries must follow through on sanctioning their ships caught breaking the law to deal with this often-unchecked illegal fishing.

“The flag state is heavily responsible and

accountable for what their fleets are doing in these waters and anywhere in the world,” she said. Belhabib said each African country faces a unique set of challenges, ranging from their capacity for monitoring to their stage of development to the political will behind enforcement. Even with those hurdles, though, several have made strides toward protecting their homegrown, small-scale fisheries.

Madagascar recently ended an agreement that would have allowed 300 Chinese fishing vessels into its waters. Sierra Leone requires that ships use their AIS and be licensed to operate in the country’s territorial waters. And consortiums such as the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea aim to ensure sustainable fisheries for their West African member states.

Rhino, elephant poaching declines in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG

THE number of rhinos killed for their horns in South Africa has been reduced for a fifth consecutive year as authorities tighten their grip on poachers, the environment ministry said Monday.

A total of 594 rhinos were killed across South Africa in 2019 compared to 769 in 2018, bringing the number down by 175, Environment Minister Barbara Creecy said in a statement.

“A decline in poaching for five consecutive years is a reflection of the diligent work of the men and women who put their lives on the line daily to combat rhino poaching, often coming into direct contact with ruthless poachers,” Creecy said.

She added that the decline can be attributed to several strategies implemented by the government, including the use of technology that helps in information collection and sharing among law enforcement authorities regarding activities of poachers.

Creecy also said improved capabilities to react to poaching incidents such as better situational awareness, the involvement of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), donors and good regional cooperation has helped

curb poaching incidents.

African rhinos are killed daily for their horns in South Africa. Rhino horns are in high demand in some Asian countries, where they are used for traditional medicines and as a status symbol for the wealthy.

Currently, there are less than 30,000 African rhinos remaining, with the biggest population in South Africa’s Kruger National Park, where the highest incidents of poaching occur.

In 2019, a total of 327 rhinos were killed by poachers in the park alone.

—31 elephants killed in 2019

Meanwhile, 31 elephants were killed in South Africa in 2019, according to the environment ministry.

“This is a decrease in the number of elephants poached in 2018, when 71 were killed for their tusks,” it said in a statement.

The ministry also said a number of arrests and prosecutions were conducted in 2019 with links to rhino poaching and illicit rhino trade.

“From January to December 2019, 178 alleged poachers were arrested in Kruger National Park. At a national level, 332 arrests were effected in respect of both rhino poaching and rhino horn trafficking. A total of 85 firearms were recovered during the year,” the statement said.



CRDB ag. director of corporate banking, Prosper Nambaya airs his views during a dialogue on critical infrastructure development and access to financing organised by Africa Trade Insurance (ATI) involving internal banking officials held at the Ministry of Finance and Planning offices in Dodoma yesterday. CRDB supports major government projects in the country. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

The carbon sequestration powers of the near-extinct forest elephant

By Augusta Dwyer

AS they move through the rainforest munching plants and shouldering aside small trees, Africa’s forest elephant might come across as an animal bent on mayhem. In fact, says Fabio Berzaghi, an ecologist at the Laboratory of Climate and Environmental

As they move through the rainforest munching plants and shouldering aside small trees, Africa’s forest elephant might come across as an animal bent on mayhem.

In fact, says Fabio Berzaghi, an ecologist at the Laboratory of Climate and Environmental Sciences in France and lead au-

thor of a recent paper in *Nature Geoscience*, forest elephants are hugely beneficial, providing “a tremendous ecosystem service by improving the carbon storage potential of central African forests.”

Smaller in size than its relative, the savanna elephant, the forest elephant has not been widely studied in the past, he says. Found in countries with relatively intact blocks of dense forest, they tend to roam in smaller groups and at lower densities than savanna elephants. They are usually observed only when visiting forest clearings, known as baies, to drink water.

So what, Berzaghi and his colleagues wanted to know, was

their influence on the structure, productivity and carbon stocks of their forest habitat?

The scientists’ research had two main components. Fieldwork in two different sites in the Congo Basin, one from which elephants had disappeared and the other where they are still present, involved measuring all trees larger than 10 centimeters in diameter. “Then we identified each tree at the species level and for other properties such as wood density,” Berzaghi says, “which is quite important.”

The second phase made use of Ecosystem Demography 2 software that tracks the dynamics of forest function, such as biomass,

vegetation height and carbon stock, and simulated elephant impact by increasing the mortality of smaller plants. They then compared the simulations with inventory data from the field studies. The resulting data showed that while there were fewer trees in areas inhabited by elephants, there was, conversely, a higher incidence of slow-growing, hardwood trees that store more carbon than fast-growing softwoods.

Basically, the elephants like to eat smaller tree species with less storage capability, thinning out the competition and favoring the high wood density trees in their quest for more light, water and other resources. This increase

in aboveground biomass – 26 to 60 tons per hectare per more or less one elephant – leads to a corresponding increase in carbon storage.

What’s more, Berzaghi says, the elephant “not only thins the forest but disperses seeds widely, assisting the germination of more than 100 tree species, which provide food and habitat for primates, birds and insects.”

Extrapolating from their findings, however, the scientists zeroed in on another, more troubling statistic. If the forest elephant disappears entirely from its Central African home, forests there will lose seven percent of their biomass. That adds up to a

3-billion-ton loss of carbon – the equivalent of France’s entire CO2 emissions for 27 years.

Worse, such a disappearance is not altogether improbable. Scientists estimate that there were once as many as 1 million forest elephants in Africa, a number that is today a tenth or less of that. Between 2002 and 2011 alone, the species declined by 62 percent, according to a 2013 study in *PLOS One*. Functionally extinct in almost all of its former 220-million-hectare habitat, the environmentally helpful herbivore is still under siege by ivory poachers and forest encroachment.

Various conservation organizations, such as the World Wildlife

Fund (WWF), are trying to protect both the elephant and its habitat. According to Thomas Breuer, the WWF’s program officer for Central and West Africa, the organization is working to address human elephant conflict. In the Sangha Trinational, a 750,000-hectare area that encompasses three contiguous national parks in Cameroon, the Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic, the WWF has adopted a landscape approach that “aims to work with extractive industries and other land users,” Breuer said in an email, “to ensure that forests are protected and that people can live in co-existence with forest elephants.”

Nations join hands to find speedy cure

By Zhang Zhihao

WHEN fighting a new viral outbreak, scientists often spend months determining the microorganism's pathogenesis before developing a targeted drug or vaccine. But as the novel coronavirus rages through China, time is of the essence and researchers around the world are joining forces to find a speedy cure.

While there is not yet an effective medication or vaccine for the virus, scientists from the United States, the United Kingdom, China and elsewhere are making substantial progress and many existing drugs are being tested in clinical trials for potency against the novel coronavirus.

The World Laureates Association Shanghai Center said it has gathered an all-star team of experts, including Nobel laureates in chemistry Roger Kornberg and Michael Levitt, noted antibody expert Richard Lerner and biologist Raymond Dewk, to help investigate the virus and propose new solutions.

"They're willing to actively exert international scientific talent to support China in combating the epidemic," the center said in a statement on Monday.

Promising drugs

There are two typical ways of treating a viral infection. One is using small-molecule drugs that can stop the virus from replicating by interfering with its proteins. The other way is to use antibodies that bind to the virus and cause it to self-destruct, according to the World Health Organization.

Zhong Nanshan, one of the leading experts tackling the outbreak in China, told Xinhua News Agency on Sunday that there are at least seven existing small-molecule drugs going through various stages of clinical trials in China.

On Sunday, Beijing's China-Japan Friendship Hospital announced it will begin clinical trials on 270 mildly and moderately ill patients infected with the novel coronavirus in the epicenter of the outbreak in Central China using an experimental drug from the US called remdesivir, which was originally developed as an Ebola cure.

China's Center for Drug Evaluation of the National Medical Products Administration approved the trials on Sunday to be carried out in Wuhan, Hubei province, from Monday to April 27, its official website said.

The drug is developed by US biotech company Gilead Sciences. It was provided on compassionate grounds to a 35-year-old man in the US infected with the novel coronavirus, and his symptoms noticeably improved within a day



with no obvious side effects, according to a paper published in the New England Journal of Medicine last week.

The US drugmaker said in an online statement last week that it is working closely with health authorities in China and around the world to respond to the novel coronavirus outbreak.

However, it stressed that remdesivir has "not yet been licensed or approved anywhere globally and has not been demonstrated to be safe or effective".

While there is no data regarding remdesivir's effectiveness against the novel coronavirus, the drug has demonstrated antiviral capability in animal models against viral pathogens like SARS and MERS – fellow coronaviruses that are structurally similar to the one from Wuhan, the company said.

Qian Jiahua, chief scientist at the drug evaluation center, told Chinese science news outlet Intellectual that the clinical trial period in China can be shortened if remdesivir produces the same impressive results seen in multiple test patients.

"I hope the drug is like penicillin and can have an immediate impact on a dis-

A health researcher shows a program, newly launched by Shanghai East Hospital of Tongji University and Stermirna Therapeutics Co, to develop an mRNA vaccine targeting the novel coronavirus, in Shanghai, Jan 29, 2020. (PHOTO / XINHUA)

ease," Qian said. While Qian lauded the joint effort, he highlighted the fact that the drug is not yet registered in China and Chinese scientists don't know much about its clinical test results done in the US.

"I think we should move with caution before mass administering it to a demographic as diverse and complex as the Chinese people," he said.

Zeng Weigen, a doctor at Beijing Chaoyang Hospital, said remdesivir has proved to be effective on one US patient with symptoms of pneumonia, but it will require more clinical trials to confirm its potency against the novel coronavirus. "In terms of safety, this drug has been thoroughly tested on humans, mainly on Ebola patients, and its side effects are not that pronounced," Zeng said.

"We hope it can have a good inhibiting effect on the virus and save our Chinese patients. We're looking forward to more data from clinical trials," he added.

Apart from remdesivir, scientists are also testing a cocktail of flu and HIV drugs that had showed potential in curbing the coronavirus. Thailand's Ministry of Health said on Sunday that Thai doctors have seen apparent success treating a 71-year-old woman infected with the novel coronavirus.

The doctors used a combination of the flu drug oseltamivir with lopinavir and ritonavir – antivirals used to treat HIV. The patient's health significantly improved and she tested negative for the virus 48 hours after Thai doctors administered the combination.

However, doctors are still monitoring the patient and waiting for scientists to prove their findings. Hospitals in Beijing have reportedly been using the same HIV drugs as part of treatment for the novel coronavirus, though it is unclear if they have been successful.

Zhang Dingyu, president of Wuhan Jinyintan Hospital, said at a news briefing on Sunday that HIV

drugs like lopinavir have kept severely ill patients at his hospital from worsening.

However, Zhang said such drugs have some serious side effects including diarrhea, allergic reactions, liver damage and slowed heart rates, and must be taken under close supervision and guidance.

New treatments

Since the outbreak, the National Institutes of Health in the US along with around a dozen US biotech companies, have announced vaccine or drug development initiatives for the novel coronavirus. But a majority of are still in preclinical stages. Mark Denison, a virologist at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, told the journal Science that remdesivir has to be administered early in order to have significant impact on the disease.

An ideal treatment would be to combine drugs like remdesivir and

monoclonal antibodies, he said. Monoclonal antibodies are lab-made molecules that can mimic a person's immune system to accurately attack pathogens, such as cancer cells.

US biotech companies such as Regeneron Pharmaceuticals and Vir Biotechnology have announced they are creating such antibodies to target the novel coronavirus, but it will likely take months before they can carry out clinical trials.

Chinese and US researchers are also working together to develop a vaccine against the virus, which included experts from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, the University of Texas, and Shanghai's Fudan University.

Song Zhiheng, deputy director of Zhejiang province's Science and Technology Department, said scientists have isolated 10 viral strains that can be used to create vaccines. A conventional vaccine consists of an inactivated virus or its protein that can be injected into the body to train the immune system to recognize the pathogen and produce antibodies against it in case of encountering the real virus in the future.

Last week, the Eighth People's Hospital in Guangzhou, Guangdong province, said they have produced a drug called pneumonia-1 that can significantly reduce symptoms of patients with mild cases of the novel coronavirus.

The hospital said the drug had successfully lowered fevers in all 50 patients, with no cases of their illnesses intensifying. After a week of clinical observations, around 50 percent reported no coughing and sore throats, and nearly 70 percent no longer experienced fatigue.

The drug is currently awaiting registration and approval, the local medical product authority said. Once approved, it can be quickly manufactured by local pharmaceutical companies to meet local patients' needs.

Lu Shan, a medical professor at the University of Massachusetts, told China News Weekly that SARS and the novel coronavirus shared many similarities, and by building on previous vaccine research on SARS, vaccine development for the new virus should see some progress soon.

"We don't have any technical difficulties producing a vaccine, but we need time to test it on animals and ensure safety," he said.

Xinhua

Women, girls in front line - the humanitarian response in DRC

GENEVA / JOHANNESBURG / KINSHASA

ELEVEN-YEAR-OLD "Anne" went to a health facility with her mother in the conflict-affected province of Ituri, in northeastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. At first, she could barely tell her story.

Traumatized and frightened, she feared reprisal from her attackers. Painstakingly, she recounted the brutal rape she had suffered and the pain that she felt in her body. It took her a while to gain confidence in the service provider and to allow support for her recovery.

Today, Anne remains displaced with her mother, staying in a camp, as it is not safe for them to return home. With support and services, she has resumed some of her daily activities. She now plays with other children and will eventually return to school.

After decades of conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), women and girls continue to suffer disproportionately from the crisis. They also offer one of the best hopes for peace and stability.

In the camp with other displaced persons, Anne now plays a new role. She sensitizes her peers about gender-based violence and reproductive health and rights. When she speaks, others listen.

For this reason and more, local wom-

en and girls play an increasingly critical role in humanitarian action and recovery. With their survival strategies, they offer hope, resilience and solutions to long-lasting challenges.

It is time for increased support and funding to place the needs, rights and leadership of women and adolescent girls at the centre of humanitarian efforts.

As we celebrate the anniversary of the first peaceful political transition of power, there is renewed hope, and a genuine window of opportunity, to address and accelerate progress for gender equality.

In a historic first, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has committed, through an addendum to the joint communiqué signed by the Prime Minister, to implement concrete actions to fight conflict related sexual violence.

The Congolese National Police and National Army have endorsed national plans to combat gender-based violence with zero tolerance for sexual violence, with a commitment to integrate the protection of women and children during military operations.

With this new momentum, there is no time to waste. Ongoing humanitarian situations now affect 12 of 26 provinces in the country, and recent floods and food insecurity place increased strain and hardship on women and families. The humanitarian crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is one of the world's worst protracted

crises.

The number of people who urgently require humanitarian assistance is up from 8.5 million in 2017 to 15.6 million in 2020, including 5 million people displaced from their homes.

Today, many survivors like Anne suffer psychological consequences, such as depression and trauma. Through the multi-stakeholder Call to Action on Protection from GBV in emergencies, which launched a roadmap in DRC in 2019, and the new national strategy to eliminate gender-based violence, concerted efforts are underway with a broad array of partners to strengthen the rule of law and accountability.

This must help thousands of survivors like Anne to rebuild their lives.

Investing in safety, dignity and health As stated by Mark Lowcock, UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, "Doing more to strengthen our support to women and girls in humanitarian crises is in everyone's interest."

UNFPA is working with the Government, the UN system and civil society to promote sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence prevention and response, and mental health and psychosocial support. The majority of our partners are national and local NGOs, including women's organizations.

In the 2020 humanitarian response plan for the DRC, UNFPA is appealing for US\$65 million to strengthen protection and provide life-saving ser-



Woman gives birth to a healthy baby in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, facilitated by the delivery that day of emergency reproductive health kits. File photo

vices to three million people, including 700,000 women of childbearing age. This will support the provision of life-saving reproductive health equipment, drugs, contraceptives and supplies.

With this support, women will enjoy safe birth, couples and individuals will have access to free family planning

enabling them to make choices. GBV prevention will be strengthened, and GBV survivors will have access to free life-saving psychosocial and medical services.

In addition, youth friendly services, including recreational spaces and peer education for boys and girls, will ben-

efit young people.

By investing in women and young people, prospects for peace and stability will increase in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Now is the time to act.

Agencies

OPTIMISM

EcoGraf says govt and Barrick breakthrough paves way for Epanko Graphite financing

By Guardian Reporter

THE successful conclusion of negotiations between the government and Canadian based Barrick Gold Corporation has paved way for the financing and development of Morogoro based Epanko Graphite Project.

In a statement last week, Australian based EcoGraf Limited which is seeking to develop the mine and extract graphite to be used in electric vehicles lithium batteries, said the dispute's resolution is expected to unlock debt financing hurdles for the Epanko Graphite Project.

"A US\$60m senior debt funding proposal is currently being prepared under the revised structure and subject to securing the agreement of all parties, completion of necessary approvals and loan agreements is now expected to be accelerated by the recently announced government settle-

ment with Barrick," the company said in the statement.

It further noted that EcoGraf is in talks with German based KfW IPEX-Bank for financing of the project said the dispute which dates back to 2017, had impacted on funding from international lenders. "During the deadlock between Barrick and the government, which has delayed the development of the Epanko Graphite Project for two and a half years, the company has consistently worked with KfW IPEX-Bank," the company stated.

The statement further noted that EcoGraf had engaged the government on resolution of the legislative issues impacting international financing of mineral projects in Tanzania. Epanko is a highly attractive, long-life Tanzanian natural flake graphite project that has achieved the necessary milestones to enable rapid development.



Workers at Epanko Graphite mine in Mahenge, Morogoro.

The Australian Stock Exchange listed company further noted that a bankable feasibility study led by GR Engineering Services Limited and involving a range of international technical consultancies, demonstrating that Epanko will generate annual revenue of US\$44.5m with an investment rate of return of 38.9 percent has been completed.

"Rigorous due diligence by bank ap-

pointed independent engineer's SRK Consulting of UK, confirming that the bankable feasibility study adequately addresses all technical aspects of the proposed development and that the social and environmental planning aspects satisfy IFC performance standards and World Bank Group's environmental, health and safety guidelines," the statement added.

The company has secured sales

commitments for the planned production with German multinational industrial group thyssenkrupp AG, Japanese multinational Sojitz Group and a large European graphite trading group.

Epanko is unique in its Equator Principles development model. The Project has been designed to meet the strictest standards for social and environmental sustainability and to be

fully compliant with IFC Performance Standards and the Equator Principles.

These high standards of sustainability provide assurance to financiers and customers that Epanko products will be responsibly produced for the benefit of all stakeholders. The importance of sustainable development is reflected in the increasing emphasis globally on transparent supply chains and ethically sourced minerals.

WORLD-CLASS

SA, Zim and Tanzania tops list of world's most Instagrammed national parks

JOHANNESBURG

VICTORIA Falls, Kruger, Kilimanjaro and the Serengeti made the top 20 list of the World's Most Instagrammed National Parks.

Recent analysis done by Faraway Garden Furniture looked at hashtags to reveal which parks were tagged the most on Instagram. The admission fees for each park was also analysed, ascertaining if there was a correlation between the most tagged and the most expensive.

Yosemite, US, which only has a \$20 entry fee, came out on top as the most popular National Park on Instagram with more than 4 million hashtags. Los Glaciares, Argentina is the least popular with a mere 30 531 hashtags. Still not too bad in hashtag world.

Africa has four parks on the list, including Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe, the Kruger National Park in South Africa, Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, and the Tanzanian part of the Serengeti. The most expensive National Park in the world is the Galapagos (\$100), which, despite it being so expensive, came in at 8th position.

Here is the top 20 list with the amount of hashtags: Yosemite (US) - 4 067 845; Grand Canyon (US) - 3,859,864; Lake District (UK) - 2 662,538; Rocky Mountain (US) - 2 343 245; Yellowstone (US) - 2 109 660; Peak District (UK) - 1 342 240; Kruger National Park (SA) - 1 106 004; Galapagos (ECU) - 1 018 355; Sequoia (US) - 979 681; Snowdonia (UK) - 844 124; New Forest (UK) - 662 274; Komodo (INDO) - 629 083; Serengeti (TANZ) - 618 052; Kilimanjaro (TANZ) - 493 550; Guilin and Lijiang River (CHINA) - 398 616; Uluru (AU) - 392 500; Victoria Falls (ZIM) - 234 495; Fiordland (NZ) - 167 678; Swiss (SUI) - 44 523; and Los Glaciares (ARG) - 30 531.



The magnificent Mount Kilimanjaro.

ATTRACTIVE

Vodacom adds almost 500,000 new clients in SA as prices drop

JOHANNESBURG

VODACOM has added almost half a million users in South Africa in three months, thanks in part to a promotional campaign.

In a trading update for the quarter to end-December 2019, the mobile phone giant said it added 484,000 customers in South Africa, and 1.7 million international customers during the period. It now has 117 million customers across the group.

Shameel Joosub, Vodacom Group CEO (pictured), said in a statement that the growth in South Africa was helped by its summer campaign, which delivered 334 million free rewards to 17 million customers. Joosub



said its ongoing "pricing transformation strategy" resulted in the network operator's data prices falling by approximately 50% since March 2016.

Last year, new regulations came into effect which required mobile operators to prevent automatic out-of-bundle data usage, roll over unused data and to allow their

customers to data transfer data to others. Vodacom also announced substantial cuts in out-of-bundle tariffs.

Vodacom said its data customers increased by 12.5% to 22.9 million and unique bundle data users to 14 million.

Overall data usage increased by 63.2% as data bundles sold rose by 20%. But despite adding 450,000 more prepaid customers, its mobile prepaid customer revenue declined by 1.8%.

The group's total revenue rose by 6.6% to R23.6 billion, with South Africa growing by almost 6% to R18.2bn, while its international businesses expanded by 9% to R5.8bn. Vodacom's services division include digital offer-

ing digital in video, music, sports and gaming as well as VodaPay, which enables direct airtime purchase and bill payments. The group now has 2-million customers on its video platform.

Its fibre offering has been rolled out to 50,000 homes.

Joosub said Vodacom expects to be able to launch 5G services in South Africa later in 2020, without giving an exact date.

"This is possible thanks to a recent roaming agreement with Liquid Telecom, as 5G spectrum is largely unassigned in South Africa." After an initial rally following the release of the update, Vodacom's share price pared gains and was flat by mid-morning, CEO.

CHARITY

Bank donates desks, construction material worth 35m/- to Dodoma schools

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

NMB Bank Plc has donated building equipment and desks worth 35m/- to seven primary schools in Dodoma city.

It donated building material worth 5m/- to Chiwondo primary school while other public schools of Mnadani, Mlimwa, Ipala, Mitumba, Vikonje and Nong'ona all got 90 desks worth 5m/-.

Speaking yesterday while

handing over the donations to the schools at a ceremony presided over by the Regional Commissioner, Dr Benilith Mahenge, and NMB Central Zone Manager, Nsolo Mlozi expressed commitment to support the government in improving provision of education services in the country.

Mlozi said NMB has spent over 85m/- in supporting education services in Dodoma region as a whole. "This is just to support

efforts by the government to ensure every child in the country gets access to quality education through improved infrastructure" he said.

Mlozi further noted that the donation is part of over 1bn/- set aside by the bank from its over 148bn/- profit made in 2019, adding that, the bank targets its support in education and health sectors as well as in responding to disasters.

The NMB Central Zone boss

appealed to other financial institutions and likeminded stakeholders to support government efforts to improve the learning environment in public schools in the country.

In his official remarks after receiving the donations, RC Mahenge thanked the bank for the good gesture, saying it will help enable young Tanzanians, most of them from poor background get decent education.

"The bank has proved that it

is one of the oldest and stable financial institutions in the country through its timely support to government development projects" Dr Mahenge said. He thanked the bank's zonal manager for support to improve schools in the city and beyond, noting that more of such efforts are needed to improve education level in the region.

The RC noted that while Dodoma city's performance is improving in national exami-

nations, other district in the central region are still lagging behind, pulling down regional performance as a whole.

He urged parents to ensure their children attend schools regularly as by so doing, such donations will prove to be worth receiving. The RC also called on parents and guardians to help fight teen pregnancies among school going children.

The same message was echoed by the Dodoma Urban Dis-

trict Commissioner, Patrobas Katambi who said pregnancy and truancy remain some of the challenges among public school pupils in his district. "Let me warn those out to impregnate school girls that we shall never relent in this war and you will all land in prison," Katambi threatened. He also thanked NMB for the gesture, noting that supporting education is not only helping pupils but changing the entire nation.



Dodoma Regional Commissioner, Dr Benilith Mahenge.

EXCELLENCE

Two Rwandan entities named among Africa's top 10 clean energy innovators

KIGALI

THE Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority (RURA) and Ampersand have been listed among Africa's most promising climate and clean energy innovators lined up for the 2020 Ashden Awards.

RURA has been nominated for "bringing cleaner buses to the streets of Kigali", while Ampersand is being credited with introducing "electric motorcycles designed and manufactured in Africa".

While RURA is the national utility regulator, Ampersand is a private firm, whose mission, it says, is "building affordable electric vehicles and charging systems for the three million motorcycle taxi drivers in East Africa, starting with Rwanda." The list includes organisations that carry out outstanding work across Africa to electrify rural areas, boost sustainable urban transport and improve the lives of refugees and farmworkers, according to a statement.

Besides RURA and Ampersand, eight other 10 African organisations made the list which also features 34 other innovators from around the world. Top eleven finalists will be announced in June and subsequently celebrated at the Ashden Awards Ceremony in London this July,

the organisation said in the statement.

"Africa's impressive culture of innovation and entrepreneurship is reflected in our long list. Africa is on the frontline of the climate crisis, with seven of the top ten climate change-affected countries in the continent, so it's crucial we promote energy solutions created and proven locally," Ashden CEO Harriet Lamb is quoted saying.

She added: "Despite so much great work, Africa's energy access challenge is huge. Close to 600 million people in sub-Saharan Africa are without regular access to electricity, and polluting cook stoves means many are dying just to put food on the table. "What's more, the climate emergency is creating extreme weather, worsening conflict and making it harder for people to earn a living." Founded in 2001, Ashden is based in London, with a network of 225 winners and numerous partners stretching around the world.

The Ashden Humanitarian Energy Award is one of 11 prizes making up the 2020 Ashden Awards. Together, the Awards highlight proven solutions to the climate crisis and energy access challenges. Winners receive a cash prize, development support, and the chance to connect with investors and leading

figures in the energy and climate sector.

Since 2001, Ashden has awarded more than 225 ground-breaking organisations. Other African organisations on the 2020 Ashden Awards list are: Cross boundary Energy Access, Tanzania for unlocking financing for electricity mini-grids; Togolese Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Agency for its national plan to improve energy access across Togo; Enventure of Uganda for helping rural co-operatives and community-based organisations start clean energy ventures; Mucho Mangoes from Kenya for a broad package of support for farmers in Kenya, including access to solar-powered drying technology; Gaia Clean Energy from Ethiopia for safer cooking fuels distributed by cooperatives run by refugees and host community members; Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch for protecting the environment by boosting sustainable income-generation in the Kilum-Ijim forest; Qhubeka of South Africa for building bicycles, training mechanics and promoting safe cycling; and EConsult of Egypt for architects creating cooling, sustainable buildings for farmworkers.

CONCERNS

Confusing fiscal policies worry Kenya investors

NAIROBI

KENYA'S fiscal and monetary policies have been conflicting, raising concerns among investors who rely on them to make decisions. The Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) has moved towards a more accommodative stance to encourage commercial banks to boost lending to the private sector.

Its Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) in January cut the Central Bank Rate by 25 basis points to 8.25 percent, saying the economy was operating below its potential. This was a consecutive cut made from 9.00 percent in last November. The policy stance to encourage private sector lending is, however, likely to run into headwinds in the form of increased Treasury appetite for domestic debt.

There has been a gradual rise in the interest rates for short-term government securities, attributable to the fact that the Treasury is under pressure to meet its domestic borrowing target. And this despite fiscal consolidation touted by the Treasury from the second half of fiscal year 2019/2020.

"Conversation with players in capital markets is that the policies are coming out as a sticky issue. The movement in yields speaks of borrowing pressure to attract investors to Treasury bills and bonds in the first half of 2020," Churchill Ogutu, senior researcher at Genghis Capital, said.

"There was a plan on fiscal consolidation but by in large, we don't see it happening even with the supplementary budget that has an increase in expenditure, raising the conflict. The market is in a confused mode."

The supplementary budget for 2019/2020 effected a net increase of Sh78.1 billion on the initial budget to Sh3.13 trillion, necessitating an upward adjustment in domestic borrowing from the initial Sh300.3 billion to Sh391.4 billion.

The deficit, inclusive of grants in the 2020/2021 fiscal year, is projected to reduce to Sh569.4 billion from Sh715.2 billion in 2018/2019. But gong by past practice the Treasury has found it hard to implement these budget cuts.

To finance the fiscal deficit, net domestic borrowing is projected at Sh318.9 billion and foreign financing at Sh247.3 bil-



Central Bank of Kenya Governor Patrick Njoroge during a press conference on the Monetary Policy Committee meeting on January 28.

lion. According to Mr Ogutu, banks may continue to lend government, helping meet their targets, meaning that the rate cap repeal in November may not fully entice the banks to lend to customers whose risk remains elevated.

"Banks are split on the direction to take in credit extension, and are still lending to government. Lending to private sector is not as robust as expected," he said. "They will be weighing the risks and opportunities to lending. The anecdotal evidence to lend after the rate cap repeal has not been so."

The CBK is in the meantime trying to revive private sector credit growth, the Genghis analyst said, alive to the fact that there are some fragilities in the economy. This has been shown by the fact that consumption is still muted. Inflation as an indicator of private consumption stood at 5.78 percent in January compared to 5.82 percent in December, in spite of a rise in food prices.

This is indicative of the spill-over effects of contractionary fiscal policies that have seen an increase in taxes, while pending bills are still an issue and many Kenyans have lost jobs.

"There is still no much demand pressure in the economy from both households and businesses, hence a bit lower end of the projections in credit growth," said Mr Ogutu.

Thus, conventional wisdom would point to an all-out effort to improve the circulation of money in the economy, with an improvement in private sector lending one of the options on the table. Against an earlier expectation of 11.3 percent, private sector credit growth in the 12 months to December 2019

stood at 7.1 percent.

This was observed mainly in manufacturing (9.2 percent), trade (8.9 percent), transport and communication (8.1 percent), and consumer durables (26.0 percent). Growth in private sector credit, particularly to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), is expected to increase gradually due to the deployment of innovative MSME credit products, the repeal of interest rate caps and the continued easing of credit risk, as stated by the MPC.

"The repeal is a window for increased borrowing, but the appetite is not there due to the business environment they operate in may not be conducive. When this is addressed that is when we can see some uptick in private sector," said Mr Ogutu. "Company layoffs and property auctions speak to depressed disposable income."

According to the analyst, the cap removal may bear fruit towards the last quarter of 2020 or early next year. "The environment is still fragile and it will take much more than just a rate cut to stir banks to start lending. There is usually some lag with most of these measures hence the need for transmission to take effect, improving early next year," he added.

The investment bank has projected real GDP growth rate of 5.7 percent in 2020, while the CBK set this at 6.2 percent, driven by service industry which account for 45 percent of the GDP and after years of steady growth.

However, escalated political noise around the BBI constitutional reforms and a possible referendum is expected to have an impact on the services sector.

DECELERATION

CAPE TOWN

THE investment capital available to mining companies is shrinking as the economic boom in China slows and investors see the industry as increasingly risky, says Rio Tinto Group Energy and Minerals CEO Bold Baatar.

"It's becoming more difficult to invest in mining - our shareholders are rotating largely out of mining for a variety of reasons," he said. "Money moves

around the world where it is less risky." Mining companies need to look for new ways of structuring projects including where large producers like Rio Tinto

team up with juniors, he said.

Baatar spoke on the sidelines of the African Mining Indaba in Cape Town, the continent's biggest gathering of one of its most vital

industries.

Anglo on Eskom Boss
The new chief executive officer of struggling power utility Eskom, meanwhile, has at least one fan in

the mining industry: Anglo American CEO Mark Cutifani. Andre de Ruyter's admission that the country would have to bear with loadshedding for at least 18 months is

exactly what South African businesses need, Cutifani said.

"I am far more optimistic today than I was 12 months ago even though the situation might be worse," he said. "We still have risks, issues that we are going to deal with, but the fact that we have got some brutally honest conversations, now that's good."

Mining's investment pool is shrinking, Rio says

GROWTH

Business conditions in Saudi Arabia's non-oil economy improve in January

RIYADH

BUSINESS conditions in Saudi Arabia's non-oil private sector improved overall in January, but at a slower rate as strong competition and cautious consumer spending pulled back growth.

The seasonally-adjusted Purchasing Managers' Index - a gauge designed to give an overview of operating conditions in the non-oil private sector economy - slipped to 54.9 in January in the kingdom, from 56.9 in December. The reading remained well above the 50 level, indicating economic expansion.

Business activity in Saudi Arabia increased last month, but the rate of expansion was similar to that of the 14-month low seen in December. The latest slowdown largely reflects a weaker contribution from the new orders component of the PMI, according to the survey.

"January data suggested that non-oil private sector companies remained in expansion mode. However, business activity was again constrained by a slowdown in new order growth," Tim Moore, an economics associate director at IHS Markit, which compiles the survey, said.

"Non-oil firms in Saudi Arabia are optimistic about the business outlook for 2020, but levels of confidence have dropped since December, which acted as a brake on staff hiring and input buying at the start of the year."

The latest rise in sales volumes was the softest rate of growth recorded in 13 months. Export sales also dipped slightly, reflecting subdued business conditions in overseas markets, according to the survey.

Looking ahead, businesses in Saudi Arabia remained confident about growth prospects in the coming 12 months, according to the survey. The degree of positive sentiment, however, slipped in January from that seen in December. It was the lowest for almost one-and-a-half years.

Meanwhile, a decline in new orders retracted growth in the UAE's non-oil private sector in January. It is the first time the sector has not registered growth in a decade, according to the PMI survey by IHS.

The headline PMI number in the second-biggest Arab economy dropped to 49.3 in January from 50.2 in December, signalling a slight deterioration in business conditions. Workforce numbers also dropped, while selling prices were lowered for the sixteenth month running.

On the demand side, total new orders fell as companies struggled to gain sales momentum. Orders from abroad,

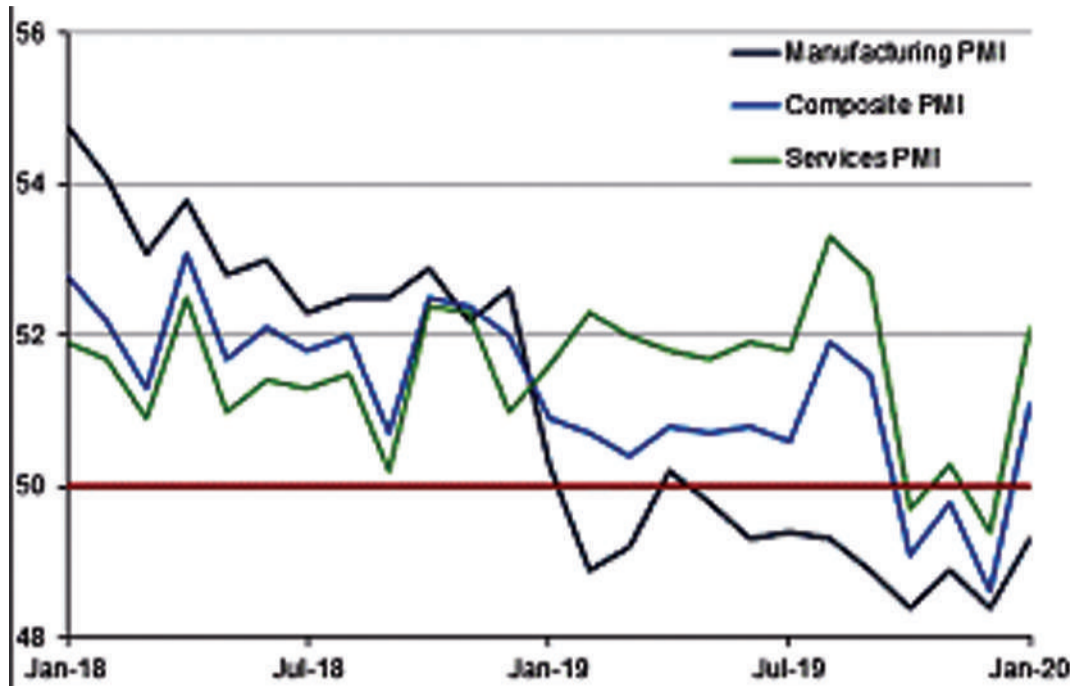
however, grew for the third month in a row and at a faster pace than in December, according to the survey.

UAE companies responded by leaving output levels unchanged in January, ending a sequence of growth that had lasted for almost a decade. "Despite lower prices, new orders fell for the second time in three months in January, adding extra pressure on businesses and halting output growth," said David Owen, an economist at IHS Markit.

"Looking ahead, it is hoped by many firms that the upcoming Expo 2020 will restore new business volumes and kick-start activity. Another bright note is growing momentum in export sales."

In Egypt, non-oil private sector economy weakened at a much faster rate in January as sales fell on the back of a sharp reduction in business activity. Employment and purchases also declined in the most populous Arab nation.

Egypt's PMI gauge fell to a three-year



low of 46 in January, from 48.2 in December. The health of the sector has now deteriorated in each of the past six months.

Contributing to the downturn was a sharp contraction in output, with the rate of decline accelerating to the fastest since January 2017. The fall in new orders was also the quickest in nearly three years. Export demand also softened for the fourth month running, according to the survey.

"January PMI data brought unwelcome news for Egypt's non-oil private sector," Mr Owen said. "Firms squarely linked this [drop in PMI index] to falling sales, with customers increasingly cautious about their expenditure and new contracts dwindling."

On the positive side, business expectations remained positive in January, despite dropping to a four-month low. Respondents hoped that lower prices would drive sales and activity higher in the coming months, Mr Owen said.



ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

ITV

ITV PGM SCHEDULE	18:00	18:15	23:00
SATURDAY 18 Jan	Jiji Letu	Igizo: Mizengwe rpt	Habari
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	18:10 Abu yako rpt	18:30 Ijue Sheria	23:30 The Base
6:00 HABARI	18:15 Mapishi	19:00 Kipindi Maalum: Kipanya Chooni	00:30 DWTV
6:40 Kumekucha	18:45 Kesho leo	19:30 Isidingo	
7:00 Habari	19:00 Afya ya Jamii	20:00 Habari	SATURDAY 25 Jan
8:00 Al Jazeera	19:30 Isidingo	21:00 Abu Yako! Hata wewe?	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
9:00 Watoto wetu	20:00 Habari	21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco	6:00 HABARI
10:00 Mjue Zaidi rpt	21:05 Dakika 45	21:40 Ripoti Maalum	6:40 Kumekucha
10:45 Usafiri wako rpt	22:00 Insta Moja	21:50 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost	7:00 Habari
11:15 Shamba lulu rpt	22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost	23:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera
11:45 Mapishi rpt	23:00 Habari	23:30 The Base	9:00 Watoto wetu
12:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt	23:30 The Base	00:30 Al Jazeera	10:00 Mjue Zaidi rpt
12:40 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	00:30 Al Jazeera	2:00 DWTV	10:45 Usafiri wako rpt
14:40 Igizo rpt: Dhoruba	02:00 DWTV		11:15 Shamba lulu rpt
15:15 Igizo: Mkguzi		THURSDAY 23 Jan	11:45 Mapishi rpt
16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe		5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	12:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt
16:20 Igizo: Mtego		6:00 HABARI	12:40 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost
17:00 Shamsam za Pwani		6:40 Kumekucha	14:40 Igizo rpt: Dhoruba
18:00 Jiji Letu		7:30 HABARI	15:15 Igizo: Mkguzi
18:15 Mapishi		8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
18:30 Igizo: Dhoruba		8:55 Habari za saa	16:20 Igizo: Mtego
19:00 Art and Style		9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
19:25 Jungu Kuu		9:30 Isidingo	18:00 Jiji Letu
20:00 Habari		9:55 Habari za saa	18:15 Mapishi
21:00 Shangweka		10:00 Watoto	18:30 Igizo: Dhoruba
21:30 Kesho leo rpt		10:30 Igizo: Mkguzi	19:00 Art and lifestyle
22:00 Kipindi maalum: Insta Moja		10:55 Habari za saa	19:25 Jungu Kuu
22:15 Hawavumi lakini wamo		11:00 Igizo: Mkguzi	20:00 Habari
23:00 Isidingo rpt		11:15 Kesho Leo rpt	21:00 Shangweka
01:30 DWTV		11:55 Habari za saa	21:30 Kesho leo rpt
		12:00 Al Jazeera	22:00 Kipindi maalum: Insta Moja
		12:30 Afa ya jamii rpt	22:15 Hawavumi lakini wamo
		12:55 Habari za saa	23:00 Isidingo rpt
		13:00 Uchumi na biashara	01:30 DWTV
		13:30 Tanzania yetu	
		13:55 Habari za saa	SUNDAY 26 Jan
		14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
		15:00 Meza huru	6:00 HABARI
		16:30 Watoto Wetu	6:40 Kumekucha
		17:00 The Base	7:00 Habari
		18:00 Jiji Letu	8:00 Al Jazeera
		18:15 Mapishi	9:00 Watoto Wetu
		18:30 Jagina	10:00 Isidingo
		19:00 Usafiri wako	11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt
		19:30 Isidingo	12:00 Bongo Movie rpt: Bahasha
		20:00 Habari	14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
		21:00 Malumbano ya hoja	15:00 Mwangaza
		23:00 Habari	16:00 The Great queen Seonduk
		23:30 The Base	16:45 Igizo rpt: Mkguzi
		00:30 DWTV	17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo
			18:00 Jiji Letu
			18:15 Mapishi
			18:30 Matukio ya wiki
			19:30 Igizo: Mtego
			19:30 Igizo: Mtego
			20:00 Habari
			21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Biko
			21:10 Mizengwe
			21:30 Mjue Zaidi
			22:15 Bongo Movie: Where is Elisa?
			00:30 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost
			SUNDAY 26 Jan
			5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
			6:00 HABARI
			6:40 Kumekucha
			7:00 Habari
			8:00 Al Jazeera
			9:00 Watoto Wetu
			10:00 Isidingo
			11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt
			12:00 Bongo Movie rpt: Bahasha
			14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
			15:00 Mwangaza
			16:00 The Great queen Seonduk
			16:45 Igizo rpt: Mkguzi
			17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo
			18:00 Jiji Letu
			18:15 Mapishi
			18:30 Matukio ya wiki
			19:30 Igizo: Mtego
			19:30 Igizo: Mtego
			20:00 Habari
			21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Biko
			21:10 Mizengwe
			21:30 Mjue Zaidi
			22:15 Bongo Movie: Where is Elisa?
			00:30 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost
			CAPITAL
			Sat 25 Jan
			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: Ilijimae
			14:30 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?)
			Where is Elisa?
			17:15 Tanzania Yetu rpt
			17:45 Bundesliga Kick off
			18:15 Capchat rpt
			19:15 Mizengwe
			19:30 The Decor
			20:00 Korean Drama: Ilijimae
			21:00 Out n' About
			21:30 Movie: Diary of a mad black woman
			Sun 26 Jan
			08:00 CNN International
			09:00 In good shape
			10:00 Capchat rpt
			11:00 Sports Gazette rpt
			11:30 Korean Drama rpt: Ilijimae
			12:00 Jagina rpt
			12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt
			13:00 In good shape rpt
			13:30 Series rpt: The other side
			15:15 Abu 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: Ilijimae
			21:00 Shift
			21:15 Capchat live
			22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?)
			Where is Elisa?
			00:00 Al Jazeera
			Mon 27 Jan
			06:00 Al Jazeera
			07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
			09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
			13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?)
			Where is Elisa?
			14:00 Club 101 (Via Capital Radio)
			16:00 Series rpt: The other side
			16:30 Tanzania Yetu rpt
			17:00 Eco@Africa rpt
			17:30 Meza huru
			19:00 The Décor rpt
			19:30 Shamba lulu
			20:00 Series: The other side
			20:45 The Monday Agenda
			21:30 Capital Prime News
			22:00 Kipima Joto
			00:00 Al Jazeera
			Tues 28 Jan
			06:00 Al Jazeera
			07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
			09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
			13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?)
			Where is Elisa?
			14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
			16:00 Series rpt: Life is a teacher
			16:30 Capchat rpt
			17:30 Meza huru
			19:00 Innovation
			19:30 Jagina rpt
			20:00 Series: The other side
			20:45 Telenovela: (Dónde está Elisa?)
			Where is Elisa?
			21:30 Capital Prime
			22:00 Turning the spotlight rpt
			22:30 Eco@Africa
			23:00 Al Jazeera
			Wed 29 Jan
			06:00 Al Jazeera
			07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
			09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
			13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?)
			Where is Elisa?
			14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
			16:00 Series rpt: The other side
			16:30 Culinary delight rpt
			17:00 Innovation rpt
			17:30 Meza Huru
			19:00 Sports Gazette
			19:30 Tanzania Yetu rpt
			20:00 Series: The other side
			20:45 Telenovela: (Dónde está Elisa?)
			Where is Elisa?
			21:30 Capital Prime News
			22:00 Dakika 45:
			22:45 The Décor
			23:15 Al Jazeera

BREXIT

Johnson warns Brussels he'd rather walk away without a trade deal

LONDON

BORIS Johnson will on Monday warn that Britain will not follow any European Union rules in a new trade deal with Brussels, and will walk away from negotiations without any deal whatsoever if necessary.

In a speech in south London this morning, the prime minister is set to declare that there is "no need" for the United Kingdom to sign up to EU rules and regulations in exchange for high levels of access to European markets.

Johnson's remarks put the UK on collision course with the EU when trade talks get underway next month. EU figures including European Commission President, Ursula Von Der Leyen, have said that Britain must sign up to a "level playing field" with the EU in order to secure tariff and quota-free access to European markets. However, the prime minister will today categorically rule out signing up to commitments of this sort.

"There is no need for a free trade agreement to involve accepting EU rules on competition policy, subsidies, social protection, the environment, or anything similar any more than the EU should be obliged to accept UK rules.

"The UK will maintain the highest standards in these areas - better, in many respects, than those of the EU - without the compulsion of a treaty and it is vital to stress this now," he is expected to say.

Johnson is also set to warn Brussels that he is prepared to walk away from trade talks without any deal whatsoever.

"We have often been told that we must choose between full access to the EU market, along with accept-

ing its rules and courts on the Norway model, or an ambitious free trade agreement, which opens up markets and avoids the full panoply of EU regulation, on the example of Canada," he is expected to say in his speech.

"We have made our choice: we want a free trade agreement, similar to Canada's but in the very unlikely event that we do not succeed, then our trade will have to be based on our existing Withdrawal Agreement with the EU.

"The choice is emphatically not 'deal or no-deal'. The question is whether we agree a trading relationship with the EU comparable to Canada's - or more like Australia's."

Australia and the EU do not have a free trade deal and trade largely on World Trade Organisation rules. The Institute For Government think tank last month warned that an outcome of this sort would be just as damaging to British businesses as a no-deal Brexit, as it would result in swathes of new checks on goods.

However, Johnson is set to say that "in either case, I have no doubt that Britain will prosper." Britain finally left the EU on Friday evening, three-and-a-half-years after the 2016 Brexit referendum.

The country has entered an 11-month transition period - or "implementation period" - during which it will continue to follow all EU rules, laws, and regulations.

This arrangement will come to an end in January 2021. Johnson's UK government will in the meantime try to secure free trade agreements with the EU and other countries like the United States, Japan, Australia and New Zealand, as soon as possible.

WORLD

China's efforts ease foreigners' worries

BY ADHERE CAVINCE

AS an international student in China, I have always been captivated by the level of development the country has realized. The city of Wuhan, which will be my home for the next three years, displayed special splendor, order and opulence.

I always looked for opportunities to travel to different scenic points in the city, mostly on weekends.

It was for this reason that I, like many international students, looked forward to the January-February semester break. We would then have time to travel and relish Wuhan and other cities in China. This dream was cut short this year, however, when the authorities announced the outbreak of the coronavirus in Wuhan.

What started with a few infections has since become an epidemic, infecting thousands and spreading beyond China to other countries including the United States, Japan,

Thailand, South Korea, India and the Philippines.

The situation has fomented fear, panic and even despair among residents of Wuhan.

In order to contain the spread of the virus, the government announced a curfew, bringing the city into lockdown.

No trains, planes, vehicles or water vessels are allowed to either leave or enter the city, except under special circumstances. Such developments have made the situation more unpleasant, especially for foreign nationals in the city.

One would imagine the lockdown taking a toll on the city, perhaps leading to chaos. Many international students, for instance, wondered how life would be under the restricted movements. With shops closed, we wondered how we were going to replenish our food supplies and

drinking water.

In the days that followed, however, the administration of Central China Normal University demonstrated a high degree of responsiveness that made both the safety and the well-being of international students a priority.

Students were immediately provided with hand soap, surgical masks and thermometers. The school hospital was activated to respond to any medical concerns. Information on how to protect students from the spread of the coronavirus was circulated and displayed in strategic public spaces.

The university also ensured that canteens and other eateries on campus were functional, easing students' worries.

Beyond the university, national and regional governments raced to contain the coronavirus, regularly updating the public on the progress made. It was heartening to see the World Health Organization and other leading regional organizations endorse the pragmatic measures taken by China to manage the outbreak.

The Chinese people have demonstrated that with synergy and knowledge-driven action, the coronavirus can be defeated.

The establishment of additional hospitals and increased production of medical supplies are further signs that the Chinese government has put the lives of citizens at the core of policy decisions.

These actions have helped the international community in Wuhan feel a sense of ease. The

cooperation of various embassies and the foreign affairs office in Wuhan and at different universities has also lessened anxiety among international students.

Although additional infections are reported each day, the number of patients who have been treated effectively and discharged is also increasing. One of the most inspiring stories is that of a nurse who resumed her duties after recovering from infection by the virus.

As China intensifies efforts to contain the virus, the international community must work in unison to help end the threat.

Coronavirus is not a Chinese affair, much like Ebola was never an African affair. Viruses don't need passports to cross borders. Viruses have no religion, race or tribe.

While Wuhan remains on lockdown, everyone must continue to take precautionary measures and deny the coronavirus the opportunity to spread further. Thousands of international students remain in Wuhan, encouraged by the resilience, generosity and industry of the Chinese people. We will eventually resume our vibrant, multicultural and fulfilling academic lives that Wuhan has afforded so many of us.

The writer is a PhD student of international relations at Central China Normal University as well as a Belt and Road tourism ambassador. The views do not necessarily reflect those of China Daily.

China Daily



Two foreign students in Wuhan University chanting 'Come on, Wuhan' to cheer up the city. (Photo: China Daily).

We are confident that China's economy remains resilient - IMF managing director

WASHINGTON

KRISTALINA Georgieva, the managing director of the International Monetary Fund, said on Twitter, "Our deep sympathies to all those affected by the serious situation related to Coronavirus."

We support China's efforts to respond, including recent fiscal, monetary, and financial actions. We are confident that China's economy remains resilient."

At a recent roundtable news conference at the IMF's headquarters in Washington DC, Georgieva (pictured) also said the IMF was closely monitoring the situation and would assess its economic impact in a few weeks.

While the outbreak may have an impact on China's economy in the short term, she believes the government has ample policy space to stabilize growth. She argues that the benefits of economic globalization cannot be negated by the risk of pandemic disease.

She noted that the benefits of global economic integration in boosting economic growth and improving people's lives still far outweigh the negative effects.

Georgieva said the world could build more early warning systems, take more preventive measures and take early action to control pandemics, while giving high priority to development issues and strengthening the resilience of national economies.

People's Daily



Dutch prosecution indicts four suspects in MH17 crash case

MOSCOW

THE Public Prosecution Service of the Netherlands has filed indictments against four suspects in the Malaysia Airlines MH17 crash case in Ukraine and summoned them for investigative procedures, defense attorney for one of the defendants Yelena Kutyna told TASS.

"The Netherlands' Public Prosecution Service has indicted and summoned four suspects in the MH17 case. One of these defendants - Oleg Pulatov - will be defended by an international defense attorney group consisting of two Dutch and one Russian attorneys," she said.

Kutyna added that the group will work in full compliance with international law. "When defending [the client] we will consider this case with profound respect for feelings of the victims' families as well as considering the basic principle of criminal proceedings - presumption of innocence. We are hoping that the Dutch court will be independent and objective when hearing the case," the attorney stressed.

Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17, a Boeing-777 passenger plane travelling from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur, was shot down on July 17, 2014, over Ukraine's eastern region of Donetsk. The crash killed all the 283 passengers, citizens of 10 countries, and 15 crewmembers. In spite of the active armed conflict on the ground, Kiev did not close its airspace over the Donbass region to international passenger flights.

The Joint Investigation Team (JIT) looking into the crash is made up of representatives from the Netherlands, Australia, Belgium, Malaysia and Ukraine.

Russian officials have repeatedly expressed doubts and distrust of the results of its work, pointed to the groundless nature of arguments the accusations are based on and unwillingness to use Russian conclusion in the course of the investigation. On May 24, the experts published a provisional report, claiming that the missile system that was used to down Flight MH17 could have been transferred from Russia and be a part of the Russian 53rd Anti-Aircraft Missile brigade near Kursk. Moscow rejects the JIT accusations. Particularly, the Russian Defense Ministry said that no Russian army missile system had ever crossed the Ukrainian border.

Moreover, the defense ministry's representatives reported that they had identified the missile that was launched to down the Boeing and established that it was transferred over to the Ukrainian troops back in 1986 and had never returned to Russia since.

In June, the JIT said it had identified four persons suspected of being involved the MH17 crash. They are three Russian nationals Igor Girkin, also known under the nickname of Strelkov, Sergei Dubinsky, Oleg Pulatov and a Ukrainian national, Leonid Kharchenko. The trial is scheduled to begin on March 9, 2020.

Agencies

US urged to cooperate with China's epidemic control efforts

BEIJING

CHINA calls on the United States to see the pneumonia outbreak caused by the novel coronavirus in an objective, fair, calm and reasonable manner, and respect and cooperate with China as well as the international community to fight against the epidemic, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson said yesterday.

The Chinese government and people are sparing no effort to

fight against the epidemic, and measures to prevent the spread of the epidemic are making progress, spokesperson Hua Chunying said.

She made the remarks when asked to comment on the remarks made by US President Donald Trump Sunday, in which he said that the United States had "basically shut it down coming from China."

Although the number of confirmed cases of novel coronavirus



infection is relatively large, the fatality rate on the Chinese mainland is far lower than Ebola, SARS and MERS, said Hua, adding that

the recovery rate keeps increasing. China is fully confident in its capacity to win the fight against the virus, Hua (pictured) said.

In response to Reuters quoting Trump as saying that US officials had offered China "tremendous help" in dealing with the epidemic, Hua said that China hopes the assistance the US said it would provide to help tackle the outbreak will take place as soon as possible.

"We can't have thousands of people coming in who may have

this problem - the coronavirus," Trump was quoted by Reuters as saying.

China has noticed that the US has expressed several times its willingness to provide assistance, and hopes the assistance said will be extended as soon as possible, Hua said.

The US should view China's efforts objectively, fairly and calmly without overreaction, and respect and coordinate with such efforts, she said.

Xinhua

Iran, S. Arabia, Sudan back China's epidemic control efforts

BEIJING

THE foreign ministers of Iran, Saudi Arabia and Sudan expressed their support for and confidence in the Chinese government in its battle against the novel coronavirus epidemic in phone conversations with Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Monday.

Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif said his country is willing to work together with China to combat the novel coronavirus.

Zarif (pictured) said it has been widely recognized by the interna-

tional community that the Chinese government, in a responsible and transparent manner, has taken timely and resolute measures in fighting the epidemic, which has prevented not only a deterioration of the outbreak within China, but also its spread overseas.

Iran firmly opposes some Western countries' attempt to exploit the epidemic, and believes that the Chinese government and people will overcome the current difficulties, Zarif said.

He said Iran has provided China with a certain amount of urgently needed medical supplies, and



stands ready to offer more assistance and work together with China to combat the epidemic.

On his part, Wang expressed thanks to Iran for supporting China in fighting the epidemic, hailing Zarif as the first foreign minister publicly voicing support for China, which has shown the Iranian people's friendliness towards the Chi-

nese people.

Wang also thanked Iran for providing China with medical supplies at the critical moment of epidemic prevention and control.

Starting from Feb. 1, the number of people discharged from hospital after recovery has started to significantly surpass the number of deaths, an important symbol showing the epidemic is controllable and curable, Wang said.

Wang said that China will continue to share information with the world in an open and transparent manner, and strengthen cooperation with other countries, so as to

jointly safeguard global and regional public health safety.

China to 'eventually win the fight' China will eventually win the fight against the novel coronavirus, said Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud.

China will eventually win the fight against the novel coronavirus, said Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud.

Faisal said Saudi Arabia commends China's strong measures to curb the spread of the virus and highly appreciates China's sense of responsibility in the prevention and control of the epidemic. Xinhua

Turkey hits back after Syrian shells kill Turkish troops

ANKARA/ISTANBUL

Turkey said on Monday its military hit dozens of Syrian government targets after eight Turkish military personnel were killed by shelling in Idlib in northwest Syria, where fighting threatens to test ties between Ankara and Moscow.

Turkey and Russia are on opposing sides in the fighting in Idlib and, though they work together elsewhere in Syria, President Tayyip Erdogan said Russian officials had been told they should "stand aside" in the conflict around Idlib.

Defence Minister Hulusi Akar said Turkish forces had hit 54 targets in Idlib in retaliation and "neutralised"

76 Syrian government soldiers, the state-owned Anadolu agency reported.

He later told Turkish media that seven Turkish soldiers and one civilian working for the Turkish military had died in the shelling, and added that 13 others who were wounded were in good condition.

Erdogan had earlier said the retaliatory operations included the use of F-16 fighter jets and responded to what Turkey called intense shelling of its troops in Idlib, the last big rebel stronghold after nearly nine years of war in Syria.

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's forces, backed by Russian air power,

have made large advances in Idlib, prompting Turkey to warn it may launch a military operation there unless the fighting is halted.

"We are determined to continue our operations for the security of our country, people and our brothers in Idlib. Those who question our determination will soon understand they made a mistake," Erdogan said in Istanbul before flying to Kiev.

Speaking later in the Ukrainian capital, he said developments in Idlib had become "unmanageable".

The Syrian Observatory, a war monitor based in Britain, said 13 members of the Syrian government forces had been killed in Turkish

shelling. A Syrian state TV correspondent said there had been no casualties among its government forces.

Erdogan accuses Russia of violating a 2017 agreement to reduce fighting in the region, and charge that Russia denies.

Ankara and Moscow have also been regularly conducting joint patrols in northeastern Syria. It is not clear whether or how such cooperation would be affected by any strains in ties over Idlib but Turkish broadcaster NTV said that the patrol on Monday was canceled. Closer military ties between NATO member Turkey and Russia have meanwhile

alarmed Washington and other Western allies.

Turkey has in recent days sent military vehicles, trucks and other reinforcements to the region in a challenge to Damascus and its Russian backers.

Rebels fighting to oust Assad, some of whom have been backed by Turkey, have also launched counterattacks against the territorial gains by Assad's forces.

SHELLING IN AREA OF SARAQEB

A Turkish security official told Reuters the shelling that killed the Turkish soldiers was in the area of Saraqeb, a town 15 km east of Idlib

city that lies at the junction of two main roads which Damascus wants to gain full control of.

Turkey's defense ministry said reinforcements had been on the move around Idlib. They were meant to prevent clashes in Idlib but were hit by Syrian shelling, it said, adding that a civilian member of its forces was also killed.

The Russian defense ministry said the Turkish units came under fire from Syrian government forces after moving without notifying Russia, though Turkey said it had coordinated its military movements with Moscow.

Agencies



Students and a teacher from the village school of Aye Chan Thar village in Tetgone township in Nay Pyi Taw pose for a picture. The village is a China-aided Pilot Project of Poverty Reduction Cooperation in Myanmar.

China and Myanmar share close bond with sincerity

CHINA and Myanmar, linked by mountains and rivers, have enjoyed close people-to-people bond since ancient times, leaving numerous touching stories of bilateral exchanges.

During my stay in Myanmar for interviews, I was profoundly impressed by the close ties shared by the two peoples and their efforts for joint progress.

U Khin Maung Lynn, senior researcher of the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS), hailed China-Myanmar friendship on a wheelchair at a think-tank exchange meeting.

The 73-year-old Mya Than Than Nu, who is the daughter of former Prime Minister of Myanmar U Nu, still has a clear memory of her visits to China with her father during childhood.

Wutye Tun, a 13-year-old girl from Dala Township, Yangon, had her congenital heart disease cured in China through a Chinese medical program aiming to saving Myanmar children with such problems. When finishing the interview, she held my hands and saw me off at the village entrance.

These people from different generations and different backgrounds, established a bond with China and made their unique stories, forming a ceaseless flow for the river of China-Myanmar friendship.

A "Chinese knot" is tightly tied in the heart of each one of them.

At present, China and Myanmar are seeing robust momentum in trade and cultural cooperation. In the first 11 months of 2019, bilateral trade volume between the two countries hit \$16.8 billion, up 21.6 percent from a year ago.

Under the efforts of the enterprises from both countries, the mobile communication penetration in Myanmar surged from less than 2 percent to over 100 percent in just a few years.

China's textile industry has created over 400,000 jobs in Myanmar, helping the latter earning foreign exchange of more than \$3 billion on an annual basis.

In the first 10 months of last year, Myanmar received more than 500,000 Chinese tourists. The number registered a huge growth.

These figures represent the expanding pragmatic cooperation between the two countries under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), as well as an epitome of the increasingly closer people-to-people exchanges between them.

I once read a bilingual book in both Chinese and Myanmar languages that collects articles on China-Myanmar relations published by Myanmar media in recent years.

It records the feelings and thoughts of Myanmar experts, scholars and journalists who visited China. They believe China is a country that advances with the time and shares the same responsibilities and destinies with Myanmar.

Many people in Myanmar are exploring the secrets to China's development. Officials of Myanmar's publicity department discussed with me the Chinese Dream; the editor-in-chief of Myanmar Alinn Daily paid close attention to China's poverty alleviation; Joint Secretary of the MISIS frequently mentioned the Chinese experience of "no road, no economy".

People from China and Myanmar share close bond and are sincere to each other. The similar experiences and development tasks they share are enhancing their communication over their traditional friendship and their governance philosophies.

Their common aspiration and joint efforts are promoting the public support for the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

As the year 2020 marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between the two countries, the China-Myanmar 'Phauphaw' (fraternal) friendship is gaining new connotation, releasing new vitality and energy in the new era.

People's Daily

UNECA chief warns of rising burden of instability on women in Africa

ADDIS ABABA

AFRICAN countries cannot afford to ignore the rising burden emanating from the lack of peace and security that is greatly affecting women across the continent, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UN-ECA), Vera Songwe, stressed on Monday.

The ECA chief made the remarks on Monday while addressing a gender equality-themed high-level meeting that was held in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa as part of the continental movement "Gender is my Agenda Campaign (GIMAC)." "Every time guns go off in Africa it is the girl child who suffers and stops going to school. Women die in their numbers and conflict-related sexual abuses go up," Songwe told the continental consultative meeting.

Songwe further stressed that African countries that are presently in active conflicts, such as Somalia, South Sudan and Burundi, have "alarming figures of rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, forced abortion, enforced sterilization, forced marriages and other forms of sexual violence."

sparking frustration in Democratic campaigns and criticism from Republicans. It was unclear when any results would be released.

Iowa voters were meeting to render judgment on a field of 11 Democratic contenders led by front-runner Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont and his rivals, former Vice President Joe Biden, former South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg and Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts.

Party officials voiced confidence in their ability to ensure accurate results, citing a paper trail to validate the votes.

Republican Brad Parscale, Trump's campaign manager, called it a "Democratic Party meltdown," on Twitter. "They can't

even run the caucus and they want to run the government. No thank you."

But Republicans in Iowa have their own history of chaos. On the night of the party's 2012 caucuses, Mitt Romney was declared to have won by eight votes. But the party said two weeks later that Rick Santorum was the actual winner by a 34-vote margin. Romney went on to be the nominee.

DISMAY IN THE RANKS

Long lines and heavy crowds were reported in some locations on Monday, but more than eight hours after the doors closed there was no word on the outcome. State party officials twice had phone calls with the candidates'

Putin's visit to China still planned for second half of 2020

CHEREPHOVETS

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin's visit to China is still planned for the latter half of 2020, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Tuesday, answering a question on whether the coronavirus outbreak has affected the Russian leader's plans to visit China this year.

Peskov noted that the year had just begun, "so it is too early to discuss any changes to the president's plans." "[Putin's] visit [to China] was outlined for the latter half of the year, and this visit is on the agenda," the spokesman said.

In November 2019, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Le Yucheng told reporters that China is expecting a visit from Putin in 2020. Putin's latest visit to China took place in April 2019.

On December 31, 2019, Chinese authorities informed the World Health Organization (WHO) about an outbreak of a novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in the city of Wuhan - a large trade and industrial center in central China populated by 11 million people. The city has



since been closed off for entry and exit. Foreign states are evacuating their citizens from Wuhan and the surrounding Hubei province.

The number of people infected with 2019-nCoV in China has exceeded 20,400, with 420 recorded deaths. There have been two cases of death from coronavirus outside mainland China - in Hong Kong and in the Philippines.

Cases of coronavirus have been detected in 24 countries outside of China, including Russia. On January 30, WHO declared an international public health emergency over the outbreak of 2019-nCoV.

Agencies



Bahrain praises China for leadership on curbing the coronavirus

By Anwar Alabdulla

THE government and the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain wish to praise the massive and enlightened response of the Chinese government and its health community in its efforts to combat the corona virus epidemic.

The Chinese government has responded rapidly and transparently to this unpredictable and tragic epidemic, demonstrating its strong public health capacities and resources to respond to and manage disease outbreaks.

The coronavirus is common in many species of animals but rare in human beings, making such outbreaks unpredictable, and thus the decisive response of China is even more praiseworthy.

An unexpected epidemic like the coronavirus is a massive challenge to the local, national and international community. We laud the leadership and resolute action of the Chinese health authorities in being the first to post the full genome of the 2019-nCoV in the genetic sequence databases of the Global Initiative on Sharing All Influenza Data and the US GenBank. This action has greatly accelerated the detection and containment efforts on this virus.

In parallel, collaboration with the WHO's Health Emergencies Program, many national and international health organizations and, of course, the Wuhan people, on effective containment measures and studies of the behavior, severity and transmission of the virus is a huge undertaking that will prove to be decisive in this battle.

Bahrain strongly endorses the sentiments of the Director General of the WHO in praising the leadership and huge commitment of the Chinese government and people, while reinforcing that China "needs the world's solidarity and support." The WHO reassures us all that "the world is pulling together to end the outbreak, building on lessons learned from past outbreaks".

In their current visit to China, the WHO officials have expressed their belief that the chains of this virus's transmission can still be interrupted, and this epidemic will be contained. Bahrain joins the world community in expressing its appreciation for the decisive and relentless leadership and work to overcome this tragic epidemic. Bahrain pledges its support and assistance to these noble efforts.

(Dr. Anwar Alabdulla is the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to China.)

People's Daily

Johnson and Barnier clash over who sets rules for Brexit trade

By Bloomberg

THE Brexit battle between the UK and the European Union resumed as British leader Boris Johnson clashed with the bloc's chief negotiator Michel Barnier at the start of 11 months of talks on a future trade deal. The pound fell.

Barnier said in Brussels that a "highly ambitious" trade deal is on offer for the UK -- but only if Johnson signs up to strict rules to prevent unfair competition. Speaking minutes later in London, Johnson rejected Barnier's demand and insisted the UK will thrive even if negotiations fail.

He said instead the UK would be happy with a relationship based on Australia's far looser arrangements with the EU. Australia doesn't have a formal trade deal with the EU and faces World Trade Organization tariffs and barriers in many areas.

The rival speeches -- which took place almost simultaneously on Monday morning -- represent the first formal exchanges between the two sides in what looks certain to be a hard-edged and tense negotiation.

"The question is whether we agree a trading relationship with the EU comparable to Canada's or more like Australia's," Johnson told an audience of business executives and EU ambassadors in Greenwich, east London. "I have no doubt that in either case the UK will prosper mightily."

After three years of bad-tempered talks and last-minute breakthroughs over the UK's political withdrawal, early signs indicate that the parties could struggle to avoid a cliff-edge when it comes to agreeing their future trading arrangement.

Sterling fell as much as 1.2% and traded 1.1% lower at US\$1.3056 at 12:06 p.m. in London.

The EU's draft negotiating mandate said the UK needs to make "robust commitments" to ensure it doesn't undercut the EU. On climate change, the UK is expected to maintain a system of carbon pricing and consider linking its



Prime Minister Boris Johnson (L) and chief negotiator Michel Barnier

domestic emissions market with that of the bloc.

In a document released to Parliament, Johnson published his negotiating framework, which is at odds with much of the EU's plan. In it he made clear businesses must prepare now to leave the EU customs union and single market at the end of the year.

He said British and European financial services regulators should cooperate and allow for a predictable environment for business, including "structured" withdrawal of operating rights under a so-called "equivalence" regime.

Crucially, the British document rejected the idea of aligning with EU rules and standards, and insisted the European Court of Justice will have no role over British laws.

Johnson's government thinks that the 11-month time frame is sufficient to get a full deal, one at least as good as the deal that Canada reached with the EU. The EU's leadership has said this will be impossible.

"We now have to address the consequences of the choices the UK has made," said Barnier. "Because of those choices the UK will no longer be able to benefit from the rights and advantages of the EU."

"Exceptional Offer" Barnier said the "exceptional offer" is conditional on commitments to ensure

a level playing field in areas such as taxation, labor rules and environmental standards.

"We need to make sure competition is and remains open and fair," he said. Barnier said the EU isn't looking for "alignment" of rules, but "consistency" from the UK. He added that he wants "mechanisms to uphold the high standards we have."

In his speech, Johnson insisted the UK was not leaving the EU to "undermine European standards" and promised to keep higher standards in many areas, including environmental protections. Britain will do this "without the compulsion of a treaty," he said.

"The anxiety should really be on our side of the Channel, not yours," Johnson told the bloc. "Look at state aid: France spends twice as much on state aid as the UK," he said. "Who is using subsidies to undercut? Not the UK."

The Canadian deal that Johnson cited as a model removes tariffs on 98% of goods trade, raises tariff-free quotas, opens up public procurement so Canadian and EU companies can bid for each other's governments' contracts, and protects intellectual property. The EU and Canada negotiated for seven years before signing that accord in October 2016.

One unknown factor is how much Johnson really wants an agreement with the EU. Many Brexit purists in his

Manchester suicide bomber's brother just as guilty as he was, UK court hears

LONDON

THE brother of the bomber who carried out a suicide attack on an Ariana Grande concert in the English city of Manchester three years ago was just as guilty of murdering the 22 victims as his sibling, prosecutors told London's Old Bailey court on Tuesday.

Salman Abedi, a 22-year-old Briton born to Libyan parents, blew himself up at Manchester Arena at the close of a show by the Grammy-winning U.S. pop singer. Among the dead were

seven children, the youngest aged just eight. More than 500 people were injured.

On Tuesday, his brother Hashem Abedi, 22, went on trial accused of helping his brother to carry out the bombing. He denies any involvement in the attack, including charges of murder, attempted murder and conspiracy to cause an explosion.

"Hashem Abedi is just as responsible for this atrocity and for the offences which are identified in the indictment ... just as surely as if he had selected

the target and detonated the bomb himself," prosecutor Duncan Penny said.

Penny said Hashem Abedi helped his brother to get the ingredients for making the homemade bomb and together they experimented with its construction, buying items such as screws and nails to be used as shrapnel.

They stored and made the device at a separate address in Manchester and, shortly before they returned to Libya in mid-April 2017, they bought a car

to be used to store the bomb-making equipment.

"This explosion was the culmination of months of planning, experimentation and preparation by the two of them," Penny said. "The bomb which was detonated was self-evidently designed to kill and to maim as many people as possible."

Hashem Abedi was extradited to Britain from Libya in July last year after the Libyan authorities agreed to hand him over.

Agencies

Democrats' bid to challenge Trump off to a messy start in Iowa

DES MOINES

THE Democratic Party's effort to choose an election challenger to Republican US President Donald Trump got off to a chaotic start in Iowa, with officials blaming "inconsistencies" for an indefinite delay in the state's caucus results.

Early on Tuesday, hours after voters made their choices at 1,600 schools and other public locations, Iowa Democratic Party Chairman Troy Price told reporters to expect results sometime on Tuesday in the state, the first to hold a nominating contest.

The party said it had to make "quality checks" after finding "inconsistencies" in the reporting of the data from the caucus sites,

sparking frustration in Democratic campaigns and criticism from Republicans. It was unclear when any results would be released.

Iowa voters were meeting to render judgment on a field of 11 Democratic contenders led by front-runner Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont and his rivals, former Vice President Joe Biden, former South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg and Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts.

Party officials voiced confidence in their ability to ensure accurate results, citing a paper trail to validate the votes.

Republican Brad Parscale, Trump's campaign manager, called it a "Democratic Party meltdown," on Twitter. "They can't

even run the caucus and they want to run the government. No thank you."

But Republicans in Iowa have their own history of chaos. On the night of the party's 2012 caucuses, Mitt Romney was declared to have won by eight votes. But the party said two weeks later that Rick Santorum was the actual winner by a 34-vote margin. Romney went on to be the nominee.

DISMAY IN THE RANKS

Long lines and heavy crowds were reported in some locations on Monday, but more than eight hours after the doors closed there was no word on the outcome. State party officials twice had phone calls with the candidates'



campaigns to update them.

"Every second that passes undermines the process a little bit," said Warren's campaign manager Roger Lau. A source in Buttigieg's campaign said the delay would "delegitimize" the win and dampen the immediate benefits of a strong night. Biden's general counsel, Dana Remus, told state

party officials in a letter there were widespread failures in the party's system of reporting results.

Mostly white, rural Iowa is the first test in the state-by-state battle to pick a Democratic nominee to face Trump in the Nov. 3 election. After more than a year of campaigning and more than \$800 million in spending, the results in Iowa were expected to begin to provide answers for a party desperately trying to figure out how to beat the businessman-turned-president. Voters are pondering whether to back someone with appeal to independents and disaffected Republicans, like moderates Biden, Buttigieg and Senator Amy Klobuchar of neighboring

Minnesota, or someone who energizes the party's liberal base and brings out new voters, like progressives Sanders and Warren.

DECLARING VICTORY

With no results to celebrate or mourn, the candidates spun their own upbeat view of the outcome. The Sanders campaign released what it said were its internal numbers collected at 40% of precincts, showing him in first, ahead of Buttigieg, Warren and a trailing Biden in fourth place.

"I have a strong feeling that at some point the results will be announced, and when those results are announced I have a good feeling we're going to be doing very well here in Iowa," Sanders

told cheering supporters.

Buttigieg told his supporters in Iowa that "we don't know the results" but was looking ahead to the next contest on Feb. 11 in New Hampshire.

"By all indications, we are going to New Hampshire victorious," he said. Several of the candidates, including Biden, Klobuchar and Warren, headed to New Hampshire immediately after the caucuses. Sanders planned to fly there on Tuesday morning.

"Of course we don't know the results yet - minor problem - but we know we did incredibly well," Klobuchar told a small group of cheering supporters who met her at the Manchester, New Hampshire, airport.

Agencies

The
Guardian

SPORT



Mitbwa Sugar defender, Henry Joseph (front), challenges Yanga's fullback, Jaffary Mohamed, when the squads met in a Vodacom Premier League clash, which took place at National Stadium in Dar es Salaam last Sunday. Yanga won 1-0. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Serena needs fresh approach to surpass Court, says coach

LONDON

FORMER world number one Serena Williams must rethink her approach to Grand Slams after her latest bid to win a record-equalling 24th major prize came unstuck at Melbourne Park, her coach Patrick Mouratoglou has said.

The 38-year-old American, who is looking to match Australian great Margaret Court's record, has reached four Grand Slam finals since giving birth to daughter Olympia in 2017 but failed to win any of them.

She arrived at this year's Australian Open having won the Auckland Classic title but was beaten by China's Wang Qiang in the third round.

"We have to accept the fact that it's not working," Mouratoglou told the BBC.

"We have to face reality, but she's positive that she can make it, otherwise she probably wouldn't be on a tennis court anymore. She believes she can and I believe it too. She's not that far, but we have to change a few things.

"Maybe come back with a different angle, strategy and goals so she can make it. She does feel positive, she feels negative too because it's a failure when she doesn't win a Grand Slam."

Mouratoglou said time was not on Williams' side in the pursuit of the record.

"She had everything to retire, 23 Grand Slam titles ... it's difficult to know how many chances she'll have, I don't know how long she's going to be able to play, but being able to reach four Grand Slam finals says a lot about her level.

"Her level is good enough but we have to understand what's going on, why she's not able to win. There's a big difference between reaching a final and winning one."

Meanwhile, former world number one Andy Murray must build up his fitness during the European clay-court season but should consider skipping the French Open to be fresh for Wimbledon, his former coach Alex Corretja has said.

The 32-year-old Briton missed the Australian Open due to a pelvic injury sustained at the Davis Cup Finals in November and then pulled out of tournaments at Montpellier and Rotterdam.

Spaniard Corretja said Murray, who recovered from hip resurfacing surgery to win the Antwerp title in October, should prioritise Wimbledon for his Grand Slam singles comeback having won the title in 2013 and 2016.

"Andy should use clay to get enough matches to be ready for grass," Corretja, now an analyst for Eurosport, was quoted as saying by British media.

"If he skips the claycourt season, there's going to be such a long gap before the grass. I believe he should use clay, not for practice, but to get in shape."

Corretja, who worked with Murray in spells between 2008-11, said skipping the French Open in May would not be a bad idea if his body was not ready to play five-set contests.

"If he feels it can be a little bit risky, maybe he should sacrifice the French Open, because it's very demanding," Corretja said.

"He should aim for the grass season and why not the Olympics again? It's very special, he loves the feeling there and it's a competition he knows he can win."

Murray won Olympic singles gold at London and Rio.

REUTERS



Clippers rally in 4th quarter to edge Spurs 108-105

LOS ANGELES

PAUL George got beat up again, came back and hit some big shots to help the Los Angeles Clippers rally late.

Kawhi Leonard scored 22 points and George added 19 in a 108-105 victory over the San Antonio Spurs on Monday night.

Leonard's one-handed dunk gave the Clippers a two-point lead with 1:35 remaining after they trailed by 15 in the first half. Leonard then blocked DeMar DeRozan's shot, and George's step-back jumper made it 106-102.

Patty Mills hit a 3-pointer with two seconds left to draw the Spurs within one.

Lou Williams got fouled and made both for the Clippers. Mills' half-court heave at the buzzer came up short.

George got hit in the nose by DeRozan's left elbow at 6:02 of the third. After a video review, DeRozan was called for a flagrant-1 foul. DeRozan was driving to the basket when he struck George, who spun around and went down on his knees holding his face. A trainer brought over a towel to soak up the blood.

"I felt blood start trickling when it first happened and next thing I know it's Niagara Falls flowing," George said. "It's not broken. It's sore. It's larger than usual right now so hopefully just ice it down, help with the swelling."

George has no plans to wear a protective mask.

"Tough cat. I thought it was broke, how it was leaking out there," Williams said.

Asked if he thought George would return, Clippers coach Doc Rivers joked, "Yes, we're a hockey team."

George came back in the fourth. On Saturday, he got poked in the eye against Minnesota and stayed in the game.

LaMarcus Aldridge scored 27 points and DeRozan added 26 – but none in the fourth – for the Spurs, whose two-game winning streak ended. Aldridge had 13 points in the fourth.

Patrick Beverley's 3-pointer tied the game for the Clippers for the last time at 102-101.

Leonard's streak of nine straight games with at least 30 points ended. George had a season-high 12 rebounds to go with a game-high eight assists.

"There's still more improvement to go," Leonard said of the Clippers.



Los Angeles Clippers' Montrezl Harrell (5) goes up for a lay up against the San Antonio Spurs during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Feb. 3, 2020, in Los Angeles. (AP Photo)

"Came out a little flat and early on not really playing hard on the defensive game, took a little while to pick that up."

The Clippers dominated the third quarter, outscoring the Spurs 31-19, but led by just three going into the fourth.

"We couldn't capitalize and they did off our mistakes – transitions, dunks, 3s," Mills said.

The Spurs blew a 15-point first-half lead and the game became a back-and-forth affair over the final two quarters.

"We did a good job upping our energy," Williams said. "We spent too much time feeling them out instead of being forceful."

Meanwhile, in Sacramento, California, Bogdan Bogdanovic feels a lot more comfortable in Sacramento's starting lineup than he did coming off the bench.

Kings coach Luke Walton is certainly happy with the results, although he would prefer Bogdanovic get a little more greedy with his shooting.

Bogdanovic scored 23 points and made five free throws in the final 69 seconds. De'Aaron Fox had 31 points and the Kings held off a late run by Minnesota to win 113-109 Monday night, handing the Timberwolves

their 12th consecutive loss.

It's the second time in six games as a starter that Bogdanovic has scored 23 points. This time he did it on 5-of-7 shooting from the field that he complemented by going 9 for 11 on free throws.

"One thing I tell him is if you're 5 for 7 with 23 points, you should have shot more," Walton said. "That is very efficient of him. But he's such a good shooter that anytime he comes off and the guy's not on him, I want him shooting the ball."

Bogdanovic spent the first three months of the season coming off the bench before Walton decided to make a change by swapping Bogdanovic into the starting lineup in place of Buddy Hield.

So far it's worked well for both players.

"He's maybe better as a scorer, I'm better as a playmaker," Bogdanovic said. "Maybe for our team it's better right now but we still have to figure out how to win on the next level, to have more consistent wins."

Hield scored 16 points and Harrison Barnes had 14 points and seven assists for Sacramento.

Karl-Anthony Towns had 22 points, 10 rebounds and six assists to lead six Minnesota players in double figures. Shabazz Napier added 17 points and

seven assists.

"We're scratching and clawing, and it's tough," Timberwolves coach Ryan Saunders said. "It's not always positive. We're not in this for marginal victories, we're in this to improve."

It was the third game between the teams this season and the first to end in regulation. Minnesota won in double overtime in December to end an 11-game skid, then Sacramento came back from 17 down with 2:49 remaining in regulation to win last Monday.

This one nearly needed extra time, too.

Robert Covington's 3-pointer with 4.7 seconds left pulled Minnesota to 112-109. After the Kings turned it over on a five-second violation, Andrew Wiggins rushed a 3 that hit off the back of the rim.

The Timberwolves haven't won since Jan. 9.

The Kings jumped out to a 15-2 lead, went up 60-40 following Fox's breakaway layup in the second quarter and led 65-50 at halftime.

Fox provided another spark in the third quarter when he went around Napier and cut past Towns for a one-handed dunk that made it 87-66.

AP

Super Bowl halftime show draws praise, tears from US Latinos

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.

WHEN the Super Bowl halftime show began, Yol-Itzma Aguirre and her relatives watched with anticipation. The El Paso, Texas, family was curious how Colombian-born Shakira and New York-raised Jennifer Lopez, two of the world's most popular Latina artists, would seize the stage.

The performance Sunday was draped in Hollywood tropes of female sexuality. But it also contained subtle political messages about anxieties shared by many Latinos in the U.S. – children in cages, Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria and the urge to be heard.

Aguirre, 39, had to watch the performance again. "My sister was tearing up. We saw more things," Aguirre said. "We stopped caring about the game."

Across the U.S., Latinos took to social media to praise and dissect the show.

Shakira paid homage to her Colombian roots by performing the mapalé – an Afro-Colombian style of dance from the country's Caribbean coast. She also made a tongue-flicking cry called a zaghroua, a way to express joy in Arab culture. Her father is of Lebanese descent.

During her performance, Lopez brought out a dual Puerto Rican-American flag while her daughter sang the lyrics to Bruce Springsteen's "Born in the U.S.A." Her daughter and other children with American flags on their shirts had emerged from what appeared to be steel cages.



Jennifer Lopez and daughter Emme Maribel Muniz perform during halftime of the NFL Super Bowl 54 football game Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020, in Miami Gardens, Fla. (AP Photo)

"Let's get loud!" Lopez sang as her daughter sang the Springsteen hook. Shakira hit some drums.

In the background, strobe lights crossed each other to form an image of a cage. Latinos saw the juxtaposition as a call for them to vote, being mindful that American authorities on the U.S.-Mexico border separated migrant children from their parents and locked them up.

"It was brilliant," said Aguirre, a writer who has toured immigration facilities holding children.

Others pointed out that Lopez held up a Puerto Rican flag – once banned in 1948 – at a time of anger over how President Donald Trump has handled relief efforts after the island was hit by the hurricane and a recent earthquake.

The flag became a symbol of resilience and hope following the hurricane, which struck in September 2017 as a Category 4 storm. It caused more than \$100 billion in damage and killed an estimated 2,975 people in its aftermath. The flag also became a symbol of resistance and justice last summer when massive protests over corruption and other issues led to the resignation of the island's former governor.

Luivette Resto, a Puerto Rico-born poet who now lives in Los Angeles, said she felt conflicted about the use of the flag because of the island's history. "Puerto Rico is still a colony of the U.S.," Resto said. "We're treated like property."

But Resto said she was glad the appearance of the flag sparked

needed conversations about Puerto Rico's status.

Still, she was disappointed that more Afro-Latinos or Mexicans were not represented in the performance – a critique shared by many on social media. The legendary Mexican band Los Tigres del Norte from San Jose, California, opened the Spanish broadcast for Super Bowl LIV, but the performance was not seen on the English broadcast.

Others said they are satisfied by the overall Latino theme of the performance.

"It was a PERFECT example of how different cultures can exist under the 'Latino' umbrella," comedian Cristela Alonzo tweeted. "We are different from each other and therefore should be allowed to tell DIFFERENT stories. See us as individuals."

Late Monday, Lopez posted an Instagram video of her and her daughter before the performance. Lopez wrote that she wanted the girls on stage with her to know how to use their voices and be proud of everything they are. "Other people can try to build walls, keep us out or put us in cages," Lopez wrote. "We are proud to recognize that all of us together are what makes this beautiful country truly great."

Shakira also posted an Instagram video of her performance and thanked Colombia for giving her "the mapalé, the champeta, the salsa and the Afro-Caribbean rhythms" that have allowed her to create the Super Bowl Halftime Show that she dreamed of more than a decade ago.

AP

North Africa football stadiums double as political arenas

CASABLANCA, MOROCCO

FROM Casablanca to Algiers via Tunis, the chants belted out across football stadiums echo young North African fans' frustrations not connected to the highs and lows of the beautiful game.

Chants of "F'bladi delmouni!" ("Oppressed in my country!") at the demonstrations that have been commonplace in Algeria since last year originated on the noisy terraces manned by the ultras of Morocco's Raja Casablanca.

The song of the club's "Ultras Eagles" has notched up close to nine million hits on YouTube.

On match days, the chant is belated to the accompaniment of drumbeats, smoke bombs and elaborate, choreographed displays. "We live under a dark cloud in this country... You've robbed the wealth and shared it with foreigners. You've destroyed a whole generation," are among the lyrics of the song which came out in 2018.

For Moroccan author Abdellah Taia, the song is "despairing, lucid, true, without any embellishment". Khalid, a green-scarved fan emerging from a recent match, said it "describes the lives of thousands of young people from working-class areas".

Raja Casablanca is no exception. Youths in both Tunisia and Algeria, faced with inequalities and curbs on freedom, voice their rejection of corruption, frustrations with life and desire to flee abroad through the songs of the ultras.

"Free and unbowed," composed by ultras of rival club Wydad, denounces Morocco's high youth un-

employment and constant privatisation of public services.

Fans of Ittihad Tangiers sing out against "injustice" and demand "a boat to save us from this land".

Such chants "criticise everything and straddle sport and politics", said Moroccan journalist Abderrahim Bourkia, who has written a book on the ultra movement. For sports researcher Moncef El Yazghi, "it's a new form of protest which doesn't seek authorisation and without any fanfare".

The fervour can spill out of the stadium, such as when Raja's supporters group tweeted "total support for all those detained" in Morocco for their views.

Algerian football stadiums have since the late 1970s provided an outlet, sometimes a violent one, for young people who feel robbed of a future.

They came out in support of the Hirak protest movement that finally led to the ouster of longtime president Abdelaziz Bouteflika in April 2019 following months of mass street demonstrations.

"In a protest movement that rejects the framework of traditional parties, the ultras emerge as the most structured, especially as they've suspended differences between clubs in the general interest of the Hirak," wrote historian and author Jean-Pierre Filiu.

"Ach our life" - In Tunisia, especially since its 2011 revolution, fans give voice to social and political woes in their chants, pinning blame on government corruption.

AFP

Reformed Copa del Rey shows the way for pure drama of domestic cups

MADRID

ALVARO Romero had just scored the biggest goal of his life, against Real Madrid in the Copa del Rey, when he asked for a change of career.

"I'm actually a journalist so if there are any newspapers out there that want to hire me, I am available," said Romero, the 23-year-old forward of third tier club Unionistas de Salamanca, who had briefly looked capable of knocking the 13-time European champions out of the cup.

Romero's goal, a curved finish at the end of a slalom run through Madrid's multi-million-euro midfield, remains perhaps the standout moment of a reformed and revitalised Copa del Rey that has provoked a joyous response in Spain.

Unionistas hosted Real Madrid at their 4,000-capacity Las Pistas, last month, only six years after the club formed out of the ashes of UD Salamanca, who had just gone out of business.

"I was surprised," said Unionistas coach Jabi Luaces after Madrid won 3-1. "When I saw their team, we saw they respected us and it made me feel proud."

Romero was asked which Madrid player's shirt he wanted. "I would take them all," he said.

Unionistas had the chance to play at home against the most famous club in the world not because of luck but a change in the rules that says any lower division team now hosts automatically.

Second legs have been scrapped too, except in the semi-finals, and there are no replays, with matches decided on the night through extra-time and penalties.

It means the likelihood of an upset is increased, as bigger clubs with deeper squads are denied the opportunity to field youngsters before finishing the job at the second attempt.

It also ensures close contests go the distance. Mirandes, sitting 11th in Segunda, will play Villarreal at their Anduva stadium on Wednesday after beating Celta Vigo after extra-time and then Sevilla.

"It is a format in which nobody can be complacent and those that are brave enough to gamble can win the trophy," wrote Madrid newspaper AS.

- Mirandes the outsiders -

AFP

What does Barca's failed striker search say about the club?

By Sid Lowe, ESPN Spain writer

If you're looking for a soundtrack to go with Barcelona's search for a striker, maybe the Benny Hill theme is your best bet. In the final, quiet moments before last week's 2-0 defeat at Valencia, Quique Setién was sitting on the bench watching his players warm up. He was watching a player whom most people thought would soon be his, too.

A few metres away stood Rodrigo, stretching. It was almost like one last look at the goods before buying. "Are you taking him off us?" someone asked. Setién smiled and shrugged. Hope so.

Poor Rodrigo: He must have been wondering where he was... again. As for Setién, he was wondering whether he was coming: this was his wish, but not his work. In the summer, Rodrigo had been so close to going to Atlético Madrid that the then coach, Marcelino García Toral, had publicly complained about an imminent sale and Rodrigo had cleared out his locker and said goodbye to his teammates, only to end up saying hello again. This time, he was so close to joining Barcelona that the now coach, Albert Celades, publicly admitted negotiations were ongoing and he was preparing to pack his bags again.

"I hope he doesn't go. I wouldn't understand selling him," complained full-back Jose Gaya after the game, which Valencia won 2-0. "There are few like him."

Barcelona were about to find that out for themselves. Negotiations were not going well. They sought formulas but found no solution and no way of signing Rodrigo. Valencia wanted €60 million; Barcelona didn't have that, not in this year's accounts, anyway. They would have to find a way to stick it into next year's instead, always chasing their tail. All the while, they scabbled about trying to sell players to raise as much cash as they could. Some went, but it was mostly quite small change in the grand scheme of things. Some refused. Again. Getting rid of players can be as hard as getting them in.

Still, the two teams talked. Valencia wanted to sell - Valencia always want to sell - but at a price. A loan deal was floated, but the option to buy had to be obligatory, which was one of the points that caused Barcelona to hesitate. After all, in the summer, there would be other strikers (Inter's Lautaro Martinez at the top of the list) and they would need that money. No, no, what they needed was a fix now.

Jorge Mendes, who won the way he always wins, proposed a three-way deal in which Barcelona would sign Bruno Fernandes from Sporting, who they didn't want, and then they could swap. That might just work, they thought. But then Manchester United announced that they had signed Fernandes. Negotiations with Valencia came to a close, no deal. Rodrigo was staying. Barcelona had to turn elsewhere.

And then it really started. Suddenly, there were names everywhere. Some were real, some weren't. Some were contrived, almost none convinced. Crank up that theme tune.

One story said Everton had turned down an £85m bid for Richarlison, which -- let's face it -- drew a response made up of a single, two-letter word repeated often: ha. Ha ha ha ha ha ha. Barcelona didn't have €60m for Rodrigo but now they had €10m for Richarlison? Hmm. And Everton would turn it down if they did? Aye.

On it went. The message leaked out: Barcelona didn't want to do what they did with Kevin-Prince Boateng; they didn't want to look that silly. Last year, they signed Boateng on loan at a considerable cost. He played just four games and didn't score a goal. They wouldn't make that mistake again, oh no. One line in a newspaper said it neatly: they wanted a proven goal scorer who was cheap. The rest of us,



Griezmann should be more than capable of filling Barcelona's striker needs, so why did they spend the past few days chasing every forward around Europe? (Agencies)

meanwhile, would quite like a Ferrari for a fiver.

In the summer, Barcelona wanted (or said they wanted) Neymar for almost no money. Some players even agreed to put their salary on hold to help, but it still didn't happen. They didn't sign him, though he still cost them.

This time, Barcelona had been forced into a corner by circumstances not of their own making. No one anticipated Luis Suarez getting injured, of course, but it's not just about this time. It's about all of those times. It's about the fact that the absence of a back-up striker, which they had identified as a need last winter and again in the summer, made it worse, the search that little more frantic. And this window feels like a sped-up version of what they have been doing for too long now: there's a feeling that they are reacting to circumstance as much as following a plan.

Nor is it just players, which is part of the point: Look at the shifting catalogue of names coming in and then the shifting catalogue of names supposedly deciding who comes in, too. Sporting directors, technical secretaries, presidential advisors and the rest and, in the end, the president and the vice president -- who are the same man, Josep Maria Bartomeu. It can feel like they have been reaching for some solution since Neymar departed and left them exposed.

They're chasing a fix. Something, anything. There's even something odd in the way that circumstance seems to become crisis so easily. An irrepressible urge to do something, anything, and for it to get played out in public.

Back when Neymar left for PSG, there was an argument that they should have done nothing. Four years on, that argument feels weightier. Something started

then that has not been successful, a scramble that never quite ends, always chasing something just out of reach. That money -- all of it and more -- was spent. So far, through many factors from bad luck to bad judgment (and bad management too), the return is limited.

At the time, Barcelona said it would be irresponsible to spend €300m, but that's pretty much what Philippe Coutinho and Ousmane Dembele cost. One of them has gone; the other is coming back, Quique Setién said last night, "and he's going to be flying." Dembele has become their hope, and perhaps he will be their solution, but not because that was always the plan.

You can trace it even beyond that summer: In 2014, Luis Suárez, Ivan Rakitic and Marc-Andre ter Stegen signed. That was the last market managed by Andoni Zubizarreta as sporting director, before he was sacked. Since then, they have signed: Arda Turan, Aleix Vidal, Andre Gomes, Paco Alcacer, Samuel Umtiti, Lucas Digne, Jasper Cillessen, Denis Suarez, Marlon, Yerry Mina, Gerard Deulofeu, Nelson Semedo, Paulinho, Dembele, Coutinho, Jean-Clair Todibo, Boateng, Jeison Murillo, Arturo Vidal, Arthur, Clement Lenglet, Malcom, Antoine Griezmann, Frenkie de Jong, Neto, Junior and Emerson.

A billion euros' worth of players. Half of them aren't there anymore. And while it's too early to judge Griezmann and de Jong, while Dembele may yet be brilliant, three years in; while some of those signings make perfect strategic sense and could, under different circumstances, have given much more; while some of them still might; while injury and misfortune have played their part; and while some were supposed to provide only short-term solutions anyway, how many of them can be declared an unqualified success? Ser-

iously. None?

Speaking of Griezmann, on one level it can feel like there's an obvious solution to this current search, no need for this chase and no crisis at all: He is a €120m striker. And if he's not that, what was he bought for? Nor is he a left winger. His role is, well, Messi's. Barcelona might well already have had the only player in the world better at doing what Griezmann did than Griezmann. That they didn't see him (and still don't) as a No. 9 was underlined by the fact that still they looked (and in the summer they will look again), chasing round and round only to end up back at the same place and in a worse state than they were, maybe feeling a little silly too.

As the window closes, Barcelona's squad is weaker than it was a month ago. As the window closes, the club appears weaker too, unable to sign the players they pursued. On Thursday, Barcelona confirmed that they wouldn't be signing anyone and that same night, their final chase was revealed.

Cedric Bakambu was stuck in Hong Kong, with nowhere to go. He had flown from Korea, told that he was going to the Camp Nou.

When he got off one plane and prepared to get on another bound for Spain, he was told that he wasn't. He saw the funny side, at least, requesting that his online club status be updated to "almost Barcelona." He closed his tweet with "see you another time, Griezmann."

Barcelona didn't have the striker they'd decided they needed. Still, at least they had those two promising Masia talents to fill in, the heart of their identity. This could even be the perfect opportunity for Carles Perez and Abel Ruiz. Oh, right, yeah. That. Barcelona didn't sign a striker, but they did sell two of them to help make room.

Bale out of most club's league financially - agent

LONDON

GARETH Bale's agent Jonathan Barnett has said that for most clubs the winger is "out of their league financially" but is happy at Real Madrid after being linked with a move to Tottenham on deadline day.

Barnett told ESPN that reports of a transfer deadline day move to Tottenham were "rubbish" -- and has added that most clubs would struggle to afford the 30-year-old's wages.

"Let's be realistic, for most clubs he's out of their league financially," Barnett told to talkSPORT radio. "It's not all about money, it's his lifestyle, his children have grown up in Spain.."

"He's in a very fortunate position. When his contract is up in two-and-a-half years he'll sit down with myself and his family and decide what he wants to do."

Bale is fit but was left out of Real Madrid's squad for their 1-0 La Liga win over local rivals Atletico in the Madrid derby on Saturday.

"Gareth believes there's still a future there at Real Madrid," Barnett added. "He's got two-and-a-half years there and he has a wife and three children who are very happy and very settled and he has a lovely lifestyle."

"He was available, and then I had to choose, and I choose someone else," that's all coach Zinedine Zidane said after the match. But he's here with us and I'm counting on him."

Bale has a Real Madrid contract until 2022 but has endured a difficult, injury-hit season, having scored just two league goals and was booed by fans at the Bernabeu following his "Wales. Golf.



Gwiji by David Chikoko



Madrid. In that order" flag celebration after his country achieved qualification for Euro 2020.

"We've been told that he's still a very important part of Real Madrid" Barnett said. "The only people who really know what's going on are Mr. Zidane, Gareth and probably the president."

"They know what's going on and they're all happy with the situation."

Real Madrid are top of La Liga, three points clear of Barcelona, and face Manchester City in the Champions League last 16 later this month.

(Agencies)



Prime Minister Kasim Majaliwa (L) shares a light moments with Mikumi MP Joseph Haule popularly known as Prof J (R) and Kilombero MP Peter Lijualikali

Coronavirus: Dar airport health staff boost slated

FROM PAGE 1

face masks for use while passengers are still in the airport area, and burned thereafter.

Forms for jotting down various details of passengers must now be filled inside the plane to reduce congestion at airport entry counters, she further directed.

As for the corona situation in the country, she said there was so far no

case reported at vital entry points or elsewhere.

But she cautioned that if anyone sees symptoms like coughing, high fever, pneumonia, breathing difficulties, vomiting and purging should go to hospital for examination as the virus stays for 14 days before symptoms are noticed.

The Acting Terminal III Manager Barton Komba said they will implement all directives issued by the minister in

cooperation with other stakeholders concerned with passenger clearance like airlines and the airport's health unit.

Meanwhile, the World Health Organization (WHO) yesterday said that The deadly coronavirus outbreak that has spread from China does not yet constitute a "pandemic."

Sylvie Briand, head of the WHO Global Infectious Hazard Preparedness, also stressed the importance of tackling

unfounded rumours about the virus.

A pandemic is associated with worldwide spread of a contagious disease, on the basis of WHO usage.

The death toll has now risen to 425, with more than 20,000 confirmed cases in 26 nations around the world.

Officials say 423 people have died in China and one in Hong Kong. One death has also been confirmed in the Philippines.

JPM, Mkapa eulogise fallen President Moi

FROM PAGE 1

peace in the region will remain his two outstanding legacies that we as East Africans will continue to cherish," he said.

"He will be remembered for the tenacity with which he worked for the revival of the East African Community which now offers unparalleled opportunity for our people to forge a monumental template of economic cooperation and integration," he asserted.

Former President Moi will remain a veritable illustration of the coincidence of one being born a leader and having leadership thrust upon him, he further noted.

Mkapa also said he recalls with reverence this humble unpretentious pan Africanist who was able to introduce and manage multiparty politics and system of governance with remarkable success and in so doing was able to sustain Kenya for 10 years without foreign aid or development assistance.

The chairman of the Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation, Joseph Butiku said the late Moi was a quiet but courageous leader who managed to bring discipline to the Kenyan civil service which by then was in crisis.

Butiku called upon current East African leaders to learn from Moi's life of loving the people he led as well as the community, noting that he was there during the breakup of the first EAC and he was the first to come up with an idea of establishing the East African Airways.

"He was never easily pushed by the wishes of our former colonists. Leaders should learn from him to love their people as well as being at the forefront of seeking peace and unity. He was a true leader and this was demonstrated in acceptance of defeat during

elections," he said.

He knew how to operate in politics of power and he understood Kenyan politics and its power politics outplay, he said.

Chadema Secretary General John Mnyika extended a message of condolences to the family of the former Kenyan leader and called for calm among the East African nations on this sad event.

"This should go further to remind current Tanzanian and global leaders to be fair and provide justice during their time in office so that they are remembered positively for their actions on their exit on earth," he remarked.

In an early morning presidential proclamation, President Uhuru Kenyatta announced to the nation the death of Kenya's second president who retired in 2002, ordering that all flags be flown at half-mast.

ACT-Wazalendo party leader Zitto Kabwe wrote on his twitter handle that he joins Kenyans and fellow East Africans on the passing on of President Moi.

"He will be remembered for transferring power peacefully to his successor," Zitto intoned.

The former president died in the early hours of yesterday at a hospital in Nairobi at the age of 95.

Making the announcement in a presidential proclamation, President Kenyatta said the former head of state passed on in the presence of his family.

"It is with profound sadness and sorrow that I announce the passing of a Great African Statesman, H.E. Daniel Toroitich arap Moi, the Second President of the Republic of Kenya. His Excellency the Former President passed on at the Nairobi Hospital on the early morning of this 4th February, 2020 in the presence of his family," the proclamation intoned.

Norway gives 10bn/- project aid for refugee camps zone

FROM PAGE 1

youths economic empowerment.

The Kigoma Joint Programme is an area-based UN joint-programme that cuts across multiple sectors to improve economic development and social security in Kigoma. The programme involves 16 different UN agencies and was developed in cooperation with

regional and district authorities based on the development needs of Kigoma and capacities of the UN in Tanzania, he explained.

The programme applies a comprehensive approach to address a wide range of issues facing both the refugees and migrants in the region as well as the surrounding host communities, the coordinator added.

Alarm as KQ lands ex-Wuhan coronavirus suspect student

FROM PAGE 1

to conduct the service at Majengo grounds.

Addressing mourners on Monday, Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner Anna Mghwira said there was negligence by organizers of the service, noting that although the stadium has three gates, only one where the oil was placed was open while the crowd was massive.

RC Mghwira was surprised by the hushed exit from Moshi of the city preacher who goes by the moniker Bulldozer. He escaped from Moshi as authorities started looking for him.

She said she had personally called the preacher on his mobile phone but the calls were not picked. Mwamposa was arrested by detectives in Dar es Salaam the following day and taken to Moshi for questioning.



Kililo district commissioner in Iringa region Asia Abdallah (C) bids farewell to investors at Rutuba farm after their meeting held at her office yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

New Investment Act in the pipeline - minister

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government is drafting a new Investment Act based on lessons learned, and that would take care of weaknesses and polish Tanzania's strong points in implementing the national investment agenda, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investment), Angellah Kairuki, has revealed.

Answering questions raised by members of 12 parliamentary standing committees in a special seminar organised by the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) here recently, the minister assured MPs that implementation of the agenda was on track.

Assisted by officials from institutions under the PMO, Kairuki made a candid tour of Tanzania's

performance in implementing the agenda, highlighting lessons, challenges and pitfall and government's proposed solutions. She told parliamentarians that based on those lessons, challenges and successes gained, the government was drafting two laws: a new investment law and a business facilitation act.

Giving one example, she said, before the 2015 Foreigners Employment Act, it was the head of Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) who recommended foreign investors to be granted licences and facilitation, which is not the case today. "Tanzania's successes and competitiveness in the field of investment speak for themselves.

However, we have met challenges and picked up useful lessons in

many areas. So we need to change relevant laws to accommodate those developments," she told the MPs. She assured the meeting that there was no single global authoritative or annual report that ranks countries' investment competitiveness or the amount of foreign inflows.

Answering a questioner the minister said red tape was diminishing, explaining that in a bid to fight the vice and spur efficiency, in May 2019 by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, discussed best ways of implementing the government's business-investment blueprint.

"This is one of the reasons we are drafting the business facilitation act, I just talked about." The minister also said a new investment law would come with an investment formula that will

guide regions on how to benefit from opportunities found in their respective districts.

On learning from others, the minister said, a Tanzanian delegation was hosted by the Rwandan development board and delegates compared notes on investment, tourism and business promotion.

Further, she said, ministerial delegations had visited eight regions and Mara, Simiyu, Shinyanga and Mwanza regions would be visited when the current Bunge session ends.

On economic diplomacy, the minister said, they were working closely with the foreign ministry on the issue, but highlighted two special issues. First, the creation of an investment intelligence unit that would advise Tanzanian ambassadors

in foreign missions on top ten investors to focus on in their areas. Second, the use of willing influential personalities --- dubbed branding ambassadors - to promote Tanzania's investment and tourist opportunities.

"Here, we met investors from China, US and UK. We have told them of our ideas and positions, they have told us the challenges they are facing and we are looking for solutions. We plan to meet others," she said.

The minister described sea deep fishing as an underdeveloped big investment area of the blue economy for lack of appropriate vessels.

"I visited Mafia recently. I was told Alfa company has earned over 210bn/- from fish exports in just one year. We need to invest properly in this area," she said.

She told MPs that foreign traders in commercial centres, especially Chinese in Dar es Salaam's Kariakoo area, were not investors but lawful merchants. Answering a question on the availability of cargo planes to horticultural growers, the minister said the ministry officials and members of Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA), had a fruitful symposium adding that the ministry of communications has been contacted on the issue.

On land, Kairuki said, they were working closely with the land ministry, especially in relation to best use of the land bank. Village governments were also being asked to set aside tracts for long-term investment that would be offered to investors without undue delay.

SPORT

What does Barca's failed striker search say about the club?

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Taiwanese cyclist, Jack Chen (R), shakes hands with Morogoro's regional fire brigade station's official, Hamadi Dadi, after the cyclist had participated in morning fitness exercises in the region on Tuesday. Chen is set to tour the southern part of Tanzania. PHOTO: MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

Prithvi Shaw returns to India Test squad

BENGALURU

PRITHVI Shaw has been included in the 16-man India Test squad for the two-match series in New Zealand, which also features the fit-again Jasprit Bumrah and Ishant Sharma.

However, Ishant's participation will be subject to a fitness clearance, following a grade-three tear in an ankle during the Ranji Trophy in January.

He is currently in rehabilitation at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru.

With Rohit Sharma ruled out, the toss up for the second opener to partner Mayank Agarwal could be between Shubman Gill and Prithvi Shaw. Shaw and Agarwal are also part of the ODI squad.

Gill has the backing of runs under him, having smashed 83 and an unbeaten 204 for India A in the first four-day fixture in Christchurch against New Zealand A. Shaw, meanwhile, has been in good limited-overs form, having impressed in the one-day leg of the India A series in New Zealand.

Meanwhile, left-arm wristspinner Kuldeep Yadav was left out of the squad altogether, with R Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja picked as the front line spin options alongside five pacers.

Interestingly, almost exactly a year ago, on February 5, 2019, India head coach Ravi Shastri had called Kuldeep 'our primary overseas spinner' in Test cricket, following his five-wicket haul in the Sydney Test in January. It remains his last Test appearance. Navdeep Saini, who is uncapped in Tests, was also rewarded with a call-up.

Rishabh Pant retained his place alongside first-choice Wriddhiman Saha, who has recovered from a finger injury he sustained during the Bangladesh Test in Kolkata.

Shaw had last played Test cricket in October 2018. After cracking a 154-ball 134 on debut in Rajkot, Shaw was selected for the following Australia tour, but an ankle injury sidelined him from the entire series.

Later in 2019, Shaw was suspended for a doping violation. As a result, he missed the West Indies tour and then the home series against West Indies and Bangladesh.

Upon returning to action in the Ranji Trophy, Shaw sustained a shoulder injury, but recovered in time, and proved his form and fitness for India A on their shadow tour of New Zealand. Earlier during the Ranji Trophy, he had hit a career-best 202 against Baroda, setting up a massive victory for Mumbai.

Bumrah, too, had missed the home Test series against South Africa and Bangladesh with injury, and eased his way back into action during the three-match T20I series against Sri Lanka. In January, he had also been pulled out of the Ranji Trophy, but has now regained his rhythm after playing a starring role in India's 5-0 sweep of New Zealand in the T20I series.

Bumrah will also be in action in the three-match ODI series, which starts on Wednesday.



Dar es Salaam Cricket Club (DCC) players in group picture before the start of their encounter with Malabar Cricket Club (MCC) in Division B of the maiden Paul Manyanda Memorial Pro-10 tournament, which was held in the city last weekend. PHOTO: DCC

DCC thrash MCC in Paul Manyanda Memorial cricket tournament

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM Cricket Club (DCC) has opened its campaign in Division B of the maiden Paul Manyanda Memorial Pro-10 tournament in an impressive fashion, walloping Malabar Cricket Club (MCC) by nine wickets in an encounter which took place at Annadil Burhani oval in the city last weekend.

The competition has been organized by Dar es Salaam Cricket Club (DC) in memory of Paul Manyanda, a veteran cricket coach and umpire, who passed away in the city recently.

The MCC registered 56 runs for six wickets in eight overs when they had won the toss and chose to bat first.

Opener Nandakishan Pottachira put what was so far notable batting showing in the side's innings, posting 26 runs.

Hozefa Hussein, Rameezman and Dharmin Parmar took two wickets in their respective two-over spells each to help MCC foil DCC efforts to end their innings with an imposing score.

In response, DCC chased MCC score with ease, reaching the target for the loss of one wicket in eight overs.

Experienced all-rounder, Adil Kassam, and Parmar, who opened the innings for DCC, steered the team to the convincing win with solid batting.

Kassam posted 27 runs not out, which comprised a six and three fours, Parmar posted 20 runs which included three fours.

Their performance, in the end, saw to it their squad holds the second spot in the division's table with net run rate of 1.2199.

Union SC are the Division B leaders, having won two duels they have participated in to register net run rate of 3.0000.

Parmar was presented with man of the match prize for his scintillating displays with both bat and ball.

The MCC are placed third with a victory and a loss, posting net run rate of -0.3209. In MCC's only victory, they thrashed Lions Cricket Club by seven wickets.

Lions Cricket Club, K&P Constructions team and Strikers are the other sides, which are battling it out in the division.

The day also saw Patel Brotherhood team record seven-wicket victory over Lions Castilla in a Division C match at the same venue.

Lions Castilla scored 54 runs, losing seven wickets in 10 overs once they won the toss and chose to bat, with Mubin Hassan posting 24 runs in the squad's innings.

Nikunj Sharma took four wickets for Patel Brotherhood team, leaking six runs in two overs. Patel Brotherhood went on to make successful chase of Lions Castilla total given they recorded 56 runs, losing three wickets in 7.2 overs.

Dar Black Panthers had also handed Lions Castilla three-wicket loss in the division's encounter.

"The TCA Chief Executive Officer, Taher Kitisa, was present at the Paul Manyanda Memorial Pro 10 competition's opening ceremony and the official shared his memories of the late Manyanda," Atif Salim, the association's information officer, noted.

Salim also pointed out one minute of silence was observed by all participating squads to give respect to the late Manyanda.

Taiwanese cyclist salutes Tanzanians' hospitality

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

TAIWAN cyclist, Jack Chen, has appreciated the care Tanzanians have shown the former since he made his way into the East Africa country last weekend.

Chen, who had earlier toured Rwanda, issued his appreciation at the fire brigade station in Morogoro yesterday, when was setting out to ride to the southern part of Tanzania.

The cyclist, who rides across the world, had begun his tour in Alaska in June 2015 and he has already spent four years and seven months in the tour.

He disclosed he so far rode 67,000 kilometers out of 100,000 kilometers scheduled to cover before the year 2022.

Chen, who disclosed he hails from a poor family, said riding is his hobby, insisting there is no any company, which has supported him financially in the tour.

He disclosed his survival depends on people he encounters in his tour.

Chen pointed out he visited 73 countries, 41 in Europe, 21 in America and six in Africa.

In his tour of the continent, he has covered Egypt, Ethiopia, Sudan, Uganda, Kenya and Rwanda, disclosing he targets to ride to Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

He said Tanzania is one of countries with people who encourage a person to achieve his set objectives.

Chen noted he was given five days' accommodation at Morogoro's regional fire brigade station after his arrival from Dar es Salaam.

"I'm pleased the way Tanzanians respect each other regardless of religion, colour or economic status," he noted.

Besides, they are kind, I have noticed the trait during my stay in Dar es Salaam and when I reached Morogoro," he disclosed.

"I thank Morogoro's regional fire brigade authority for the accommodation. In the few days I have stayed in the region, I have eaten, drank with the authority's officials and I was safe, I enjoyed such hospitality when I toured Greece, Peru and Argentina," he disclosed.

Chen also appreciated the beauty of tourist attractions including Indian Ocean, beaches and such animals like baboons he saw when riding from Dar es Salaam to Morogoro.

Morogoro's regional fire brigade's Assistant Inspector Hamadi Dadi said his office has the right to accommodate anyone who has been authorized by regional authorities.

Dadi noted his office takes care of a particular person's needs in accordance with the office's regulations.

"Jack Chen reported here a week ago, after we had inspected him, we found he is a good person who rides across the world, we agreed with regional authority to give him the right to stay here, hopefully he will head to the southern part of the country on Tuesday," he disclosed.

TONIGHT @ 7:00

EATV WEDNESDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Weekend Movie (r)
13:30 Kall Za Wana
14:00 Planet Bongo (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Nirvana (r)
16:00 Skonga (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNews
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Kibishara Zaidi

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Flexibles by David Chikoko





Kilosa district commissioner Adam Mgoyi plants oil palm seedling at TAR-Ilonga in Kilosa district, Morogoro region yesterday to launch production and distribution of improved seedlings of oil palm variety called tenera for the farmers in the eastern zone and Zanzibar. Photo: Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

TARI launches special centre for production and distribution of improved oil palm seedlings

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

THE Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) has launched another special centre at TARI-Ilonga, in Kilosa district, Morogoro region for the production and distribution of improved seedlings of oil palm called tenera variety for the farmers in the whole eastern zone and Zanzibar.

"The government has set aside 1bn/- for revamping oil palm production in the country to ensure Tanzania produces enough and surplus vegetable edible oil. So far TARI has cumulatively supplied a total of 1.2million seeds. Our target is to supply five million seeds by June 2020 and 20 millions seeds for the next five years," said TARI director Dr. Geoffrey Mkamilo during the launching ceremony.

TARI-Ilonga has been selected for its conducive environment and infrastructures to easily fast-track the production and distribution of improved seedlings of oil palm for the eastern zone and Zanzibar.

According to TARI director Dr. Geoffrey Mkamilo, the efforts launching the new centres of multiplying and disseminating the improved seeds of oil palm at local government authorities and to farmers in the eastern zone is basically trying to address the issue of importation of

vegetable edible oil from Malaysia and some other countries like Costa Rica, which in recent years has been costing the nation billions of shillings.

Dr. Mkamilo added that there are other regions which are also suitable for production of oil palm in this country such as Kyela in Mbeya, districts of coastal regions such as Mkuranga, Kibiti and Bagamoyo, Tanga region, Morogoro and Zanzibar adding that if efforts are put in place, it is real possible for the country to produce enough and surplus vegetable edible oil.

"We have vowed to launch other centre in Mtwara and Mbeya for multiplying and disseminating of the improved seeds of oil palm to the farmers in the southern highland regions respectively," he said.

He said that TARI decided to explore opportunities in other regions to heed the Prime Minister's directive of ensuring that the nation becomes self-sufficient in terms of edible oil production.

Launching the centre, Kilosa district commissioner Adam Mgoyi commended efforts being taken by TAR, saying Kilosa is well positioned and strategic area for industrial investments adding that the district has adequate land and suitable soil for production of all types of crops

including oil palm.

"Kilosa district has more than 400,000 hectares suitable for all types of crops production but we only utilize 160 hectares, we therefore have enough land and we welcome the farmers and investors to venture into oil palm to improve our economy and household income," he said.

"I am going to meet the district council to set aside enough land and how to promote the crop among farmers in the district," he added.

When launching, DC Mgoyi used the opportunity to plant oil palm as a sign to officially launch the production and distribution of improved seedlings of oil palm, tenera variety in the eastern zone.

TARI Ilonga centre director Dr. Joel Meliyo said that Ilonga was a good centre for production of oil palm, it has plenty availability of water and close to the farmers.

Meanwhile, TARI used the opportunity to supply a total of 230,000 seeds to Sumagro Ltd to plant the oil palm seedlings in Morogoro region. The seeds have been ferried from TARI-Kihinga in Kigoma region where they are produced.

Receiving the seeds, Sumagro Ltd, Felix Temu thanked TARI saying the company has 12,000 acres which will be used to plant the oil palm seeds.

Tanzania and Zambia seal pact to strengthen Tunduma border trade

By Guardian Correspondent, Songwe

TANZANIA and Zambia have signed an agreement to strengthen trade relations at the two countries' border areas of Tunduma in Momba district, Songwe region.

The agreement, signed by Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and its Zambian counterpart - Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) aimed at strengthening the border economy by removing restrictions that cause vehicles congestion and fight against smuggling.

TRA commissioner general Edwin Mhede yesterday said on December 13 last year he met with his Zambian counterpart and

agreed to strengthen trade between the two countries and finding a solution to the vehicles congestion challenge.

He said since the two countries reap benefits from the two countries' border the major issue they jointly agreed upon was on solving the issue of goods staying at very long periods of time hence they agreed to streamline the procedure by exchanging information on goods since departure from Dar es Salaam up to the time they cross the border at Nakonde into Zambia.

"We have directed all departments involved in the Information technology (IT) from both sides to ensure within the period not exceeding two months, they must come

up with a system that can read particulars of cargo and trucks direct from the port at the appropriate time aimed to increase performance and at the same time solve the challenge of revenue loss," Mhede said.

On his part the ZRA commissioner general Kingsley Chanda said the targets set for the two countries are already complete and claimed that great cooperation has contributed to the improvement of the situation at the border which is the main gate for the countries is southern Africa in SADC.

He said Zambia will continue to improve and work on various challenges that had been contributing to the delay for trucks

to cross the border as well constructing an area for parking the trucks that will remove congestion at the confined area.

Momba District Administrative Secretary Mary Marco who was representing the District Commissioner said the shortage of workers and the road infrastructure challenge contributed to trucks congestion at Tunduma on Tanzania side.

The Nakonde (Zambia) district commissioner Field Simwinga said since the Presidents of the two countries had met and discussed the improvement of the border, they as executors will implement the agreement to eradicate all obstacles that used to cause revenue loss and impeding

trade in general.

Whilst in his visit to Songwe region in October last year President John Magufui and President Edgar Lungu inaugurated Tanzania's customs house and promised to improve the borders between their two countries.

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This is a call on the hearts of those with compassion to reaching out to children and communities in need, through the World Vision Tanzania. World Vision is a Christian, Child Focused and Community Empowering Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), operating in 16 Regions in Tanzania. We wish to recruit highly qualified, motivated, very dedicated and results oriented Christian leaders/influencers in their respective fields to serve as Board members **on a voluntary basis**. Collectively, the qualified candidates should represent a relevant diversity in experience, competence, age, gender, church affiliation, ethnicity, and geographic backgrounds. As such, both men and women are encouraged to apply.

The individuals should be able to provide thought leadership to development issues and have a track record as key contributors to poverty reduction and development at a policy level. This may be evidenced by previous participation at the executive or board level in the public, private or non-profit sector where the organizational outcomes are clearly contributing to positive social change

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2. Advocacy
3. Church Leadership/Church Relations
4. Fundraising/Resource Mobilisation/Marketing / Public Relations
5. Governance

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- A heart for the poor and a good steward to the Ministry of World Vision Tanzania.
- English language fluency (written and verbal).
- Good communication skills including public speaking and presentation skills
- Must be a resilient, humble and committed Christian who participates in the worship and life of a local church (a Trinitarian denomination)
- Willing and available during her/his tenure, to participate in the Board and its committees **on a voluntary basis** since serving at World Vision Tanzania Board is a Ministry.

As a child-focused organization which upholds the rights and well-being of children; our recruitment and selection procedures include screening and background checking for child abuse offences. Please send an application letter explaining why you would like to be on the Board and attach a CV with church and professional references to david_ombeni@wvi.org by **23rd February 2020**.

Appointment of Two New Board Members AML Finance Limited

AML Finance Limited (AML) is pleased to announce the appointment of two new Board members, Dr. Charles Kimei and Mr. Emmanuel Johannes. We are excited to welcome Dr. Kimei and Mr. Johannes to our Board of Directors as they bring decades of leadership experience that is vital in taking AML to new heights.









Dr. Kimei has over 30 years' experience in the financial sector. He is the immediate former MD & CEO of CRDB Bank Plc (1998 to 2019). Dr. Kimei is widely recognized for his role in shaping the banking sector in Tanzania.

He has also served on several Boards and before joining CRDB, he worked with the Bank of Tanzania in various Leadership positions. He holds a PhD (Economics) from Uppsala University Sweden and is a certified Board Director by the UK Institute of Directors.


Mr. Johannes is the founder of KEPLER ASSOCIATES, a firm dealing with Assurance, Business Advisory, Research, Baseline Studies, Data Quality Assessment, M&E, Risk Management and Fraud Examination. His key areas of focus includes Fraud Examination, Risk Management and Internal Auditing. He is also past Board member and former President of IIA Tanzania and President of ACFE Tanzania.

Mr. Johannes has worked in a wide range of industries in private and public sectors including banking industry and International Development Partners in Audit and Risk Management. He is an alumni of PwC and he is currently the Chairman of African Federation of the Institutes of Internal Auditors (AFIIA), member of Global Nomination Committee and Institutes Relation's Committee (IRC) of IIA Inc. bases in Orlando, Florida. He is also a member of Advisory Council and an authorized trainer of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) bases in Austin, Texas responsible for East Africa. He is an experienced trainer for ISO 31000 Risk Management, Certified Internal Auditor and Fellow Chartered Certified Accountant (FCCA).

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AML Finance Limited



TANZANIA HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION (TAHA)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

DEVELOPING A HORTICULTURE INDUSTRY MARKET ACCESS STRATEGY (HIMAS)

RFP NO. [TAHA/CONS/002/2020]

ISSUE DATE: 05/02/2020
CLOSING DATE: 19/02/2020 AT 05.00 P.M EAT

1 Section A: Terms of Reference

1.1 Overview

In Tanzania, the horticulture industry seeks to develop a robust competitive sector capable of making the country self-sufficient in nutrition and sustainably supply high quality horticultural produce for the domestic, regional and international markets. The horticulture sector has been identified as one of the priority sectors in the Agricultural Sector Development Programme Phase II (ASDP II), 2018, and has potential to become one of the main sources of foreign exchange earnings for Tanzania.

Horticulture can enhance the agricultural potential of the country, particularly putting into use the underutilized arable land of approximately 44.0 million ha and the irrigable land of about 29.0 million hectares. Despite the good efforts made by TAHA and her partners in spearheading the adoption of improved horticultural technologies and Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), the Tanzanian horticultural industry still faces several challenges, specifically around policy and infrastructure, inadequate market development and weak industry linkages. Local markets are ill-structured, have unclear models/systems with inadequate information (transparency), and very long chains making farmers lose ground in their bid to conduct profitable horticultural businesses. There are, however, appealing opportunities in overseas and regional markets for which meaningful access requires proper sectoral planning and coordination.

Addressing the impediments mentioned above requires partnership alignment and coordination in handling the value chains. Therefore, a very clear and practical market access strategy as one of the guiding tools to transform the industry in Tanzania is essential. The Strategy ought to be a fundamental document which will provide direction in the implementation of appropriate mechanisms and market access models suitable for Tanzania horticulture. The strategy shall also lay out approaches for conquering regional (African countries) and international markets. Borrowing experiences from best practice models from other countries will be vital during the development of this strategy document.

TAHA intends to spearhead the development of the Tanzania Horticulture Industry Market Access Strategy (HIMAS) in collaboration with other key partners, both public and private across the entire value chain.

1.2 Objectives and Scope of the Assignment.

The overall objective of the Assignment is to develop Horticulture Industry Market Access Strategy (HIMAS), as a comprehensive guiding framework to enhance market access for horticultural products from Tanzania.

Specific tasks of the consultancy will broadly include:

- Conducting a situational assessment of the Tanzania horticultural industry market access at national, regional and international levels to ascertain prevailing gaps/challenges and opportunities. The assessment should focus on the following:
 - Current marketing models operating in horticultural business transactions
 - Review of current Policy, legal and regulatory and institutional aspects including existing gaps
 - Undertake key reflections relevant for Market Access from the Agricultural Policy (2013) and Agricultural Sector Development Programme Phase II (ASDP II)
 - Identify domestic, regional and local market opportunities relevant to Tanzania horticultural industry
 - Identify, if any, promising approaches on market access models developed by indigenous horticulture businesses in Tanzania
 - Map stakeholders structure and their relationship in the domestic, regional and export marketing channels
 - Identify key hindrances to performance of horticultural trade (tariff and non-tariff barriers)
 - Document successful horticultural market access models outside Tanzania (for example Egypt, Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, Ethiopia, the Netherlands, Belgium, etc.) and make recommendations for adoption to the Tanzanian context.

- Leading multi-agency consultative sessions involving key players in the horticulture value chains towards development of a Horticulture Industry Market Access Strategy (HIMAS).

- Develop Horticulture Industry Market Access Strategy (HIMAS). The strategy should be composed of the following, but not limited to: rationale, situational analysis for horticultural marketing in Tanzania, national, regional and international horticultural marketing policy landscape and their interpretation to action, cross-cutting issues and their relevance to horticultural marketing development, crop prioritization, stakeholders mapping, institutional framework and coordinating mechanism, going forward: Vision, Mission and Strategic Objectives, Plan of action and implementation framework etc.

1.3 Output of the Assignment

The consultant is expected to deliver the following outputs in the first phase of the assignment:

- A Situational Assessment Report with recommended marketing models
- A comprehensive and actionable Horticulture Industry Market Access Strategy (HIMAS)

1.4 Estimated duration and reporting.

TAHA's preference is to select and begin implementation of the ERP system in the first quarter of 2020. The whole assignment is expected to take a period of.....

For the duration of the consultancy, the direct reference person will be TAHA's Chief Executive Officer.

1.5 Qualification and Experience of the Consultant.

- The consultant must be a reputable company and/or an individual with valid legal status in the country
- At least 20 years' experience in agricultural marketing and trade with a strong bias on enterprise development for small, medium and large scale farmers.
- Sound practical experience in the local, regional and international marketing sector and agribusiness.
- Broad knowledge of horticulture industry in Tanzania, in the region and

internationally.

- Proven track record in similar assignment with an ability to deliver high-quality outputs on time.

2 Section B: Bidder Instructions

2.1 Documents to be submitted

The following documents shall be submitted:

- Technical proposal including detailed breakdown on how your proposal meets TAHA requirements, methodology on how you will approach the work, a proposed work plan, team structure of the team to execute the project, CVs for each team member and experience in market access strategy in similar organizations including reference letters from clients.
- Financial proposal basing on the above TORs with costs breakdown and not a lump sum amount.
- The following mandatory commercial documents:
 - Certificate of Incorporation
 - Business License
 - TIN Certificate
 - VAT Registration Certificate if registered
 - Audited financial statements at least one year
 - Current Physical Location that is valid right of occupancy of office premises

2.2 Submission procedure

Bidders should submit protected soft copy of both Technical and Financial proposal and ensure the last page is printed, signed and scanned, by 5:00 PM (EAT) on 19/02/2020 referring the above RFP number, with the subject line "DEVELOPING A HORTICULTURE INDUSTRY MARKET ACCESS STRATEGY (HIMAS)" via email address procurement@taha.or.tz addressing:

Chief Executive Officer,
Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA),
Kanisa Road, House No. 49,
P.O Box 16520,
Arusha,
Tanzania

Proposals received after this time will not be accepted for consideration. By submitting a proposal, each bidder represents that:

- The proposal is based upon an understanding of the specifications and requirements described in this RFP.
- The costs for developing and delivering responses to this RFP and any subsequent presentations of the proposal as requested by TAHA are entirely the responsibility of the bidder. TAHA is not liable for any expense incurred by the bidder in the preparation and presentation of their proposal.
- All materials submitted in response to this RFP become the property of TAHA and are to be appended to any formal documentation, which would further define or expand any contractual relationship between TAHA and the bidder resulting from this RFP process.
- The information regarding TAHA included in the RFP is confidential and the bidder may not divulge or disclose to any third party in any form or manner whatsoever, either directly or indirectly, any Confidential Information without the prior written consent of the TAHA

2.3 Late Submissions

Regardless of cause, late submissions will not be accepted and will automatically be disqualified from further consideration. It shall be the bidder's sole risk to assure submission by the designated time.

2.4 Withdrawing Proposals

Proposals may not be withdrawn for a period of 60 days after the proposal due date. Proposals may be withdrawn prior to the proposal due date, provided that such requests are in writing.

2.5 Rights Reserved

While TAHA has every intention to award a contract as a result of this RFP, issuance of this RFP in no way constitutes a commitment by TAHA to award a contract. Upon a determination such actions would be in its best interests, TAHA in its sole discretion reserves the right to:

- cancel or terminate this RFP;
- reject any or all proposals received in response to this RFP;
- waive any undesirable, inconsequential, or inconsistent provisions of this document, which would not have significant impact on any proposals;

2.6 Bidder Questions

This RFP contains the instructions governing the proposals to be submitted and a description of the mandatory requirements upon request. To be eligible for consideration, a bidder must meet the intent of all mandatory requirements. Compliance with all requirements will be determined by TAHA's procurement committee. Responses that do not meet the full intent of all requirements listed in this RFP may be subject to point reductions during the evaluation process or may be deemed non-responsive.

Bidders requiring clarification or interpretation of any section or sections contained in this RFP shall send an email request to TAHA by the deadline of 5:00 PM (ET) on 07th February 2020. All email correspondence must be addressed to: Procurement@taha.or.tz copying patrick.mchomvu@taha.or.tz, each bidder submitting a clarification request must clearly address each question by reference to a specific section, page, and item of this RFP. A written answer will be provided to all questions received by 5:00 PM (EAT) on 07th February 2020. Written questions received after the deadline may not be considered. Every effort will be made to provide written answers no later than 5:00 PM (EAT) 10th February 2020. Any interpretation, correction, or change to this RFP will be made by written addendum by the Chief Executive Officer. Interpretations, corrections, or changes to this RFP made in any other manner will not be binding and bidders should not rely upon such interpretations, corrections, or changes.

2.7 RFP Response Format

In order to facilitate the analysis of responses to this RFP, bidders are required to prepare their proposals in accordance with the instructions outlined in this section. Bidders whose proposals deviate from these instructions may be considered non-responsive and may be disqualified at the discretion of TAHA.

Proposals should be prepared as simply as possible and provide a straightforward, concise description of the bidder's capabilities to satisfy the requirements of the RFP. Emphasis should be on accuracy, completeness, and clarity of content. All parts, pages, figures, and tables should be numbered and clearly labeled.

The technical proposal should include but not limited to:

- Cover Page
- Letter of transmittal signed by a legally authorized representative
- Executive summary
- Implementation approach
- Relevant methodology
- Proposed work plan
- Relevant experience in similar engagements including a minimum of 3 references within the last 5 years including:
 - Client name and address;
 - Contact name
 - Contact phone number;
 - Engagement start and end dates;
 - Description and outcome
- Proposed team structure and team CVs including the following key roles:
 - Project Manager
 - Functional Lead
- Responses to TOR's as required.

The financial proposal should include but not limited to:

- Cover page
- Letter of transmittal signed by a legally authorized representative
- Cost summary (detailed total cost of the proposed solution complete with allocation of cost to every activity involved)

2.8 Evaluation Procedure

All responsive proposals will be evaluated based on stated evaluation criteria. TAHA evaluation committee will separate proposals into "responsive" and "non-responsive" proposals. To be considered responsive, the bidder must meet the requirements outlined in Section 2.1 and Section 2.2 in the instructions to bidder. Non-responsive proposals will be eliminated from further consideration. The procurement committee will then evaluate the remaining proposals and rank them to establish the highest score. Discussions and negotiations may take place with the short list of bidders to obtain a best and final offer. The award will be based upon the proposal that is determined to be in the most competitive.

Evaluation Criteria

Technical Evaluation

The intention of TAHA is to obtain a develop Horticulture Industry Market Access Strategy (HIMAS), as a comprehensive guiding framework to enhance market access for horticultural products from Tanzania. The technical proposal will be given a technical score. The proposal shall be rejected at this stage if it does not achieve the minimum technical score stipulated. Responses to this RFP will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Technical Proposal = 60%
- Financial Proposal = 40%

Points may be subtracted for non-compliance with specified format requests. TAHA may also choose to not evaluate, may deem non-responsive, and/or may disqualify from further consideration any proposals that do not follow this RFP format, are difficult to understand, are difficult to read, or are missing any requested information.

A bidder responding to a question with a response similar to, "Refer to our literature..." or "Please see www.....com" may be deemed non-responsive or receive point deductions. All materials related to a response must be submitted to TAHA and not just referenced. Any references in an answer to another location in the RFP materials shall have specific page numbers and sections stated in the reference. Each element will be scored independently of one another and the scoring will be based solely on the information provided in the response to the specific element.

Award of Contract

Once the proposals are opened, a committee selected by TAHA will evaluate each proposal, taking into consideration the criteria and methodology stipulated in this RFP. TAHA will be the sole judge in evaluation considerations and may make an award to the bidders(s) who submits the proposal judged by TAHA to be in its best interest. A recommendation as to which system best meets the interests of TAHA (as determined by the evaluation committee) will be presented to TAHA management. The award will only be to responsible bidders(s) qualified by experience to perform the services specified herein. All proposals submitted shall be valid for a period of sixty (60) calendar days from the date of the proposal opening. Any effort by bidders to influence TAHA in the examination, evaluation, and recommendation for award of contract may result in the rejection of the bidders' proposal.

2.9 Other Requirements

- In the event that multiple firms partner to submit a joint proposal, the proposal must identify one firm as the primary contact. This primary contact will be the primary point of contact throughout the procurement process and will be held responsible for the overall implementation of all partners included in the joint proposal.
- All third-party solutions proposed as part of a joint proposal are subject to the same requirements of this RFP unless otherwise stated.
- Implementation pricing must be submitted on a "milestone" basis. Bidders are to provide all work effort and assumptions used to calculate a fixed fee for each milestone. The scope of the project will be defined by the scope of work and detailed functional requirements included in this RFP
- All firms submitting proposals are encouraged to submit the most competitive proposal possible as the failure to do so may lead to elimination prior to software demonstrations.
- This RFP, its general provisions, and the terms and conditions shall be incorporated in any agreement resulting from this solicitation, and the RFP and its terms and conditions, plus attachments shall control unless the Agreement expressly provides otherwise.

All proposals shall be valid for a minimum of 60 days.

SIDO signs MOU with MUST for field attachment of graduates

By Beatrice Philemon

SMALL Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) yesterday signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Mbeya University of Science and Technology (MUST) for field attachment of graduates to acquire new technologies suitable for Entrepreneurship across the country.

SIDO director general, Prof Sylvester Mpandungi said that the graduates from MUST will do field attachment at SIDO technology development centres (TDCs) and technology camp production centers.

The main goal, according to Prof Mpandungi is to assist SIDO gets new technology that will support micro, small and medium entrepreneurs in accordance with the business they have, help graduates put into practice what they have learned, improve their knowledge and later on become good innovators for what they innovate.

During the implementation, the MOU will focus more on trainings, applied research, technology, consultancy programs, sharing of expertise and experiences, supporting and nurturing innovative ideas through incubation centres and innovation in SMEs products, technology and technological processes.

"We have decided to sign MOU with MUST university after discovering that graduates in different higher learning institutions normally do research and later on come up with new technologies that can be used to the communities, but they remain in shelves," he said.

According to Prof Mpandungi through field attachment, it will be easy for graduates to see what SIDO centres do and how they manufacture machines for SMEs and other issues relating to technologies," he added.

He said graduates from MUST will be encouraged and facilitated to undertake field/research works and projects at SIDO while staffs from both SIDO and MUST will assist in supervising students and accord to access the necessary facilities.

Apart from the benefits SIDO will support graduates to develop new innovative ideas related to businesses from the experience in SIDO's incubation centres.

During the implementation, SIDO will provide SMEs related trainings on business management and technical skills as per agreement in the collaboration as well as provide to MUST graduates placement as per available space in the TDC, clusters and incubations.

One million trees set to be planted in K'njaro - Zungu

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE government is set to plant one million trees around Mount Kilimanjaro to counter massive deforestation at the iconic tourist destination.

Minister of State in the Office of the Vice President (Union and Environment), Mussa Azzan Zungu told the National Assembly here yesterday that millions of hectares of forests were lost around the mountain during the period between 1990 and 2010 due to illegal logging.

The Minister called communities living near the mountain to stop tree-cutting practice and use the forest for beekeeping as alternative economic activity instead of logging.

Zungu made the statement while responding to an additional question by Welezo MP, Saada Mkuya Salum who wanted to know what the Government's strategy was in dealing with climate change.

She pointed that the developed countries have high carbon emissions and significant negative impacts are happening on developing countries including Tanzania and thus they are damaging to the environment but have been reluctant to finance.

Explaining further, Minister Zungu said that it is true that some of the world's largest countries have broken into a climate accord based on their own interests and that the remaining countries led by France and Qatar have established 100 million US Dollars fund for countries that need to improve their environment.

He said that Tanzania has embarked on a strategy to mobilize the funds alongside developing various programs to ensure our country benefits from environmental protection.

The minister added that the Government, in collaboration with the Local Government Authorities, is developing a strategy to plant trees in every district in the country to improve the environment.

"We have now developed a strategy to plant trees in each district and not only to plant them but to keep them growing, many district councils are encouraged to plant trees they don't grow. We will set specific tree types for each district that will be appropriate," he explained.

Initially he answered the basic question of Ileje MP, Janet Mbene who asked when government will start charging tariffs for exporting charcoal so it can restore the environment.

Responding to it the VPO Deputy Minister, Mussa Sima said the government is currently not exporting charcoal from abroad and the cost of rehabilitating degraded areas due to human activities including charcoal, will be derived from income various charges set out in the Forestry Act of 2002 including 5 percent of the Council tax levied on forest products traders.

Additionally, other charges will be levied on charging fees for charcoal exports of briquettes that are allowed to go abroad.

"Of course charcoal burning is largely utilizing indigenous trees as well as forest reserves and, obviously, deforestation is not compatible with tree planting and this has a major impact on our environment including continued loss of biodiversity, decline with rain and drying of water sources," he said.

The Deputy Minister added that the business is conducted in accordance with the Forestry Act of 2002, the Regulations of 2004 and various Guidelines. In addition, the export of charcoal is prohibited in terms of section 16 of the Exports Control Act, (CAP 381 R. E 200) as well as other prohibitions.

He added that Government Proclamation No. 417 dated 24/05/2019 Clause No. 21 - (1) has prohibited any person from exporting charcoal except charcoal briquettes and with special permission from the responsible Minister.

Capacity building key for enhancing women's participation in parliament, says Isles speaker

By Guardian Reporter

SUSTAINED capacity building of women members of the Zanzibar House of Representatives (ZHoR) is key to ensuring that women's participation within the house is strengthened, Isles Speaker Zubeir Ali Maulid has said.

Maulid made these statements at a meeting with a delegation comprising of the Ambassador of Finland, two women MPs from Finland and staff from UN Women Tanzania and FIDA, a Finnish missions and development organization.

As a part of a learning visit to Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar, the MPs from Finland visited the ZHoR in order to share experiences with Zanzibar Representatives and gain a better understanding of the workings of the caucus of women parliamentarians in Zanzibar.

"This is particularly important as experience has shown that with every election, about 75% of the Representatives are new," the Speaker added.

"In the five years in which I have been speaker, I have been fortunate to have witnessed a great transformation in the general performance of the women representatives, with more active participation of women representatives on legislative issues, the budget, questions and private motions," he said.

Deputy Speaker and Chair of ZHoR, Mgeni Hassan Juma added that as a result of the capacity building women representatives have received through

support from the UN Women Women's Leadership and Political Participation "Wanawake Wanaweza" project, there are now more women leading Committees either as Chairs or Deputy Chairs than ever before.

"We currently have four women chairpersons of standing committees, when I started, there were no women chairpersons at all," said Hassan Juma.

Currently, 32 members out of 87 members of the ZHoR are women, which is equivalent to 37% of the Members in the House. Through its work, UAWAZA seeks to raise the number, participation and influence of women in the House of Representatives, while also serving as a platform to engender resource allocation and advocate for the enactment of gender legislations.

"We have undertaken various initiatives with UAWAZA to strengthen the women members' capacity to effectively engage in women's rights issues within the Zanzibar House, recognizing the important role they play in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment" said Racheal Boma, Focal Person for Access to Justice and Parliament at UN Women.

According to the Ambassador of Finland, Riitta Swan, Finland has one of the highest rates of women in parliament, with women's representation at 47% placing it as the 6th highest in the world. The representation of women also currently surpasses that of men in the government cabinet.

"The most recent government has 11 female ministers and 7 male ministers," said Amb. Swan.

A Member of Parliament in the delegation, Eli Järvinen, added that each of the five political parties in Finland is currently led by a woman, and similar to the women's caucus in Zanzibar, all female MPs are also members of the women's parliamentary network in Finland.

Järvinen further reiterated the importance of continued capacity building, stating that regular learning events within the women's parliamentary network have proven to contribute significantly to their increased performance.

In her remarks, Ambassador Swan further reiterated Finland's commitment to supporting Tanzania in furthering the gender equality and women's empowerment agenda, stating that as a Government, gender equality is a key priority area both within their own country and in their development support around the world.

"Tanzania is one of the Finland's main partner countries in development cooperation, and has always been at the heart of our national development, Finland remains committed in supporting Tanzania's efforts to advance gender equality," she said.

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



MNB head of trade finance department, Linda Teggsa (C) speaks during a dialog on critical infrastructure development and access to financing organised by Africa Trade Insurance (ATI) which was held at the Ministry of Finance and Planning in Dodoma yesterday. Right is Amour Muro, senior relationship manager, corporate banking. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

High Court Judge calls upon magistrates to be ethical, fair

HIGH Court of Tanzania Judge Mwanza Zone Joachim Tiganga has called upon magistrates to be patriotic and act with diligence without breaching procedures of the laws to ensure they implement their duties quickly and without favours.

He was speaking at a joint meeting that brought together District Commissioners, Regional and District Administrative Secretaries, and court officials to discuss the composition and working system of ethics committees for regional and district magistrates.

He said every magistrate is a leader according to the law hence his responsibility is to ensure all people under his jurisdiction abide by ethics as the law dictates.

"In case an officer goes against ethics and nothing is done to him, then the magistrate concerned will be answerable and subject to disciplinary and/or other legal action," Tiganga said.

He added that magistrates' rulings are built on faith and when this faith disappears from him, he has to opt out of the case before him.

The Mwanza regional Commissioner John Mongella called upon District Commissioners and District Administrative Secretaries to be close to the courts to ensure it metes out justice.

He said the office of the District

Commissioner is not prevented to formulate communication systems, but not to make legal interventions.

He added that the courts will need other systems for the implementations of their directives hence the basic issue is to trust each other so that all people have faith in the courts.

Speaking on behalf of his colleagues, the Magu District Commissioner Dr Philemon Sengati said they will ensure they will work on all directives given so that court officials perform their duties by adhering to the laws, procedures and ethics governing public service workers.

By Guardian Reporter

Education experts strategise improvement of elementary schools teachers training

TANZANIA Teachers Union (TTU) in partnership with experts from the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and the Office of the President (Local Government and Regional Administration) has embarked on finding a cure to control and improve training for teachers in elementary education in the country.

On Monday the Head of TTU's Department of Education and Training Stella Kiyabo, speaking at a meeting on the submission of guidelines on teachers' proficiency on elementary education to the ministry's officials said the research done by TTU and World Teachers Union discovered many deficiencies in meting out elementary education.

"This programme will spur other areas to send teachers all over the country for training, to have proficient

teachers in elementary education. We have discovered there are no national guidelines on elementary education that talk on proficiency for elementary education teachers," she said.

She added: "From the huge number of elementary schools in the country, many of them had teachers who had lacked proficiency in teaching at elementary schools; hence, TTU came up with a project that will award a Diploma in Elementary Education and initially will concentrate in two districts - Chemba and Mpwapwa."

According to Kiyabo, there are currently 436 student teachers receiving such education, and added that as TTU they have the responsibility to help the government in ensuring better education provision in the country right from elementary level.

Dr Theresia Shavega, the Head of the Faculty of Education and expert in elementary education at Open University of Tanzania (OUT) said they are the ones who conduct this education as they were assigned in the preparation of the curricula, examination and all other evaluations and are the ones who will call for their attendance and award the diploma on elementary education.

For his part, the Supervisor of Education in the Department of Elementary and Primary Education in the Office of the President (Local Government and Regional Administration) Salvatory Alute said what is being done is to continue improving standards of teaching in elementary schools and having in place guidelines for proficiency in training.

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY GLOBAL ANIMAL HEALTH TANZANIA

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR EXTERNAL AUDIT SERVICES

RFP Number: GAHT/RFP/2020/1
 RFP issued by: GLOBAL ANIMAL HEALTH - TANZANIA
 Issue Date: February 4th, 2020
 RFP closing date: Proposal must be received by 4.30 p.m, February 14th 2020

RFP Project Title: REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR EXTERNAL AUDIT SERVICES FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2019

Purpose
 Global Animal Health - Tanzania requests qualified independent Certified Public Accountants to submit proposals to enter into a contract to perform financial audits for a period of one Financial Year starting January 1st and ending December 31st, 2019

Renewal: Optional renewal for up to two-year term, thereafter, if mutually agreed.

Delivery of Proposal: Proposal envelopes should be clearly marked with the name and the address of the proponent, the RFP number and the RFP project name. Proposals may be sent by mail or email (email preferably).

Audit Period: The audit will cover one (1) financial year as follows:

i) January 1st, 2019 - December 31st, 2019
 Interested firms should submit their proposals as per the attached "Terms of Reference for Audit" by 4.30 p.m. on February 14th 2020

Successful Proponents Notification: Between February 20th 2020 (A WEEK AFTER CLOSING DATE) and February 27th 2020.
 For those Proponents who will not be granted the contract, this will serve as notice that their proposal submission was unsuccessful.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR AUDIT

1. Background
 Global Animal Health-Tanzania (GAHT) is a legally registered NGO. GAHT serves to manage a broad range of public health research projects in Tanzania supported by Washington State University (WSU) and its collaborating partners including United States'

2. Funding Types
 GAHT uses the following fund types in its financial reporting: (EXPLANATION NEEDED)
 Federal funds from NIH (National Institutes of Health), U.S. DHHS (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services) Non-federal funds from University of Glasgow; Donors through WSU; Merck & Co, MSD Animal Health

3. Budgetary Basis of Accounting
 GAHT prepares its budgets on basis consistent with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

4. Consultations with Concerned Parties
 Prior to the start of audit work, the auditors will be required to consult with the GAHT office. Further upon completion of the draft audit report and management letter, the auditor will be required to have an exit meeting with the Management to brief them on its major findings from the audit and its recommendations for future improvements as well as to seek their feedback thereon. Basing on the facts and evidence gathered during the exit meeting, which will be mutually agreed between the auditor and auditee, the draft audit report and management letter may be updated to accommodate the agreed concerns.

5. Audit Services Required: Audit Scope

i) Finance
 The audit work shall cover the adequacy of the accounting and financial operations and reporting systems of the organization. These include budget control, cash management, certification and approving authority, receipt and disbursement of funds, recording of all financial transactions in expenditure reports, records maintenance and control. The audit will examine all petty cash and bank reconciliations, direct payments including salaries, rents and services/consultancy fees and the procurement process. GAHT office is fully responsible and accountable for these expenditures and, accordingly, maintains all supporting documentation for the disbursement.

ii) Procurement
 The audit work shall cover the competitiveness, transparency and effectiveness of the procurement activities of the programs in order to ensure that the equipment and services purchased meet the requirements of GAHT and applicable delegations of authorities, procurement thresholds, call for bids and proposals, evaluation of bids and proposals and approvals/authorization of contracts and purchase orders.

The audit work in the area of procurement shall also cover the use of consulting firms and the adequacy of procedures to obtain fully qualified and experienced personnel and assessment of their work before final payment is made.

iii) Asset Management
 The audit work shall cover equipment purchased for use by GAHT office.

iv) Cash Management
 The audit work shall cover all cash funds held by the organization and review procedures for safeguarding of cash.

v) General Administration
 The audit work shall cover travel activities, vehicle management, shipping services, office communications, and records maintenance.

6. Limitation of scope:
 Subject to the approval of GAHT and the Auditor each year, the Auditor will perform Financial Statements attest audits of GAHT for the Financial Year starting January 1st to December 31st 2019. The primary purpose of the audit is to express an opinion on the financial statements. The above scope shall cover annual examination of transactions for the year performed at GAHT office and shall include:

- a. Financial Statements Audit
 - Examination of financial and compliance audit in accordance to International Standards of Auditing
 - Conducting an independent attest audit of the GAHT's operations/ activities, financial statements, books and records and financial circumstances for the fiscal year indicated and prepare an auditor's report in respect, thereof.
 - The audit procedures used shall be sufficient to enable the respondent to express an opinion on whether the financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable generally accepted accounting principles, standards and framework, whether GAHT has maintained proper books of accounts, and whether the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the organization.
- b. Compliance and Internal Controls Review
 - Reviewing and evaluating the GAHT's internal control and risk management system and advising Management and the Board on adequacy / effectiveness of the system, and proposals for its improvement.
 - Reviewing adequacy of the GAHT's Information Systems and related infrastructure
 - Providing any other value-addition services consistent with the audit of GAHT.
 - Verification to ensure that the expenditures described in the supporting documentation are reconciled to the expenditures by disbursing source.
 - The audit procedures should be adequate to determine whether GAHT's operations were conducted in compliance with legal and regulatory requirements including Kenya Statutes and Laws, and GAHT's policies and procedures.
 - The auditor is not required to audit the introductory section of the report or programmatic technical aspects of the organization.

c. Auditing Standards to be followed
 To meet the requirements of this request for proposal, the audit shall be performed in accordance with: International Standards of Auditing (ISA) and generally accepted auditing standards as set forth by National Board of Accountants and Auditors of Tanzania (NBAA) and applicable International Financial Reporting Standards.
 A statement in the audit report if the audit was not in conformity with any of the above, indicating the alternative standards or procedures followed should be issued.

7. The Audit Report
 The audit report should be addressed to the Board of Directors, be in compliance with audit standards used and governing Tanzania Law and include at least the following:

- A report on the fairness of presentation of the financial position, results of operations and cash flows, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.
- The scope of the examination and that the audit was performed in line with International Standards on Auditing.
- A report on compliance and internal controls over financial reporting based on an audit of the financial statements. Reportable conditions that are also material weaknesses shall be identified as such in the report. Non-reportable conditions discovered by the auditors shall be reported in a separate letter to management. The report on compliance and internal controls shall include all material instances of non-compliance. All nonmaterial instances of non-compliance shall be reported in a separate management letter
- Reports on compliance examinations must include a statement that the audit was conducted in accordance with applicable standards. The audit report must state where the examination disclosed instances of significant non-compliance with laws and generally accepted accounting principles. Findings of non-compliance and ineligible expenditures must be presented in enough detail for management to be able to understand them.
- A management letter will be required. It should contain a statement of audit findings and recommendations affecting financial systems and statements, internal controls, legality of actions, other instances of non-compliance with laws and generally accepted accounting principles, and any other material matters
- The special purpose of the report and its intended use.
- The audit standards that were applied (ISA or INTOSAI or national standards that comply with one of these in all material respect).

Contents of the report will include but not limited to

- Statement of Income and Expenditure for the Fiscal Year
- Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet) of the Fiscal Year
- Statement of Fund Balance
- Statement of Cash Flows
- Statement of accounting policies used in the Fiscal Year.
- The status of assets and equipment held by GAHT as at end of the Fiscal Year
- Compliance with financial and other relevant legislation and standards
- Notes of financial statements

8. Commencement of Audit
 Commencement of audit is tentative on February 24th 2020

9. Draft Reports

Submission of the draft reports and recommendations for review by Management by
 • March 10th 2020 (can be discussed with successful proponent)
 • The final signed audit reports due date is March 23rd 2020

10. Submission of Reports
 The Auditor shall provide GAHT with 2 electronic and 5 hardcopies of the final Audit not later than March 23rd 2020

11. Report Preparation
 Report preparation, editing and printing shall be the responsibility of the Auditor. He will be required to prepare complete financial statements for the fiscal year covered by the engagement agreement.

12. Confidentiality
 The auditor shall agree to keep the information related to all funds audited, related contracts, and all information obtained in the course of the audit, in strict confidence.

13. Use of Report
 Other than reports submitted to WSU Pullman for review, the auditor agrees not to publish, reproduce, or otherwise divulge such information, in whole or in part, in any manner or form, or authorize or permit others to do so, taking reasonable measures as are necessary to restrict information access to those employees on its staff who must have information on a need-to-know basis.

14. Record Retention / Work Papers
 The auditor shall retain audit reports and related working papers for a minimum of seven (7) years. Audit documents shall be made available to GAHT upon request by authorized representatives of GAHT or its designee.

15. Management Letter
 The Auditor should submit a management letter at the completion of audit including management's response with each audit. The management letter should include at least the following:

- An assessment of the efficiency of the administration, management and internal control system
- Whether or not errors or irregularities reported in the preceding audit report have been corrected.
- Whether or not recommendations made in the preceding audit report have been implemented
- Contain a statement of audit findings and recommendations affecting financial systems and statements, internal control, legality of actions, other instances of non-compliance with laws and generally accepted accounting principles, and any other material matters.
- An assessment of the internal control system with equal emphasis on
 - The effectiveness of the system in providing the programme management with useful and timely information for the proper management of the programme and
 - The general effectiveness of the internal control system in protecting the assets and resources of the programme.
- A description of any specific internal control weaknesses noted in the financial management of the programme and the audit procedures followed to address or compensate for the weaknesses.
- Assessment of the adequacy of the systems of control over procurement of supplies, equipment and services, and verify whether guidelines regarding procurement are followed
- Recommendations to improve management, accounting procedures, internal controls, and efficiency
- The management letter should also include the following:
 - The categorization of audit findings by risk severity: High, Medium, or Low.
 - The classification of possible causes of the audit findings.

16. Recommendations and improvements
 Recommendations should be directed to a specific entity (GAHT) so there is no confusion regarding who is responsible for implementation. The response of the entity should be included in the management letter, immediately following the recommendation. Besides, the auditor may wish to comment on "good practices" (if any) that were developed by the implementing partner that should be shared with other programme personnel.

17. Available Facilities and Right Access
 The auditor will have access GAHT's records and financial documents including banking documents and all employees of the entity for explanations required.

Schedules: The staff will prepare the following information on forms acceptable to the Auditor:
 a. A set of final accounts for the financial year 1/1/2019 - 12/31/2019
 b. A final expenditure by category for each fund type.
 c. A copy of the final budget presented to the board for the audit period, the original budget for the audit period, and all amendments to the budget;
 d. A schedule of payroll for the fiscal year 2019;
 e. A General ledger;
 f. A schedule of all capital outlays during the period;
 g. A schedule of all capital asset dispositions during the period if any;
 h. A schedule of accounts payable at statement date;
 i. Such reasonable additional schedules as may be requested for financial audits.

18. Additional Services
 GAHT may determine that additional services are necessary and may contract with the respondent to perform those services. The respondent shall perform additional services only upon a written request from GAHT. Additional services, if offered by the respondent, may include but not be limited to:
 i. Performance of extended audit procedures

All additional work shall be documented by engagement memorandums to be approved by GAHT. The fee for additional services shall be separately negotiated at the time of the engagement.

19. Default
 In the event that the awarded respondent should breach this contract, the GAHT reserves the right to seek remedies in law and or in equity. Default would result in removal of the firm from consideration for additional opportunities for a period of three (3) years.

20. Award of Contract
 All respondents to this RFP will receive written notification of the status of their proposal.

Primary Point of Contact: The respondent shall identify a specific individual as a primary point of contact. This individual will be responsible for the respondent's work product.

21. Qualifications of the Auditor

The auditor must be completely impartial and independent of all aspects of management or financial interests in the entity being audited. The auditor should not, during the period covered by the audit nor during the undertaking of the audit, be employed by, serve as director for, or have any financial or close business relationships with any senior participant in the management of the entity.

The auditor should be experienced in applying either ISA or INTOSAI audit standards, whichever is applicable for the audit. The auditor must employ adequate staff with appropriate professional qualifications and suitable experience with ISA or INTOSAI standards, including minimum three years' experience in auditing the accounts of entities comparable in size and complexity to the entity being audited. Experience in auditing of NGO or Donor supported programmes is an asset.

- Specific qualifications:**
- The lead consultant should be an internationally qualified auditor (CPA, ACCA, or its equivalent).
 - The firm should have strong knowledge and experience in donor accounting auditing and have capacity, capability to meet required timelines
 - The firm should be registered with the National Board of Accountants and Auditors of Tanzania (NBAA) and partners hold a current practicing certificate
 - The partners must be full time audit practitioners and in good standing with NBAA and should not have been subject to disciplinary action by NBAA or other related professional bodies
 - The firm must provide a valid business permit and undergone a Quality Assurance Review by NBAA
 - The firm must provide a detailed profile of clients; at least three (3) who can stand in as referees.

22. Your proposal should contain, but not be limited to the following considerations

TENDER SUBMISSION

If you meet the above criteria kindly submit your proposals via email, in PDF duly signed documents as follows:

- a) Technical Proposal containing:**
- Confirmation of the Firm's understanding of the Terms of Reference and its capacity and capability to deliver on the TOR;
 - The methodology, work-plan and timelines for undertaking and completing the assignment, and the deliverables;
 - Appropriate references to demonstrate having the experience specified in the TOR;
 - The CVs of key staff proposed to do the assignment;
 - Audit Schedule including information on the following completion dates:
 - Interim Work
 - Detailed Audit Plan
 - Fieldwork
 - Draft Reports
 - Entrance Conferences, Progress Reporting and Exit Conferences

b) Financial Proposal indicating the proposed fees and expenses.

- c) Bidding firms should also submit the following documents with their Technical Proposals:
- Proof of registration with NBAA and Partners' Practicing Certificates;
 - Confirmation of having undergone a Quality Assurance Review by NBAA;
 - Confirmation that neither the firm, nor any of its partners or key staff, have faced any disciplinary action by NBAA or other professional bodies;
 - Confirmation that the firm and / or its partners and key staff are not aware of any conflict of interest which may exist with respect to GAHT, GAHT Partners, or the current or former Trustees of GAHT.

Proposals should be submitted on or before
 February 14th 2020 at 4.30 pm to the following address:

The Country Administrative Manager, Finance and Operations
 Global Animal Health - Tanzania
 6th Floor, NCAAA Building,
 Arusha, Tanzania
 Email: g.kassanga@wsu.edu
 c.c. trang1.nguyen@wsu.edu and manning@wsu.edu

By Guardian Reporter

Kairuki lines up investors in cannabis processing

MINISTER of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investments) Angela Kairuki has said her office has procured two big investors who have shown interest to invest in agriculture especially processing of cannabis for medical use.

Kairuki revealed this to the Kahama Urban Member of Parliament Jumanne Kishimba (CCM) who was speaking during the meeting of the Lands, Natural Resources and Tourism

Parliamentary Committee and who wanted the government to adopt the issue as quickly as possible before the price of cannabis plummets.

In his contribution during the debate Kishimba said the cannabis price in the world market has risen considerably in all the countries he visited where

cannabis farming is permitted, hence he asked the Minister for Agriculture Japhet Hasunga to see if one wants to cultivate the crop.

"Those who banned cannabis were Europeans in the 1940s, but it's the same Europeans who discovered that inside the plant there are medications. Since in the world market the price of cannabis is competitive it's better for the government to make a decision as soon as possible," Kishimba added.

He said in Africa, Tanzania is third

in cannabis cultivation illegally and if the law is rescinded it will take us somewhere and added "since the Home Affairs Minister is here he can issue a pardon to legalize the stuff that has been seized in the last six months." Kishimba said if the pardon is given and the wananchi trade the stuff among them, the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) stands to reap more revenue, and added that there is no time to waste.

He also revealed that the European

Union (EU) gave Uganda more than USD 500m for cultivation of cannabis but "we in Tanzania started cultivating the stuff a very long time ago, so I still ask the minister to decide early before the stuff's price plummets in the world market."

As Kishimba was speaking, the Geita Rural MP Juseph Musukuma stood and said: "Normally, when Parliament enacts laws what follows are mere regulations, hence "I would like the minister to tell us that the regulations are ready and we should start cultivating before prices go down."

Thereafter the Speaker of Parliament Job Ndugai said: "I want to assure you that what Kishimba says is not a joke, I was in Canada recently for Commonwealth Speakers Conference. It is big business in Canada, hence the MP is speaking on a very basic issue, and not a joke at all."

40 Years

MARIE STOPES TANZANIA
Children by choice, not chance

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Marie Stopes Tanzania (MST), a local Non-Governmental Organization, is a social enterprise and a leading provider of family planning, sexual and reproductive health care and allied services. MST is a partner of the Government of Tanzania and a member of the Marie Stopes International (MSI) Global Partnership, which operates in over 37 countries worldwide. MST's mission is that all women and men in Tanzania will have "Children by Choice, Not Chance".

We are looking for an active & qualified individual for the following role:

I. ADVOCACY & MARKETING MANAGER- Dar es Salaam

Job Purpose:

The Advocacy and Marketing Manager (A&M) heads the MST Advocacy and marketing activities and also provides the Executive Management Team with support, advice and guidance on corporate and policy issues, including the production of corporate annual business plans. As head of Advocacy and Marketing, the A&M Manager is responsible

for managing a cross-cutting team of communication specialists in delivering information and awareness campaigns and initiatives about contraception and other sexual and reproductive health services; advocacy strategies; media engagement; online communication strategy; brand management; donor relations strategy and internal communications. External communications responsibilities also include a focus on reaching young Tanzanians with information and services about reproductive healthcare.

Among the Key Responsibilities:

- Working closely with the Director of Sales and Marketing and the Executive Team to develop annual business plans to guide corporate growth and development
- Working closely with Human Resources Team to lead or support key internal communications initiatives for the implementation of corporate priorities across teams
- Develop and commission radio, TV, online and other content to achieve clearly defined behaviour change, advocacy and promotional outcomes according to both project requirements and MST strategic goals
- Overseeing and supporting the relationship with journalists, identifying and managing strategic media relationships and overseeing the implementation of a public relations strategy to ensure frequent positive coverage in all forms of media for MST and the importance of reproductive health care, including a lead role in drafting of press releases
- Oversee the development of organizational decisionmaker centric messaging on key issues. Ensuring that MST speakers/presenters at events are fully briefed and deliver speeches that support behaviour change and advocacy objectives, often by playing a lead role in speech writing
- Oversee and develop MST positions on key issues and messaging for external audiences
- Represent MST in external fora to promote brand visibility, and influence advocacy issues
- Overseeing and supporting the Youth Mobilisation Officer/s to

deliver effective new initiatives to reach young people with reproductive health information and services at scale and to meet obligations to donors in serving youth

- Overseeing and supporting the development and implementation of brand management strategy through the media, advertising and production of attractive and informative branding materials
- Working with Social Marketing team to ensure that all social marketing operations are consistent with MST branding strategy and are supported by successful marketing strategies.

Minimum Requirements:

Qualifications:

- Masters Degree in Mass Communication/ Business Administration/ Social Science or related field from a reputable institution.

Skills and Experience:

- At least five years of previous experience in a professional communications capacity (including advocacy, brand management, internal communications, media relations or fundraising)
- Demonstrable knowledge and understanding of how to successfully communicate and engage with the public
- Advanced knowledge and understanding of the NGO and donor sector with successful track record of fund raising, preferably within the health sector
- Previous experience or knowledge of working for SRHR will be an added advantage
- Previous experience of managing or coordinating corporate change
- At least 3 years of experience in managing a team or small organisation
- Strong planning and management skills
- Advanced persuasive communication skills – both written and verbal – in English and also in Kiswahili
- Advanced analytical skills.

Mode of Application:

If you feel that you are able to meet the requirements, and you are motivated enough to be part of the team, please send your application CV and Cover letter by email detailing your suitability and why you are interested in the post, to the address below:

Director of Human Resources and Administration
Marie Stopes Tanzania
11 Kinyonga Street – Mwenge
P. O. Box 7072, Dar Es Salaam.
Telephone: +255 22 2774991 / 4
VOIP +255 768 987 780
E-mail: jobs@mst.or.tz

Closing date: All applications should reach the addressee before Sunday February 09, 2020.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.



Artisanal miners along Salasala river in Kinondoni district, Dar es Salaam region plant bamboo to protect environment. Bamboo plants have strong roots in the ground which makes the soil more stable. This means it can stabilise and restore the land, and prevent landslides. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Singida Region embarks on search for substandard sanitary napkins

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

SINGIDA Region has embarked on strategic search to unearth low quality menstrual pads to ensure people use goods of quality standards.

SINGIDA Regional Commissioner Dr Rehema Nchimbi revealed this early this week in Ikungi District at a special event that launched contribution drive for menstrual

pads dubbed 'Care for Girls for Her Own and National Development' during which she appealed to all stakeholders to participate in identifying and report business people who sell substandard pads.

Dr Nchimbi said state organs, religious leaders and parents have great contribution in protecting a girl child for the national growth.

She said the good quality of girls' pads translates to good quality of their lives hence it is imperative to take steps to control the whole production chain and distribution of the menstrual pads.

She also threw challenge to entrepreneurs to come up with a written document on ideas on how to make quality pads using local raw materials adding she will reward 1m/- to the winner.

She also called upon all girls in the country to stay upright despite being feminine as menstruation is a thing of value as it translates to life.

She also appealed to stakeholders to continue contributing in recognition of the importance of a girl child whereas on the launch day 9,089 packets of the pads were contributed while the target was 8,000 packets depending on monetary contributions.

She said the aim for Ikungi District for 2020 is to have 192,000 pads in 36 and 131 secondary and primary schools respectively with a total of 16,000 girl students.

Ikungi District Executive Director (DED) Justice Kijazi thanked the Regional Commissioner for her advice calling for gender education in all schools in the region and the menstrual pads contribution.

She cited some of the challenges facing girl students as including child pregnancies, rape, forced under age marriages and being overworked at home.

The Coordinator of the contribution exercise who is Ikungi District Community Development Officer Haika Massawe proposed that parents should also be incorporated in the campaign.

He said state organs including the police and courts should mete out justice when dealing with the rights of the children and that parents of girl students should be asked to contribute money for purchase of pads for them.



She cited some of the challenges facing girl students as including child pregnancies, rape, forced under age marriages and being overworked at home

Empowering Health
Columbia University
Mailman School
of Public Health

PUBLICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR MSPH TANZANIA LLC FROM JANUARY 1ST TO DECEMBER 31ST 2019

MSPH Tanzania LLC, known as ICAP, is a Non-governmental organization operating in Tanzania since 2004, with funding mainly from the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In line with the countrywide scale up of HIV services to reach 99-99-99 goals in Tanzania, ICAP is implementing community-based strategies to identify and link HIV positive individuals within targeted key and vulnerable populations (KVP) taking them into care. In subsequent to pursuant to regulation 12 and 13 of the Non-Governmental Organizations Act (Disclosures) Regulations, 2018 ICAP is here by publishing financial statements covering the period 1ST January to December 2019). During the year 2019, ICAP received funding from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in collaboration with the Government of Tanzania (GoT) to deliver HIV related interventions.

Statement of financial position as at 31 st December 2019		
	2019 (TZS '000) Provisional	2018 (TZS '000) Audited
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalent	2,777,484	1,093,473
Receivables	958,204	762,634
Total Assets	3,735,688	1,856,107
Liabilities		
Fund balance	3,735,688	1,856,107
Total Liabilities	3,735,688	1,856,107

Statement of Comprehensive income for the year ended 31 st December 2019		
	2019 (TZS '000) Provisional	2018 (TZS '000) Audited
Income		
Grant income	35,144,196	22,074,496
Total income	35,144,196	22,074,496
Expenses		
Operating expenses	2,381,754	7,726,255
Program expenses	21,234,364	6,818,634
Staff expenses	11,528,078	7,529,606
Total expenses	35,144,196	22,074,496
Surplus for the year	-	-

Funding Analysis By Project as of 31 st December 2019			
#	Project Name	2019	2018
1	Comprehensive Community-Based HIV Prevention, Linkage, and Retention Services for KP and AGYW	33,719,248	19,873,222
2	CQUIN and Respectful maternity care in Tanzania	494,417	21,245
3	HCTB - Project ECHO Pilot Program	30,066	182,981
4	HPB - Bukoba Tanzania Combination-Prevention End-line Evaluation	2,734	209,570
5	Improving identification of HIV-infected children in Tanzania (ACT)	6	391,549
6	Population-based HIV Impact Assessments in Resource-constrained Settings	447,234	915,668
7	Quality Improvement Capacity for Impact Project	321,311	181,766
8	Unrestricted funding	129,179	298,495
	Grand Total	35,144,196	22,074,496

The statement of financial position published for 2019 to cover the period of 1 January 2019 are provisional unaudited as approved by ICAP management in pursuant to regulation 13 of the Non-Governmental Organizations Act (Disclosures) Regulations, 2018.

Invest in prevention, early detection of cancer, oncologists tell Tanzanians

By Aisia Rweyemamu

TANZANIANS have been urged to invest more in cancer prevention and early detection, which are key issues in tackling the disease—second most common cause of death globally.

The call was made by the Oncologist Nyakaje Mashauri of the Aga Khan Hospital, Dar es Salaam when marking the World Cancer Day themed: "I Am and I Will," to acknowledge that everyone has the capacity to act in the face of cancer.

In marking the day, the Aga Khan hospital in collaboration with the Damu Salama has conducted awareness and education about cancer blood donation exercise in order to help cancer patients who have been identified as a special group which needs more blood due to kind of their treatment.

The Oncologist said, education and awareness to the public is highly needed because most of them are not aware of the early symptoms of the disease and how to take precautions.

"This causes many patients to arrive at the hospital when the disease is at stage three or four which its treatment take long time," the Oncologist explained.

Mashauri added: the other challenge is some of cancer patients get treatment in hospitals and from which doctors at the same time the fact that bring difficulties to their treatment.

Dr Alesha Adatia, an Oncologist from Aga Khan said that cancer is not the end of life, it is a curable disease that after treatment the patients returns to a normal situation and continue with their activities.

"We collaborate with the government hand in hand in fighting cancer, we also

call upon the public to donate blood for cancer patients in order to save their lives" Dr Adatia explained.

For her part the Eastern Zone Blood Donor Recruiter, Fatuma Mjungu said that there is a great demand of blood for cancer patients.

The blood recruiter said that the Aga Khan hospital and the Ocean Road Cancer Institute (ORCI) used to collect blood from 'damu salama' bank which is also not enough due to great demand.

Mjungu called upon the public to have a regular habit of donating blood for cancer patients due to the fact that most of them do not have relatives in the city. Adding that the donated blood expires after 35 days.

For his part the Aga Khan hospital Pathology, Dr Omary Sharma, said: "Blood is vital for the treatment of cancer patients, as well as for cancer patients needing blood transfusions."



Dodoma Region Police Commander Gilles Muroto greets Mnadani primary school pupils moments after he visited the school to cement relationship between Police and community. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

'Failure to adopt agronomic skills on organic farming denies growers profit'

EFFORTS by the government and key stakeholders to push for organic agriculture in Tanzania may not see the light of the day following failure by many farmers to adopt recommended agronomic practices.

For two consecutive years now, the Indian-based Vantage Organic Foods LTD (VOF), a potential buyer of organic agriculture produced in Tanzania have never landed in the country to purchase the crops in question due to what is believed to be poor quality of organic farmers' products.

Relevant experts are of the opinion that it is of prudent for the parent ministry to team up with key stakeholders in order to impart the involved growers (organic farmers) with better organic farming agronomic practices.

Organic agriculture is a production system that sustains the health of soils, ecosystems and people.

It relies on biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions rather than use of inputs with adverse effects.

At least 14,000 small holders farmers in central zone are in a special project on organic agriculture, initiated

by the Agricultural Development Denmark Asia (ADDA) in cooperation with Genesis Agrocomplex Co. LTD and Tanzania Organic Agricultural Movement (TOAM).

Emmanuel Simuye, an officer from Genesis Co. LTD said local farmers who practices organic agriculture are still facing myriad technical challenges.

"Vantage Organic Foods LTD (VOF) are the potential purchasers of organic produced crops in Tanzania, but it's very disconcerting to learn that they have vanished away due to poor quality of our produce.

"I think the farmers need to be empowered in several aspects in order to perform better," he observed.

The project, according to him is implemented in the four districts of Dodoma region. The districts are Kongwa, Bahi, Chamwino and Dodoma town under generous financial patronage from Agricultural Markets Development Trust (AMDT).

The involved farmers cultivate maize sunflower, pulses, pigeon peas and wheat sub-sectors.

"Organic agriculture is an effective method of farming which has multiple benefits, however crops produced through this method are human healthier than others," he expressed.

And he added, as per the set project's business model, Genesis Co. Ltd and TOAM are responsible for providing needed services and inputs, as well as imparting community facilitators and extension officers in the targeted districts with sounding knowledge on organic agriculture practices.

"The said groups (community facilitators and extension officers) have a general role to bequest to the farmer's organic farming knowledge after being well trained," he elaborated.

He said, Vantage Organic Foods (VOF) was for purchasing crops from all farmers attached in the project, at friendly prices.

"Crops produced through organic farming are of high demand in the world market, and thus, if the farmers will be capacitated enough, will stands a better chance to fetch lucrative profits," he noted.

Mwanza City Council embarks on special plan to improve education standard in primary schools

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda,

Mwanza

MWANZA City Council (MCC) has embarked on a special plan aimed at improving the standard of education in all primary schools available in the area effective this year.

Speaking to The Guardian here yesterday, the MCC Primary Education Officer, Ephraim Majinge said that in the plan, standard four and seven pupils will not be doing out of the class activities instead they will use the time to sit for tests set for district level but of national examinations standards.

Standard seven will be sitting for a test of 25 questions while standard four will be tested with 15 questions of one subject daily starting 7:00 am to 8:00 am from Monday to Friday before they go on with normal routine of studies, Majinge noted.

corrections on the tests from 14:00 pm to 15:00 pm to enable the pupils to know what they were supposed to answer in case of any mistakes.

According to him, the tests of one school will be marked at the nearby school to avoid some pupils to be favoured by teachers a situation that will ensure the tests to bring expected development in education in the area.

He said that answers of the tests will then be forwarded to the office of the City Primary Education Officer for compilation to get results of all schools in the council through computer network as all the schools have been connected to the system.

Every primary school has Information Technology (IT) teacher and the council has established Teachers Resource Centre (TRC) currently based at Nyanza Primary School to easily coordinate the programme, he said.

much for the schools to test themselves adequately on monthly basis and a team of education officers will be dispatched where there are serious shortcomings to rectify the anomalies.

To ensure the plan is successful, every primary school will be required to contribute two reams of paper and 20,000/- monthly and office of the MCC Director has provided the education department with a modern photocopier machine to facilitate the move. "We believe that with this plan MCC can lead in this year's Standard Four and Seven National Examinations," he remarked.

He said that in the last year's Standard Seven National Examination results, Mwanza City Council stood at the fourth position country-wide and was the Second in the region.

According to him, the department is also well prepared to ensure that nursery, standard four as well as seven have outstanding performances.

THE MWALIMU NYERERE MEMORIAL ACADEMY



CALL FOR APPLICATION FOR BASIC TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATE AND ORDINARY DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2019/2020

The Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy (MNMA) invites all qualified Tanzanians and Non-Tanzanians to apply for Basic Technician Certificate and Ordinary Diploma at Kivukoni Main Campus – Dar es Salaam, Karume and Pemba Campus in Zanzibar for March Intake 2020. Application window is open from 15th January, 2020 to 20th February, 2020.

The Programmes are as follows:

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMMES	DURATION	ENTRY REQUIREMENT
i) Basic Technician Certificate in Youth Work	1 year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minimum entry qualification is four (4) passes at least D grade in any subject excluding religious subjects in a Certificate of Secondary Education Examination (CSEE).
ii) Basic Technician Certificate in Human Resources Management		
iii) Basic Technician Certificate in Community Development		
iv) Basic Technician Certificate in Records, Archives and Information Management		
v) Basic Technician Certificate Library and Information Management		
vi) Basic Technician Certificate in Economic Development	1 year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minimum entry qualification is four (4) passes at least D grade in any subject excluding religious subjects in a Certificate of Secondary Education Examination (CSEE). In addition, the four passes must include a pass in any of the following subjects: Basic Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Agriculture, Engineering Science, Geography, Commerce and other science related subjects.
vii) Basic Technician Certificate in Accountancy		
viii) Basic Technician Certificate in Business Administration		
ix) Basic Technician Certificate in Procurement and Supply	1 year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minimum entry qualification is four (4) passes at D grade in any subject excluding religious subjects in a Certificate of Secondary Education Examination (CSEE). In addition, the four passes must include a pass in Basic Mathematics and English Language.
x) Basic Technician Certificate in Information and Communication Technology		

DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES	DURATION	ENTRY REQUIREMENT
i) Ordinary Diploma in Social Studies	2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least one principal pass with a subsidiary in the Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education Examination (ACSEE). A relevant Basic Technician Certificate (NTA Level 4) recognized by NACTE or any other relevant one year Certificate obtained from any learning institution registered by the Government or recognized by any Government body of the country of study.
ii) Ordinary Diploma in Human Resource Management		
iii) Ordinary Diploma in Gender Issues and Development		
iv) Ordinary Diploma in Library and Information Management		
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vi) Ordinary Diploma in Records, Archives and Information Management	2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least one principal pass and a subsidiary in the Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education Examination (ACSEE) in any of the following subjects: Economics, Commerce, Accounts, Geography, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Pure Mathematics, Basic Applied Mathematics, Geography and other related subjects. A relevant Basic Technician Certificate (NTA Level 4) recognized by NACTE or any other relevant one year certificate obtained from any learning institution registered by the Government or recognized by any Government body of the country of study.
vii) Ordinary Diploma in Economic Development		
viii) Ordinary Diploma in Accountancy		
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- All applications for Certificate and Diploma Programmes must be through the **Online Admission System (OSIM)** of the **Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy (MNMA)** available in our website: www.mnma.ac.tz or visit the admission office at the MNMA – Kivukoni Campus, Karume Campus and Pemba Campus in Zanzibar for more assistance.
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Wanted: Global action plan for prevention and control of pneumonia

PNEUMONIA is an inflammatory condition of the lung affecting primarily the small air sacs known as alveoli. Typically symptoms include some combination of productive or dry cough, chest pain, fever, and trouble breathing. Severity is variable.

Pneumonia is usually caused by infection with viruses or bacteria and less commonly by other microorganisms, certain medications and conditions such as autoimmune diseases. Risk factors include cystic fibrosis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, diabetes, heart failure, a history of smoking, a poor ability to cough such as following a stroke, and a weak immune system. Diagnosis is often based on the symptoms and physical examination. Chest X-ray, blood tests, and culture of the sputum may help confirm the diagnosis. The disease may be classified by where it was acquired with community, hospital, or health care associated pneumonia.

Vaccines to prevent certain types of pneumonia are available. Other methods of prevention include handwashing and not smoking. Treatment depends on the underlying cause. Pneumonia believed to be due to bacteria is treated with antibiotics. If the pneumonia is severe, the affected person is generally hospitalized. Oxygen therapy may be used if oxygen levels are low.

Pneumonia affects approximately 450 million people globally (7 pc of the population) and results in about four million deaths per year. Pneumonia was regarded by William Osler in the 19th century as 'the captain of the men of death'. With the introduction of antibiotics and vaccines in the 20th century, survival greatly improved. Nevertheless, in developing countries, and also among the very old, the very young, and the chronically ill, pneumonia remains a leading cause of death. Pneumonia often shortens suffering among those already close to death and has thus been called 'the old man's friend'.

Agricultural productivity is an important component of food security

AGRICULTURAL productivity is measured as the ratio of agricultural outputs to agricultural inputs. While individual products are usually measured by weight, their varying densities make measuring overall agricultural output difficult. Therefore, output is usually measured as the market value of final output, which excludes intermediate products such as corn feed used in the meat industry. This output value may be compared to many different types of inputs such as labour and land (crop yield). These are called partial measures of productivity.

Agricultural productivity may also be measured by what is termed total factor productivity (TFP). This method of calculating agricultural productivity compares an index of agricultural inputs to an index of outputs. This measure of agricultural productivity was established to remedy the shortcomings of the partial measures of productivity; notably that it is often hard to identify the factors cause them to change. Changes in TFP are usually attributed to technological improvements.

Agricultural productivity is an important component of food security: increased yields, lead to markets which rely on certain volumes of food. The IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land and the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 °C both project mostly negative changes in productivity of crops as global warming happens with some Breadbasket regions losing productivity, while other crops increase ranges and productivity—but resulting in a net reduction of crop productivity.

Firm raises hope of small scale farmers and millers with protein-

rich insect product. With the global urban population expected to grow approximately 1.84 per cent per year between 2015 and 2020 putting pressure on food production among cities, there is need to put more effort on agricultural production for sustainable development.

The growth is expected to further worsen the growing scarcity of protein-rich resources used in feed production by millers and small scale farmers such as fishmeal (omena), cotton seed cake, sunflower meal and soybeans, that is already consumed as food by human.

To bridge that gap, researchers have found the solution in insect protein that offer an important replacement for expensive protein sources from fish or plants used in aquaculture and poultry production.

Insects add more value to the feed and food basket thanks to high nutrition component and as a source of income to those venturing in the innovative agriculture sector.

The main aim of the product is to empower the average farmer who are the drivers of the food basket.

Africa must be the leader in the production of a consistent and high quality raw materials that will benefit both farmers and feed millers by investing in the use of sustainable resources like the black soldier fly.

Some of the most promising insect species for industrial production of feed includes; Black Soldier Fly (BSF), the common housefly, the yellow mealworm, the lesser mealworm, silkworms (Bombyx mori), and several grasshopper species.

Prohibitive costs, seasonality and adulteration of fishmeal, for example, she continues, are some of the major constrain hampering growth of the livestock feed sector in East Africa.

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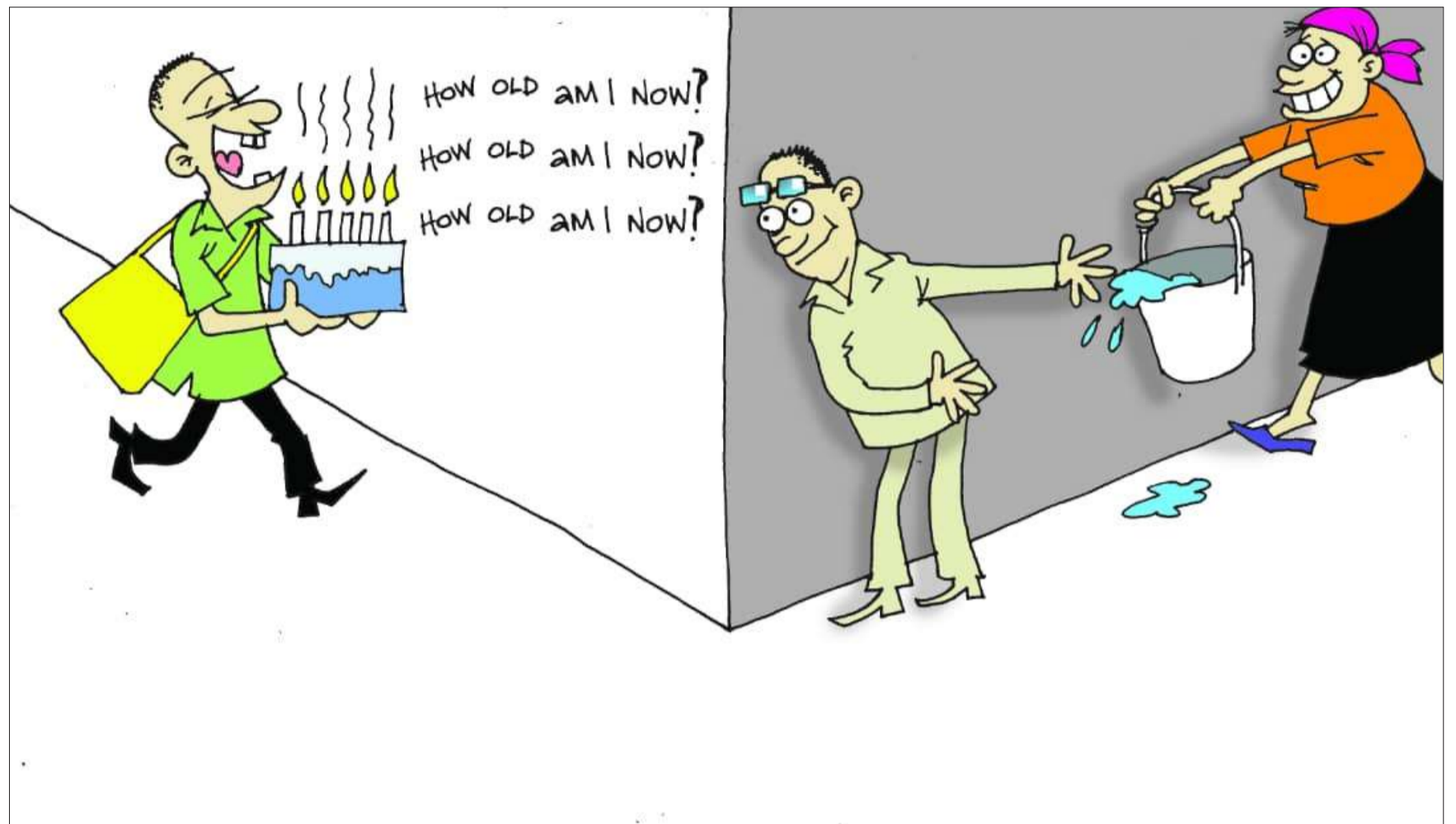
Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757154767
General line: 0745700710
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Sales and Marketing: 0782253676
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: www.ippmedia.com
epaper.ippmedia.com



How do we tackle human development in a mutilated world?

By Steven LB Jensen

GOVERNMENTS should naturally be at the forefront of implementing the right type of policies, but with corruption and elite capture prevalent around the world, they can often be vehicles for institutionalising inequalities rather than mitigating them, says the writer. (Illustrative image: Daily Maverick) Less

The latest Human Development Report presents a dire picture of the escalation of inequality within and between nations. It shows how inequality attaches to race, gender, ethnic and social origin, disability and sexual orientation. But will anyone other than civil society take it seriously?

We're caught in a trap,
I can't walk out
Because I love you too much baby.
Why can't you see
What you're doing to me
When you don't believe a word I say?
We can't go on together...

When Elvis Presley sang these words in the 1960s, he was obviously referring to love. But, transposed to 2020, his words might just as well refer to our relationship with inequality where we are also "caught in a trap". The words have been given particular resonance by a devastating Human Development Report published by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) in the dying days of 2019.

Because it was published at the end of the year many people missed it. But it deserves everyone's careful consideration.

The Human Development Report is published annually. But in 2019 the UN decided that human development should be reconceptualised around the issue of inequality. It titles the report Beyond Income, Beyond Averages, Beyond Today: Inequalities in human development in the 21st century - giving new analytical depth to capturing the global human condition.

The report draws on a body of impressive international scholarship that in recent years has analysed global inequality - or inequality within and between countries as it is also commonly phrased - in much greater detail than before.

In the past, this scholarship has often - and with good reason - focused on measuring income and wealth inequalities. However, the concept of human development offers a broader framing that helps us understand the multi-dimensional nature of existing inequalities better.

The global reality speaks for itself. According to the report:
• 17% of children born in low human development countries in 2000 will have died before the age of 20, compared with just 1% of children born in very high human development countries.

• the difference in life expectancy at birth between low and very high human development countries is 19 years. This reflects both gaps in access to health care and that a quarter of a lifespan is lost through being born in a poor country.

• Global out-of-school numbers are extremely high, with more than half the world's children unable to read and understand a simple story by the age of 10.

• The current deviation from the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal Four target for reducing the numbers of children out-of-school means that by that year there will be "225 million children starting their life with a hardly reversible disadvantage".

• Furthermore, by 2030 "the wealthiest 1% of the population is on track to capture 35% of global wealth".

In South Africa, the worldwide overview reveals, the share of income received by the top 10% reaches its peak at 65% while the bottom 40% in the country receives only 4% of income.

On climate change, a study based on longitudinal data from 37 countries is referenced showing that "warming has made tropical countries at least 5% poorer than they would otherwise be". Climate change, together with access to technologies and required skills in the knowledge economy, are likely to be sources of 21st-century inequalities (adding to the 20th-century ones).

Inequalities are the result of political choices

This is a lot to digest but there is one key message from the 2019 Human Development Report to keep in mind: nothing is inevitable about these inequalities. They are a result of choices made in the past - including flawed policies and economic thinking gone wrong. We could change direction and secure massive benefits for people around the world. But, for that to happen, we need political will.

We also need to understand how we arrived at the current impasse.

While reading the report, a quote from the Nobel literature prize winner Alexander Solzhenitsyn came to mind. In the late 1960s, he and many authors faced extensive censorship from the Soviet regime, which censored or suppressed independent creative expression aimed at reflecting on the realities of life in the USSR. Solzhenitsyn explained: "What is best in our literature appears in a mutilated form ... Literature which does not breathe the same air as a contemporary society, which cannot communicate its pain and fears, which cannot warn in time against moral and social dangers, does not deserve the name of literature, but merely of cosmetics."

Substitute Solzhenitsyn's notion of "literature" with the modern-day field of economics and we have a very contemporary problem. The dominating economic paradigms -

backed by the key international and domestic economic institutions like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank and many central banks that have pushed these paradigms forward - have left us in a "mutilated world" where billions of people on a daily basis pay a heavy price for these failings.

We have lived through nearly four decades of an economic doctrine that has been unable to consistently see and respond to the "pain and fears" of people and the "moral and social dangers" that communities, countries and the larger world have been facing.

Mainstream economic thinking during the last decades of the 20th century became "cosmetics", in Solzhenitsyn's understanding of the term, presenting a mask that denied the damage and pain it was inflicting on humanity and the environment. We live with and must face the devastating consequences of that disturbing problem. Putting lipstick on global inequalities is a really bad prescription. Lip service glossing over the problems is no better.

On this historical point, the authors of the 2019 Human Development Report have actually found it necessary to repeat something that UN experts warned against back in the 1950s. At that time, they advised in UN reports on the "World Social Situation" that "inequalities in human development ... cannot be accounted for simply by using summary measures of inequality that focus on a single dimension". The 1950s experts warned against an over-reliance on the GDP figure or the Gini-coefficient.

The 2019 UN experts have felt it necessary to do the same.

The UNDP report calls for "a revolution in metrics" and "a new generation of measurement" to illuminate the underlying mechanisms that generate inequalities. New innovative research, drawing on a broader range of data sources and more refined analytical tools, suggests that, in many countries, income and wealth at the top may be accumulating faster than previously understood using summary measures of inequality. This must be captured in our analysis.

Furthermore, good policies need good measurement to better inform public debate and to identify potential revenue available to the state. Here transparency is a major concern. Huge amounts of wealth are hidden in offshore holdings and thus the report documents that:

"Eighty-eight countries score one or less (on a 20-point scale) for availability of information on income and wealth inequality - meaning they have 5% or less of what would be an ideal level of transparency."

This is where the new approach of the 2019 Human Development Report brings dividends. Wealth and income

inequalities most certainly need to be addressed but that will not be sufficient to reverse existing inequalities. Hence, the report places emphasis on existing health and educational inequalities and warns of the new inequalities related to climate change and access to technologies that are likely to define the 21st century.

Inequality, economy and dignity - economy, society, politics and peace and security - that are crucial for human development. These dimensions entail: how inequalities interact with patterns of economic growth; how inequalities affect social cohesion; how political participation and the exercise of political power are influenced by inequalities; and how inequalities interact with violence.

This broader perspective will allow many stakeholders to engage in relevant action. A range of solutions is on offer. The report shows that policies that:

"ensure equitable access to quality early childhood education have long-term consequences for health, cognitive development and employment prospects - and they even benefit a person's siblings and children".

Fiscal redistribution is also shown to be a powerful tool to address income inequality; government spending on health and education are clearly presented as equalising forces bringing wider benefits.

Significantly, the Human Development Report also makes a major point that focusing on human dignity is an important strategy and should be one of the "constitutive aspects of development in the 21st century".

Doing this brings the concept of human development into close contact with the legal framework to protect and fulfil human rights that is articulated in many UN conventions and in national constitutions (editor's note: a very valuable website has just been launched that reveals how many countries have adopted human rights into their constitutions). This framework actually expands our possibilities for action, suggesting the possibility for a human rights economics that we now must urgently consider going forward.

The report explicitly mentions that "dignity as equal treatment and non-discrimination can be even more important than imbalances in the distribution of income". This is based on evidence from Chile, a country with very unequal income distribution, showing that in terms of people's concerns, their discontent ranked higher when it came to unequal access to health, unequal access to education and unequal respect and dignity in the way people are treated than when it came to income inequality.

Ex-President Moi a pillar in Kenyan architecture of rapid economic growth

By Ani Jozeni

MOURNING the passing away of Kenya's second phase president Daniel arap Moi is also a moment of reflection of where the country is standing or is going, and in this context there is plenty of reflection in East Africa on his legacy. One thing that is certain is that as president, the late Moi kept the legacy of the founding president, Jomo Kenyatta and liberalized the political environment considerably. Multipartyism started much later than in Tanzania on account of sharper political friction, and when it did, it was with a bang, as snap elections were held; he won.

That was directly opposite to his Zambian counterpart Dr Kenneth Kaunda who did not heed Mwalimu Nyerere's advice to retire peacefully without contesting a 'last' election in a multiparty context. Ex-president Moi had a visible and rather powerful state machinery which directed political loyalties in his direction, owing to the presence of scattered centres of political loyalty. Zambia was more united but with a fratricidal political centre, which petered out to create the new parties.

What is evident about the legacies of the first Kenyan presidencies was the manner

in which they steered clear of the popular ideologies of the late anti-colonial period where socialism was in the vogue, and most intellectuals pronounced it. Kenya was like Malawi and some West African countries whose leaders of nationalist parties were of the inter-war generation as students in Europe. The class of 1919-1939 was brazenly anti-communist and overly preferred alliances with the Western countries, while the post-1945 class tended to embrace socialism, be it radical or democratic.

While not many academics at the University of Dar es Salaam for instance will be ready to admit this, the fact is that the steady conservatism of the first and second phase rule in Kenya ensured that the country does not lose pace in its economic growth. Socialist experiments altered the course in Tanzania, Zambia and later Zimbabwe, for different challenges which were resolved by nationalization, taking the sting out of the capacity of foreign companies to choose the country's leaders. It was the legacy of the Congo; the conspiracies of the CIA and the Belgian mining company Union Minière du Haut Katanga which brought the country to its knees.

These two forces allied with the conservative President Joseph Kasavubu to bring army

commander Col. Joseph-Désire Mobutu into their affinity, along with Katanga leader Moïse Tshombe to trap idealistic Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba. Even though he was aware of the hostility that he faced in Katanga province he insisted to visit or tour the area with hardly a well organized military contingent on standby for his personal security. He was captured by rebel army units and killed, and his body dumped into the car of CIA station head to dispose of it as he pleased.

These events took place in other countries in disguised and open forms, for instance under both Jomo Kenyatta and Daniel arap Moi, radical politicians were hunted down in broad daylight once they started to cause ripples at the edges of the state. High profile cases of shooting of radicals in the first phase included Pio Gama Pinto, a radical working class leader with pronounced Eastern bloc leanings, early 1965. Another high profile shooting was Thomas Joseph Mboya popularly known as Tom Mboya, not for radicalism but positive political influence, overshadowing not perhaps President Kenyatta but his immediate entourage; that was intolerable.

Even more poignantly was Josiah Mwangi Kariuki, a well



healed businessman and philanthropist from the outskirts of Kenyatta country in Nyeri, Central Province. Loyalties were expected to remain in the core centre of Kenya's politics, and when he died in 1978 the group around him failed to stop Vice President Moi from taking office for an interim 90 days as ordained in the constitution, especially as he allied with a regime insider, Attorney General and Constitutional Affairs Minister Charles Njonjo. That is how Kenyan politics first metamorphosed into an alliance of Central Province and Rift Valley, and this 'virus' still plagues Kenyan politics.

Under President Moi, these affinities stretched further into a dislocation of the ancient regime, by eliminating the Kenyatta core in the regime by using the periphery, when Nyeri-born conservative economist Mwai Kibaki became vice president. Worried that Kibaki was building a rival power centre, he sought for the services of reputed academics without own political loyalties like Prof. Josephat Karanja (1988-1989) and then the more successful Prof. George Saitoti, who served for a total of 13 years with a brief interlude. He never made it to candidacy of the ruling party when the ruling party was preparing for another multiparty poll in 2002. Moi, usually called 'the professor of politics,' was subtly shifting alliances and at this time it was the star of Raila Odinga, a veteran detainee that was shining.

By the time one arrives at Raila's steady role in politics and Moi's somersaults to bring about national unity, thus making Raila the KANU secretary general in late years of his rule, one sees the start of the post-Moi era taking shape. When Moi ditched the likes of Prof. Saitoti and Raila for Uhuru, he knew Uhuru would lose the vote to Mwai Kibaki, and that's exactly what he wanted: the state to remain in steady hands of economic conservatism, characterized by rapid industrialization.

BY MAURICE OGBONNAYA

DESPITE massive expenditure by the Nigerian government over the past decade, counter-terrorism operations by security forces have achieved limited success and the country is still ranked on the Global Terrorism Index as one of the states most affected by terrorism. Is the problem one of bad policy, strategy and tactics, or is corruption in the leadership ranks of the security forces also to blame?

It is estimated that terror groups have killed over 30 000 people in Nigeria since 2003, causing the displacement of more than 2.4 million people. These groups include Boko Haram, operating in the Lake Chad Basin region, Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) and Ansaru, also called al-Qaeda in the Lands Beyond the Sahel.

In December 2019, ISWAP beheaded 11 Christian hostages to avenge the killing of Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi by United States forces. In January this year the group killed the chairman of the Adamawa State chapter of the Christian Association of Nigeria, Lawan Andimi. It also kidnapped three university lecturers in Yola in eastern Nigeria, and carried out several coordinated attacks in Borno State.

Nigeria's government allocated over N6.7 trillion to the security sector between 2010 and 2017 to strengthen its capacity for counter-terrorism operations. This amount doesn't include extra budgetary allocations such as the US\$1 billion the government borrowed in 2013 to fund counter-terrorism operations and the US\$21 million approved for the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) in June 2015.

Despite increased money for the security sector, counter-terrorism operations by the Nigerian military in collaboration with multilateral agencies such as the MNJTF of the Lake Chad Basin Commission have achieved limited success. The military did for a time succeed in pushing terrorist groups out of major cities, as was seen when the frequency of attacks in urban centres dropped between late 2015 and early 2018.

However, terror groups found operational bases in the large civilian populations in rural and remote areas from where they launched a barrage of attacks on poorly secured villages, military units and critical state infrastructure. After suffering a 'technical defeat' by the military in three local government areas in Borno State, a resurgence by extremists has given them control of these regions.

Why are Nigeria's counter-terrorism operations failing? Some say it's because of strategic and tactical imprecision due to poor intelligence and rivalry among security agencies involved in the operations. However, evidence suggests that corruption in counter-terrorism operations in Nigeria may also be to blame.

Conflict entrepreneurs within the hierarchy of military leadership and the ministries, departments and agencies in the security sector apparently use military funds meant for counter-terrorism operations to enrich themselves. Military spending is usually not audited due to its sensitive nature. The secrecy that surrounds it encourages misappropriation.

Examples include the probe into the alleged diversion of US\$2.1 billion meant for arms procurement by the Office of the National Security Adviser, and another N3.9 billion by the office of the Chief of Defence Staff, both in 2015.

In 2017, US\$43 million cash meant for covert operations by the National Intelligence Agency was discovered in a private building in Lagos. And in 2018 there were investigations into US\$1 billion that went missing after being appropriated to the Nigerian Army for arms procurement from the Excess Crude Account.

Conflict entrepreneurs in the security sector also allegedly operate through the award of fictitious procurement contracts, and illegal extra-military activities such as extortion and collusion with militants in illegal fishing in the Lake Chad area.

These activities undermine effective security force action by hollowing out the military's capabilities. For instance, because they don't procure by approval,

Has counter-terrorism become a profitable business in Nigeria?

and sometimes procurements aren't even made, the military may be lacking in weapons and logistics, making it difficult to adequately counter terrorism.

Despite huge financial alloca-

tions for arms procurement and logistics supplies, military sources blame the death of 83 soldiers in a 2016 Boko Haram ambush and a similar 2018 attack on the 157 Task Force Battalion in Metele, Borno State, on equipment shortfalls,

poor weapons and logistics supplies, and low morale among combatant officers, who sometimes aren't paid. Over 118 soldiers including the battalion commander died in the attack.

This failure of counter-terrorism operations may account for the resurgence of terror attacks in Nigeria's north-east, especially Borno State. And despite significant financial allocations for these efforts, the terror threat in Nigeria remains huge.

Questions need to be asked about whether counter-terrorism funding is being used wisely, and whether the operations themselves are effective. Unless Nigeria's government stops the activities of conflict entrepreneurs, violent extremism will probably remain a major security threat in Nigeria and across the

Lake Chad Basin region.

To do this, the state needs to strengthen legal and institutional frameworks for dealing with corrupt practices in the security sector, especially in counter-terrorism operations. It also needs to investigate and prosecute those who have taken advantage of their positions in the counter-terrorism campaign to enrich themselves.

Most fundamentally, a strategic change in the leadership of the military may be needed, along with a rethink of the excessive militarisation of counter-terrorism operations in the country's north-east zone.

Maurice Ogbonnaya, Senior Research Consultant, ISS Pretoria



Rooting out corruption in the security sector will help the country address its growing terror threat. File photo