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Peace contract with Eritrea and reforms hand Ethiopian PM Nobel Peace Prize

OSLO

LAST year's decision by Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed to make peace with the country's traditional foe, Eritrea's political regime, has paid off - he has won the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize.

The PM has beaten 301 candidates shortlisted for the prestigious award, including 223 individuals and 78 organisations, his peace deal having ended a 20-year stalemate following the two countries' 1998-2000 calamitous border war.

He was yesterday named here the winner of the 100th Nobel Peace Prize, and will receive the award in the Norwegian capital in December.

The award is worth nine million Swedish crowns (about US\$900,000). Following the announcement, Abiy said he was "humbled and thrilled".

"Thank you very much. It is a prize given to Africa, given to Ethiopia and I can imagine how the rest of Africa's leaders will take it positively to work on the peace-building process on our continent," he stated in a phone conversation with the secretary of the Norwegian Nobel Committee.

After becoming prime minister in April 2018, Abiy introduced massive liberalising reforms in Ethiopia, shaking up what was a tightly controlled nation.

He freed thousands of opposition activists from jail and allowed exiled dissidents to return home. Under him, several women have also been appointed to prominent positions.

Most importantly, according to observers, he signed the peace deal with Eritrea. But his reforms also lifted the lid on Ethiopia's ethnic tensions, leading to an attempted coup from the main Amhara ethnic group in which the country's chief of defence forces was assassinated.

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JPM directs army to contain insecurity in border regions



President John Magufuli speaks at a ceremony held on the outskirts of Mpanda town yesterday moments after laying the foundation stone for a project meant to connect Katavi Region's power supply to the national grid through Tabora Region. Photo: State House

CURRENTLY, Tanzania hosts about 340,000 Burundian refugees in Nyarugusu, Nduta and Mtendeli camps in Kigoma Region

By Henry Mwangonde

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday directed authorities in Western regions bordering troubled countries to intensify security, ordering the army to establish a base at a civil airfield in Tangayika District (formerly Mpanda Urban district), Katavi Region, following the surge of criminal activities blamed on foreigners.

Addressing residents of Mpanda town, President Magufuli announced that he was putting Katavi region under the supervision of Brigade 201 of the Tanzania Peoples Defense Force (TPDF) based in Tabora and directed the Regional Commissioner and District Commissioners for the respective districts to take charge and stay alert.

President Magufuli is in Katavi for a tour of duty where he launched various development projects, including the 35 kilometer Mpanda-Vikunge road

"There is no way we can stay and watch our country become a playing ground for criminals. These incidents of killing and kidnapping people in this region must come to an end," he said.

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Govt blames forest agency for failure to meet honey demand

By Guardian Reporter

NAURAL Resources and Tourism deputy minister Constantine Kanyasu yesterday blamed the Tanzania Forest Service (TFS)—an agency under the ministry - for the country's failure to supply waiting honey markets in the United States, Europe and Asia.

Speaking in Tabora yesterday, Kanyasu directed TFS to make reforms to ensure that honey production increases for supply markets that have already been

Little has been done to coordinate and boost harvests in strategic honey producing regions of Tabora, Dodoma, Singida, Shinyanga, Geita, Kigoma, Mbeya and Katavi

secured in the US, European Union and China. Ministerial statistics show

that estimated potential for bee products in Tanzania is about 138,000 metric tonnes of honey from an estimated potential of 9.2 million honey bee colonies.

The tonnage is based on an average production of 15 kilogrammes of honey and one kilogramme of beeswax per colony annually, but current estimated actual honey production stands at 30,430 metric tonnes or about 22 per cent of recognized potential.

Little has been done to

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Students caning: HRW urges total abolition of corporal punishment

By Guardian Reporter

THE Human Rights Watch (HRW) has responded to the caning of students by Mbeya Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila last week with a call for abolition of corporal punishment in schools.

In a statement posted on its website yesterday, the New York-based advocacy NGO termed the whipping of



students retrogressive and child abuse.

The RC arrived at Kiwanja secondary school in Chunya District on Thursday last week, ordered sticks and began whipping 26 students who were found with cell phones earlier on Sunday which were confiscated by teachers. Hours later at night, two dormitories caught fire and authorities maintain

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Govt blames forest agency for failure to meet honey demand

FROM PAGE 1

coordinate and boost harvests in strategic honey producing regions of Tabora, Dodoma, Singida, Shinyanga, Geita, Kigoma, Mbeya and Katavi, he stated.

The deputy minister also blamed low production levels on poor coordination between TFS and the Tabora-based Beekeeping Training Institute (BTI), charging that a lot was being done by the ministry to promote beekeeping but little was being done at lower levels.

"What I see here is that there is no communication between these two sides (TFS and BTI). Everybody is working on their own while at the ministry we believe that things are moving," he elaborated.

But speaking to The Guardian yesterday, TFS Chief Executive Officer Prof Dos Santos Silayo acknowledged that that honey markets are plenty but they require assurance on supply levels and quality.

He said the agency has embarked on a number of initiatives to increase production as well as conducting promotions which include branding and participation in shows and meetings.

"We conduct honey quality tests in international labs annually to make sure that Tanzanian honey goes to all world markets. We have achieved this since our honey now goes to EU and US markets among others," he said.

Prof Silayo affirmed that TFS was supporting the Beekeeping Association of Tanzania (TABEDO), to form associations to produce honey in groups to ensure quality levels. This initiative has seen production levels going up, he declared.

"We have given all Tanzanians free access to all forests in the country so that they keep hives in those forests and keep bees free. This is to encourage them and it has been well received," he maintained.

The CEO noted that the agency has started putting up processing plants with one already installed in Iringa Region and another in Manyoni, Singida region. The two are in working condition while more honey processing plants are coming up in Sikonge, Nzega, Mpanda, Shinyanga and Geita, in collaboration with the Tanzania Forest Fund (TaFF), he explained.

This is apart from education programmes on bee keeping across Tanzania conducted by well-trained staff using special vehicles procured for the purpose, he specified.

The Tanzania Honey Council (THC), a non-governmental apex body of honey stakeholders, says beekeeping can be practiced countrywide although production potential varies from one location to another.

"The sector employs about two million people and generates about two million US dollars per annum. It also helps in bio-diversity and in raising agricultural production through pollination," the council affirms.

The country's production potential is huge, in having about 38.8 million ha of forests and woodlands ideal for beekeeping, it added.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa visits a tomato garden at Nane Nane grounds in Lindi Region on Thursday shortly after launching an agricultural training project with utilising green house technology. Photo: PMO

JPM directs army to contain insecurity in border regions

FROM PAGE 1

Currently, Tanzania hosts about 340,000 refugees in Nyarugusu, Nduta and Mtendeli camps in Kigoma Region.

Again, it hosts Burundian refugees from violence back in 1972 in the old settlements of Katumba, Mishamo (in Katavi) and

Ulyankulu (in Tabora), apart from providing asylum for the recent influx of refugees from Burundi and the DRC.

President Magufuli also ordered the army to establish a base at the Mlibansi Airstrip located in Ilangu Ward in Mishamo refugee settlement in Tanganyika District.

The airstrip was in February this year closed by former Katavi Regional Commissioner Amos Makala after it came to the regional leaders' attention that unknown people in a neighbouring country were clandestinely using the airstrip to smuggle firearms.

It is reported that fire-

arms, including home-made guns and AK 47 semi-automatic rifles were seized and one person of Burundian origin was arrested in possession of an AK 47.

President Magufuli is in Katavi for a tour of duty where he launched various development projects, including the 35 kil-

ometer Mpanda-Vikunge road.

Earlier, Tanzania National Roads Agency (Tanroads) Chief Executive Officer Patrick Mfugale said the road is part of the Tunduma-Uvinje highway which is 1,220 kilometers long, and the 35 km stretch is billed to cost 57bn/-.

The president directed the Minister of State in the President's Office, (Regional Administration and Local Governments) Selemani Jaffo to change the name of Mpanda district council to Tanganyika district to suit the geographical position of the local authority.

Somalia summons Kenyan envoy over airspace violation

NAIROBI

Somalia summoned the Kenyan ambassador to Mogadishu on Thursday to protest violation of its airspace, amid soaring relations between the neighbour countries over a maritime border dispute.

Lt Gen (Rtd) Lucas Tumbo was summoned by Somali State Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Abdulkadir Ahmed-Kheri Abdi who handed him a protest note demanding an explanation over the said incident on October 5 when an aircraft flew from Nairobi directly to Kismayu "without official permission" from Mogadishu.

"Somalia strongly protest this violation and will not accept any encroachment on its air, sea and land borders, and calls on Kenya to respond to this breach while its troops

stationed in the Lower Jubba region are part of the African Union Mission in Somalia (Amisom)," reads the statement.

Kenyan soldiers are part of the African Union-backed Amisom, mandated by the United Nations, to combat Al-Shabaab terrorist group in Somalia. Mogadishu describes the action as a contradiction of all principles of good neighbourliness and non-interference in the internal affairs of state.

According to aviation regulations, Somalia has authority to regulate civilian aircraft flying in its airspace including licensing and taking action against violators.

However, Mogadishu is yet to take any measures against the airline operating the said plane.

The Fokker 50, is registered in Kenya as 5Y-JXJ but leased to Jubba Air-

ways, a private-owned Somali carrier that is licensed to operate in several Somali cities.

But Somalia has already filed a protest at the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

When it did so on Monday, Kenyan officials argued Mogadishu was running away from its own responsibility.

And even as Somalia summoned the Kenyan envoy, Mogadishu had reportedly lifted the travel restrictions that required all flights heading to Kismayu to first land in Mogadishu before proceeding.

On Thursday, another Jubba Airways flight landed in Kismayu, carrying various politicians including former federal presidents Sharif Sheikh Ahmed and Hassan Sheikh Mohamud. Also on board were former Planning minister, now leader of

Wadajir Party, Abdishakur Abdirahman.

Mr Abdirahman is the man who signed the controversial agreement with Kenya's former Foreign minister Moses Wetang'ula to resolve the maritime border through negotiations at the United Nations.

The Somali parliament would later reject the MoU, but when Mogadishu sued Nairobi at the International Court of Justice in August 2014, the court validated the agreement but still said it had jurisdiction to hear the sea border case because the MoU had not locked out other options.

In September, Somalia imposed a direct flight restriction to Kismayu in a bid to stop a controversial inauguration ceremony of Jubbaland president Ahmed Madobe.

Agencies



Dodoma Regional Police Commander Gilles Muroto shows journalists in Dodoma yesterday 37m/- he said police intercepted after it was stolen from the capital city's Exim Bank Dodoma branch on August 29 this year. He said the amount constituted only part of more than 140m/- the bank had lost to thieves. Photo: Renatha Msungu.

Students caning: HRW urges total abolition of corporal punishment

FROM PAGE 1

that the students were responsible for the fire. "Tanzania should make necessary reforms to ensure children's safety in schools. It's time President (John) Magufuli joined the dozens of African leaders who have outlawed corporal punishment in schools," reads the statement.

HRW wondered why the trainee teachers who were filmed caning children in Mbeya in 2016 were suspended and demoted, and still President Magufuli has publicly praised Chalamila for caning students in the latest incident.

The president had commended Chalamila for doing a good job of disciplining the students. Chalamila came back to the school and suspended all 392 learners in form five and six. He said that 26 who were caught with cell phones before fire gutted the dormitories hours later must pay 500,000/- each while the remaining 366 will pay 200,000/- each before being readmitted. The money will be used to repair the burnt dormitories, the RC underlined.

"It's time to imagine a better future for Tanzania's children, free of violence, instead of glorifying this retrogressive punishment without

acknowledging harmful practices that have no place in today's society. It's unacceptable for President Magufuli to justify caning in schools today just because it was acceptable in the past. And the commander who administered the beatings has both failed to set ethical standards as a leader and has set a dangerous precedent."

The NGO maintains that studies show violence has long-term negative effects on children's development, noting that "children who are beaten, caned, assaulted or insulted are more likely to develop learning problems, and participate less in class."

"Let's be clear. Corporal punishment is child abuse. It is brutal, widespread and state-sanctioned in Tanzania, but the government gives mixed signals about tackling the problem. In August, Tanzania banned teachers of lower grades from entering classrooms with canes. In recent years, Human Rights Watch has spoken to many children who are caned, punched or slapped by teachers."

The statement asserts that quality education requires good learning environments, where teachers can manage different behavioral problems, understand their students and manage

classrooms without resorting to violence. These needs can be accomplished if the government guarantees safety in schools and provides teachers with training programs that equip them with violence-free problem-solving skills in schools.

"If Tanzania is to address inaccessibility of quality education for millions of children who are still out of school around the country, it will have to find ways to make the environments in schools safe and enriching," the statement added.

'Provision of civic and patriotic education for youth is crucial'

By Correspondent James Kandoya

TANZANIA should strive to join the world's most developed and competitive countries for global competitiveness pertains not only to the economics or politics, also to high intellectual quality of countries as well as increasing civil activity and patriotic consciousness of youth and the people as a whole.

The surge in insecurity in the country has been attributed to little participation of citizens who have left the matter to state organs, the Mwalimu Nyerere Commemorative Conference was told yesterday.

Principal, Dar es Salaam University College of Education (DUCE) Prof Bernadeta Killian said there was a need to increase awareness to the community at grassroots to build patriotism about the country security.

She said during his life time, the late Mwalimu Julius Nyerere believed that people could destroy the country's peace and security compared to security organs. She said Nyerere came up with a strategy that insisted on people to be responsible for the country's peace and security.

Prof Killian said a research study conducted in 2018 in seven regions in Tanzania

mainland showed that most people are not aware about terrorism, and that they were reporting crime incidences to village executives instead of the police.

The study was conducted in Arusha, Tanga, Dar es Salaam, Mtwara, Kagera, Mwanza and Coast regions and involved 600 people.

"It is time to increase awareness to community and give them the task of protecting their domain as the founder of the nation did," she advised noting community awareness will help enhance patriotism amongst citizens.

Prof Killian said out of those questioned, 94.6 percent said they were safe while 3.6 percent said the situation was moderate at their areas while 1 percent said they were not safe.

She noted that Tanzania is ranked 54th in the Global Peace Index and 7th in Africa, taking lead in the East Africa region.

Mary Palma, Commissioner from the Immigration Department said investment to the people is important because they know each other. She said the collaboration between security organs and the community is important to strengthen peace and security in the country.

The Commissioner said in his life time,



FeedPro Max director Dr Tobias Swai (2nd-L), a University of Dar es Salaam don, accompanied by his wife (L) when briefing journalists at the Dar es Salaam offices of The Guardian and Nipashe newspapers yesterday on the role the couple is playing by using technology to "redeem" agriculture, livestock and the environment. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Ten secondary schools in Simiyu linked with internet service

By Guardian Reporter

TEN secondary schools in Simiyu region have been connected with internet service by installing 100 computers provided by the Universal Communications Service Access Fund (UCSAF) and Vodacom Tanzania.

The fund provided the equipment to assist students and teachers to have access to internet hence facilitate their learning.

Speaking during the launch of the system, Minister for Transport and Communication Atanshanta Nditaye said: "We are improving Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in our schools, the project is a continuation of UCSAF's work that focuses on expanding the internet service in public schools.

He said with the computers, teachers at the specific schools can now teach electronically.

The Minister added that the project is also part of implementation of the national ICT policy of 2016 that requires students to use the internet to read, gain knowledge and develop themselves.

"Today we are launching this internet connection to ten Simiyu secondary schools that were provided with computers with UCSAF and Vodacom Tanzania. We will hand over two computers to each school as

well as providing them with special internet connection device", said Nditaye.

The minister asked teachers to use the provided equipment for targeted purposes and assist students to improve the field of ICT. He said with the computers, students are likely to be experts in future.

He has also called on other mobile companies to provide ICTs equipment to schools as a way of supporting the govern-

ment's efforts to ensure that students have access to the internet when studying.

Simiyu Regional Commissioner, Anthony Mtaka assured the minister that donated computers will be used accordingly. He said with teachers' access to the internet, the academic performance of students will improve in future.

Maswa MP, Stanslaus Nyongo thanked UCSAF for providing 100 computers to Simiyu

region facilitating students to read through the internet where it can supplement them academically.

"We have seen efforts by President John Magufuli by providing free basic education to enable every child to access their right to education", said the legislator insisting on teachers to execute their duties respectively.

Speaking before handing over 20 computer proces-

sors and internet connectivity equipment to 10 secondary schools in the region, Vodacom Foundation Director, Roselyn Mworira said the company has created a website that will help them learn more about internet services.

Mkodilana secondary school head teacher, Joseph Kazimoto thanked the Regional Commissioner for facilitating the installation of internet services to the schools.

Over 500 patients benefit from of MNH radiology services'

By Getrude Mbagi

THE provision of interventional radiology services at Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) has offered treatment to a total of 558 patients since its commencement in November 2017 resulting in saving costs of seeking the treatment abroad.

Patients who have received the service include those with tumors in dental (hemangioma and lymphangioma) tumors in kidney, heads, fibroids and other diseases.

According to experts, interventional radiology is a medical specialty, which provides minimally invasive image guided diagnosis and treatment without conducting surgeries to patients.

It involves the use of X-ray, MRI, CT-scan and ultrasound in treating a variety of health conditions or taking samples for investigation.

Addressing reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Dr Flora Lwakatare, Head of Radiology Department at MNH said the provision of the services had been successfully implemented because they had managed to save millions of shillings for patients, who were seeking the services abroad.

Dr Lwakatare said there were a number of positive impacts associated with interventional radiology, noting that with the service, a patient doesn't need to undergo a major surgery and it was cost-effective. "For example at MNH patients

with non-cancerous dental tumours can now be treated for only 8m/- compared to 96m/- that patient can pay upon completion of retreatment in foreign country," she said.

She said that MNH in collaboration with radiology experts from Yale, Emory and Dartmouth universities in the US and Australia had continued to providing radiology services and training to Tanzanian experts to equip them with prerequisite knowledge so that they could provide the services by themselves.

Dr Lwakatare said radiology experts from Canada, who had been in the country for almost two weeks in collaboration with local experts, provided services to a number of

patients during an interventional radiology.

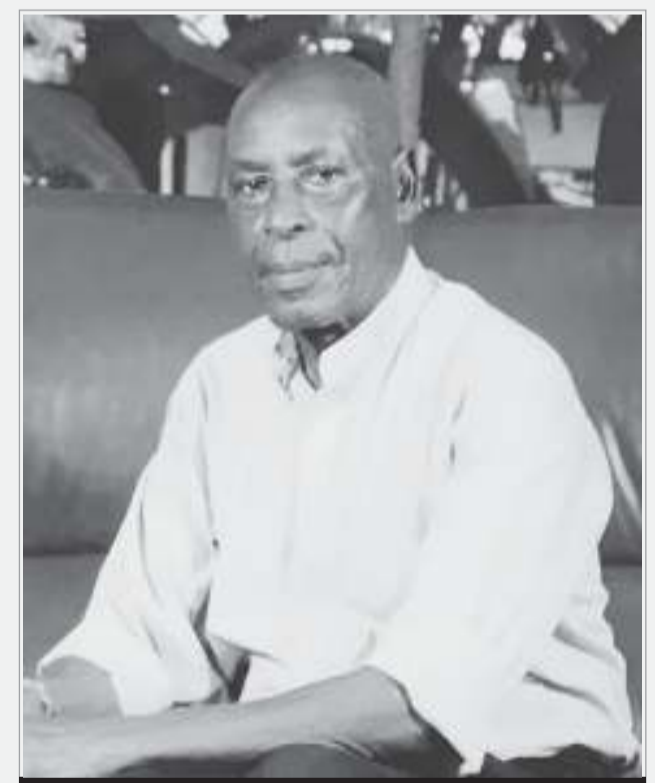
For his part, Murray Asch, Interventional Radiologist Specialist from Toronto Canada commended MNH for introducing the special treatment saying that with interventional radiology, a patient can undergo procedure and be treated in day without being admitted at hospital. "It is honour and pleasure to be here, spent time with local experts, training and sharing skills and knowledge to improve interventional radiology services in Tanzania," he said.

He urged the government to increase investment in the sector by improving financing, equipment and experts.



Dodoma regional commissioner Dr Binilith Mahenge (L) registers in Dodoma city yesterday for the countrywide local government elections slated for next month, as centre registrar Tishio Kipingi keeps watch. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

The Late Novatus Kimatare Shao (Mzee Shao)- Remembrance Service; 1st Anniversary



On 12th October 2018, our beloved Mzee Novatus Kimatare Shao was called to Glory- it will be exactly one year today 12th October 2019 since his soul departed.

In loving memory of our beloved who is dearly missed and always remembered by his wife Fransisca, children Bruno, Carol, Protas and Maureen, Noela and Lawrence, brothers and sisters, in-laws, grandchildren, relatives, friends and neighbors there will be a remembrance service for the 1st anniversary of his departure.

The anniversary mass to celebrate our beloved will take place today on 12th October 2019 at his home village Manda Juu, Mengwe Rombo, in Kilimanjaro.

May his soul continue to rest in eternal peace.



Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE) executive director Dr Aggrey Mulimuka (C) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam on Thursday on the association's 'Membership Service Week', which ended yesterday. He is flanked by ATE head of projects Joyce Nangai (L) and head of membership communication and marketing Patricia Chao. Photo: Aisia Rweyemamu

Tanzania urged to enhance digital competencies and industrial skills

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

THE government has been advised to identify specific technologies to focus on enhancing skills, best regulatory framework and capital to foster the industrial revolution.

Faculty chair for Global Grand Challenges Nicholas gave the challenge yesterday in Dar es Salaam when speaking during the ongoing week long series of events under the Sahara Sparks 2019 organised by Sahara Ventures with sponsorship from the Embassy of Switzerland to Tanzania.

Themed 'Africa in The Fourth Industrial Revolution' the event is a platform for different stakeholders to meet and reflect on the role of technology, innovation and entrepreneurship in fostering social economic development in Africa.

The one week conference brought together more than 1,000 participants from across the world.

Haan said there are a lot of changes that has happen in the world, and it is impossible for a country to be an expert of all things. He said policy makers and government leaders are supposed to think and identify specific technology to focus on.

"There are several countries which have succeed to focus on one area such as Rwanda which focused on drones and Switzerland which focuses on black chain. Once we are able to think about a specific technological area we want to focus on, we will increase competency in the economy," he said.

Haan added that the government is supposed to allocate its investment to youth in terms of skills and knowledge for them to be able to utilize the expertise and make

changes in the economy.

He said the government is also supposed to partner with the private sector in making sure the objectives of the economic development are met.

"The private sector is ready to take risk to foster development unlike to the government which is responsible to provide services to the public," he said.

Meanwhile, former Director General for Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) Hassan Mshinda said it is time for Africa to be given chance to develop its own solutions and make use of them.

He added that Tanzania still lag behind to the late digital world which is characterized by lot of disruptive.

"We need to prepare young people to acquire digital literacy to create a room for them to innovate solutions for the existing challenges in the society, we need to support an innovation ecosystem," he said.

The one week conference explored investment opportunities and encouraged transactions to happen to finance early stage entrepreneurs with innovative technological solutions that can be adopted.



There are several countries which have succeed to focus on one area such as Rwanda which focused on drones and Switzerland which focuses on black chain. Once we are able to think about a specific technological area we want

By Correspondent James Kandoya

Fund calls for boosting of innovation and robust ecosystems

THE Human Development Innovation Fund (HDIF) has underscored the need for strengthened collaboration with the government in supporting a more robust and interconnected innovation ecosystems.

HDIF's team leader Marjoly Wilmink said when speaking during Sahara Sparks 2019 organised

by Sahara Ventures themed 'Africa in The Fourth Industrial Revolution.

She said there was no way Tanzania could distance from digitalisation adding there is a need to engage the government in all stages of innovations in the country.

She said there was a lively scene

of hubs, labs, and accelerators in Tanzania - mainly clustered in and around Dar es Salaam and other urban centers - that were key spaces for young people to access skills and entrepreneurship opportunities.

Wilmink noted that cross-sectoral investment and support was

necessary to build the capacity of hubs and the activities and services that they provide, including mentoring, facilitating connections to funders and investors.

According to her, the support should look not only across sectors, but across regions and different types of hubs.

"It is crucial that investment should connect clients with markets and we must always create innovation on what the government is actually focusing and its priorities," said Wilimink in her presentation titled 'Nurturing the Innovation Ecosystem in Tanzania'.

One of the panelists from

Kenya, Emma Nkonoki said investment on human resources, domestic investment and training to local people were main keys to reach the success to achieve innovation ecosystem.

Tanzania's ranking in the Global Innovation Index has climbed 31 positions in the last five years

from 123 in 2013 to 92 in 2018.

New start-ups and hubs are cropping up every day and there is a growing awareness of the role that innovation can play in finding solutions to large and pervasive development challenges.

Whilst Tanzania has progressed, the innovation ecosystem is still in its early stage where institutions are constrained by limited resources and competing priorities.



Manyara regional commissioner Alexander Mnyeti (L) presents 250,000/- to Suzy John of Okutu in Naberera Ward, Simanjiro District, who is living in poverty. This was on the sidelines of public meeting held at the village yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

WHO report on vision shows need for sustainable global outreach programmes

By Guardian Reporter

STAGGERING new statistics released by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in its first world report on vision estimate that more than 1 billion people are visually impaired because they don't get the care they need hence urgency need for sustainable global outreach efforts.

The report, released in conjunction with the October 10 World Sight Day, states that aging populations, changing lifestyles, and limited access to eye care, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, are driving rising numbers of visual impairment.

Worldwide, 65 million people are blind or have impaired sight due to cataracts that could be corrected

with a simple surgery; 800 million struggle in everyday activities because they lack access to a pair of eyeglasses. The donor-funded John A. Moran Eye Center Global Outreach Division at the University of Utah is working to create sustainable eye care systems in developing nations and to reach underserved populations.

Outreach Division works in more than 20 developing countries, including Ghana, Nepal, Bolivia, and Tanzania. "Swooping into a developing nation, performing surgeries, and then leaving does not address the long-term challenge of access to care," said Craig Chaya, MD, co-medical director of Moran's Global Outreach Division. Chaya added: "Our

program works with governments in developing nations and with international partners to train doctors, nurses, and health care workers to provide care to their own people as we support them along the way. Lasting change requires sustainability." Moran has an ongoing effort in sub-Saharan Africa, where the WHO report cites rates of blindness eight

times higher than in all high-income countries. In Dodoma, Tanzania, Moran is working with the government to train physicians, nurses, and health care workers in remote villages. With Moran's help, the University of Dodoma recently began its first ophthalmology residency program. "The need for access to care is global and local," said Jeff Pettey,

MD, co-medical director of Moran's Global Outreach Division. "As the report points out, the burden of blindness is not an equal one. We know that it is greater for people living in rural areas, for those with low incomes, for women, for older people, for people with disabilities, and for ethnic minorities and indigenous populations."

'Tanzania records an important milestone'

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT John Magufuli has said Tanzanians have a every reason to be proud of the great achievements attained in the past four years, promise to continue managing the country's national resources.

President Magufuli said this when addressing a rally at Azimio ground in Katavi region on Thursday.

He said efforts by the fifth phase government to break down loopholes of theft, corruption, public embezzlement and office abuse have helped to save public funds which have been used for development projects.

President Magufuli named some of the major development projects

that have been implemented by the government in four years as construction of the Nyerere hydroelectric power station which will cost 6.5trn/- the standard gauge railway (SGR) which will cost 7.2trn/- purchase of aircrafts, construction highways and bridges, health centers and district hospitals.

He said the government is improving educational infrastructures at schools as well as ensuring free basic education by providing 23.8bn/- each month.

"We have increased revenue from 850bn/- to 1.3trn/- whereas last month's collection reached 1.7trn/- . We are building 352 health centers and 69 regional hospitals", said the President.

President Magufuli said the good management of resources have enabled the government to purchase aircrafts adding they will be 11 in total.

"We have purchased the aircraft in few years...why we couldn't purchase them in the past 50 year? Querried Magufuli insisting on Tanzanians to be proud of the remarkable achievements.

He said such achievements encourage people to continue working hard for the future impact of the country.

However, President Magufuli promised that the government will provide funds for construction of a cotton ginery in Katavi region at a cost of 1.6bn/-.

Reg. NO 136355066

TANZANIA OCEAN CRUISING AND SAFARIS LIMITED,
P.O. BOX 105092, KINONDONI,
DAR ES SALAAM-TANZANIA.

EXTRACT OF A SPECIAL RESOLUTION ON THE VOLUNTARY WINDING UP OF THE COMPANY PASSED AT THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMPANY HELD ON 03rd OCTOBER, 2019 AT THE COMPANY'S REGISTERED OFFICE.

At the extra-ordinary meeting of the Board of Directors of TANZANIA OCEAN CRUISING AND SAFARIS LIMITED held on 03rd October, 2019, at 4pm at the registered office the following Special resolution was passed and adopted namely:-

RESOLUTIONS:
IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the company petition by the end of this month of October, 2019 for voluntary winding up of the company in accordance with section 335 of the companies' Act, No. 12 of 2002 with effect as soon as the same is passed by the Authority.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT Since The Company Has Not Been Carrying On Any Business Nor Does It Hold Any Property, It Has Decided To Close The Company.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the Company give NOTICE OF ITS INTENTION TO APPLY FOR ITS DISSOLUTION in the WIDELY SPREAD NEWSPAPER and a GOVERNMENT GAZETTE NOTICE.

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that the above is a true extract from the Minutes of the Meeting of the Shareholders of the Company and the resolution set forth and comply with the Memorandum and Articles of Association and Regulations of the Companies Act, 2002 of the Laws of Tanzania.

The resolution was hereby approved by the undersigned.

.....
Mrs. Priscilla Peregrino (Director)

.....
Mr. Peter Kwame Assanful (Director)



Azania Group of Companies marketing manager Joel Laiser speaks at the launch of the group's new brands of soap in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

CMSA extends time for higher institutions students' contest

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

STUDENTS in higher learning institutions have appealed to the Capital Markets and Securities Authority (CMSA) to extend time for its contest.

Few months ago CMSA launched the Capital Markets Universities and Other Higher Learning Institutions Challenge (CMUHLIC) which is a competition that is open to undergraduate scholars in universities and other higher learning institutions in Tanzania.

According to CMSA the contest was launched on 18th July 2019 and was expected to be closed on 6th October 2019.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday CMSA Chief Executive Officer, Nicodemus Mkama said they received requests to extend the duration for participation in the challenge due to the fact that the challenge was opened when some of the students in universities were preparing for their final examinations while other universities were already closed.

In this regard, the CMSA is pleased to inform students in universities and other higher learning institutions in Tanzania that the deadline for participation in the Capital Markets University Challenge has now been extended to 17th November 2019, he said.

It is expected that more than 16,000 students in higher learning institutions will take part in competition this year.

Mkama said the move would help to increase number of capital markets participants in future days.

He said as part of implementation of strategies for National Financial Inclusion Framework 2018 - 2022 for capital markets development in Tanzania, CMSA conduct a CMUHLIC, a competition that is open to students in universities and other higher learning institutions in Tanzania.

Mkama said primary objective of the challenge is to increase financial inclusion and literacy for students in higher learning institutions by testing their knowledge and understanding on issues related to capital markets.

It also tests their ability to apply their knowledge of capital markets to real life situations. This initiative is targeted to the youth as an important group of in the upper age bracket of the population which has been left out on issues related to investments.

He explained that the challenge has been gaining popularity since it was launched in 2014/2015 when it registered 2,000 students whereas in 2016/17 the number increased to more than 7,900 and in 2017/18 has increased to 15,004 students raising a big interest from the scholars to participate in the coming years.

The use of digital technology in particular mobile telephone short messages (SMS) and through web based platforms, facilitated immensely for the massive outreach.

Public awareness and educational campaigns have been identified as one of the key avenue of attaining the promotional and developmental goals of CMSA.

Minister roots for 'education for values, attitudes' in schools

By Aisia Rweyemamu

EDUCATION, Science and Technology, minister Prof Joyce Ndalichako yesterday stressed on the need for the country's education system to prepare and produce teachers who will have impact on the values, beliefs, attitudes and practices of young people.

Prof Ndalichako said this in Dar es Salaam when speaking at the Africa Climate Talk (ACT 3), organised by University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) through Mwalimu Nyerere Professorial Chair on Climate

Change in collaboration with Institute of Resource Assessment (IRA).

The Minister noted that such an education system should fully integrate scientific, social, gender, cultural, and ethical dimensions.

Prof Ndalichako added: "Education systems need to incorporate local and indigenous knowledge perspectives and practice".

"Our education system should also be part of the education for sustainable development that helps people to develop the attitudes, skills and knowledge to

make informed decisions for the benefit of themselves and others, now and in the future and to act upon these decisions", she said.

Prof Ndalichako told the conference that, the education system should also be the kind of education that gives teacher educators a chance to rethink and reflect growing societal awareness and interest in broader sustainability issues.

"We need education system that re-thinks its purpose and processes in order to mobilize today's youth towards building a more sustainable future", she said.

Pro Ndalichako explained: "To achieve such a revolution of consciousness, we need educators, educational settings, and educational policies and teaching models and practice that are imperative. For this to happen, the ministry and the University of Dar es Salaam have a role to play".

However, Prof Ndalichako said the Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Professorial Chair on Environment and Climate Change is one of the platforms that provide an opportunity to pay homage to the great leader of this country through the academic work in environment and climate change.

EJAT inaugurates 11th edition of twenty categories of awards

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Organizing Committee of the Excellence, In Journalism Tanzania (EJAT) Awards yesterday launched the eleventh edition of the awards featuring 20 categories of which three are new.

Speaking with reporters in Dar es Salaam the Chairperson of the EJAT Organizing Committee, Kajubi Mukajanga said the new categories are Sexual and Reproductive Health, Innovation for Human Development, and Menstrual Health and Hygiene Management.

Kajubi who is the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) Executive Director said the EJAT 2019 marks as the 11th edition of the awards which were first held in 2009 with the aim of recognizing and awarding outstanding

work in journalism.

He said EJAT partners are Tanzania Media foundation (TMF), Media Institute of Southern Africa-Tanzania (MISA-TAN) Tanzania Media Women Association (TAMWA) and Tanzania Editor's Forum (TEF).

Others are Hakielimu, AMREF, SIKIKA, Agriculture No-State Actors Forum (ANSAF), Media Owners Association of Tanzania (MOAT) and the Union of Tanzania Press Clubs.

"Every year the EJAT organizing committee strives to improve the wards and hence the three new categories on Innovations for Human Development reporting, Sexual and Reproductive Health, and Menstrual Health and Hygiene Management have been added due to their importance", he said.

Kajubi said contestants are invited to start submitting their entries from (today) yesterday and the deadline for submission will be January 31, next year.

He added that the sixth lifetime achievement in journalism Award (LAJA) will also be considered this year adding that candidates in the group were those with impressive track records of excellence in journalism as well as those who have shown a strong and unwavering support and commitment for excellence in journalism and press freedom.

According to him, there were no entries required the particular categories which can be awarded posthumously, or to retired, or senior journalists.

For her part, Human Development Innovation Fund (HDIF) Communi-

cation Specialist Hanna Mwandoloma said it was first time for them to be part of the sponsors.

"There many people who have good innovative idea but without media their innovations can be advantageous to the nation," she said

Mwandoloma called on journalist to take their role of merging new innovators believing that innovation was only a way to bolster nation development.

Wilhelmina, chairperson of Maternal Health and Hygiene Management Coalition (MHM) menstrual health was very important because it was about women dignity.

She called on journalists to write stories about menstrual health hygiene that can be solution to the problem like to affect mostly girls students in rural areas.

Gates' foundation urges targeting of the poor

By Guardian Correspondent

BILL & Melinda Gates Foundation, says while progress on health and development continues unabated, global inequality remains a major barrier to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (Global Goals).

Even in the worst-off parts of low- and low-middle-income countries, more than 99 percent of communities have seen an improvement in child mortality and schooling.

Yet despite this progress, persistent gaps in opportunity mean that nearly half a billion people—about one in 15—still do not have access to basic health and education, says Goalkeepers Data Report launched yesterday in Seattle.

Gaps between countries, districts, and boys and girls prove that the world's investments in development aren't reaching everyone. Using new sub-national data, the report uncovers the vast inequalities within coun-

tries that are masked by averages.

Where you're born is still the biggest predictor of your future, and no matter where you're born, life is harder if you're a girl. Despite gains in female educational attainment, opportunities for girls are limited by social norms, discriminatory laws and policies, and gender-based violence.

"As we write, billions of people are projected to miss the targets that we all agreed represent a decent life," Bill and Melinda Gates write in the Goalkeepers Data Report, "Examining Inequality 2019," which they co-authored. "We believe that seeing where the world is succeeding will inspire leaders to do more, and seeing where the world is falling short will focus their attention."

To address persistent inequality, Bill and Melinda Gates are calling for a new approach to development, targeting the poorest people in the countries and districts that need to make up the most ground. Govern-

ments should prioritize primary health care to deliver a health system that works for the poorest, digital governance to ensure that governments are responsive to their least-empowered citizens, and more support for farmers to help them adapt to climate change's worst effects.

As in past years, in conjunction with the report, Bill and Melinda Gates will co-host the third annual Goalkeepers events in New York City during the U.N. General Assembly, convening.

Guided by the belief that every life has equal value, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation works to help all people lead healthy, productive lives. In developing countries, it focuses on improving people's health and giving them the chance to lift themselves out of hunger and extreme poverty.

In the United States, it seeks to ensure that all people—especially those with the fewest resources—have access to the opportunities they need to succeed in school and life.

TANZANIA NATIONAL ROADS AGENCY



PUBLIC NOTICE

OFFICE RELOCATION

WE WOULD LIKE TO NOTIFY THE GENERAL PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS AND OUR ESTEEMED CUSTOMERS THAT THE HEADQUARTERS OF TANZANIA NATIONAL ROADS AGENCY (TANROADS) HAS SHIFTED FROM AIRTEL BUILDING LOCATED AT THE JUNCTION OF ALI HASSAN MWINYI AND KAWAWA ROAD.

NEW ADDRESS OF TANROADS HEADQUARTERS:

THE NEW OFFICE OF TANROADS HEADQUARTERS ARE LOCATED AT THE 1st – 3rd FLOOR OF THE BUILDING NEAR JULIUS NYERERE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE (JNICC)

10 SHAABAN ROBERT ROAD/ GARDEN AVENUE
DAR ES SALAAM



Mwalimu Commercial Bank CEO Richard Makungwa (L) attends to a customer at the bank's Mlimani City branch in Dar es Salaam yesterday in marking Customer Service Week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

DTB joins Mastercard and DPO Group to offer digital payments to global markets

By Guardian Reporter

DIAMOND Trust Bank (DTB), the East African banking group, has joined African payment services provider DPO Group, and Mastercard, the global payments technology company, in the rollout of a business to business (B2B) virtual payment card in Kenya and Tanzania.

The DPO Virtual Card will improve the reach and ability of businesses to make instant digital payments to other businesses in Africa and across the world without the need for a physical credit card, debit card or bank account, improving cash flow for firms and opening up African businesses to other markets.

Merchants of the DPO Virtual Card will receive a 16-digit card number, security code and expiry date and this acts like a digital account which can be used worldwide much like a physical card. The virtual card will enable secure, swift online payments to be made to any vendor both within and outside the DPO network, decreasing the risk of fraud and loss. The card has been piloted by travel and tourism operators who have used it to pay international suppliers and other vendors.

DTB is DPO's sponsor bank which enables DPO to issue cards in partnership with Mastercard.

DTB's Head of Products and Marketing, Farouk Khimji said, "At DTB, we believe in innovation and see it as a crucial pillar for businesses growth. Already, more than 50 per cent of transactions at DTB are done outside the bank, and this is made possible because of the excellent IT infrastructure in this country. We are happy to be the sponsor bank for the DPO Virtual Card and look forward to the

growth that this will bring to our business."

Eran Feinstein, CEO of DPO Group commented: "This partnership between DPO Group, DTB Group and Mastercard is an exciting development not only for DPO Group but also for African businesses which will be able to transact swiftly and securely, reach new markets and grow with the virtual card. We're delighted to be working together with DTB and Mastercard who share our drive to find innovative ways of improving the payments landscape enabling African businesses to flourish."

The virtual card replaces the need for merchants to make wire transfers to international merchants, allowing them to avoid foreign currency conversion fees. As well as being a multiple use card, the DPO Virtual Card is also available as a one-time use card; creating a card number that is used only once and for a specific purpose, making the process secure, easy to track and reconcile.

Adam Jones, Area Business Head, East Africa, Mastercard added, "Mastercard is constantly partnering with key stakeholders to deliver relevant solutions that enable consumers and merchants to transact more efficiently and safely. This partnership with DTB and DPO will enable even more businesses of all sizes in Kenya and Tanzania to leverage Mastercard's unique virtual card technology to make seamless transactions across borders removing several barriers to trade and enabling them efficiently track and reconcile all payments."

DPO Group is in the process of securing partner banks, like DTB, in other countries across Africa, which will allow it to facilitate more virtual card payments, giving businesses in other African countries greater access to the global market.

By Guardian Reporter

SADC head of mission launches SEOM

THE Head of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Electoral Observation Mission (SEOM) to the 2019 presidential, legislative and provincial elections in Mozambique, Oppah Muchinguri - Kashiri has encouraged stakeholders to ensure the elections are conducted in a peaceful, free, fair, transparent and credible manner.

Muchinguri - Kashiri who is the Minister of Defence and War Vet-

erans Affairs in Zimbabwe insisted that elections should adhere to democratic values and principles envisioned in the SADC Treaty, the Protocol of Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation; and the revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections (2015).

Speaking during the launch of SEOM, the Head of Mission observed that, despite the fact that

the first democratic elections of 1994 came in the wake of a 16-year civil war that started in 1977, Mozambique has done well in practicing democratic principles as well promoting democratic institutions in the country.

She said the presidential, legislative and provincial elections coincided with the country's celebration of 27 years of the signing of the General Peace

Agreement in Rome, Italy on 4 October 1992, which promoted peace and stability and the institutionalization of democracy in the Republic of Mozambique.

She said on August 6th 2019, Mozambique President Filipe Nyusi and the RENAMO leader Ossufo Momade signed the Peace and National Reconciliation Agreement to further cement lasting peace.

She highlighted that the agreement fosters the cessation of military hostilities and the immediate Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) into society of combatants of Renamo's armed wing and the amendment of the constitution to allow for provincial governors to be directly elected during the elections.

Meanwhile, SADC Executive

Secretary, Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax said in line with SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections (2015), SADC will observe elections based on its three-phase approach, the pre-elections phase, the elections phase, and the post-elections phase.

She said the pre-elections observation phase was deployed from 20th to 23rd August 2019,

to amongst others, to assess if the legal, political, and security environments are conducive to hold free and fair elections.

Dr Tax said the pre-elections observations will continue, until the 14th October 2019, on the eve of elections, while the elections observation phase will take place on the elections day, 15th October, 2019, to ascertain if the environment was conducive for voters to exercise their civic right to vote for the party of their choice.

Empowering Africa's women in agriculture

By Ruth Meinzen-Dick

OVER 60 percent of all employed women in Sub-Saharan Africa work in agriculture.

Yet the region's women farmers often reap a meager harvest, not because of inclement weather or poor soil quality, but because of their gender - or, more specifically, because of a dense web of laws, policies, programs, and customs that put them at a significant disadvantage.

Closing the gender gap in agriculture will require action on three fronts. The first is land rights. In most of Sub-Saharan Africa, women rarely own land. Instead, women farmers usually access land through a male relative, most commonly a husband, brother, or father. This arrangement leaves them highly vulnerable; a death, divorce, or simply a man's change of mind can leave a woman farmer landless overnight.

The resulting insecurity affects the way women farm. At constant risk of displacement, long-term productivity-enhancing investments don't make financial sense.

Why build terraces to reduce erosion and improve soil health if someone else can claim the land and its improvements as soon as the work is finished? Why plant an orchard if it can simply be taken away once the final tree is in the ground?

Over the last two decades, many countries have taken important steps to promote and protect women's land rights. For example, Ethiopia introduced joint land registration - with the names and photographs of both husband and wife included on certificates - thereby formalizing women's rights to the land they farm.

Such reform has been shown to lead to increased investment in land, especially by women. The investment rises even higher among women who are also educated about their land rights, highlighting the importance of legal literacy programs.

But land is only the first step. Women also lack equal access to inputs, including fertilizer, better seeds, mechanical equipment, and agricultural extension services that would connect them with information about improved agricultural practices.

This inequality is compounded by unequal access to the credit farmers need to purchase inputs. In Kenya, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, studies have shown that women are less likely to benefit from financial services.

Improving access to financial services and agricultural inputs thus constitutes the second front for empowering women farmers. Development agencies and NGOs have begun working to design woman-focused financial services and programs to improve access to agricultural inputs.

African women are also helping one another, with a growing number of women's organizations, such as microfinance groups, working to improve access to financial services, new technologies, and information.

In Kenya, members of such self-help groups are likelier than other women to know about climate-smart agricultural practices, for example.



Protas Mutakyunga (C), secretary of the Tanzania Association for the Blind in Temeke Distric, receives one of 30 white canes from GSM Group marketing and communication manager Matina Nkurulu in Dar es Salaam yesterday. It was a donation by the group through one of its affiliates, GALCO, in marking Customer Service Week. Left is a member of the association, Angela Sebastian. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Children welfare agency advocates scrapping of death penalty in Tanzania

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

THE Children Education Society (CHESO) has said death penalty to parent or primary child care giver negatively affects the mental health of particular child compared to those whose their parents are ordinary prisoners.

Cheso Executive Director, Richard Shilamba made the statement on Thursday when speaking during celebrations to mark the 17th World Day against death penalty which is marked on every 10th of October.

Shilamba said death sentences

in the country affects victims of which most of them are children.

"Secrecy to children on the whereabouts of their parents due to death row lowers a child's resilience to cope living with ambiguous absence of his/her parent", said Shilamba adding the organization has already experienced some cases of children developmental disability.

He however noted that while other countries in East Africa and beyond, including Kenya and Uganda allow children to visit their parents in prisons, the law in Tanzania prohibits children from

such visits.

He said scientific evidence shows that barring children from visiting their parents in prison results into child's retarded physical and mental development.

He said Cheso with the support from the Wells of Home Ministries (Uganda) and Save the children International has embarked on a ten days action to raise resilience of children with a parent on death row. He said the aim is to enable children and their family members to live positively for the betterment of their mental health and well being.

"Our actions include provision of child protection, case management and psychosocial support to concerned children and their family members. We will trace children and assist them by covering their education needs, especially those from poor households", said Shilamba.

He said Cheso supports the historic action on death penalty by President John Magufuli on 9 December 2017 whereas he released 61 persons who were on death row and announced that he will never sign a death warrant during his tenure of office.

"This is an important government step to prevent and rehabilitate mental health problems to children with a parent on death row", he said.

The organization appeals to the government to move an extra step by allowing children to visit their parents on death row and put urgent priority to abolish death penalty in Tanzania.

Cheso is a non-profitable non-governmental organization working towards a society where all children are fully protected and enjoy their rights for their education outcomes.

Dr Hawala Saleh, a surgeon giving hope to Wete women

By Guardian Reporter, Pemba

"WE receive a number of severe maternal near-miss cases, but no woman dies in our hands. Despite the challenges, together, with my team, we use our expertise to save the lives of mothers and infants", said Dr Hawala Saleh, Acting Head of Obstetrics and Gynecology Department at Wete referral hospital in Pemba Island.

She said with support from the government and partners such as USAID Boresha Afya project which is facilitated by Jhpiego, plans are to make Wete referral hospital among the best health facilities in the Zanzibar archipelago.

Narrating, she said the trainings offered by Jhpiego have helped to improve their skills and knowledge specifically on how to prevent expectant mothers from developing postpartum hemorrhage (PPH) as well as its treatment.

Among others, Eclampsia and PPH are among the major causes of maternal and infant deaths. Over bleeding or postpartum hemorrhage is referred to a situation where a mother loses more blood within the first 24 hours after childbirth.

"We had several cases of deaths caused by PPH, we are thankful to the trainings as women are no longer dying following childbirth. The few pregnant women losing their battle to survive are those coming from peripheral health centers while at critical condition", she said the training that was initially conducted in the 2017/2018 adds to what she learnt in the class.

Dr Hawala remembers a recent incident where she saved the life of a 39-year-old mother—Moza Mattar Hemed who developed secondary PPH just 48 hours after giving birth at the hospital. She said Moza gave birth at the facility in August this year and was discharged after two days, but she was brought unconscious the following day.

She said: "Moza's blood level had dropped to 7.9 compared to 10 on the first day she was admitted. I used my professionalism to assist her regain consciousness and she was again discharged after five days".

Dr Hawala explained on another ma-

ternal near-miss case where Baya Baraka Mbarouk (30) a resident of Pobwe village in North-Pemba region was brought unconscious at Wete hospital on March 12th 2019.

"I wasn't on duty on that particular day; I had just passed through only to find a seven-month pregnant girl laying on bed unconscious due to over bleeding. I joined the team and we immediately resuscitated her before conducting surgery to remove the baby", she narrated.

She said Baya had lost 1.5 liters of blood due to bleeding, but her life was saved in less than two hours. She said the client is now connected to all the staff in the gynecology department and that she is required to report at the hospital for consultations twice a month. Statistics shows that almost 250 women give birth at Wete referral hospital per month. PPH is the major cause of death at the facility whereas the number of women who died while giving birth in 2018 was 5 in 2017 and 6 in 2018.

The number of women with PPH was 75 in 2018 while the number of those with Eclampsia dropped to 22 last from 40 in 2017. Pre Eclampsia cases dropped to 43 in 2018 compared to 65 in the previous year.

A mother of three, Baya Baraka Mbarouk said: "I lost my baby, but the doctors saved my life. I am grateful to all the hospital staff especially those in the labor ward for restoring my smile".

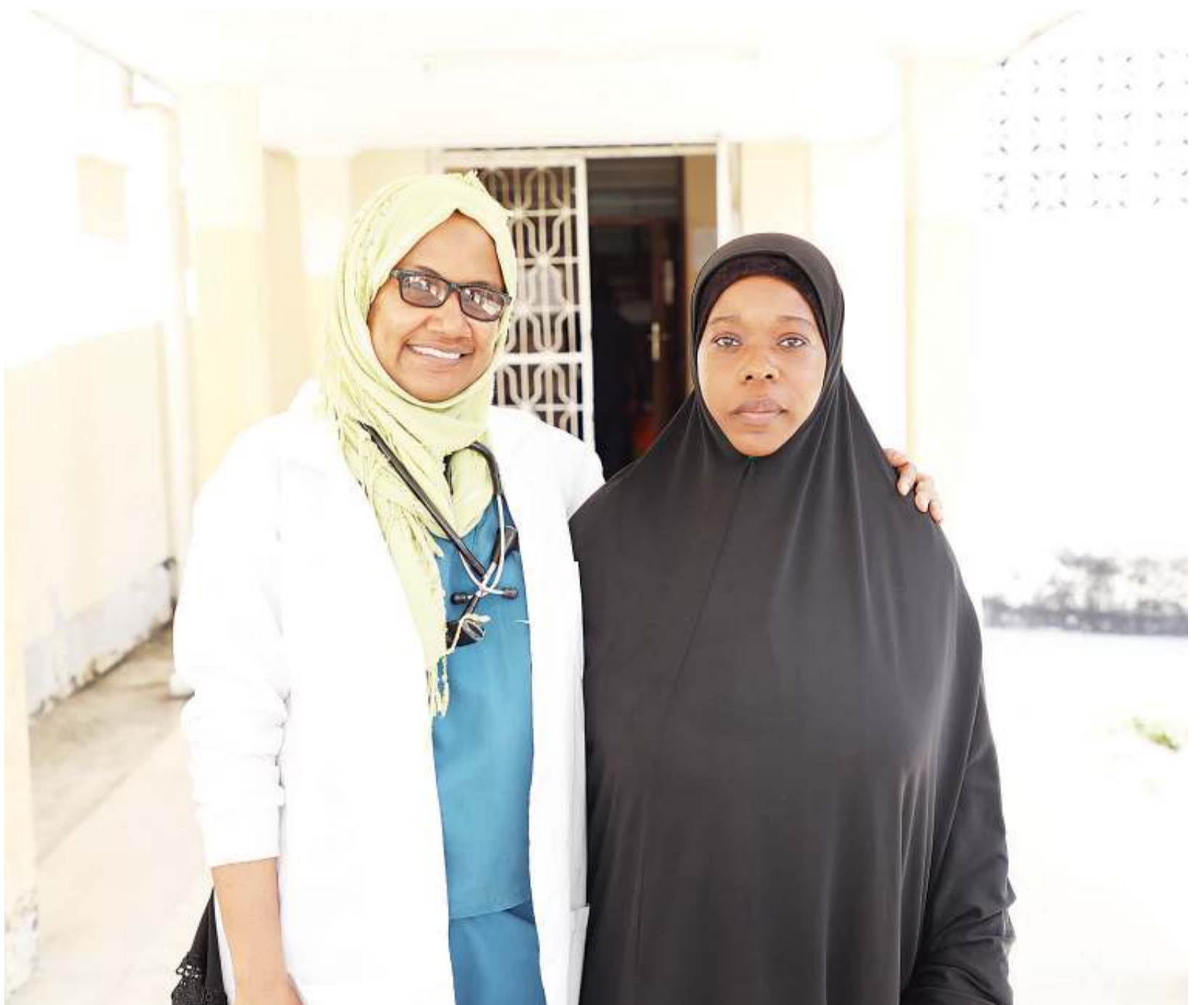
She said: "It all started in the afternoon of March 12, 2019 when I felt fever and later on started to bleed frequently, a situation that led into unconsciousness".

Baya said her relatives brought her to Wete hospital where she was well received and treated accordingly.

Meanwhile, Moza Mattar Hemed hailed the improved maternal services at the hospital where she was treated and regained consciousness within hours.

"I started bleeding just a day after I was discharged from the hospital. I told my mother to call my husband who responded quickly and rushed me to the hospital", said Moza.

Jhpiego's Project Programme Adviser in Zanzibar, Lucy Ikamba said they have been



Dr Hawala Saleh (L) with Baya Baraka Mbarouk, who survived a severe maternal problem in March this year. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

working to empower health care providers since 2016 through technical work groups, capacity building and facilitation of meetings to discuss the status of health services provision in Pemba and Unguja Islands.

Ikamba noted that capacitating of health care providers have resulted into improved skills and establishment of learning corners that are used for in job trainings.

Supported hospitals include Mnazi Mmoja,

Makunduchi and Kivunge in Unguja. Others are Chake Chake, Wete and Abdallah Mzee hospital in Pemba.

"Through our trainings, caring of expectant mothers during the third term of labor has improved. We also partner with other stakeholders to sensitize the community on the importance of giving birth at health centers", said Ikamba noting they have trained 125 health care providers from lower facilities in March this year.

By 2020, the government, through the Health Sector Strategic Plan III 2016-2020 (HSSP IV) aims to cut down maternal mortality ratio to 292 per 100,000 live births from the current 556 deaths per 100,000 live births.

In the same plan, the government seeks to reduce neonatal mortality rate from 21 to 16 per 1,000 live births and under-five mortality from 54 to 40 per 1,000 live births in the next two years.

Desert locusts threaten agricultural production in Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA

THE Federal Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) have called for immediate action to control a new Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*) infestation in the country.

Sani Redi, Agriculture Sector State Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, called on development partners to support the government's efforts to control the invasion.

"The desert locust invasion is likely to cause incalculable green vegetation loss," he underscored.

"Although we have committed resources, we need substantial support to undertake massive control and preventive measures."

Migrating from Yemen through Djibouti and Somaliland, Desert Locust swarms entered Ethiopia and settled in the breeding sites in Afar, Amhara, Oromia and Somalia regions.

The swarms have produced hopper bands that have covered more than 174 square kilometer (in 56 Woredas and 1 085 kebeles) and are consuming approximately 8 700 metric tons of green vegetation every day. It is estimated that about 30 million hoppers can land on one-kilometer square area.

The moist soils due to the continued rainfall in the breeding sites created a conducive environment for Desert Locusts to multiply. Huge hopper populations are bred and are currently fledging into young adults and making swarms of varying sizes.

"The swarms are likely to invade wider areas and cause significant crop, pasture and forest cover losses in eastern Ethiopia," warned Zebdewos Salato, Director of Plant Protection in the MoA.

To date, Desert Locust hopper bands have covered 17 370 out of the 28 671 hectares surveyed between July and September 2019.

Although the government is

making efforts to contain the potential invasion of areas outside the breeding sites, its capacity to control the desert locust hopper bands in the breeding sites is limited. So far, it has controlled hopper bands on 6 455 hectares only.

The Desert Locust infestation happened this time when Ethiopia is dealing with the impacts of previous and ongoing drought. Currently other insect pests such as the fall armyworm and diseases such as wheat rusts are also serious impediments to agricultural production and food and nutrition security.

The latest reports indicate that about 7.8 million people in the

country require food assistance. This number is likely to increase if the fledging Desert Locust swarms continue infesting more areas and causing damage to crops and natural vegetation.

"Urgent control operations are required to manage the situation and protect the livelihood of the population in eastern Ethiopia and possibly the neighboring countries," said Fatouma Seid, FAO Representative in Ethiopia.

She added that FAO is working with the Ministry of the Agriculture, the DLCOEA and other stakeholders to undertake hopper control measures.

FAO operates a Desert Locust

Information Service that receives and analyzes data from locust-prone countries to assess the current locust situation. It also provides forecasts and issues, warnings and alerts to keep the global community informed of locust developments and threats.

Dr Stephen W. Njoka, OGW, Director Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO - EA) said the Organization was coordinating regional efforts, including monitoring, providing early warning and undertaking control actions to manage the invasion.

He warned that the Desert Locust situation would turn 2019

into a disaster year unless it is curtailed. "We call for concerted efforts of all stakeholders to prevent a disaster from happening," he said.

In July 2019, FAO warned that Desert Locust summer breeding, amplified by heavy rains, could pose a serious threat to agricultural production in Yemen, Sudan, Eritrea, parts of Ethiopia and northern Somalia.

The Organization called on all countries to monitor the field conditions by mounting regular ground surveys and undertaking the necessary control measures whenever infestations were detected.



Dr Eusebius Mbonde (R), Director of Vocational Education and Vocational Training in the Education, Science and Technology ministry presents 165m/- worth of teaching equipment to Kasulu Community Development College head Ramadhani Simba in Dar es Salaam yesterday. It is a donation by Karibu Tanzania Organisation. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Small-holder Kenyan farmers growing herbal stimulant instead of food crops

NAIROBI

MORE small scale farmers in central Kenya have switched from growing food crops to planting and harvesting an herbal stimulant known locally as 'Muguka' - a variety of the drug, Khat.

The farmers say they now make almost three times as much from growing the drug instead of food crops, but the local county government wants farmers to create a balance between producing 'Muguka' and food.

41-year-old Wilkister Njeri grows Muguka at her farm in Embu County in central Kenya.

It is the crop that puts food on the table and will provide, she hopes, the money to send her 18-year old son to college next year. She used to farm maize, but it was not profitable.

"I used 5,000 Kenya shillings to plant, I bought fertilizer worth 3,000 Kenya shillings and two bags of maize, one of which cost 700 Kenya shillings", she said adding that everything cost her more than 10,000 Kenya shillings but I she was harvest anything.

Wilkister cleared her maize and planted Muguka in two of her three acre farm. She now makes on average 20,000 Kenyan shillings, or about \$190 a week.

Muguka is a variety of Khat that is a green and bushy. It is a stimulant that

produces a mild high when chewed. The crop is fast growing and does well in the semi-arid lowlands of Embu County, making it less vulnerable to erratic weather conditions.

Farmers with a lot of land used to grow Muguka. But now small scale farmers are cashing in on the trade.

"They are doing that because it is providing some employment, direct employment to the people that are in Mbeere region and also apart from employment it is giving easy cash," said John Mukundi, the Chief executive officer of the Agriculture & Cooperatives docket in Embu County.

Embu's county government said there are now 65,000 farmers growing the crop in the region, making Muguka one of the highest income earners for the region apart from coffee and tea.

But the county government is urging farmers to create a balance between growing the herbal stimulant and food crops.

"We are giving some free supply of seeds so that we can encourage those farmers to also plant some food crops that will enhance food security and nutrition. We are also encouraging them to take advantage of the fertilizer subsidies that we are giving them", he said.

Infrastructure drive makes AfDB cities uplift project most feasible

CITIES Diagnostics for 2019-2020, a new programme of the African Development Bank (AfDB), has just been rolled out, with Dodoma picked as one among five African cities selected for its pilot phase. The project is focused on understanding environmental issues and improving urban sustainability. The diagnostic tool includes baseline studies covering disaster risk and vulnerability, plus space use or urban footprint growth.

Until recently most urban studies painted a bleak picture for Tanzania and Africa at large, as our capacity for planned residence was low, with up to 76 per cent of the city population almost uninteruptedly living in unplanned areas.

Plenty of work has been done in the past few years, and effort to uplift the road network in inner parts of major urban areas continues apace. So far it is major roads being targeted, and increasingly access roads.

That is why government officials can look with satisfaction at what is offered to the AfDB as it lays out its plan of work. With plenty of effort directed at ensuring that officials perform their duties properly when it comes to tap water flow instead of putting urban water supply to commerce by selling it wholesale to local government officials owning lorries, and their colleagues in the private sector.

The same was the case in accessing hospital drugs, with Medical Stores Department listening to middlemen.

In the light of these changes, the survey being organized as part of the project is likely to return positive responses as to accessibility and quality of municipal services for water, sanitation and electricity.

The survey is based on the idea that drainage, solid waste manage-

ment is part of vital measures of the quality of life in cities, and in this context Dodoma - simply as part of wider national efforts - will have something to report that uplifts spirits.

To measure and assess inclusiveness and resilience in cities are things that are positively enhanced in situations where local governments are pushed to perform, as of the past four years or thereabouts.

It is not certain if political inclusion is being measured as well, but local government elections provide a moment of taking the heartbeat. It measures public satisfaction.

It was also reported that the AfDB, its Urban and Municipal Development Fund (UMDF) subsidiary and the Korea-Africa Economic Cooperation (KOAPEC) held a workshop to review cities diagnostic methodologies. City managers and international urban development experts around the world attended, where problems of African cities were explored.

Some of the key issues raised included the challenge of limited municipal budget resources for capital infrastructure and services investments. There was also the difficulty of recruiting qualified staff to work in municipal or city bodies.

It is hard to say if that assessment is also true of Tanzania at present, as it is inaccurate to discuss city uplift from the viewpoint of municipal and city resources.

Budgetary chronicles show that own sources funds are paltry in managing cities, save for things like waste collection, as even water supply is under authorities that are tied to the ministry, not local government authorities.

The vision about cities and other urban areas is part of the wider development thrust where uplifting cities is a specific challenge, and that is why the wider renovation of governance is changing cities as well.

Boosting systems innovation is a sure path to better health

THIS year the Africa Health Agenda International Conference (AHAIC) was hosted by African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF) and World Health Organisation (WHO) in Nairobi, Kenya.

The conference brought together around 1000 health experts and leaders in government, private sectors and civil societies across Africa and beyond, to line Africa health agenda with global health agenda, exchange scientific knowledge and research findings and stimulate debates for strategies, ideas and innovations.

The three days of presentations and discussions offered a variety of perspectives on significance and uniqueness of Africa's health agenda, and traced a roadmap to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Africa health agenda is made unique by its predominant role of preventable diseases in morbidity and mortality of Africa's people and the gap that exists between communities and the health systems. With 11 per cent of the world's population, Africa accounts for 24 per cent of the global disease burden, has an emerging and high burden of infectious diseases, poor women's and children's health and an increasing burden of non-communicable diseases.

Although community-based healthcare has the potential to contribute to better health outcomes, the gap between the community health and formal health systems remains wide and still 50 per cent of Africans do not have access to quality healthcare.

Different panelists from governments, academia and various institutions addressed those problems and shed light on different issues. Some of the things addressed included, the existing bottlenecks that are hindering the attainment of universal health coverage in sub-Saharan Africa and achievements to date; threats to global health security in Africa where Africa's preparedness for emerging and re-emergent health events and threats; public-private partnerships to address inadequacy of policies and broad frameworks on how public and private sectors can better collaborate to address the problems of health financing, access and quality. Discussions also centred on the implementation of the health SDGs in Africa, the role of innovations and technology in improving health services in Africa, burden of anti-microbial resistance on Africa, and above all, how to move towards universal health coverage.

The outcomes of the conference are expected to revolutionise community health work in Africa, highlighting partner commitments to implementation of national community health strategies to tackle health threats and health systems weaknesses.

This campaign emphasises the important role community health workers play in addressing health systems gaps like shortage of health professionals, poor uptake of health promotion and disease prevention interventions, poor data quality and inadequate use of data and evidence for decision-making at household, community and sub-national levels.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts
MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO
CIRCULATION MANAGER : EMMANUEL LYMO

Newsdesk
General Line: 0745 700710
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757 154767
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising
Manager Sales & Marketing:
Kauthar D'souza
Cel: + 255 767 223311 E-mails: Advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: Ippmedia.com, epaper.ippmedia.com



Three ways to combat discrimination, stigma associated with HIV and AIDS

By Ifeanyi Nsofor

AS a Public Health Doctor, I often meet people who experience stigma simply because they live with HIV. One person who still haunts me is a woman who is HIV positive and when she was in labor, a midwife would not help her. Instead she shouted at her to just push out the baby and then she stood far away from the bedside, disgusted by the woman's HIV status. No one should go through such stigma at a vulnerable situation when they are about to birth life.

Another lady I met was denied university admission because she is HIV positive. She was screened for HIV without her consent, her HIV-positive status was disclosed publicly, and she was asked to leave the private university.

This is not okay. All forms of HIV-related stigma must stop. When people experience stigma and discrimination they may be afraid or ashamed to access HIV services. This fear of stigma has far-reaching implications - it could cause people to delay being tested and knowing their HIV status and getting help, before it's too late.

Globally, there are approximately 37.9 million people living with HIV, with 770,000 deaths, based on 2018 data. In 2018, there were 1.7 new HIV infections. Seventy-five million people have been infected by HIV since the epidemic began and 32 million have died as a result. HIV-related stigma can have serious consequences.

These are ways to deal with it.

Americans wrongly believe that HIV can be transmitted through sharing glass (27%); touching toilet seat (17%); and swimming in a pool with someone who is HIV positive (11%)

First, government across the globe should increase investments in health education to improve people's knowledge of HIV and its modes of transmis-



sion. It should not be taken for granted that people are aware.

For instance, according to a survey of Americans by the Kaiser Family Foundation, Americans wrongly believe that HIV can be transmitted through sharing glass (27%); touching toilet seat (17%); and swimming in a pool with someone who is HIV positive (11%). Instead, one can get HIV when there is contact with body fluids such as blood, semen, vaginal fluids and breast milk.

Targeted information should be deployed on platforms where people congregate and interact. Social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and WhatsApp serve this purpose and should be used. Globally, there are about 3.5 billion social media users - an estimated 2.7 billion of these are Facebook users.

In 2016 at peak of the Zika virus epidemic in Brazil, Facebook pulled anonymized posts about conversations on Zika virus.

This was shared with UNICEF to design a campaign that provided the right information for individuals to protect themselves against Zika virus. Facebook can replicate the same to tackle misinformation about HIV and reduce stigma.

Second, enforce HIV anti-discrimination laws to deter offenders from discriminating against people living with HIV. For instance, in 2015, the Nigerian President Jonathan signed the HIV/AIDS Anti-Discrimination law.

One of the objectives of the law is to help more Nigerians to seek testing, treatment and care services without fear of facing stigma and discrimination. The law does not permit HIV screening as a prerequisite for employment and school admissions.

There are fines of \$1400 for individuals and \$5,700 for institutions who violate the law. The fines could come with prison term of up to one year in addition to these fines. Although not as robust as Nigeria's HIV

antidiscrimination law, Ghana's patient's charter protects individuals from discrimination based on type of illness.

Third, end the discrimination against key populations like men who have sex with men, sex workers and transgender people as this discourages them from accessing care, pushes them underground and increases their risk of transmitting HIV.

Globally, these populations account for 54% of new HIV infections - 88% in Western and central Europe and North America; 95% in Middle East and North Africa; and 64% in Western and central Africa.

Compared to non-key populations, the risk of acquiring HIV is 22 times higher among men who have sex with men and injection drugs users; 21 times higher among sex workers and 12 times higher for transgender people.

Specific changes include ending discriminatory laws. Countries including Algeria, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Kenya, Zambia and others criminalize LGBT folks and that needs to change. Further, transgender people are harmed and killed without consequences for the perpetrators.

For example, recently, a black transgender woman was burned to death in Florida.

Therefore, donors must keep working with governments to repeal these laws and punish those who perpetrate violence against key populations.

The Former Wales rugby captain, Gareth Thomas' revelation this month that he is HIV positive because someone threatened to blackmail him, shows that no one is immune to stigma.

As long as new HIV infections occur, governments, donors, private sector and communities must continue work to end HIV-related stigma and discrimination.

Beatification candidacy is great honour to Mwalimu JK Nyerere

By Dalaly Peter Kafumu

THIS coming Monday (October 14) is the 20th anniversary of Father of the Nation Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere's death, and Tanzania and the world are paying tribute to this great statesman.

Mwalimu may be gone but his cherubic thoughts and deeds still stand as guiding principles towards a prosperous Tanzania.

As noteworthy is the fact that Mwalimu is accredited by the Catholic Church as a Servant of God lined up for canonisation - and this piece chronicles some of the testaments on this great leader of our time that flushed his grandeur.

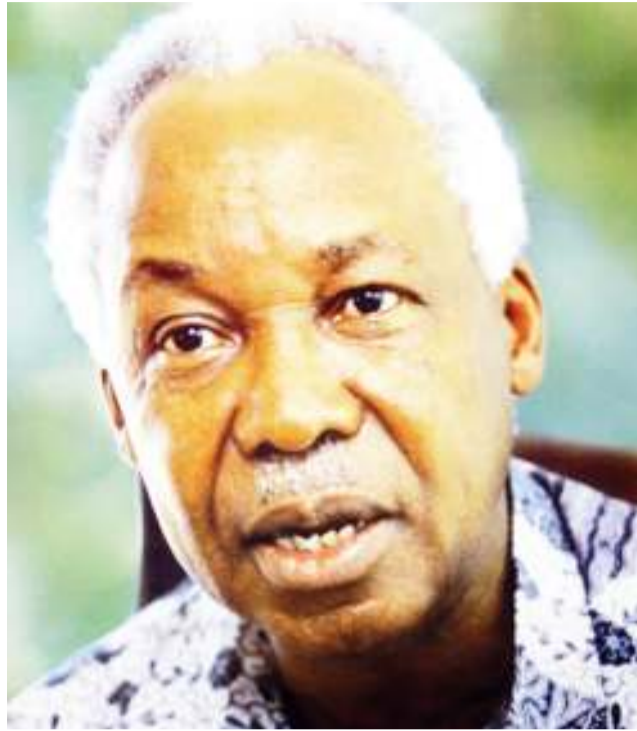
In both body and soul, Mwalimu was a leader, a philosopher, a sociologist and a teacher. He was an excellent orator who delivered delightful and enlightening speeches which were as philosophical as they were simple and full of educative values.

His Education for Self-Reliance (ESR) and African Socialism (Ujamaa) philosophies are clear examples of his philosophical and sociological uniqueness that have stood the test of time.

Mwalimu was a humble and simple mortal strongly and vehemently opposed to corruption, violence, injustice and discrimination - whether racial, tribal, religious or economic.

He was openly opposed to treating others less favourably for whatever reason, and showed great love of forgiveness. He believed in God and his life was that of a devout Catholic who routinely attended Holy Mass, appearing for regular confession and receiving Holy Communion, regardless of his busy presidential schedule.

His belief in God made him a great leader of a great nation. God gave him not only wisdom but also humility, modesty, meekness and simplicity, virtues that enabled him to unite peoples of all manner of religions, tribes



and races.

This exemplary life exhibited cardinal Christian virtues like fortitude, temperance, prudence and justice. It must have been his devout living of these cardinal virtues that persuaded the Catholic Church bishops in Tanzania, with consent from the Vatican, to initiate plans for his beatification process. That was in 2006.

On this front, Mwalimu's religious virtues are being subjected to a board of Vatican theologians for an official inquiry. A canonical investigation to certify that a miracle attributed to him had occurred after his death will be conducted and, if it is confirmed, he will be beatified and designated as 'Blessed'.

But a further miracle credited to his intercessions must occur pending his beatification. Therefore, Catholic faithful across the world are encouraged to pray to God and ask favours through the intercessions of this Servant of God, by invoking a prayer made

by a since-deceased Archbishop of the Musoma Diocese. Once this further miracle is also proven, Mwalimu will be canonised and will acquire the title of 'Saint'.

This prayer for the intercessions of Servant of God Mwalimu Nyerere explains the belief by the Catholic Church that he indeed possessed the cardinal virtues of justice, prudence, temperance and fortitude as well as the theological virtues of faith, hope and charity that allowed him to have Faith in God to love and serve the people of Tanzania and Africa with a great heart.

Part of the prayer runs like this: "Oo! Father: Your Servant cared for the poor and raised the lowly and the disadvantaged; he comforted the widows and all those who ran away from their countries because of lack of peace in their homeland; he happily received and took care of them with love and affection... God, Father Almighty, we beseech you to grant the favours we ask through his intercessions according to your Heavenly Love; so that the holiness of your Servant will be revealed to all peoples of the Kingdom of God; so that he be pronounced as one of your Saints. Amen."

For a decade now the Catholic Church in Uganda, in collaboration with the Government of Uganda, has also been running a campaign for Mwalimu Nyerere's beatification, and on each June 3 they gather at the Namugongo Martyrs Shrine (some 15 by road east of downtown Kampala) to pray for Mwalimu Nyerere's beatification.

There is also a poster given by Uganda's ruling party - the National Resistance Army (NRA) - dedicating the people of Uganda to the course of praying for Mwalimu Nyerere's beatification.

The poster runs along these lines: "Mwalimu Nyerere was a Pan-Africanist who loved God and Human-kind. He united Tanzanian people of



Mwalimu Nyerere's widow, Mama Maria Nyerere, with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni at a past event at the Namugongo Martyrs Shrine. File photo

different religious backgrounds and helped liberate African countries like Zimbabwe, Namibia, Angola, Mozambique, South Africa and Uganda."

During prayers for Mwalimu Nyerere's beatification held at the Namugongo Martyrs Shrine on June 1, 2017, President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda admitted that Mwalimu's contribution to the liberation of the African continent was enough justification for his beatification.

He said: "When we are praying for Mwalimu to be a Saint, I think it is not out of place because Mwalimu was a great black man to have ever lived. Because of his efforts to pioneer the freedom struggles in Africa, Nyerere deserves to be beatified and eventually canonised."

As we mark with delight and enchantment the 20th anniversary of the passing of this great Tanzanian, African, human being and Servant of God, we should honour the verdict by the Catholic Church that Mwalimu Nyerere was a leader of angelic proportions meriting beatification. This is clear testimony that he was indeed a specially gifted leader meriting canonisation.

Canonisation is long and tasking process that could take centuries to complete but even its mere commencement is a great honour to Mwalimu which Tanzania, Africa and the world as a whole ought to be proud of.

Both in life and in death, Mwalimu Nyerere offers human-kind above normality. This is in part why, a whole two decades after his physical departure, his influence in Tanzania and Africa has not waned.

•Economic and environmental geologist Dr Dalaly Peter Kafumu, a former Commissioner for Minerals in the Minerals ministry, is currently Member of Parliament for Igunga constituency in Tabora Region.

Ethiopian prime minister Abiy wins 2019 Nobel Peace Prize

Addis Ababa

PRIME Minister Abiy Ahmed of Ethiopia has won this year's Nobel Peace Prize for his role in ending the 20-year war between his country and Eritrea.

Announcing the prize in Oslo, the Norwegian Nobel Committee said Ahmed's "efforts deserve recognition and need encouragement".

Abiy was the second favourite to win after climate change activist Greta Thunberg, according to bookmakers Betfair and William Hill.

The Ethiopian Prime Minister's office tweeted out a statement after Abiy Ahmed saying it was "pleased to express our pride" in the selection, adding that Abiy "has made peace, forgiveness and reconciliation key policy components of his administration".

Awol Allo, a fellow Ethiopian and an associate professor of law at Keele University in Britain, said the prime minister deserved the prize for his role in ending the conflict - a largely pointless war over disputed border territory that came at a huge financial and human cost to both countries.

"I think what Abiy did with the Eritrea issue was very courageous and remarkable. I think a lot of people have considered that what he has done is worthy of such a recognition," said Allo.

"The two countries are no longer in the state of war. Families have been reunited because flights are now running between the two countries. Relations that have been severed for 20 years have been rekindled," he added.

The 43-year-old Abiy also recently won plaudits for his role in helping to broker a power-sharing deal in neighbouring Sudan, after a political crisis that led to the arrest of Omar al-Bashir, the country's ruler for almost three decades.

"That also speaks to someone who takes peace and stability in the Horn of Africa seriously," Allo said.

Abiy became Ethiopia's PM in April 2018, the first Oromo to lead his coun-

try. The Oromo, Ethiopia's largest ethnic group, had never been in prominent positions of power. Grievances of their economic and political exclusion drove anti-government protests across the country.

For years, Ethiopia had been engulfed in states of emergencies; protests were met with a government crackdown and thousands fled across the border into Kenya. Under public pressure, Hailemariam Desalegn (prime minister between 2012 and last year) dramatically and unexpectedly resigned.

Abiy joined the Oromo People's Democratic Organisation as a teenager. He stayed close to his people, even as he claimed victory in an internal Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front vote on March 27 to become chairman of the ruling party.

That victory secured his place as Prime Minister of an East African powerhouse with a population of more than 100 million people.

The early months of his premiership were marked with bold and progressive decision making, including releasing the country's political prisoners, denouncing their torture and freeing jailed journalists.

Before the new Abiy era, rival politicians and unfavoured journalists were either in exile or in Ethiopia's jails, including Addis Ababa's infamous Maekelawi prison, where many alleged abuses took place. Abiy later shut down the prison.

In June last year, as prisoners were being released on his orders, a legislator in the Ethiopian Parliament asked the PM if it was constitutional to release people who had been jailed for terrorism and corruption.

Abiy reportedly responded: "Jailing and torturing, which we did, are not constitutional either. Does the Constitution say anyone who was sentenced by a court can be tortured, put in a dark room? Torturing, putting people in dark rooms, is our act of terrorism."

This was a profound admission by a prime minister, unheard of in modern-



day Africa.

Abiy also met with the political opposition and civil society to discuss reform and invited previously exiled political parties to return to their country. He embarked on major institutional reforms, including the security and justice sectors.

Women were not left out of his progressive agenda. He showed his commitment to gender equality by appointing women to half of his cabinet. Parliament even appointed the country's first female president, Sahle-Work Zewde, and the nation's first Supreme Court chief, Meaza Ashenafi, was sworn into office.

This style of leadership was different from any-

thing seen before in Ethiopia's ruling party. There were "listening rallies" attended by tens of thousands, town hall meetings in which the vision of true democracy and unity were re-emphasized.

The changes were part of a new agenda, which he pledged would respect freedom of expression. "In a democratic system, the government allows citizens to express their ideas freely without fear," he said in April 2018.

However, Abiy faced criticism for several nationwide internet shutdowns in June this year. Ataf Brhane of Zone9, a human rights blogging collective, said the internet shutdowns had created "a bad record for a 'reformist' leader."

The blackouts became pronounced following an attempted coup in the country's Amhara region. The network was gradually restored but with no formal explanation from the government.

But state-owned provider Ethio Telecom, the country's lone telecoms provider, issued an apology and told CNN at the time that the company would credit customers for services that were affected during the shutdown.

The international community has largely embraced Abiy's initiatives and reforms, such as the recent planting of millions of trees in the country to curb the effects of climate change.

This has led to accusations of "appeasing Westerners" and some critics, like blogger Daniel Berhane, do not believe he deserves the Nobel Peace Prize.

Berhane, a prominent blogger based in the Ethiopian capital, told CNN ahead of the decision: "I do not think he will or should win. If that happens, it will be an endorsement of a person that does not like institutions or teamwork but just churns out half-baked ideas aimed at appeasing Westerners."

"A win will exacerbate his narcissism and would be detrimental to the prospects of institutionalised reform and stability of the country," he added.

Jawar Mohammed, an influential political figure within Ethiopia and within the country's large diaspora communities in North America and Europe, applauds Abiy's work so far but believes there is still a long way to go before his reforms can bring stability to one of the most troubled regions in the world.

"Prime Minister Abiy has done a wonderful job in bringing peace with and within the neighbouring countries," Mohammed, executive director of the Oromia Media Network, told CNN.

"However, he has to do a lot more to bring peace and stability domestically and to ensure the transition to democracy succeeds," he added.

The end of the war between Ethiopia and Eritrea catapulted Abiy and Ethiopia into a different status - and redefined the Horn of Africa nation as a regional powerhouse.

The Arab Gulf states across the Red Sea took notice for their own reasons - primarily the Horn of Africa's proximity to Yemen and the clear desire to be part of a fast-growing economy.

The tremors of these vast changes have been felt beyond Ethiopia. Eritrea and now Djibouti and Somalia are all feeling the Abiy effect.

Ethiopian airlines landed in Mogadishu, Somalia, for the first time in 41 years. Djibouti is in talks to share access to its port to service Ethiopian needs. The idea of peace coming to this region at last is an exciting prospect.

However, Abiy has been grappling with the displacement of people in different parts of the country, including in Oromia and Amhara regional governments.

According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, about 2.9 million people were newly displaced last year owing to conflict in Ethiopia.

The lack of security is threatening the foreign direct investment that has been pouring into Ethiopia since Abiy opened up state-controlled telecoms, electricity and even the national airline to investors.

The country's gross domestic product is expected to reach about \$100 billion by 2020, making it one of the fastest-growing economies in the region.

•A CNN joint dispatch by Samuel Getachew in Addis Ababa and Stephanie Busari in Lagos.

Has Rwanda's Kagame flown so high that he will likely lose his wings soon?

By Peter Fabricius

RWANDA'S President Paul Kagame has been flying high for a while. His reputation – mainly international though he wields some continental clout – has been growing. Through skilful diplomacy, he has established himself in the eyes of the wider world at least as an African leader to be reckoned with. He gets invited to prestigious international gatherings like Davos. Last year he buried the hatchet with France about its support for Rwanda's genocidal Hutu government in 1994. And next year he will consolidate his already good standing with the Anglo world by hosting the Commonwealth heads of state summit.

In Africa his reputation has been a lot more mixed. Kagame has aspired to continental leadership and has achieved some, taking charge of the successful drive to get the African Continental Free Trade Agreement signed in record time. But it is mainly his achievements on the wider stage that have left other African governments perplexed, annoyed and often rather envious.

To snub France, he abandoned the French language for English. And Rwanda's accession to the Commonwealth, largely designed to irritate Paris, occurred despite Rwanda having no British colonial history.

Kagame's international reputation rests ultimately on the perception that he is doing a great job of developing his own country. Kigali is famous for its clean streets, which epitomise his claim that Rwanda is the Singapore of Africa – somewhat authoritarian but effective and successful. This authoritarianism the world has apparently deemed forgivable – ignoring reports of human rights abuses of all who stand in his way – because he is keeping the peace, curbing corruption and reducing poverty.

Officially, at least, that is true. The Rwandan economy has been growing by an average 8 per cent a year for a decade. The proportion of people classified as poor has fallen by seven percentage points since 2011 – to 38 per cent in 2017. Those statistics impress donors desperate for good news from Africa and especially from Rwanda.



da with its traumatic history.

And so the aid dollars pour in, helping further to buoy the economy, which in turn promotes more aid. The World Bank has committed more than US\$4 billion to the country since the 1994 genocide mainly for structural reforms, especially in health, education and agriculture.

But now it seems Kagame's Singapore analogy is starting to wear thin. Human rights defenders have long been warning that Rwanda's human rights offences are different to what Western donors seem to believe.

It is reported that political opposition has increasingly been suppressed, either through arrests or assassinations or attempted assassinations of political opponents at home and abroad. These continue to sour relations with important African countries, such as Uganda, Kenya and South Africa.

Pretoria expelled four Rwandan diplomats and downgraded diplomatic relations in 2014 after the assassination of Patrick Karegeya, Kagame's estranged intelligence chief; and the third or fourth attempt on the life of his former chief of staff Faustin Kayumba Nyamwasa.

Last year Kagame and South African

President Cyril Ramaphosa met and agreed to normalise relations. But this hasn't happened. In July both sides' foreign ministers decided to separate the legal processes from normalising relations. Under pressure from its courts, Pretoria soon after sent Kigali a request to extradite two of Karegeya's suspected assassins. Whether that has again derailed normalisation is not yet clear.

South Africa frets that in the absence of a powerful pan-Africanist like Thabo Mbeki or Olusegun Obasanjo, Kagame has the field almost to himself. And it is worried that he will use the elevated platform of hosting the Commonwealth summit next year at the expense of his critics.

Yet South Africa itself has been criticised for helping give Kagame this pedestal. Richard Bourne, writing in Round Table: The Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs, rebuked the organisation's members for accepting Kagame's invitation to host the summit.

Bourne said Rwanda's human rights record was at odds with the Commonwealth Charter. "At least three key states – South Africa, the UK and Canada – were aware that this government does not sit easily in the frame of Commonwealth values. Why did they not stop this choice?" he asks.

South African officials turn the table, blaming the West for playing into Kagame's hands. Like many others, they find it extraordinary that despite his fallout with France, Kagame has now so thoroughly made up with French President Emmanuel Macron. And they believe that, by forging relations with Israel, he hasn't only secured its support but also guaranteed continuing support from the US and the UK.

Some critics think it's rich that South Africa, of all countries, is skulking enviously in the corner. They wonder why, given the offences Rwanda is alleged to have done on South African soil, Pretoria not standing up and challenging Kagame's pretensions to continental leadership?

But other circumstances may be conspiring to clip Kagame's wings. A growing army of economists is beginning to question his justification that

he is lifting his people out of poverty. Academic Filip Reyntjens of Antwerp University has examined Rwanda's claim to have shrunk poverty from 44.9 per cent in 2011 to 39.1 per cent in 2014 – just before a crucial referendum.

Reyntjens found that the drop was largely due to 'comparing apples with pears' – updating the content of the basket of goods used to define poverty in 2014. He said that if the same basket had been used in 2011 and 2014, poverty would have increased by about five to seven percentage points.

Senior researcher Sam Desiere of the University of Leuven in Belgium, meanwhile, concludes that the declining official poverty rate is based on a falsely low 5.3 per cent official annual rate of food inflation. He calculated that this rate should be 9.4 per cent a year.

'Other academics looking at the same data reckon that rising prices alone may have increased poverty by seven percentage points,' The Economist wrote this August.

It added that the jumps in poverty calculated by Reyntjens and Desiere would be surprising in the light of Rwanda's rapid GDP growth of 8 per cent a year. But it noted that some academics suggested that Rwanda had also exaggerated that figure.

The Financial Times reported in August that a group of World Bank economists had secretly written to the bank's leadership in 2015, lending their support to the skeptics who question Rwanda's stellar development statistics.

The bank's leadership evidently ignored them. 'Questioning Rwanda's statistics may seem to be no more than quibbling over numbers. But at stake is Mr Kagame's reputation, and that of the developmental model he embodies,' The Economist wrote.

Kagame's critics are hoping that, like Icarus, Kagame has now flown too close to the sun and is about to lose his wings and plunge to Earth. Others suspect that, as in the past, he will simply brazen out the latest setback and continue to soar.

Peter Fabricius is an ISS consultant.



'Golden Week' brings consumption boom

CHINESE people spent more than ever during the weeklong National Day holidays at home and abroad, showing that consumption power in the world's second-largest consumer market still has great potential.

In the first seven days of October, dubbed Golden Week, retail and catering enterprises across the country saw sales of 1.52 trillion yuan (\$212.63 billion), up 8.5 per cent on the same period last year, data from the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) showed on Monday, October 7.

MOFCOM said consumption of tourism, culture and sports is booming, and the night economy and the "first-store economy" have become new highlights. The first-store economy refers to new brands setting up brick-and-mortar stores for the first time.

The data is in line with other official figures and online travel platforms. This shows how the Chinese enjoyed the holidays with more willingness to travel and more spending on goods.

The Ministry of Transport said on Monday there were 520 million trips on all modes of transportation in the first six days of the month, with the number of rail passengers up 5.2 per cent on the same period last year.

The country saw 782 million domestic tourists in the weeklong holidays, an increase of 7.81 per cent year-on-year; domestic tourism revenue reached 649.71 billion yuan, an increase of 8.47 per cent on a yearly basis, data from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism showed on Monday.

"Domestic demand has made a big contribution to the nation's economy, and the trend is stable, showing the resilience of the economy," Cong Yi, a professor from the Tianjin University of Finance and Economics, told the Global Times on Monday, October 7.

"The data shows that local governments have put a lot of effort into boosting cultural and tourism markets. Domestic demand will be stimulated only if governments are willing to boost the market," Tian Yun, a vice director of the Beijing Economic Operation Association, told the Global Times on Monday. The rising data also injects positive momentum in the downward economy for the fourth quarter, he added.

A white-collar worker

surnamed Li told the Global Times on Monday that she and her boyfriend spent 17,000 yuan on a six-day trip to two destinations in Southwest China's Yunnan Province. "My biggest expense was the accommodation," she said.

Officials in Southwest China's Chongqing Municipality even called on local residents to offer rooms to tourists at popular city locations such as Jiefangbei (Liberation Square) in the central business district from Thursday to Saturday, October 3 to 6.

Driving forces

Alipay, China's leading online payment platform, said that catering, travel and retail are the three driving forces which lifted domestic demand during the holidays.

Users of Alipay spent 45 percent more in physical stores in the first three days of the week compared with last year, it said, adding that sales sold through smart sales such as facial recognition had soared by 90 per cent on the same period last year.

Visiting locations connected to China's revolutionary history was popular, coming as the country celebrated a landmark anniversary.

A report released by online travel agent Tongcheng-Elong and Suzhou-based online travel agency ly.com said that Beijing, Yan'an in Northwest China's Shaanxi Province and Jianggangshan in East China's Jiangxi Province were the top three "red tourism" sites.

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism said that "red tourism" was a main theme of the National Day holidays tourism market.

The uptick in consumption in the service economy has also spread beyond China's borders, with the seven-day holiday becoming a global Golden Week.

A report from travel site Ctrip.com said that travelers from Shanghai and Beijing spent the most per person at 7,000 yuan, far higher than residents of other cities. Japan was the most desirable destination, with 30 percent more people traveling there during the holidays than last year.

Spending on outbound trips was nearly 2,500 yuan per person with Alipay in the National Day holidays, up 14 percent on the same period last year, a report released by Alipay and Fliggy, Alibaba's travel services platform, showed.

Global Times



The data shows that local governments have put a lot of effort into boosting cultural and tourism markets. Domestic demand will be stimulated only if governments are willing

Bold vision promises new dawn for Nigeria's ailing petrochemical industry

LONDON

ESTIMATED to hold 37 billion barrels of proven oil reserves, Nigeria is the second biggest oil-rich country in Africa, after Libya. The exploitation of these resources has been in the hands of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) that was established in 1977 as a merger of the Nigerian National Oil Corporation and the Federal Ministry of Mines and Steel. NNPC by law manages the joint venture between the Nigerian Government and international oil companies such as Shell, Agip, ExxonMobil, Total and Chevron.

Despite its rich resources, at present Nigeria's state-dominated oil industry is declining, afflicted by systemic corruption, starved for international investment, and hit hard by weak oil prices. Despite that malaise, oil remains the country's chief source of income.

A choice of paths

What many considered a watershed moment for the industry occurred earlier this year in the country's election with two conflicting strategies for the development of the industry put forward by the two candidates.

The incumbent, Muhammadu Buhari's planned to retain a nationalized oil industry under the NNPC banner while the vision of his opponent, Atiku Abubakar, was to sell off aging refineries to private buyers to liberalise the economy. In the end Buhari won a tight contest.

The importance of the oil and gas sector for the state cannot be underestimated with more than half of its revenue along with 85 per cent of its export revenue coming from the sector. Despite the 40 billion barrels of oil under its control, Nigeria's ageing infrastructure can only produce around 2.5 million barrels of crude oil per day.

Adding to this malady is the state of its mid-stream and downstream infrastructure that many believe is in even worse condition than its upstream assets. The refineries dotted around the Niger Delta region are at present pro-

ducing less than half of the 500,000 barrel per day capacity, with this figure dropping to almost ten per cent last year.

New beginnings for NNPC

The man charged with implementing the president's policy is Mallam Mele Kolo Kyari, who took on the role of group managing director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) early this year. He quickly vowed to reverse the trend of petroleum imports into Nigeria by improving the existing refineries and encouraging private sector investment in the refineries.

"We must end the trend of fuel importation as an oil producing country," he said at a press conference shortly after taking on the role. "We will deliver on the rehabilitation of the four refineries within the life of this administration and support the private sector to build refineries. We will support the Dangote refinery to come on stream on schedule and we will transform Nigeria into a net exporter of petroleum products by 2023."

He added that the government's target of raising crude oil production and reserves to three million barrels per day and 40 billion barrels respectively was possible and that he would galvanise the corporation to achieve it by 2023.

When it comes to rooting out the corruption that has plagued the industry in Nigeria he pointed out how much NNPC had changed over the past three years from the old image of a corruption-laden organisation, stressing that he would continue to entrench the culture of accountability in the affairs of the corporation.

"We are going to work to remove every element of discretion from our processes, because discretion is one of the greatest enablers of corruption," he said. "NNPC will not be opaque, we'll be transparent to all so that at the end of the day everyone will be in a position to assess us and say what we have done right or wrong."



Support from OPEC

The Secretary General of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Mohammed Sanusi Barkindo, has commended the NNPC for its ongoing reforms aimed at changing the fortunes of the corporation for the better.

"I am glad that you continue to march on with your projects despite the downturn in the industry, he said. "We have seen the industry globally suffer in terms of contraction in investment which affected capacity. You have not only been able to stay on course, but you also continue with these projects which are critical for the development of the corporation and the industry in Nigeria."

"To lead such a sensitive and capital-intensive industry like oil and gas, you must have transparency and accountability as one of your core principles in order to drive change. I am glad I have known Mele Kyari for a very long time. He is a very capable and straightforward individual with a high level of integrity even as a very junior officer. So, he has a track record. I remain confident that together with his team, and with the support of government, he will accomplish the task."

Building a Nigerian giant

Key to this strategy of reducing imports is the Dangote refinery that is under construction near Lagos. The 650,000 barrels per day (bpd) integrated refinery and petrochemical project

will be Africa's biggest oil refinery and the world's biggest single-train facility upon completion in 2020. The facility will be able to process a variety of light and medium grades of crude to produce Euro-V quality clean fuels including gasoline and diesel as well as jet fuel and polypropylene.

Nigeria in focus at Africa Oil Week

Relations between South Africa and Nigeria have been strained in recent months after several days of riots in South Africa in September that mainly targeted foreign-owned, including Nigerian, businesses.

But following a visit to South Africa by Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari tensions have eased. A further sign of the improving relationship is the visit of Nigeria's Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, Timipre Sylva, to Africa Oil Week (Africa-OilWeek.com), the minister proclaiming himself being excited to be travelling to South Africa.

As the largest upstream event on the continent, Africa Oil Week has enjoyed attendance from the industry's highest-level decision makers for over 25 years. This year is no different, with Nigeria's brand new NPCC GMD making his international debut at the 2019 conference in Cape Town this November (4-8).

Mallam Mele Kyari will be setting out the future vision of the NNPC under his leadership and participating in a session titled 'Atlantic Transform Margin (Liberia to Nigeria)', where he will provide a deep insight into the current operating landscape in some of the most highly sought-after regions.

Africa Oil Week (Africa-OilWeek.com) is the leading oil and gas event for the continent, with over 1500 key executives attending from around the world to broker new deals. The global E&P community – government, NOCs, international oil companies, independents, investors and service providers – is brought together here like no other event. This unique event is a hub for deal making and building networks with senior decision-makers.

'Citizen science' can help cities stand up to 'climatic' threats

By Caroline Knowles

MILLIONS of people have recently marched in cities around the world calling for urgent action to tackle the climate emergency, unsettled by the disconnect between what we know about the dangers to our planet and what little is being done.

Some cities in the global South are already being brought to their knees by global warming, and increasing urbanisation and migration are going to magnify the effects of climate change, which already makes life and work difficult.

Anthropologists and social sciences have been able to shape our response to the climate emergency in important ways - creating the right political and economic conditions to act, amplifying the scale and strengthening the resolve of our actions, and properly understanding the nature of the climate emergency outside of the richest nations.

Many of these issues demand a special focus on cities.

Today, over half of the world's population lives in cities, and according to the UN, another 2.5 billion people will live in urban areas by 2050, predominantly in Asia and Africa.

Take flooding: scientists link excessive, frequent rainfall with the effects of climate change. Urbanisation involves building over the surfaces that might have absorbed water, leading to pluvial flooding - a partly artificial threat caused by heavy rainfall, excess

surface water and inadequate drainage.

In low-income or informal settlements, flash floods can be catastrophic: buildings are ruined; roads become un-navigable; and everyday life becomes impossible as housing, water supplies and sources of informal income collapse.

The shortage of resources in ad hoc, informal city developments hinders municipal authorities from establishing the effective, permanent safeguards and infrastructure improvements needed to respond to these new climate realities.

Social scientists can support them by providing on-the-ground study of the most effective uses of meagre resources and by working with mathematicians, climatologists and others in the environmental sciences. That means listening to residents and neighbourhoods' own stories about the impact of flooding on their lives.

In Hanoi, Vietnam, road flooding highlights the importance of good traffic circulation around the city for communities' livelihoods. Women find it difficult to pursue their responsibilities for working, trading, taking care of family wellbeing and accompanying children to school on flooded roads.

Researchers collaborating with the Ministry of Transport found that Hanoi residents were most concerned by traffic congestion, rather than flooding in their own homes. Their top priority was to improve drainage and pump away floodwater, giving the govern-



The Bolgatanga-Salaga road in Tamale, Ghana.

ment a way to work with them to improve disaster response.

A team of scientists led by a British academic, Maria Scaparra from the University of Kent, has developed low-cost technological solutions based on these insights, including a mobile app to calculate how to use limited resources to most effectively reduce the impact of floods on the roads: which ditches to deepen or clear, where pumping stations are needed and which reservoirs need greater capacity. Hanoi city authorities can now make rapid, essential decisions that address the concerns of the most vulnerable.

Another project in the northern city of Tamale in Ghana, led by Katherine Gough from Loughborough University in Britain, has shown people's working lives are affected by extreme heat in cities where temperatures are rising faster than the global average. Extreme heat is inescapable here, affecting people's ability to earn a living. With 'tiny tag' heat measuring devices installed in homes and workplaces, researchers recorded living and working temperatures as high as 62 degrees Celsius in a local blacksmith's workshop.

Flash floods here also leave local hospital wards and the pathways between them flooded - forcing surgeons to operate by torchlight, contaminat-

ing drinking water and increasing the risk of disease.

But data collected by researchers contributes to developing early warning systems for extreme heat and floods that could offset some of their worst effects.

Social scientists mobilised local community champions to test remedies and resilience measures they wanted to trial, to see what really did empower people to act and protect livelihoods.

It has worked: hospital managers used the data to petition for building improvements, and local people organised voluntary action to clear ditches and asked the researchers

questions about how to live with contaminated water.

This 'citizen science' approach can identify how to limit the impact of flooding on everyday life, giving municipalities the means to build the priorities of local people into models for flood prevention and the design and management of cities.

With average temperatures and incidences of natural catastrophes rising across the globe, the science is clear: we cannot prevent the rise in flood risks.

But we can support those who are most vulnerable to these risks, and the social sciences can help strengthen our resolve to do so.

How to start a fast food revolution to save our health - and the planet's

By Sonja Vermeulen

TRANSFORMING diets around the world is key to unlocking better human health and limiting the impact of climate change in tandem, but time is running out.

With a rapidly increasing global population, and extreme weather threatening food production around the world, the question is not whether a food revolution needs to happen, but whether it can realistically be brought about soon enough to counter today's environmental and public health

crises.

The answer is - most likely - yes. We have what it takes to change within a generation. After all, diets have been in constant flux across all cultures and countries for all recorded history.

For instance, the national staple of Zambia, maize meal, was a novelty less than 100 years ago. Meanwhile palm oil has, in a few decades, risen from obscurity in Colombia to being the single most important source of fat, accounting for a quarter of consumption.

Diets have become healthier

in many places, so that food-related ailments are now the leading cause of death worldwide. But some countries have bucked this trend. For example, Japan and South Korea have transitioned to globalised economies in the last 70 years without forsaking traditional healthy patterns of eating.

Vietnam's average diet has also swiftly become healthier as incomes have risen, with nearly half the population close to the "ideal" balanced diet.

Recent research such as the EAT-Lancet report has demonstrated

that, in theory, healthy diets are possible for everyone within the earth's environmental limits.

So what can we learn from significant dietary changes of the past to help ensure a healthy transition can happen at pace?

Firstly, while critics have contested the idea that governments could - or should - influence what we eat, where interventions have been tried, they are showing signs of success.

Sugar taxes, for example, have achieved reductions in consumption in both Mexico and Chile,

including among children and adolescents. In the UK and Philippines, sugar taxes have led to companies changing their recipes for fizzy drinks.

But so-called "sin taxes" are not the only measure available to governments. Dietary change needs long-term sustained and systemic policy intervention - as has been done with tobacco. Health and environment campaigners alike have called for meaningful actions, such as full application of national dietary guidelines in schools and hospitals, rebooting of agricultural

subsidies, regulation of food advertising, and support to low-income people to purchase better food.

It is time for governments to move beyond public information campaigns to more systemic and hard-hitting approaches.

Secondly, we are understanding more every day about how consumers can be nudged towards making better choices by changes in food environments - meaning our daily places and contexts for choosing what we eat. Behavioural insights reveal that if sustainable, healthy food options become

more appealing, easy and normal, then they will naturally become the default choice.

Affordability will always be most important. But even simple changes to food labelling can influence what we choose to eat.

Nutritious food labelled with exotic, decadent language out-sells the same products labelled with healthy phrasing. "Twisted citrus-glazed carrots", for example, sound far more appealing than "carrots with sugar-free citrus dressing", even if they are precisely the same thing.



Retrieval of car, bodies in Likoni: As it happened

NAIROBI

HUNDREDS of Kenyans gathered at the shores of the Indian Ocean in Likoni yesterday morning to witness the retrieval of a vehicle that plunged into the Indian Ocean 13 days ago.

Onlookers caused chaos in the ferries as they refused to alight from the vessels at the Likoni Channel.

Those who spoke to the Press said they are curious and want to witness as the multi-agency team retrieves the vehicle that sunk with a woman and her daughter in it.

"I cannot stay home and watch from the media or listen to what people are saying, I have to watch how the vehicle will be removed," said Faith Kwamboka, who has camped at the Likoni Channel for two days now.

Shadrack Katila, another witness, said he was making endless trips on the ferry because he wants to watch a glimpse of what is happening.

He added that he was safe in ferry, because on the ground, police were dispersing crowds.

The bodies of a woman and her daughter who drowned at the Likoni Channel 13 days ago have been recovered.

The bodies of Mariam Kighenda, 35, and Amanda Muthu, 4, were pulled from the Indian Ocean on yesterday afternoon.

The vehicle, which the victims were in when it slipped off MV Harambee on September 29, was found following efforts by a multi-agency team.

This was the order of events Friday:

9.11am - Government spokesperson Cyrus Oguna briefs the media about the process that began at 7.30am. He says he is hopeful the process will be completed be-

fore yesterday ends.

10.00am - Normal ferry services at the Likoni Channel continue. A number of ships also enter and exit the port. The ferries avoid the spot where the operations were taking place.

11.20am - Two divers from the SubSeas company who participated in the operation come out of the water.

11.40am - Kenya Red Cross prepares three body bags as completion of retrieval exercise is anticipated.

12.00pm - A section of close relatives including Kighenda's husband are allowed into the Mbaraki Wharf. They had earlier been asked to stay away from the scene after chaos erupted yesterday when the family together with some civil society groups demanded answers from the government.

12.30pm - A huge crane from Southern Engineering Company (SECO) arrive at the scene. It is suspected to be the one which will lift the body from the shore.

12.30pm - Mombasa County Transport and Infrastructure CEC Tawfiq Balala arrived to condole with the husband of Kighenda.

12.40pm - KFS staff arrived with a bouquet of red flowers, stores them

12.45pm - Engineers at the pontoon tie a rope in the crane suspected to be hooker to the vehicle under the water.

13.10pm - Tug boats start pulling the vehicle towards the shore.

2.30pm - Mombasa Governor Hassan Joho and Mvita MP Abdulsamad Sherrif arrive at Mbaraki Wharf.

4.00pm - The vehicle is pulled out from the water. **AGENCIES**

MOGADISHU

Norway set to provide bridging loan to Somalia

THE Government has proposed that Norway should provide a short-term bridging loan of NOK 3.135 billion to Somalia in 2020 to clear Somalia's debt arrears to the World Bank's International Development Association. Technically, this is a loan to Somalia, but the funds will be transferred to a World Bank account. The World Bank will then grant Somalia a new loan,

which will be used immediately to repay the bridging loan from Norway.

Following several decades of civil war, the situation in Somalia has stabilised in the last few years. The authorities have implemented a number of important political and economic reforms, but the country is still in a vulnerable situation. This loan

from Norway will be an important contribution to the work to promote reform and stabilisation in Somalia,' said Minister of Foreign Affairs Ine Eriksen Soreide.

Somalia's external debt amounts to approximately USD 4.7 billion, and debt cancellation is a key priority for the Somali Government. A third of the

debt is owed to the multilateral development banks, the World Bank and the African Development Bank, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). These debt arrears need to be cleared before Somalia can receive new loans and debt relief. In addition to the bridging loan from Norway, the UK will provide a bridging loan to cover Soma-

lia's debt to the African Development Bank. This means that Somalia just needs one more donor country to cover its debt to the IMF. When these three loans are in place, Somalia will qualify for debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative, provided that it implements the ongoing programme of economic reforms agreed

with the IMF.

'Somalia's debt arrears to Norway amount to NOK 16 million. If Somalia receives debt treatment in the Paris Club under the HIPC initiative, this debt will be cancelled,' said Minister of International Development Dag-Inge Ulstein.

Mr Ulstein will participate in a roundtable meeting on Somalia

during the World Bank's Annual Meetings in Washington next week.

'Debt relief is essential if Somalia is to continue its stabilisation and reform efforts. This bridging loan operation shows what we can achieve when donors and multilateral financial institutions work together. This will be a topic of discussion at a number of the meetings I'll be having during the World Bank's Annual Meetings next week.'

South Africa's Zuma to face corruption trial

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH African former President Jacob Zuma will stand trial on corruption charges relating to a \$2 billion arms deal after a high court on Friday denied him a permanent stay of prosecution.

The ruling by Judge Jerome Mnguni in Pietermaritzburg paves the way for Zuma's long-awaited trial to start on Oct. 15.

The case is a rare example of an African leader being held to account for his actions. Zuma denies wrongdoing.

Zuma, in office from 2009-2018, had applied for a permanent stay of prosecution on 18 charges of fraud, racketeering and money laundering relating to a deal to buy European military hardware for South Africa's armed forces in the 1990s.

In May, Zuma's lawyers argued that the 77-year-old had been treated unfairly by prosecutors and was a victim of a politically motivated witch-hunt.

On Friday, Judge Mnguni dismissed an application by Zuma and his co-accused, French arms dealer Thales, to have the charges set aside permanently with costs. This means they will pay legal costs related to the application and hiring lawyers.

Thales said it was reviewing the judgment with its lawyers and would assess its legal options.

Zuma's spokesman and a lawyer representing him were not immediately available for comment. Zuma and Thales have 15 days to appeal.

The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) respected the findings of the court, a spokeswoman told state broadcaster SABC news.

The charges against Zuma were originally filed a decade ago but then set aside by the NPA shortly before he successfully ran for president in 2009.

After his election, his opponents fought a lengthy legal battle to have the charges reinstated, finally succeeding in 2016. Zuma countered with his own legal challenges.

The official opposition party, the Democratic Alliance (DA), which has been at the forefront of the legal fight,



Former South African President Jacob Zuma addresses supporters in Johannesburg, South Africa, July 19, 2019. File Photo

welcomed the decision, saying: "We are encouraged by the ruling of the court to believe that Zuma will eventually have to face his day in court."

"The DA will not rest until justice has been done."

The speed with which prosecutors moved against Zuma of late is a sign of his waning influence since he was replaced as head of state by Cyril Ramaphosa, his former deputy.

Ramaphosa has made the fight against corruption a priority as he seeks to woo foreign investment and revamp the economy.

Meanwhile, a full Bench of the Kwa-Zulu-Natal High Court in Pietermaritzburg has unanimously dismissed former president Jacob Zuma's application to have corruption, fraud and

racketeering charges against him dropped, which means he may soon face arms deal-related charges after marathon delays in prosecution.

Judges Bhekisisa Mnguni, Thoba Poyo-Dlwati and Esther Steyn dismissed Zuma's stay of prosecution application and ordered him to pay the National Prosecuting Authority's (NPA) legal costs.

The court also granted an application by the NPA to dismiss some claims in Zuma's legal documents because they were "scandalous and/or vexatious" and impermissible as new evidence.

Zuma may still seek to appeal the judgment but the case is scheduled to proceed in the

same court on Tuesday, 15 October. Zuma and French arms company Thales face one count of racketeering, four counts of corruption and one count of money laundering. Zuma faces an additional 12 counts of fraud.

Thales's stay of prosecution application was also dismissed with costs.

"It has not been shown before us that there are no reasonable and probable grounds for prosecuting Mr Zuma. Importantly, the challenges by Mr Zuma are not aimed at the merits of the case against him. The same can be said about Thales," reads Friday's judgment.

The charges relate to alleged

payments Zuma received from Thales, through his financial adviser Schabir Shaik, who was convicted in 2005. The former president is accused of using his political influence to protect the company from investigations into the arms deal and for allegedly trying to solicit a R500,000 bribe from the company.

Former NPA head Shaun Abrahams reintroduced the charges against Zuma and Thales in 2018 after Zuma and the NPA admitted in the Supreme Court of Appeal that then NPA boss Mokotedi Mpshe's 2009 decision to withdraw the charges was irrational.

Zuma argued that the case should be dropped because the 15-year delay in prosecution had violated his right to a fair trial. He also claimed political interference by former president Thabo Mbeki and collusion between NPA and Scorpions leaders had undermined the case against him.

He claimed the case was tainted by an unreasonable delay, prejudice resulting from the NPA's decision not to charge Zuma alongside Shaik, unconstitutional political interference, and pre-trial irregularities, including unlawfulness in the NPA's investigation.

Representing Zuma during the May 2019 hearing, Advocate Muzi Sikhakhane said Zuma had long suffered the social stigma of being labelled corrupt while the NPA delayed proceeding with the case. He urged the court to respect the former president's human rights and resist "lynching" and "mob justice".

The High Court dismissed his arguments.

"The seriousness of the offences that Mr Zuma is facing outweighs any prejudice which he claims he will suffer if the trial proceeds. Furthermore, the reputational harm, which he claims to have suffered, goes hand in

hand with being charged," Friday's judgment reads.

"In any event, this does not seem to have prevented him from ascending to the highest office in the country, being the President of the Republic."

Both Zuma and the NPA were responsible for various delays in the case, the court said, with both parties having opposed the DA's attempt to review Mpshe's decision, dragging that case out between 2009 and 2017.

While Zuma pointed to a political conspiracy against him, including the "spy tapes" revelation that NPA head Bulelani Ngcuka and Scorpions boss Leonard McCarthy had discussed the timing of charging him in 2007, the court said McCarthy's motives were irrelevant to the facts of Zuma's case.

The court also dismissed Zuma's claim that he should have been charged alongside Shaik.

"As we see it, even if a joint trial would have had some benefit for Mr Zuma of which he was deprived of as a result of his prosecution being separated from Mr Shaik and the Nkobi group, it does not constitute prejudice of any kind, which would impact on the fairness of his trial."

Zuma is yet to comment on the ruling and whether he will appeal.

Thales said it "is currently studying the judgment and will take appropriate steps to protect its rights".

The DA, which led court efforts to have the charges reinstated, said Zuma has a case to answer.

The party's shadow minister of justice Glynnis Breytenbach said, "We are encouraged by the ruling of the court to believe that Zuma will eventually have to face his day in court. The arc of the moral universe is often said to be long, but ultimately bending toward justice."

AGENCIES

UN's cash crisis can have serious consequences

UNITED NATIONS

THE UN's smoldering cash crisis, which has threatened staff salaries and payments to vendors, has triggered strong reactions and rattled the over 6,400 staffers who work in the 39-storeyed Secretariat building in New York.

The proposed cuts in spending, which also cover about 37,500 UN staffers worldwide, excluding over 25 UN agencies, have put the focus on several issues, including a "bloated bureaucracy," and more critically, on the time and money spent on endless overseas trips by some high ranking UN officials who are constantly "airborne".

Guy Candusso, a former First Vice-President of the UN Staff Union, told IPS, the cash crunch in the 1990's was much worse, but Under-Secretary-General Joe Connor managed to solve it.

"Over the last 10 years, the UN has become a bloated organization, especially at the top. If the cash crunch is considered so serious now, there should be a complete hiring freeze along with the other measures announced," said Candusso, a longstanding staffer, until his recent retirement.

Patricia Nemeth, President, United Nations Staff Union, told IPS staff at the United Nations are alarmed by the cash flow crisis facing the organization.

"In addition to the anxiety we feel regarding next month's salary, constant financial uncertainty limits our ability to fulfil our mandates or deliver services to the most vulnerable," she said.

The United Nations Staff Union in New York has been working closely with the Under-Secretary-General for Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance and the Controller to keep staff informed of the situation as it evolves.

Among the various mitigating measures, the Union welcomes the instruction to limit all official travel to essential activities.

"In this spirit, we expect senior officials to lead by example, as we are in this together", said Nemeth, who is also Vice President for Conditions of Service - The Coordinating Committee of International Staff Unions and Associations CCISUA

"More importantly, on behalf of our 15,000+ constituents (NY staff and local staff in the peacekeeping missions) the Leadership of the United Nations Staff Union appeals to those countries who have not yet done so to heed the Secretary-General's call and make the payments required to ensure that the work of the United Nations can continue, with the resources required to accomplish the mandates they themselves have given us."

"We count on the world's leaders to support the UN's valuable work, improving the lives of current and future generations," she declared.

Ian Richards, President of the 60,000-strong Coordinating Committee of International Staff Unions and Associations (CCISUA), told IPS: "Obviously staff are very worried about what is going on. We are pleased that the Secretary-General has prioritised payment of salaries and we have also been asked to advise on which meetings and events can be delayed for when there is more money available."

If things get worse, Richards warned, this will have serious consequences.

"Staff have rent and other bills to pay and for those in dangerous duty stations, we need to be able to continue paying for their safety and security."

He said this could also impact



the UN's ability to deliver food to the most needy and protect the rights of the most vulnerable.

Focusing on the UN's mandates, Nemeth told IPS the world is faced with countless pressing issues, from violent conflicts to natural disasters, all set against the continued need to promote sustainable development for all.

The United Nations is the leading force in humanitarian efforts; in maintaining peace and security; and in offering hope for the

most vulnerable, all of whom aspire to the most basic needs: life, liberty, dignity, peace, security and justice.

"Yet our critical work around the globe is currently hampered by delays in the payment of Member States' contributions, compounded by overly restrictive financial rules."

"We are grateful to the Secretary-General for his continued efforts to ensure that Member States fulfil their obligation to

come forward with their assessed contributions. However, if the situation does not improve, we call on the Secretary-General and his team to calibrate their response to ensure that staff is protected, and ask him to cooperate closely with the Staff Unions to find practical solutions," she declared.

UN Spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters the Secretariat could face a default on salaries and payments for goods and services by the end of November

unless more Member States pay their budget dues in full.

The Secretary-General has therefore requested additional steps be taken immediately, including further reductions in official travel; postponing spending on goods and services; and discontinuing events scheduled outside official meeting hours at headquarters duty stations.

In addition, conferences and meetings may have to be postponed or services be adjusted. He

is reviewing further options, said Dujarric.

The Secretary-General has already written to Member States about "the worst cash crisis facing the United Nations in nearly a decade".

Stressing the Charter obligation of Member States, the Secretary-General thanked the Member States who have paid their regular budget assessments, which is now 129, and urged those who have not paid to do so urgently and in full.

By the end of September, Member States had paid only 70% of the total assessment for the regular budget, compared with 78% at the same time last year. The Secretariat had put in place multiple measures since the beginning of the year to align expenditures with cash inflows.

The 64 states that have yet to pay regular budget dues in full for 2019 are: Afghanistan, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bangladesh, Belize, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ecuador, Eritrea, Gambia, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Kiribati, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Tajikistan, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Yemen.

IPS

INVESTMENT

Deal signed to develop 'smart green villages' in Rwanda

KIGALI

Rwanda Green Fund on Thursday signed an agreement with the Global Alliance for Smart Cities and Smart Villages in Africa (GASCA) to develop Rwandan villages into "smart green villages" with an aim to build communities' resilience to climate change.

The deal will be facilitated by 20 Regions of Climate Action (R20), a consortium of private companies and not-for-profit international organizations that develop and secure financing for green infrastructure projects.

A green village is one that is developed economically using natural resources in a sustainable manner, without affecting the environment. Environmental experts said that the climate-smart village approach is a key initiative that will go a long way to address climate change challenges on food security, promote adaptation and build resilience to climatic stresses.

Hubert Ruzibiza, the CEO of FONERWA said that they will start by identifying areas where a pilot smart green village will be developed before a large scale deployment of smart green villages across the country and eventually the African continent.

The agreement will ensure that environmental experts work on two possible scenarios namely revamping and enhancing an existing village or creating a new smart village by gathering various settlements together around a pioneering Smart Solutions-based infrastructure.



Hubert Ruzibiza, the Chief Executive Officer of FONERWA, and Christophe Nuttall, Executive Director of 20 Regions of Climate Action, signing an MOU to develop smart green cities in Rwanda.

This smart green village ideally targets at least 200 to 300 households. Officials said that by incorporating the term "Smart" to the Green Village, it means that besides having environmentally-friendly amenities, they will incorporate appropriate ICT capabilities in the villages to ensure their connectivity.

"In the Smart Green Village, we will bring all sustainable principles including low carbon gas emissions, energy efficiency. At this stage we are bringing model houses that are affordable with components of raw materials that are sustainable and that can be sourced and manufactured locally," he said.

The green village is located in a rural set-up with existing or potential activities in the field of agriculture in order to test the impact of sustainable energy use, connectivity, and smart mobility solutions.

The signed agreement will provide guidance to a project composed of two stages, including the pilot smart village site selection and corresponding detailed proposal development on roles and responsibilities to deliver the pilot smart village.

The smart solutions, in the village, demonstrate how communities can test, co-develop and adopt integrated options to increase their resilience to climate change. "We think, if successful, we can export the solutions to the rest of the continent. We have model houses we will use in those villages and close to a year, we will have something to present," he added.

RESTRICTION

Vehicles above 5 years old for checks to curb pollution of air

NAIROBI

Vehicles will undergo mandatory regular inspections for emissions to curb air pollution in the country.

According to National Environment Management Authority (Nema), the inspections, which target vehicles aged five years and above, will be done after every two years. The agency's principal compliance and enforcement officer John Mumbo said Nema would gazette garages designated for testing the level of emissions.

"The National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) will do the tests as Nema issues licences for vehicles that have complied. A taskforce has been formed to come up with modalities of implementation," said Dr Mumbo.

The government has been pushing to reduce the age of motor vehicle imports from eight to five years in an effort to cut emissions from the second hand cars. The move has, however, drawn stiff resistance from importers. NTSA principal motor vehicle inspector Martin Githinji said reducing the age of imported vehicles would have a great impact on efforts to cut emissions.

"The lesser the age of the vehicle the lesser the emissions. Part of the tests will include inspecting the level of smoke, exhaust system and fuel system. Vehicles owners found violating this regulation will be charged depending on the size of the vehicle," said Mr Githinji. The checks include level of nitrogen oxide, sulphur oxides and carbon monoxide emissions.



An over-aged vehicle in spewing smoke in Nairobi.

MARKETING

Facebook buttons SMEs can press to expand business

NAIROBI

Simon Kabu, a renowned tours and travel operator in Kenya, admits that had it not been for social media, he is not quite sure if his business would have grown to the level it has.

"From early on in business we made a very conscious decision to take advantage of social media to make known destinations that we were offering to those looking to travel," says Mr Kabu.

And this, according to the entrepreneur, has paid off for his Bonfire Adventures, which started off with Mr Kabu and his wife Sarah merely posting information about destinations they were offering on their timelines on Facebook and Twitter. After the trip they would also post pictures of the excursionists having a good time as a way of charming potential customers.

"When you do an organic (unpaid for) post on Facebook then you just post on your timeline and hope for as many people as possible to see it. But eventually we got to learn about 'Boost' which is paying Facebook to ensure your adverts are seen more and by your target audiences," he says.

"The boosted posts are placed at a strategic place on your target audience's newsfeed, sometimes including that of their friends." This he notes, "essentially turns Facebook traffic into sales." Bonfire has it all figured out.

"Because most of the social media platforms categorise their populations according to their geographical and demographic structures, this allows us target users by location, age and gender. My target audience is 21 to 55 year old. This is the group that is most likely to go on holiday," he says.

"Also women because they



A Facebook icon is displayed on a handset

are commonly the ones who decide on whether a couple or family goes on holiday or not." He says his business spends an average of \$1,600 (Sh160,000) in a week to boost posts on Facebook. He also uses Instagram and Twitter as well as Youtube to post videos of excursions.

But Jane Ominde, owner of Jakizz, a catering outfit in Nairobi, admits she didn't realise the value of investing in digital advertising until months ago. "You can start small and then increase your budget as you go. Personally, I've been able to reach new people who are likely to be interested in my services, but weren't following the business page which I'd always maintained with Facebook," she says.

"What I love the most about the paid-for ads is the fact that I can queue

my posts so that Facebook does the posting automatically at a later specified date and time," Ms Ominde says adding that she spends between Sh2,500 and Sh3,000 monthly to boost her business.

"Every boosted ad is automatically interlinked to my Instagram and Whatsapp platforms," she notes. Facebook Kenya recently launched the 'Boost with Facebook' programme, an initiative to train 3,000 SMEs entrepreneurs in Nairobi, Kisumu, Nakuru and Mombasa to be able to know how to navigate the digital space to increase awareness of their businesses and connect with new customers online.

Businesses that use Facebook, are able to cross-advertise across Facebook's family of apps and services. These are Messenger, Insta-

gram and Whatsapp.

Facebook's Head of Public Policy, East Africa, Mercy Ndegwa said the platform has about 4.7 million customers in Kenya "that use our apps daily, 62 percent of whom are engaging with businesses online operating in Kenya." "This is a huge number of people that you should be reflecting on when you think of growing your business. Globally, we have more than 1.6 billion people connected to small or medium sized businesses on Facebook," he says.

To boost a Facebook ad, Ms Ndegwa says that all an entrepreneur needs to do is to look for the blue 'Boost Post' button in the lower-right corner of the post or content one wants to boost. The button then takes one to an interface that allows the entrepreneur to create,

select an audience and push it to the targeted group of people. This could be people who like the business page and their friends or the general public.

One can also edit the post later according to their preference and even view results of the boosted post. Facebook gives one the option to set their own ad budget. Advertisers can choose whether to spread the budget out over a few days with the maximum being seven days. And they can always track how the ads are working and make changes along the way.

Enterprises can also use a booking app with Appointments on Facebook, a tool that is free for businesses to use. Through Appointments, clients can visit the business Page and choose the Book Now button, or use Messenger to select the "Can I book

an appointment?" option.

Facebook's policy programme manager, Sub-Saharan Africa, Phil Odour, however cautions entrepreneurs to however keep in mind the objective for which they want to advertise to avoid wastage of money. "It should be clear to them what action they want from their targeted audiences. Do they want likes, to create awareness or conversions?... then the objectives will guide the spending," he says.

For now, advertisers have to have a debit or credit card to be able to make payments done in US dollars for digital advertising on these platforms. But both Google and Facebook have promised that they are looking at integrating other forms of payment that are localised to Kenyan market to simplify payments.

MOTIVATION

Woman offered US \$15 for every hour she spends at fitness centre

LONDON

In a bid to motivate his daughter to hit the gym harder, this dad offered to pay her for every hour she spent at the gym. An anonymous American dad who was concerned about his 22-year-old's weight and how this could affect her health promised to give her extra cash for time spent at the gym, the Sun reported.

The 53-year-old man who originally shared the post on Reddit revealed that his daughter who's a postgraduate student hardly has time to go to the gym because she has to juggle university and her part-time job.

"Our arrangement is that I pay for her tuition and rent," wrote the dad. It was at this point that he negotiated with his daughter to lessen her shifts at work and he'd pay her \$15 for every hour she spent at the gym.

"This is working on an honour system since I trust her," he added. He also went on to reveal that his wife thought it was a "disgusting idea", even though he thought it was the opposite and would benefit his daughter greatly.

The man's post garnered mixed reactions from netizens, with many encouraging the dad to advise his daughter to switch to a healthier diet instead of spending too much of her time at the gym. "It's more important that your daughter looks at and adjusts her diet rather than just going to the gym all the time," a user commented.

WORLD

US House committee subpoenas Rick Perry over Ukraine controversy

WASHINGTON

A US House committee on Thursday subpoenaed the country's energy secretary, Rick Perry, as part of the ongoing impeachment inquiry into US President Donald Trump, demanding documents about Trump's dealings with Ukraine.

The subpoena, issued by House Intelligence Committee in consultation with Oversight and Reform and Foreign Affairs committees, requested that Perry produce relevant materials by Oct 18.

The Department of Energy (DOE) is aware of the House Committees' letter to Secretary Perry and it is currently under review by DOE's Office of General Counsel.

In a letter containing the subpoena that was sent to Perry, House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, Oversight and Reform Committee Chairman Elijah Cummings and

Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Eliot Engel cited media reports as saying that it was the energy secretary who urged Trump to make the phone call to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on July 25. The controversial phone call is at the center of the impeachment inquiry.

The chairmen in the letter also raised concerns over Perry leading the US delegation to attend Zelensky's inauguration on May 20. The original arrangement was that the delegation would be headed by Vice President Mike Pence, who reportedly was ordered by Trump not to attend the ceremony.

In addition, Perry was also asked by the chairmen to explain events related to his alleged request to the Ukrainian authorities that they make changes to the advisory board of the country's state-owned oil and gas company, Naftogaz.



Energy Secretary Rick Perry speaks at the California GOP fall convention in Indian Wells, California. (AP)

Zelensky, for his part, denied that Perry put pressure on him with regard to Naftogaz. "No, there wasn't," he said Thursday in comments to the Kyiv Post.

Furthermore, the chairmen also sought clarification from Perry with respect to allegations that Trump instructed Perry to consult with Rudy Giuliani, the president's personal attorney, in arranging a meeting between Trump and Zelensky.

"The Department of Energy (DOE) is aware of the House Committees' letter to Secretary Perry and it is currently under review by DOE's Office of General Counsel," DOE spokeswoman Shaylyn Hynes was quoted as saying by Politico.

Also on Thursday, the three House panels subpoenaed Lev Parnas and Igor Fruman, Giuliani's two associates who were arrested late Wednesday

at Dulles International Airport in Washington when trying to travel to Frankfurt, Germany with one-way tickets.

The two were charged with allegedly violating campaign finance law by funneling foreign money to US politicians. They reportedly helped Giuliani seek evidence of Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden's alleged involvement in a corruption case in Ukraine.

The Biden investigation, which Trump has said he requested because of corruption rather than political concerns, is part of the reason that brought the president into the impeachment inquiry, and Giuliani under a congressional subpoena.

Biden has adamantly denied any wrongdoing, accusing, instead, Trump of "abuse of power."

Xinhua

Trump says hopes to mediate between Turkey, Syrian Kurds

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump said on Thursday that he hopes to mediate between Turkey and the Syrian Kurds, and also threatened to punish Turkey if its offensive in northeast Syria goes beyond limits.

Trump tweeted Thursday that the United States has three options regarding the situation in Syria: "Send in thousands of troops and win Militarily, hit Turkey very hard Financially and with Sanctions, or mediate a deal between Turkey and the Kurds!" "I hope we can mediate," Trump told the press later when he was asked about the three options.

Trump also cautioned Turkey against actions beyond limits. "Turkey knows where I stand ... We are going to possibly do some-

thing very, very tough with respect to sanctions and other financial things," Trump noted without elaborating.

A senior state department official reaffirmed Trump's warning to Turkey in a teleconference briefing later in the day, saying that the United States is willing to impose significant costs if "Turkey acts in a way that is disproportionate, inhumane, or otherwise goes beyond the lines that the President has in his own mind."

The official also revealed that Turkey had, at various levels and for multiple times, asked for U.S. military support for its military operation, which the United States had rejected.

Republican Senator Lindsey Graham and Democratic Senator Chris Van Hollen on Wednesday announced a framework for sanc-



tions against Turkey for its ongoing military campaign in northeast Syria.

The framework includes sanctions on senior Turkish government officials and prohibition of all U.S. military business and

dia reports.

Turkey regards the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) as an extension of Turkey's Kurdistan Workers' Party, which is listed as a terrorist organization by Turkey, while the United States considers the SDF an ally in the fight against the Islamic State.

Earlier Wednesday, Turkey launched military operations targeting the Kurdish forces in several parts of northeast Syria after the United States started pulling its troops out of there following a recent decision.

Syrian Foreign Ministry condemned the Turkish military offensive on Kurdish positions in northern and northeastern Syria, stressing the Syrian government's determination to confront the "Turkish aggression by all means."

Xinhua

S. Sudan says dispute over outstanding issues will not delay unity govt

JUBA

THE South Sudanese government said on Thursday the ongoing dispute with the opposition over the number of states and boundaries will only be settled when the transitional unity government is formed as the November deadline approaches.

Tut Kew Gatluak, presidential security advisor and head of the National Pre-Transitional Committee (NPTC) said the government will go ahead with the formation of the unity government despite the main rebel group, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army-In Opposition (SPLM/A-IO) objecting to the formation of the unity government before unresolved contentious issues are settled.

"All arrangements on the implementation of the peace agreement

are done and we are ready to form the transitional unity government on time without any delay.

There is nothing ahead of us apart from the formation of the transitional unity government," Gatluak told journalists in Juba. "The issue of states and boundaries will not delay the formation of the transitional unity government," the official said.

NPTC is the body charged with implementing the peace agreement signed in September 2018 between President Salva Kiir and rebel leader Riek Machar in Ethiopia.

According to the revitalized peace deal, the government will share the disputed 32 states with SPLM/A-IO and other opposition groups.

The opposition is in favor of reverting the 32 states created by President Kiir in 2014 to the



South Sudan's President Salva Kiir

former 10 states arguing that the status quo was unsustainable as tension exists between local communities over boundaries.

Gatluak also said that forces from both sides are already being screened and registered before entering the over 30 cantonment sites across the country where

they will eventually form the unified force of 83,000.

The warring parties failed to form the transitional unity government in May and both agreed to a six-month extension before the formation of the much-awaited transitional unity government on Nov. 12.

The Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the regional body that mediated the revitalized peace deal signed in September 2018 in Ethiopia, recently said the warring parties failed to form the unified force by the Sept. 30 deadline.

South Sudan descended into conflict in December 2013 after Kiir sacked his deputy Machar, leading to fighting between soldiers loyal to respective leaders.

The conflict killed tens of thousands and displaced millions both internally and externally. A peace deal signed in 2015 collapsed after the outbreak of renewed violence in July 2016, forcing Machar to flee the capital.

Under the 2018 peace deal, Machar will take up one of the four vice presidency positions in the transitional government.

Xinhua

Putin says Zelensky unable to ensure disengagement in Donbass because of nationalists

ASHGABAT

UKRAINIAN President Vladimir Zelensky was unable to ensure the withdrawal of Ukrainian troops as part of disengagement of forces at Zolotoye and Petrovskoye in Donbass, the manifestation of political will is needed to implement that agreement, Russian President Vladimir Putin said at a meeting of the CIS Heads of State Council yesterday.

"An agreement on the disengagement of forces has been reached. However, the incumbent [Ukrainian] president cannot ensure the disengagement of troops and military equipment.

The nationalist units, which arrived there, openly said that, if the army withdrew from these positions, they would take them up.

The army is not leaving the area," the Russian leader noted. He added that the Donetsk and Lugansk people's republics had signaled their readiness to begin disengagement several times firing white flares, but there was no response from the Ukrainian side.

"The manifestation of political will is needed there," Putin stressed. "I believe it is essential to support not specific people, but the policy pursued by them," he added. Earlier on Friday, Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko called on the leaders of the CIS member-states to support the current Ukrainian administration.

Troop withdrawal deal

At the October 1 meeting of the Contact Group, the parties agreed to begin the disengagement process at Zolotoye and Petrovskoye. Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine Martin Sajdik said the disengagement was due to start on October 7.

However, the process was not launched on that day. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Vadim Pristaiko said a seven-day ceasefire had to be observed before starting the disengagement.

However, the Donbass republics recalled that this time that demand was not a condition for launching the disengagement. The LPR has linked Kiev's disruption of the effort to an increased activity of radical forces in Ukraine. Radical groups had staged protests across the country, and on October 6 militants from the Azov battalion arrived in Zolotoye calling to stop the planned disengagement.

Agencies

Chinese, US scientists develop new refrigeration technology by unwinding fibers

WASHINGTON

AN international team led by Chinese, American researchers developed a new refrigeration method based on twisting and untwisting fibers.

The study published on Thursday in the journal Science described the new strategy that can substantially increase the freezing efficiency, which is better than that of traditional air compressors.

The "twist fridge" works due to the fact that twisting rubber fibers and then release the twist resulted in surface temperature cooling, according to the study.

Researchers from China's Nankai University and the University of Texas at Dallas stretched rubber fibers, then twisted them until they supercoiled. Releasing both the twist and the stretch produced the cooling of 16.4 degrees Celsius at certain point, according to the study.

The cooling caused by untwisting worked for fishing line as well. They found that stretching the coiled fiber caused heating, while stretch release produced a maximum surface cooling of 5.1 degrees Celsius.

Also, the researchers removed twist from nickel titanium wires. Unplying a four-wire bundle produced the cooling of 20.8 degrees Celsius at certain point, according to the study.

The researchers placed a three-ply nickel titanium wire cable in a device that cooled a stream of water by up to 7.7 degrees Celsius when the cable was untwisted.

The heat engine efficiency of conventional refrigerators is less than 60 percent while the new method efficiency could achieve 67 percent, Liu Zufeng, the paper's co-corresponding author and a professor with Nankai University, told Xinhua.

The refrigeration and air conditioning consume about 20 percent of global electrical energy, according to the International Institute of Refrigeration. They also release gases that significantly contribute to global warming. This alternative cooling technologies could in the future increase refrigeration efficiency, lower costs and reduce size, according to Liu.

Xinhua

US attempt to interfere in China's internal affairs doomed to fail

CHINA has lodged solemn representations with the US side for adding 28 Chinese companies and government agencies on its export control entity list on October 7, with the so-called "human rights issue" in China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region as an excuse.

What the US did seriously violates basic norms governing international relations, interferes in China's internal affairs and harms its national interests.

China has expressed strong dissatisfaction and firm opposition to the wrongdoing of the US, and urged the latter to immediately correct its mistake, withdraw relevant decision and stop interfering in China's internal affairs.

The Xinjiang affairs are purely China's internal affairs, and are related to China's sovereignty, security and territorial integrity. On Xinjiang-related issues, no one is in a better position to judge than the Chinese government and people, and no other country or external force is allowed to interfere.

Under the guise of human rights, the US frequently imposes unilateral sanctions on Chinese entities in accordance with its own domestic laws. This time, it seized the opportunity to slander and defame China's governance policies in Xinjiang, and grossly interfered in China's internal affairs.

The latest act of the US has once again exposed its sinister aim to impede the counter-terrorism efforts in

Xinjiang and stability and development of China.

There is no so-called "human rights issue" in Xinjiang. The US has repeatedly turned a blind eye to facts, distorted black and white and made groundless accusations against China, which are merely excuses deliberately created to interfere in China's internal affairs.

Terrorism and extremism are the common enemies of humanity. It is the common aspiration of people of all countries to maintain social peace and stability.

The counter-terrorism and de-radicalization measures adopted in Xinjiang aim to prevent extremism and terrorism at their root. These measures are consistent with Chinese law and in-

ternational practice and are a just and fair step to respect and protect human rights.

They have been widely supported by the 25 million people of different ethnic groups in Xinjiang and contributed to the international fight against terrorism. The provocative act of the US against justice will be despised by the world.

China's efforts and achievements in combating and eliminating terrorism are part of its responsibility to safeguard world peace and development. The world has witnessed that China's policies on governing Xinjiang have achieved remarkable results.

At present, with harmonious coexistence of all ethnic groups and social

stability, Xinjiang enjoys a sound momentum of economic development. For nearly 3 years, no violent terrorist attacks have taken place in Xinjiang.

Foreign envoys and journalists who visited Xinjiang praised China's introduction of vocational education and establishment of training institutions as positive measures in helping remove the influence of extremist ideology. Many countries expressed that China's experience in counter-terrorism and eliminating extremism is worth learning.

Facts speak louder than words, and justice will prevail. Ambassadors from 50 countries to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) co-signed a letter to the President of the UN Human

Rights Council (HRC) and the High Commissioner for Human Rights to voice their support for China's position on issues related to its Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. They also made positive comments on the development of human rights in Xinjiang and the achievements in counter-terrorism and de-radicalization.

No one can deprive the Chinese people of the right to pursue a better life, and no one can stop China from moving forward. The US has been finger-pointing and making petty moves on the Xinjiang affairs, applying double standards to human rights. The US' attempt to suppress and defame China will prove futile eventually.

People's Daily

China to enhance strategic communication, deepen pragmatic cooperation with regional countries

AT the invitation of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Nepali President Bidhya Devi Bhandari, Chinese President Xi Jinping will attend the second informal meeting with Modi and pay a state visit to Nepal from Oct. 11 to 13.

Xi's trip to the South Asia is expected to enhance the mutual trust and pragmatic cooperation between China and the two countries and inject new impetus into China-South Asia relations.

China and India, as important neighbours for each other, are both developing countries and emerging economies. Besides, they are the only two countries in the world with a population of more than one billion.

In recent years, Xi and Modi have created a new type of diplomacy by visiting each other's hometowns, and met on many occasions such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit, the BRICS summit and the Group of 20 (G20) summit. They have reached important consensus on developing bilateral ties, guiding the two countries to maintain sound momentum for China-India relations.

In April, 2018, the two leaders had their first informal meeting in Wuhan, capital city of central China's Hubei province, creating a new model of high-level exchanges between the two countries. It marked a new stage of steady growth of the China-India relations.

Xi and Modi will soon hold their second informal meeting, in which the Chinese President will conduct in-depth communication with Modi on issues of strategic, long-term and overarching significance concerning bilateral relations, set the tune and guide the direction for future development of bilateral ties, and make a unanimous voice to the world together with India, so as to inject positive energy and stability into the world full of uncertainties.

China and Nepal are close neighbors connected by mountains and rivers, sharing close connections in history, geography and culture. Since the two countries established diplomatic ties 64 years ago, they have treated each other on equal footing with mutual respect and support, providing a model of mutually beneficial cooperation between countries that are different in social system and size.

Nepal has maintained its unwavering commitment to One China Policy, and the government is committed to not allowing any activities targeted against China in its territory. China has always supported Nepal in exploring a development path that suits its reality, as well as maintaining political stability and expediting its national development.

China and Nepal signed a Memorandum of Understanding on bilateral cooperation within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative, injecting vitality into bilateral collaboration. With concerted efforts from both countries, a series of infrastructure projects aiming at improving livelihood and promoting development have landed in Nepal.

Xi's visit to Nepal will be the first one paid by a Chinese President in 23 years, during which leaders of the two countries will make new blueprints for the development of bilateral relations and usher in a new era of fast development for China-Nepal ties.

The Chinese nation has always valued good neighborliness. Keeping its word and promoting harmony with neighbors has been a tradition of the country. Taking the principles of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness as guidelines of its neighborhood diplomacy, the country has always been building friendship and partnership with its neighbors.



Chinese President Xi Jinping (right) talks with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei province, April 28, 2018. (file photo)

development for China-Nepal ties.

The Chinese nation has always valued good neighborliness. Keeping its word and promoting harmony with neighbors has been a tradition of the country. Taking the principles of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness as guidelines of its neighborhood diplomacy, the country has always been building friendship and partnership with its neighbors.

China and India are both ancient civilizations and share a long history of cultural exchanges. Indian movies and food are popular in China and Chinese electronic products and traditional medicine are also well received by the Indians.

The two countries have held two meetings of high level mechanism on cultural and people-to-people exchanges since Xi and Modi met in Wu-

han, making a climax of China-India cultural exchanges.

Although separated by the lofty Himalayas, the Chinese people and the Nepalese people have maintained a close friendship for a long time.

The two countries have made steady progress in practical cooperation. China now is Nepal's largest source of foreign direct investment, and second largest trading partner and source of the tourists. Up to 60 flights are flying between the two countries on a weekly basis.

At present, the international society is faced with a fluid situation, yet the trend of peace, development and win-win cooperation remains irreversible, as stability and development are a common aspiration of regional countries.

A sound China-India relationship

will not only promote the development of the two countries, but also facilitate world multi-polarization and economic globalization. It will also safeguard multilateralism, free trade and the common interests of developing countries.

Nepal is an important partner of China for the promotion of Belt and Road cooperation in South Asia. The high-quality construction of the Belt and Road by the two countries will contribute to regional collaboration and connectivity.

It is believed that Xi's trip will enhance the mutual trust between China and South Asian countries including India and Nepal, open up new space for strengthening regional connectivity and economic and trade cooperation, and set up new platforms for enhancing mutual trust and friendship in the region.

People's Daily



China has always supported Nepal in exploring a development path that suits its reality, as well as maintaining political stability and expediting its national development



Russia, China see identical tactic in West's media war against them – diplomat

BEIJING

RUSSIA and China see "the same skillful hand" at work in the Western mass media war against them, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said after consultations with her Chinese counterpart Hua Chunying. "We see the same hand at work in Russia and in China in the context of intervention in the internal affairs," she said.

Russia has carried out extensive work to analyze the gathered media content, she said.

"Similar research has been done by the Chinese side. We exchanged opinion and the initial statements that we made have been confirmed: behind all this there are our Western counterparts, in the first place, the United States, which we abstractly refer to as the collective West," Zakharova (pictured) said.

"The same applies to the mechanisms of the North Atlantic Alliance and also individual Western countries, which to our great regret take an active part in this campaign despite their professed commitment to the respect for the sovereignty of countries and support for the policy of non-intervention," she added.

"I can say once again that we exchanged concrete examples and concrete findings and arrived at the conclusion that the style is the same," Zakharova said. **Agencies**

EU: Brexit deal growing more likely, talks with UK extended

BRUSSELS

THE European Union said yesterday that talks with the UK to find an amicable divorce deal were back on track, despite huge challenges and a looming end-of-month deadline for Britain to leave the bloc.

EU Council President Donald Tusk said he has "received promising signals" from Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar that a Brexit deal is still possible, so he has extended a deadline to continue the Brexit talks.

Tusk, speaking in Nicosia, said "for the first time" Varadkar and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson saw a pathway toward a deal. He said that "even the slightest chance must be used" to get a deal.

Originally, Tusk said he was planning to pull the plug on talks today, but because of the breakthrough he can now see talks going through the weekend, ahead of the EU's two-day summit, which starts next Thursday. Tusk said "there is no guarantee of success and the time is practically up" but insisted both sides should use every opportunity available ahead of Britain's scheduled Oct 31 departure date.

"A no-deal Brexit will never be



European Council President Donald Tusk speaks during a joint press conference with Cypriot president at the presidential palace in the divided Cypriot capital Nicosia yesterday.

the choice of the EU," Tusk said.

Highlighting the upbeat mood, Johnson's Brexit secretary, Stephen Barclay, got a warm welcome from EU negotiator Michel Barnier before they started almost two hours of talks around breakfast.

Johnson said late Thursday there was a "pathway" to a belated agreement to stave off a chaotic and costly no-deal Brexit on Oct

31, while Varadkar said the meeting was "very positive."

The main stumbling block remains how to handle the UK's only land border with the EU, which is on the border between Northern Ireland and Ireland.

The challenge of keeping this border invisible – something that has underpinned both the local economy and the region's peace deal – has dominated Brexit dis-

cussions for three years, ever since the UK voted in 2016 to leave the EU.

Tusk insisted "even the slightest chance must be used" to avoid an acrimonious split since both the EU and the UK would be hit hard economically.

One way to do that could be to extend the Oct 31 deadline so that negotiators have more time to work things out in legally-binding detail. But Johnson has insisted that Britain is leaving on Oct 31 "do or die" – with or without a divorce deal.

France has also long said that deadlines cannot be extended forever, since Britain was originally slated to leave the bloc on March 31.

In Paris, France's European affairs minister, Amelie de Montchalin, had another take on the debate, saying that a no-deal Brexit "is probable, at this stage."

De Montchalin told France Inter radio that she does not see an obvious reason to grant a further extension to the UK.

"I have a fundamental question: why give more time. If it is time for the sake of time? It has taken one year, even three years, and we don't really get it," she said. **Agencies**

Iran: Oil tanker struck by missiles off Saudi Arabia

TEHRAN

TWO missiles struck an Iranian tanker traveling through the Red Sea off the coast of Saudi Arabia yesterday, Iranian officials said, the latest incident in the region amid months of heightened tensions between Tehran and the US.

There was no word from Saudi Arabia on the reported attack and Saudi officials did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Oil prices spiked by 2% on the news.

"This latest incident, if confirmed to be an act of aggression is highly likely to be part of the wider narrative of deteriorating relations between Saudi and the US and Iran," private maritime security firm Dryad Maritime warned.

"It is likely that the region, have being stable for the last month, will face another period of increasing maritime threats, as the Iranian and Saudi geopolitical stand-off continues," it added.

Iranian state television said the explosion damaged two storerooms aboard the oil tanker and caused an oil leak into the Red Sea near the Saudi port city of Jiddah. The leak was later stopped, IRNA reported.

The state-run IRNA news agency, quoting Iran's National Iranian Tanker Co, identified the stricken vessel as the Sabiti. It turned on its tracking devices late Friday morning in the Red Sea, putting its location some 130 kilometers southwest of Jiddah,



Image shows the MV Stena Impero, background, as it sails from the port at Bandar Abbas, Iran, after being released by Iranian officials.

according to data from MarineTraffic.com. The ship is carrying some 1 million barrels of crude oil, according to an analysis from data firm Refinitiv.

Images released by Iran's Petroleum Ministry appeared to show no visible damage to the Sabiti visible from its bridge, though they did not show the ship's sides. The ministry's SHANA news agency said no ship nor any authority in the area responded to its distress messages.

The Sabiti last turned on its tracking devices in August near the Iranian port city of Bandar Abbas. Iranian tankers routinely turn off their trackers as US sanctions target the sale of Iran's crude oil.

"The oil tanker ... sustained damages to the body when it was hit by missiles 96 kilometers from the Saudi port city of Jiddah," IRNA said.

The agency did not say whom Iranian officials suspect of launching the missiles.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi described the incident as an "attack" carried out by those committing "dangerous adventurism." In a state-

ment, Mousavi said the Sabiti was struck twice in the span of a half hour and an investigation was underway.

Lt Pete Pagano, a spokesman for the US Navy's 5th Fleet overseeing the Mideast, said authorities there were "aware of reports of this incident," but declined to comment further.

Benchmark Brent crude oil rose over 2% in trading Friday to reach some US\$60.40 a barrel.

The reported attack comes after the US has alleged that in past months Iran attacked oil tankers near the Strait of Hormuz, at the mouth of the Persian Gulf, something denied by Tehran.

Friday's incident could push tensions between Iran and the US even higher, more than a year after President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from the nuclear deal and imposed sanctions now crushing Iran's economy.

The mysterious attacks on oil tankers near the Strait of Hormuz, Iran shooting down a US military surveillance drone and other incidents across the wider Middle East followed Trump's decision. **Agencies**

Endangered mountain gorillas remain draw for tourists as Rwanda dispels security threat

MUSANZE, Rwanda

THE buzz at the foot of the Volcanoes National Park in northern Rwanda on Wednesday was yet another sign of how eco-adventure tourism like mountain gorilla trekking has high prospects for Rwanda.

In the morning breeze, more than 100 tourists interacted with Rwandan tourism officials, including CEO of Rwanda Development Board (RDB) Clare Akamanzi, before embarking on their journey to the park.

Akamanzi reiterated the fact with tourists that security organs contained the situation and restored order following

a security incident, where a group of gunmen last week killed 14 in an armed attack in Kinigi sector, which is close to the park.

Among the tourists, at least 59 tourists from different countries were there to see mountain gorillas while 68 others were visiting the park for other activities such as hiking the Virunga Mountains and visiting other primates such as golden monkey.

"I feel excited to visit gorillas because they are unique species with complex behaviors," an American tourist who gave her name only as Lisa told reporters.



"Even before seeing them I think the walk alone to reach to the gorillas offers an amazing lifetime experience," she added.

There are over 1,000 mountain gorillas living in the world, more than half of which live in the Virunga Mountains, where

Volcanoes National Park lies, according to World Wildlife Fund. Mountain gorillas contribute about 90 percent of tourism

revenues from Rwanda national parks, RDB said in a statement released in February. The central African country sold 15,132 mountain gorilla permits worth 19.2 million U.S. dollars to tourists in 2018, statistics from RDB showed.

The attack didn't scare off tourists who were still confident about the security of Rwanda. "We feel 100 percent safe. We feel very welcome. I love Rwanda," Gordon Higman, a tourist from Australia, told reporters.

Several hoteliers in the area sounded an upbeat tone about their businesses.

Leonard Harerimana, assistant manager at a hotel located

close to the park, said the attack did not affect tourism activities and didn't affect business.

The same day tourists went to the national park to track gorillas normally, and those who do hiking in the Virunga Mountains did it normally, he said.

Michael Hughes, manager of a lodge near the national park, said the "truth is hoteliers didn't feel any effect though they had to delay new arrivals and departures a bit."

"I honestly believe right now everyone is very safe. There should be no reason why tourism could be affected," he said. **Xinhua**



Morogoro International School (MIS) pupils, (L-R) Avneet Jabbal, Ashley Hassan and Zainab Karimjee, who finished as runners-up at dancing category of the Music Day organized by the school last weekend, pose for a group picture after the completion of the event. The trio has invited students from Morogoro's other schools to join them at the next year's event. MIS Music Day gears towards encouraging and nurturing students' music talents. PHOTO: MICHAEL SIKAPUNDA

South Africa 'almost there' as they await quarter-final - Erasmus

KOBE, JAPAN

SOUTH Africa are not quite where coach Rassie Erasmus wants them to be heading into the Rugby World Cup quarter-finals next week, he said yesterday, but they are training under pressure to replicate knockout rugby. South Africa have finished runners-up in Pool B after they lost 23-13 to the All Blacks in their opening game in Yokohama on Sept. 21. After that loss, the Springboks cantered through their other three pool matches, resoundingly beating Namibia 57-3, Italy 49-3 and Canada 66-7, but Erasmus is still not quite happy.

"I wouldn't say form-wise we are exactly where we want to be. We are trying to improve every week," he told reporters in Kobe. "After the New Zealand game, we try not to look at the scoreboard, and really tried to work on things that we knew would be important come the quarter-finals," he said. "Some things were good, some things were not as great. Bits and pieces, we are almost there, and hopefully we will really hit our straps in the quarter-final."

The Springboks have no idea who they will meet on Oct. 20 at Tokyo Stadium, as the winner of Pool A will only be decided this weekend.

Erasmus, however, was convinced there

was only so much work South Africa could do in terms of their physical preparation.

"I don't think you can get much fitter, faster, quicker or tougher physically in the next three weeks," he said.

"A lot of it, I believe, is mental - it's upstairs." "It's a lot to do with (asking) 'how do you handle pressure?' What is pressure?, and 'how can you transfer the pressure from your team onto them?' And there, a lot of things play a role," Erasmus explained.

"If you play Japan, you've got a lot of pressure because it's a home crowd," he continued.

To cope with that pressure, Erasmus added that they had been trying to put the players in scenarios they were uncomfortable with in training.

"We have spoken a lot about role-playing with the things we are struggling with on the field (and) we are putting players in specific situations to try to overcome those things," he said.

"It definitely didn't work in the New Zealand game but we took our lessons out of that one and, so far, it's been going better."

"There have been glimpses in all the departments that we are almost there, but we haven't put together a complete performance together in total."

REUTERS

Excited China fans cheer NBA game despite row over HK tweet



General view of the venue during the Los Angeles Lakers v Brooklyn Nets game at Mercedes-Benz Arena in Shanghai, China on October 10, 2019. REUTERS

SHANGHAI/BEIJING

THOUSANDS of Chinese fans cheered and clapped through an NBA exhibition game in Shanghai on Thursday after days of controversy and online vitriol over a now-deleted tweet by a team manager backing anti-China protests in Hong Kong.

The crowd waved Chinese flags in the arena before the game started, but the packed stands gave the players a huge welcome on court and shouted enthusiastically throughout the game.

The tweet by Houston Rockets general manager Daryl Morey supporting sometimes violent anti-government protests in Chinese-ruled Hong Kong sparked a furore in China with a fan event cancelled and Chinese partners cutting ties with the National Basketball Association (NBA).

The exhibition game was most notable for a facial injury to Nets guard Kyrie Irving a minute in. Irving, one of the headliners in the NBA's promotion, was taken off immediately and did not return.

"Most people are very rational today," one spectator said. "We all love basketball. But if NBA players or officials continue to make some of these wrong comments, we have no choice" but to protest.

Roads near the stadium were blocked off ahead of the game and those attending had to go through two rounds of security checks.

Street vendors were selling Chinese national flags outside the arena and some people had called online on those going to the game to carry flags in a show of force.

Some people protested before the game outside the stadium against Morey and NBA Commissioner Adam Silver, who has spoken out in support of the tweet.

"There are no Lakers or Nets fans tonight. We are all Chinese basketball fans," one protester said.

NO SHOW
NBA events scheduled on Tuesday and Wednesday were cancelled and Chinese sponsors and partners have suspended or severed ties with the league. Sponsors' logos were noticeable by their absence on the court.

State broadcaster CCTV and Tencent did not show Thursday's game and will not show the rematch scheduled for Saturday in Shenzhen.

The Hong Kong protests began in opposition to a bill allowing extradition to mainland China but have since evolved into broader calls for democracy, with activists throwing petrol bombs, setting street fires and trashing metro stations.

China has accused the West of stirring up anti-Beijing sentiment in Hong Kong, and Chinese state media has characterised Morey's tweet as the latest example of meddling in China's own affairs.

The former British colony of Hong Kong returned to China in 1997 under a "one country, two systems" formula guaranteeing it wide-ranging autonomy.

The NBA's business in China, which took years to cultivate and is estimated to be worth more than \$4 billion, is under immense pressure.

The NBA did not immediately respond to a request for comment on whether Saturday's Lakers-Nets game would take place.

ROCKETS GOODS DISAPPEAR

Houston Rockets sneakers and other merchandise have been pulled from several Nike and NBA stores in major Chinese cities, with the franchise's direct association with Morey making it a central target of the furore. Managers at some of the Nike stores said they had been instructed to remove the goods via an internal memo from management.

A specialist NBA store at a major shopping centre in Shanghai removed all Rockets merchandise, as did the basketball-themed NBA Playzone family entertainment

centres in Beijing and Shanghai. "Rockets products were hot before and when you stepped into the store, it was full of red. Now, it is mostly yellow and blue," the colours of the Golden State Warriors, said a manager at the Shanghai Playzone, who declined to be identified because of the sensitivity of the issue.

Nike and the NBA did not immediately respond to Reuters' request for comment.

Other major Chinese retailers, including Alibaba and JD.com, also pulled Rockets merchandise off their various platforms. Alibaba and JD.com declined to comment.

Chinese state and party-backed media continued to publish items critical of the NBA. The official English China Daily published an editorial cartoon on Thursday playing on the NBA's official logo of an athlete dribbling a basketball. The cartoon instead put a bomb labelled "politics" in the athlete's hand, leaving the basketball fall by the wayside.

U.S. sports broadcaster ESPN was also criticised for its coverage of the row after using a map that appeared to endorse Beijing's claims to both self-ruled Taiwan and disputed territories in the South China Sea.

REUTERS

Seven more Dar residents win Tigo-SportPesa promotion

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

WINNERS of the 'Faidika na Jero' promotion, organized by telecoms firm, Tigo, in cooperation with gaming firm, SportPesa, are keeping on enjoying various services whilst getting opportunity to win smartphones and a brand new car to be presented to the winner at the promotion's last draw slated for the end of this month.

SportPesa had last week unveiled seven winners from various regions with three of them based in Dar es Salaam.

The gaming firm this week unveiled seven more winners that are based in the city.

The winners are Farid Ismail Ally from Temeke, Ibrahim Mudi Kubamba from Ilala, Mfaume Enzi Kungulilo from Mbezi and Mecklord Smith Kamnde from Tabata Segerea.

Winners from outside Dar es Salaam are Said Selemani Navake from Mtwara, Salum Gustafu Andrew from Morogoro and Erick Hassan Kiwala from Iringa.



Dar es Salaam residents (L-R) Omary Muchande, Shabani Nchi and Yassini Ahmed, who emerged as smartphone winners in the 'Faidika na Jero' promotion, pictured with their prizes after presentation ceremony held at SportPesa's office in the city on Wednesday. The gaming firm, in cooperation with telecoms company, Tigo, organize the promotion. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

The promotion is still in progress. Tigo network users can register for the promotion via Tigopesa, deposit money and place his or her bets so he or she can be included in a draw, which will present the user with an opportunity to win a smartphone and the new car,

Renald Kwid, at the end of the promotion.

SportPesa's Chairman of the Board of Directors, Tarimba Abbas, noted he is happy to see people from various regions win the promotion and receive prizes.

"This is the Customer Care

Week and, for that matter, we want to inform our customers we treasure them a lot," he noted.

"We offer 24 hours' service each week in an effort to see to it over 100 officials take care of the customers' needs."

NBA scraps media access to teams in China amid HK tweet backlash

SHENZHEN, CHINA

THE National Basketball Association said yesterday it won't make the Brooklyn Nets and the Los Angeles Lakers available to media for the rest of their China visit, amid a furore over a tweet by a Houston Rockets executive supporting Hong Kong's protesters.

The teams had been scheduled to address news conferences yesterday afternoon in Shenzhen, ahead of today's exhibition game in the southern Chinese city on the border with Hong Kong that the league says will proceed as planned.

"We have decided not to hold media availability for our teams for the remainder of our trip in China. They have been placed into a complicated and unprecedented situation while abroad and we believe it would be unfair to ask them to address these matters in real time," the league said in a statement.

No players or executives were made available for official briefings this week in Chi-

na as the league grappled with the backlash from the quickly deleted tweet by Rockets general manager Daryl Morey last weekend in support of Hong Kong anti-government protests. The China market is estimated to be worth more than \$4 billion for the NBA.

China has accused the West of stirring up anti-Beijing sentiment in Hong Kong, and Chinese state media has characterised Morey's tweet as the latest example of meddling in China's affairs. NBA Commissioner Adam Silver defended Morey's freedom of expression in a statement issued on Tuesday, further angering Beijing.

Fan events were cancelled this week and partners have cut ties with the NBA, underscoring the severity of the situation for the league. Athletes such as Lakers star forward LeBron James and league figures have also declined to answer questions when spotted by reporters at various venues in Shanghai and Shenzhen.

PACKED STANDS

The first of the two exhibi-

tion games scheduled in China took place on Thursday night, which the Nets won 114-111. It was well-attended and saw little in the way of patriotic protest. The crowd waved Chinese flags in the arena before the game started, but the packed stands gave the players a huge welcome on court and shouted enthusiastically throughout the game.

But Chinese fans who did not have a ticket could not watch: state television CCTV and Tencent (0700.HK), who hold the rights to show the NBA in the country, are not carrying any of the China games on their platforms.

Houston Rockets sneakers and other merchandise have been pulled from several Nike (NKE.N) and NBA stores in major Chinese cities, with the franchise's direct association with Morey making it a central target of the furore. Managers at some of the Nike stores said they had been instructed to remove the goods via an internal memo from management.

REUTERS

Hazard is the answer for Real, but he can't replace Ronaldo - Wenger

LONDON

REAL Madrid still haven't seen the real Eden Hazard, according to Arsene Wenger - but even when they do, he still won't replace Cristiano Ronaldo.

Hazard registered his first La Liga goal and assist in Madrid's last game before the international break, a 4-2 win over Granada which kept Zinedine Zidane's side top of the Spanish table.

Despite their lofty position, Madrid have already faltered this campaign and are yet to discover their best form.

"He will be the answer but not in replacing Ronaldo, that is for sure," Wenger told beIN Sports when asked about Hazard. "He will not score 50 goals a year because that's now how they play football."

"They need another goalscorer at Real Madrid because [Karim] Benzema is now 32 and if they had someone younger around him to score the goals, maybe they could do very well."

"Eden Hazard is an exceptional player to create chances to sometimes finish when he needs to in the big games."

"He's not scared of anybody - I don't think Real have yet to see the real Hazard, he's not as sharp physically as he can be. That's why I believe they will discover the real Hazard."

Record-setting Ramos looks to future as bridge to Spain's golden past

MADRID

SERGIO Ramos is set to overtake Iker Casillas and become his country's most capped player with his 168th international appearance on Saturday as Spain take on Denmark hoping to secure a place at Euro 2020.

The 33-year-old first took the field for Spain as a callow teen against China in 2005, a 3-0 win that featured goals from Fernando Torres and Xavi Hernandez -- as well as Joaquin. He remains in the national side as one of the last survivors of a golden era that delivered a World Cup and two European Championships.

Ramos replaced Casillas as Spain captain in 2016. He intends to play for many years yet, saying that "statistics are there to beat" when he equalled the goalkeeper's record of 167 caps last month.

"Sergio Ramos wants to play until

Hazard's pre-season preparations were disrupted by a hamstring injury, but he is now working his way back to full match sharpness and will be expecting to kick on after his first goal in Madrid white.

The 28-year-old has now made six appearances since his summer move from Chelsea, after making his debut in September's 3-2 win over Levante.

He has only played 90 minutes twice so far, but did start in Belgium's 9-0 thrashing of San Marino on Thursday night which confirmed their qualification for Euro 2020.

Wenger's comments about the lack of an understudy to Benzema may well sting 21-year-old forward Luka Jovic, who is yet to come to life after his own summer move from Eintracht Frankfurt.

The Serbian hitman plundered 17 goals in the Bundesliga last season and 27 in all competitions, but is yet to get off the mark for Madrid after struggling for playing time. While he has made seven appearances in the league and in Europe, only two of these have seen him on the pitch for more than 25 minutes.

After the international break, Madrid travel to Mallorca in La Liga and Galatasaray in the Champions League, before returning to the Santiago Bernabeu for the first Clasico of the season against Barcelona on October 26.

(Agencies)

he's 40 and I think he'll get there because he's amazing, in every way," Spain coach Robert Moreno said last week.

"We can only say great things about Sergio. His attitude has always been impeccable whenever we have called upon him."

When Andres Iniesta and Gerard Pique followed Xavi and called time on their Spain careers in 2018, they left Ramos as a bridge to the past, his array of trophies providing a base of experience from which the next generation might flourish.

Since also replacing Casillas as Real Madrid captain in 2015 Ramos has piled up Champions League triumphs, but he is yet to preside over similar success as 'La Roja' leader.

Spain were knocked out of Euro 2016 in the last 16 by Italy. They then suffered the humiliation of losing to unfancied hosts Russia on penalties at the World Cup two years later.

AFP

Tottenham should steer clear of Mourinho - Berbatov

LONDON

TOTTENHAM have been advised to steer clear of Jose Mourinho, with Dimitar Berbatov urging patience with Mauricio Pochettino.

Questions are being asked of a coach in north London who has overseen impressive progress during a five-year reign.

Spurs have become top-four regulars in the Premier League and Champions League finalists, but some are wondering whether an Argentine tactician has taken the club as far as he can.

Pochettino's stock remains high, with links to Manchester United and Real Madrid never far away, but it has been suggested that his interest is waning at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

Berbatov hopes that is not the case, especially as some of those being mooted as potential successors would not be the right fit.

Former Chelsea and United boss Mourinho has been touted for another role in English football, but former Spurs striker Berbatov wants to see faith shown in the man currently calling the shots.

He told Betfair: "There has been a lot of talk about Jose Mourinho taking over at Spurs."

"As a coach that has been there at the top of his game for so long and has been in every kind of situation, I think he could have the answers for some of the difficulties Spurs are facing. But would he

make them better?

"I don't know because it is the same team, yes you can have a bit of a lift in the beginning, like Manchester United did when [Ole Gunnar] Solskjaer came in, but then you need to keep going, otherwise you are going to slip into a spiral."

"For me though, Pochettino needs to stay there, he's been there for a long time."

"I remember Sir Alex Ferguson telling us a team needs to be changed when four years passes, not the whole team, but some players."

"After four years, some players start to get complacent and they aren't challenged anymore, they are in with the manager and they are comfortable, so a manager needs to shake things up and bring in new players."

"This could be the case with Spurs, a lot of the players have been there a long time and maybe they need to shake things up and try to push the players in a way."

Change would appear to be on the way for Tottenham, with uncertainty shrouding the futures of a number of experienced performers.

Christian Eriksen, Toby Alderweireld and Jan Vertonghen are into the final 12 months of their respective contracts, while transfer talk continues to surround the likes of Danny Rose, Eric Dier and Serge Aurier.

(Agencies)

Nine-star Belgium book Euro place, Dutch fight back to beat N. Ireland

PARIS

BELGIUM became the first team to qualify for the 2020 European Championship finals as Romelu Lukaku scored twice in a 9-0 thrashing of San Marino in Brussels on Thursday, while the Netherlands needed a late comeback to beat Northern Ireland.

Lukaku took his record Belgium international tally past 50 goals as Roberto Martinez's Group 1 leaders opened up an unassailable 11-point lead over third-placed Cyprus with three games remaining.

The world-number-one ranked side booked their spot at next year's tournament, which will be played at 12 venues across Europe, after seven straight qualifying wins.

Russia appear set to take the second automatic slot from the group, after a 4-0 win over Scotland moved them eight points ahead of Cyprus.

Belgium will be one of the favourites as they look to lift a first major international title when the Euros get underway on June 12.

"In my eyes, nine countries have the talent to win the Euro," said coach Martinez. "What will make the difference is how you face adversity. It's necessary to sacrifice yourself for your teammates."

Their victory at the King Baudouin Stadium matched their record winning margin of nine goals, having previously beaten Zambia and Gibraltar 9-0 in 1994 and 2017 respectively and hammered San Marino 10-1 in 2001.

"Nine-nil is a good result but we would have loved to have scored one more and broken that all-time record," said Inter Milan striker Lukaku.

The first breakthrough arrived when Leicester midfielder Youri Tielemans fed Lukaku, who fired home his landmark goal in the 28th minute.

The floodgates then opened, as Nacer Chadli slotted into the corner from the edge of the area three min-



Austria's Martin Hinteregger scores their second goal against Israel during their Euro 2020 Qualifier Group G match at Ernst Happel Stadium in Vienna, Austria on Thursday. Austria won 3-1. REUTERS

utes later, and visiting defender Cristian Broli scored a comical own goal 10 minutes before the interval.

Lukaku wasted little time in making it 51 Belgium goals, before Toby Alderweireld and Tielemans made it six before half-time.

Substitute Christian Benteke drilled in number seven with 11 minutes remaining, 18-year-old Yari Verschaeren scored his first international goal from the penalty spot, and Atalanta defender Timothy Castagne completed the rout in the 90th minute.

Dutch break Northern Irish hearts

Memphis Depay's late brace rescued the Netherlands a 3-1 win over Northern Ireland which sent Ronald Koeman's men top of Group C.

The Oranje, bidding to reach a first major finals since finishing third at the 2014 World Cup, are level on points with both Germany and Northern Ireland, who have played a game more, but lead on head-to-

head record.

Michael O'Neill's visitors were dreaming of a first-ever away win over the Dutch when substitute Josh Magennis headed them in front with a quarter-hour to play.

But Depay levelled in the 80th minute, and Luuk de Jong bundled the ball home at the back post in the first minute of injury time to deny Northern Ireland a crucial point before Depay grabbed his second.

"We are devastated with the nature of the defeat," O'Neill told Sky Sports. "We have to win our two remaining games, they are very difficult, Netherlands home and Germany away."

Russia sent Scotland tumbling to a fourth straight qualifying defeat which leaves the Nations League playoffs next March as the Scots' only possible route to Euro 2020.

Artem Dzyuba's excellent double and Aleksandr Golovin mean Russia will qualify with a draw in Cyprus on Sunday.

- Croatia close on qualification -

Croatia took control of Group E by beating Hungary 3-0 in Split, while Slovakia jumped into second despite being held to a 1-1 home draw by Wales.

Luka Modric's fifth-minute strike and two goals for Bruno Petkovic sent last year's World Cup runners-up Croatia four points clear of third-placed Hungary.

Slovakia fell behind in the first half when former lifeguard Kieffer Moore scored on his international competitive debut for Wales, but secured a draw thanks to Juraj Kucka's brilliant 53rd-minute volley.

Elsewhere, Robert Lewandowski netted a hat-trick, taking his tally this season to 18 goals for club and country, as Poland won 3-0 at Latvia to strengthen their position at the top of Group G.

They sit three points clear of closest challengers Austria, who saw off Israel 3-1.

AFP

Can Qatar keep World Cup fans entertained?

DOHA

QATAR's hosting of the world athletics championships brought criticism for poor attendances and hot conditions for road events but there was something else which struck many visitors about 2022 World Cup host nation - a lack of things to do.

Many first-time visitors, finding the city to be car-orientated and lacking attractions, spent much of their spare time in shopping malls.

The difficulty of finding alcohol, sold only in a handful of authorised places at prices which start at around \$15 for a half litre of beer, was also a talking-point.

The Gulf state was named as one of the world's 10 unfriendliest cities for visitors by the Conde Nast Traveller magazine in 2016 with readers complaining it was ugly and with "horrible" traffic.

Meanwhile, online forums for foreign residents are littered with complaints that the city is dull, albeit safe.

"We are married without kids and found Doha to be extremely boring about 95% of the time, as there is a shocking lack of things to do in a city of this size," said one on the website Tales from a Small Planet.

It begs the question: can Qatar keep the fans entertained at the 2022 World Cup, where supporters of all 32 teams will descend on a single city, and will they come in the first place - particularly the buoyant Latin Americans who livened up the last two World Cups?

A further complication is that the country is currently under a boycott imposed by neighbours Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and United Arab Emirates, plus Egypt, who accuse it of supporting terrorism. Doha denies the allegations.

LENGTHY DIVERSIONS

The spat between Qatar and the four Arab countries has cut the number of direct flights to Doha and those operated by state airline Qatar Airways have to make lengthy diversions.



General overall view of Khalifa International Stadium and Aspire Tower during the IAAF World Athletics Championships in Doha, Qatar in this October 4, 2019 file photo. The stadium will serve as a venue for the 2022 FIFA World Cup. (Agencies)

Dubai in the UAE could offer a potential reprieve for 2022 World Cup fans seeking entertainment. However, those travelling between Doha and the UAE have to fly through a third country because of the boycott, compared to what was once a roughly a one-hour direct flight.

Nasser al-Khater, chief executive of the 2022 World Cup, promised in a recent interview with a group of reporters, that Qatar expected one million fans and there would be plenty to keep them occupied on non-match days.

"When their teams are not playing, there is a lot of things they can do," he said, adding they could go to other matches thanks to the proximity of the eight hosting stadiums.

Khater said that alcohol would

be more easily accessible and affordable while the organising committee recently published a list of "10 things to do in Qatar besides football".

These included a stroll on the seven-kilometre waterfront promenade, bartering at the Waqif souq, visiting museums and "shop until you drop".

The country has tried to make itself more attractive to tourists and launched a "Summer in Qatar" initiative this year to try to attract visitors during the brutally hot months of June, July and August.

A sleek new metro opened this year and is expanding and, although stations appear isolated, they are served by feeder buses and a discounted taxi service.

The World Cup organisers have not yet announced their visa policy

REUTERS

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Kigwangalla to endorse Rock City Marathon

SPORT

Can Qatar keep World Cup fans entertained?

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

5 EATV

TONIGHT @ 21:00

UJENZI

MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ (LIVE)
15:00 FUNGIKA
16:00 UTAKA
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 KURASA
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:30 MJADALA
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 SSPORTS LIVE
22:30 BONGO HITS

eastafrica RADIO

05:00 EA Breakfast
09:00 Supamix
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
14:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM



Ujenzi Watch this informative show on the domestic construction process both on site construction and interior/exterior designing whilst using the latest technology and appliances that have made construction easier.

By Guardian Reporter

MINISTER for Natural Resources and Tourism, Hamisi Kigwangalla, is expected to lead thousands of participants of the Rock City Marathon (RCM) 2019 scheduled to take place at the Rock City Mall in Mwanza on October 20.

Clement Mshana, RCM Steering Committee Chairman, disclosed the participation of Minister Kigwangalla goes hand in hand with the participation of other senior government officials from the Lake Zone regions, including Mwanza Regional Commissioner, John Mongella, who has already



Participating athletes in a past Rock City Marathon put their skills to show in the event, which took place in Mwanza.

confirmed to take part in the 42km race.

"The participation of the minister responsible for tourism is backed by the race's core agenda, promotion of tourism specifically in the Lake Zone regions through sport," he said.

Rock City Marathon has increasingly gained popularity with the support from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Tanzania Tourist

Board (TTB), Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA), Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA), and Tanzania Forest Service Agency (TFS).

Other sponsors and partners include TIPER, Pepsi, Lis Law Chambers & Consultants, Tanzania National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), CF Hospital, Mwanza Water, Pigeon Hotel, Metro FM, The Cask and Grill, SDN and Garda World

Security Company.

"The Lake Zone has got many touristic attractions that must be promoted internationally and we believe that RCM can help towards achieving this goal, especially from this year and, for the first time in its history, the marathon will involve a full marathon that is a 42 km race and thus incorporated into the athletics international calendar," he said.

He mentioned some of the attractions found in the Lake Zone that include the Saanane Island, the Sukuma Museum, beautiful beaches of the Lake Victoria and the zone's local residents' cultural heritage.

Regarding the race's prize, Mshana said the winners of the full marathon category for both men and women will take home 4m/- apiece, while the second placed athletes will receive 2m/- apiece, the third placed will earn 1m/- apiece.

"For the marathon and half marathon categories, prize money will be awarded to the top 10 male and female finishers," he disclosed.

He pointed out winners of the 21km category in both men and women categories will receive 2m/- apiece, with second placed getting 1m/- apiece and third placed taking home 700,000/-.

Mshana said winners of the 5km race for corporates and people with albinism for both men and women categories will receive certificates of participation while prize money will be rewarded to people with albinism.

On the registration of the race, Mshana urged participants to continue on registering through various registrations centres located in Mwanza, Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Coast Region and Arusha.

He noted: "Currently the registration for the race continues in various centres in Mwanza (Rock City Mall, Afro Twist Gym), Dodoma (Shabiby Bus Terminal), Dar es Salaam (Shamo Tower, Imalaseko Super Market), Heleana Fashion-Dar Free Market), Arusha, and Bagamoyo in the Coast Region."

"Registration can also be done online through the Rock City Marathon website www.rockcitymarathon.co.tz," he mentioned.

Kohli breaks down South Africa, Yadav pounces on scraps

PUNE

ON day two of Test two, Virat Kohli and friends just stood there and beat every bit of fight out of a tattered and directionless South African side. Kohli could have chosen to bat on and have a stab at a triple, Ravindra Jadeja could have got a hundred had he not pushed too strongly towards a declaration, and then Umesh Yadav announced his comeback with two wickets in his first two overs.

South Africa, meanwhile, dropped catches, misfielded regularly, conceded overthrows, snapped at each other, bowled 11 no-balls, and just waited for declaration. Oh and they also made strides towards having the worst series for a set of spinners in India, and none of their three fast bowlers charged in for the last 18 overs of the innings. Even when Keshav Maharaj was off the field with injury. Retirements, talent drain, relative quality of this South African side compared to their other teams are things beyond the scope of this report, but it is hard to remember an untidier effort from them in the field. Even the forecast rain refused to come to their rescue.

South Africa's spinners now average 95; only two sides have ended a series with worse numbers in India. Maharaj has gone at 4.04 an over so far and has averaged 85.66, putting him in the worst five on both counts. While these are mid-series numbers, it will take some correcting to not walk away with dubious honours by the time Ranchi is done.

India's honours were the farthest thing from dubious. Kohli was tested with the new ball in the first hour, but South Africa's cordon didn't help themselves by refusing to move closer. Thrice Kohli edged in the first exchange, but none of those went to hand. That South Africa could draw edges through traditional channel bowling tells you how sporting the pitch was. Kohli was less sporting whenever the bowlers erred, and they erred frequently. No matter how honest they kept him with length balls outside off, Kohli was brutal on any that were too full or too straight.

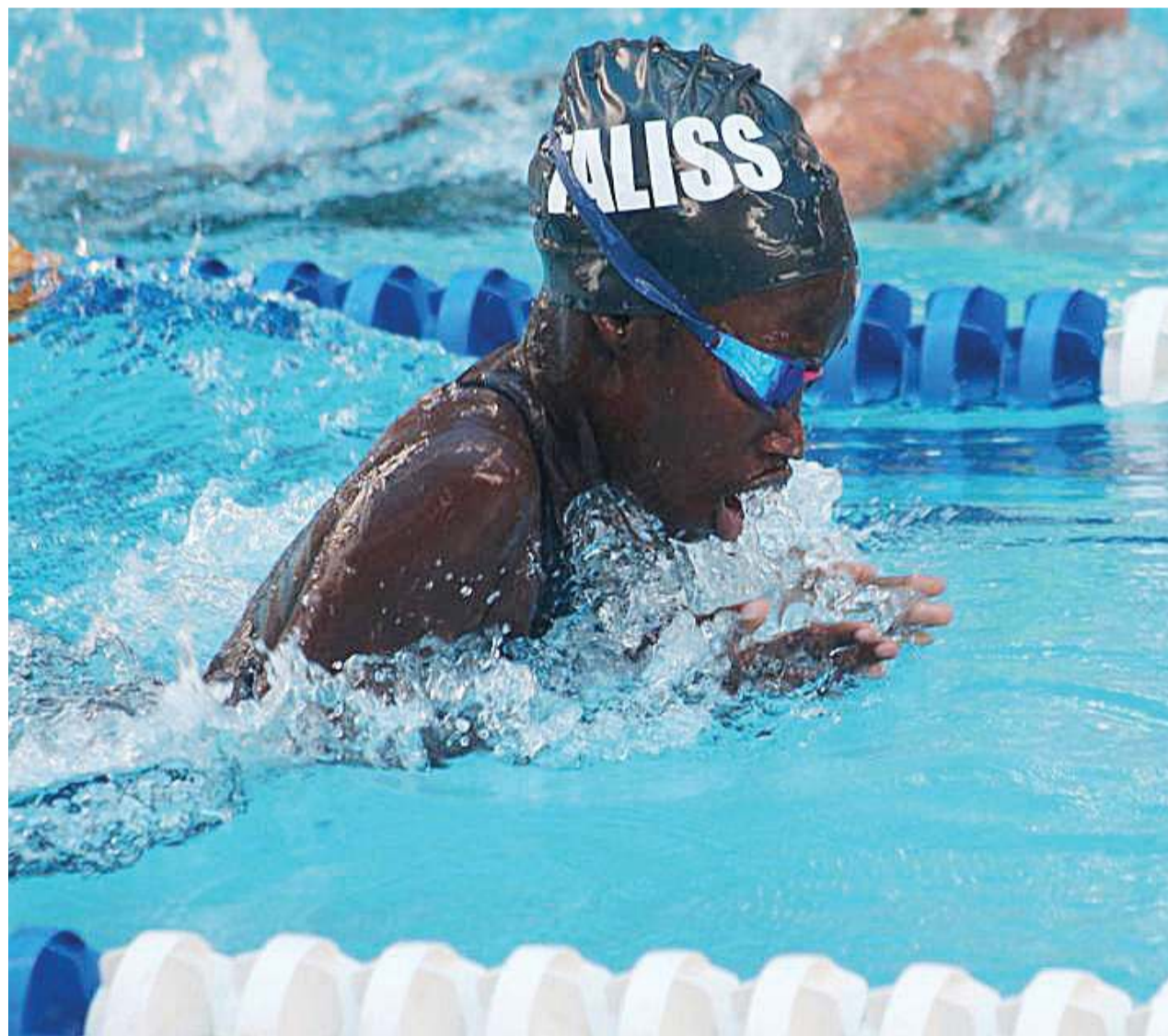
This was one of Kohli's more difficult home hundreds. Only on a crazy seaming track in Kolkata, against Sri Lanka, did Kohli have a worse control percentage over his first 100 runs than the 87.86 here. He was respectful accordingly, even with debutant Anrich Nortje.

Ajinkya Rahane was less fluent with his ongoing struggles against spin. He took 33 balls to score his first run off Maharaj. To the first 100 runs of the 178-run partnership with Kohli, Rahane contributed just 25; he took 100 balls to do so. Against pace he opened up a little, but Maharaj dismissed him on 59.

Left-arm spin did come close to getting Kohli out: but three outside edges off Maharaj refused to go to Faf du Plessis at slip. This, though, happened well after he had reached his hundred and was now pushing for quicker runs. That was one of the reasons why Jadeja was promoted to No. 6, but Kohli was so dominating that Jadeja could score just six in the first 50 runs of the 225-run partnership.

AGENCIES

TSA to host open swimming championships



Taliss-IST Club swimmer, Amylia Chali, takes part in a competition, which took place in Dar es Salaam recently.

By Correspondent Renatha Msungu

THE national open swimming championships have been scheduled to take place at the International School of Tanganyika (IST) Masaki in Dar es Salaam from October 26 to October 27.

The event will feature all clubs from Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar according to Tanzania Swimming Association (TSA) secretary general, Inviolata Itatiro.

Inviolata said that swimmers will contest in four age categories, namely, nine and 10 years group, 11-12, 13-14 and 15 years and over respectively.

She said that the winners in each event will be awarded medals.

The first, second and third would be awarded gold, silver, and bronze medals respectively.

In age groups, first and second would be awarded trophies while awards for open events will be based on the final place rather than the age group.

"All open events will be awarded based on a final place. Open events will count towards individual points whereby the first

placed swimmer will be awarded 20 points while second and third would be awarded 16 and 14 points respectively," she said.

The fourth-placed winner will take home 12 points while fifth (10 points), sixth (eight points), seventh (six points), eighth (four points), ninth (two points) and 10th placed will be awarded one point.

According to Inviolata, only swimmers whose clubs have paid the annual membership fee and are registered members of TSA are allowed to compete in the event if they have met the qualifying times.

She pointed out that only swimmers who have attained times in competitions held from January 1 this year are accepted.

Inviolata said each swimmer is eligible to compete in up to eight individual events and two relay events.

"Entry submission strictly closes at midnight on October 20, clubs are urged to register early on," she disclosed.

"Each of participating clubs must make sure their annual fees are paid by October 22."

Flexibles by David Chikoko



BUSINESS



MSF is asking J&J to bring down the cost of tuberculosis medicine bedaquiline.

PLEA

MSF: Johnson & Johnson ought to lower cost of TB drug bedaquiline

NAIROBI

Pharmaceutical firm Johnson & Johnson (J&J) is facing renewed pressure from Doctors Without Borders (MSF) to bring down the cost of tuberculosis medicine bedaquiline to scale up the treatment of the drug-resistant strain and bring down the number of deaths recorded annually.

MSF on Thursday renewed their push to have the drugs lowered to below \$100, about half of the current price tag. Doctors Without Borders (MSF), says its demanding this price cut "considering the joint contributions made in the development of this drug, including by MSF itself."

Bedaquiline is one of the only three effective TB drugs to be developed in over 50 years. MSF said currently, J&J charges double the price that MSF is asking - about \$40,000 (\$400) for a six-month treatment course for countries eligible to buy the drug through the Global Drug Facility (GDF) - a TB drug and diagnostic procurement

mechanism, operating out of a UN agency.

"Bedaquiline was developed using taxpayer money and contributions from the global TB community," said HIV & TB Policy Advisor for MSF's Access Campaign, Sharonann Lynch.

"Those who contributed to bedaquiline's development should have a say in how the drug is priced. We're calling on J&J to price bedaquiline at no more than \$1 per day so that it can be made available to all people with drug-resistant TB. We will not back down until the price of bedaquiline is brought down."

J&J owns the patent on the drug in many countries and has sole rights to determine in which countries the drug will be sold, MSF said. Kenya has been listed as a drug-resistance tuberculosis (DR-TB) high-burden country globally. In Kenya, MSF was the first to introduce the anti-TB drug (bedaquiline) in 2016, and is one of the local NGOs and health ministry's partners in offering free TB treatment in Kenya.

INNOVATION

Carlsberg develops paper beer bottle in green packaging push

COPENHAGEN

Carlsberg has seen the future of the beer bottle, and it's made of paper. The Danish brewer is presenting two research prototype bottles made from wood fiber and lined with a polymer barrier at the World Mayors Summit in Copenhagen Friday.

The company is also working with Coca-Cola, Pernod Ricard SA's Absolut vodka and cosmetics giant L'Oréal SA on a project that aims to develop more sustainable packaging alternatives.

The world's largest consumer-goods companies are working to reduce their environmental impact amid pressure from shoppers. Nestle SA has unveiled paper wrapping for Yes fruit and nut bars, while Unilever pledged earlier this week to halve its use of newly made plastic by 2025.

Carlsberg has also stopped using plastic rings, commonly associated with marine pollution, to hold its six-pack aluminum cans, instead using drops of glue to bind the beers.

COMPETITIVENESS

Tanzania among top African nations with most handsome perks for foreign citizens

By Guardian Reporter

A report by Africa.com has named Tanzania as one of the African countries where foreigners earn big time with handsome perks. Tanzania is ranked number five behind Zambia, South Africa, Namibia and Mauritius is among the top 10 countries in Africa with the best paying jobs.

"This East African country has enjoyed relative political stability that has enabled positive economic growth. As many other African countries are struggling to recover economically after civil wars and political turmoil, Tanzania has steered clear of both internal and external political conflicts," the Africa.com report stated.

Quoting a World Bank report, the website which is dedicated to African success stories said the country's economy has witnessed impressive annual growth averaging between 6-7 percent with 2016 being the year on record for highest growth rate of 7.1 percent hence ranked among the fastest growing economies in Sub-Saharan Africa. "Numbeo estimates that the average net salary in Tanzania after taxation is \$321," the website stated.

Findings from the Formal Sector Employment and Earnings Survey, published by the National Bureau of Statistics, indicate that insurance and financial services are the first and second highest paying sectors, while the mining and quarrying industry comes in third. According to the report, financial and insurance services employ the largest portion of employees at 27.8 percent followed by mining at 5.9 percent.

"If you're keen to work in Tanzania, some of the careers that pay the highest salaries include: lawyers, medical doctors, chief executive officers, finance managers, NGO employees, pilots, financial analysts and oil and gas engineers," Africa.com's report noted.

According to salary statistics from Salary Explorer, the oil, gas and mining industry



Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and the Disabled, Jenista Mhagama.

possesses the highest paying career with an average salary of \$979. It is followed by the health and medicine industry at \$935. Other sectors that appear near the top of the list are executive management at \$844, information technology at \$677, and accounting and finance at \$538.

The cost of living index in Tanzania's capital of Dar es Salaam stands at 51.94. It is the third highest ranking capital in Africa, following Accra, Ghana and Harare, Zimbabwe. Rent is one of the most expensive expenses in Tanzania, so you need to apply for jobs carefully, and get a well-paying job that will allow you save more.

Zambia

Zambia is an attractive destination for professionals looking for a place to find well-paying jobs. This country - famous for its rugged, breathtaking scenery and rich, diverse wildlife - is a gold mine for professionals. According to statistics from the World Bank, Zambia witnessed rapid economic growth between 2000 and 2014, with an annual average growth of 7.3%. In the same period, the GDP per Capita went up by 4.3%. Unfortunately, Zambia has experienced political instability that has adversely affected economic growth.

Despite the economic slow-down, the average net monthly salary in Zambia is \$1,482. Compared to other African countries, the net salary is lucrative, especially if you search for jobs that compensate well. Some of the top careers that pay well in Zambia include: office administration at \$1,925, banking and finance at \$1,350, healthcare at \$1,310, non-governmental organizations at \$1,250, and agriculture at \$1,100. Other sectors that pay decent salaries are teaching, tourism, copper mining, and engineering.

The cost of living in Zambia is relatively low compared to many African countries. Lusaka is Zambia's capital and business hub, so most job opportunities and expatriates reside in Lusaka.

South Africa

South Africa has one of the strongest economies on the African continent, so it is a major hub for professionals looking to advance their careers. If you want a job that pays well and allows you to live comfortably, South Africa is definitely worth the try. Being the continent's mining, industrial, and financial hub, there are numerous opportunities worth checking out.

Salaryexplorer.com averages South Africa's net salary

at \$1,270 per month. Most of the highest paid professionals in the country include lawyers, IT managers, air traffic controllers, software engineers, architects, and petroleum controllers. As usual, what you earn depends solely on your profession; however, the biggest challenge is getting the job, as well as getting the required legal permits to work in South Africa. Even though the country has numerous cities, most of the jobs are concentrated in the large cities of Pretoria, Johannesburg, Cape Town, and Durban.

With air traffic controllers earning about \$3,500 per month, the aviation industry is one of the country's most lucrative job sectors. Computer and information managers take home approximately \$3,600, while petroleum engineers earn \$3,500 per month.

Other careers that pay well in South Africa are lawyers, earning \$4,000, as well as pilots and flight engineers who are paid \$4,300 per month. It's worth mentioning that while the stated salary figures mostly apply to mid-career professionals, top executives also earn up to \$20,000 depending on the industry.

Most professionals working in South Africa enjoy attractive benefits that substantially increase their net salaries. According to the latest numbeo.com statistics, the average cost of living in South Africa is 44.44. Pretoria leads with an index of 47.32, followed by Johannesburg 45.51, Cape Town at 43.76, and Durban at 41.17.

Namibia

For the purposes of exports, Namibia's economy relies heavily on extraction and processing of minerals. Namibia is among the world's top 5 producers of uranium, and the country also has sufficient diamond deposits. Aside from mining, other key sectors of the economy include livestock, farming, and fishing.

Namibia's economy thrives when world commodity prices flourish - especially in the mining sector. Proper regulatory mechanisms, particularly sound economic policies, have

helped to sustain Namibia's economy. Despite global economic challenges, the country's economic growth has averaged to around 5% in the last couple of years.

Namibia has a fairly well developed economic landscape, which has ultimately generated plenty of job opportunities for both locals and immigrants. The average net salary in Namibia after taxation is \$753 per month. One of the most lucrative industries that pays well in Namibia is the aviation industry. Aviation managers earn approximately \$2,972 per month, while senior pilots and captains earn up to \$6,700 per month.

Other lucrative careers in Namibia include those in the oil, gas, and mining industry, which pay professionals an average monthly salary of \$3,700. Actuarial scientists earn \$3,300, but senior professionals take home a higher pay perk. Financial and business analysts earn \$3,000, medical professionals make \$1,700, senior surgeons earn up to \$3,715, and software engineers earn approximately \$4,500.

Given the high number of multinational companies in Namibia, the perks offered for jobs, especially mid and senior level careers, meet the expectations of many professionals. The cost of living in Namibia is high, and it even surpasses a majority of African countries.

Mauritius

Mauritius is a tiny Indian Ocean island; however, it is popular around the continent and globe for its good governance and robust economy. Mauritius is undoubtedly one of the continent's most competitive economies, and has continued to experience steady and consistent growth patterns. The country is famously known for its magnificent beaches, vast sugarcane fields, as well as diverse flora and fauna. In recent times, Mauritius has continuously made strides in diversifying its economic activities.

BALANCED DIET

Could eating healthier be a natural antidepressant?

SYDNEY

According to a small study of young adults with poor diets and moderate-to-high symptoms of depression - those who made healthier food choices reported less anxiety and much better moods within a matter of weeks.

When you eat better, you feel better as Sports Kinesiologist Amanda Campbell explains in this episode of The Love Destination Expert Series. Kids have long heard the refrain: Eat your vegetables to grow up big and strong. But a healthy diet may make you happier, too, according to Australian researchers.

That was the effect eating healthier had in a small study of young adults with poor diets and moderate-to-high symptoms of depression. Those who embraced healthier food choices reported less anxiety and much better moods within weeks, according to findings published in the journal PLOS ONE.

Much better moods

"There is certainly evidence that eating a diet high in processed foods increases the risk of depression," said study lead author Heather Francis, a lecturer in neuropsychology at Macquarie University in Syd-



A healthy diet should compose of mainly vegetables and fruits.

ney.

Why food is medicine

Can food really heal you? In this episode of The Love Destination Expert Series, Sports Kinesiologist Amanda Campbell explains why food is medicine and the benefits of a healthy, nutrient rich diet.

The study included 76 university students between 17 and 35 years of age. All reported eating a diet heavy in processed foods, sugar and satu-

rated fats. They also reported feelings of sadness, decreased ability to feel pleasure and lack of motivation in the previous week.

Half of the participants were coached to add fruit, vegetables, fish and olive oil to their diet and reduce processed foods. They received \$60 toward groceries and two check-in phone calls. The others received no coaching and continued their regular diets.

After three weeks, those who consistently ate better reported much better moods. Their scores on a scale measuring depression levels were normal and they reported less anxiety than the regular diet group, whose depression levels remained in the "moderate to high" range.

The upshot? Modest changes reaped big rewards. The diet change didn't limit how much people ate - it simply limited processed foods such as sweets, fast food and sugary drinks, and increased fruit, vegetables, whole grains, fish and olive oil.

"We believe this is an important aspect of the study that the diet change involved is modest and achievable," Francis said, going on to explain how she thinks the change boosted mood.

Diet and other environmental factors

"Depression is associated with a chronic inflammatory response, and poor diet both increases systemic inflammation and is also a risk factor for depression," she said.

The findings dovetail with a study published earlier this year in Physiological Reports

by a team from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. It linked a diet high in sodium and low in potassium to depression in teens.

Lead author Sylvie Mrug, professor and chair of the psychology department, said adolescents' emotion regulation is still developing and it is possible that diet and other environmental factors have a strong impact on their depression levels.

While she noted that many aspects of life are difficult to control, good eating habits should be encouraged. "Food such as fruits, vegetables and yogurt contain low levels of sodium and high amounts of potassium and should be encouraged as part of a teen's daily diet," Mrug said in a University of Alabama news release.

Although the studies show a potentially positive impact of healthy eating on symptoms of depression, researchers urged caution. "While diet may be able to improve outcomes, at this stage we would not recommend that it replace medication," said Francis, who plans to conduct larger studies on the topic.