



National Pg 4

Illegal exportation of minerals

National Pg 5

Payments for cashewnut farmers

National Pg 6

Mpwapwa to raise 450m/- for centre

SMART MONEY

Wentworth Resources' gas revenue from Mnazi Bay increases tenfold



PM cautions on raising children in orphanages

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa (pictured) has warned owners of orphanages to observe existing regulations in registering children and avoid using the underprivileged for personal gain.

The premier underscored the need for social welfare officers to be involved in the process of registering children so as to ensure that only those eligible for assistance are kept at the centres.

"Owners of orphanage centers must observe regulations that guide their operations and make sure the children are raised in accordance with our traditions and customs," he stated in an Iftar address at an event held at the Karimjee Hall. Orphans from six centres in the city were treated to an evening with city elders, political leaders and other stakeholders.

"Children staying at orphanage centres have similar rights with those staying with their parents. Separating them from



You must allow government officials to conduct inspection at registered centres. Children shouldn't be exposed to any kind of violence while at the centre since doing so is contrary to the law

their parents should not be a reason for them being raised in ways contrary to our traditional norms. Orphans deserve respect and protection against violence," he pointed out.

There should be an arrangement for adult children being taken back to their parents, he said, noting that social welfare officers should be inspecting the centres as well as the development of the children after every few months.

"You must allow government officials to conduct inspection at registered centres. Children shouldn't be exposed to any kind of violence while at the center since doing so is contrary to the law."

Stringent measures will be taken against anyone violating the country's laws by illegally operating orphanage centres or humiliating the children, he emphasized.

Tanzania has an estimated 24,067 children staying at 140 orphanages operated by individuals and institutions. Of the number, 11,925 are boys and 12,142 girls.

The premier said further that the

TURN TO PAGE 2

Registered tanzanite output rises five times



President John Magufuli is welcomed by his host, Namibian President Hage Geingob, to State House in Windhoek yesterday. Dr Magufuli is in Namibia for a two-day official visit. Photo: State House

The minister told the House that total revenue from the mine site reached Sh 1bn whereby Sh 930m was from TML royalties and inspection fees while only Sh 164m, being 15 percent was from artisanal miners

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

RECORDED production of tanzanite at Mirerani has risen by over five times since the government constructed a wall around the mining site, the National Assembly heard yesterday.

Minerals minister Dotto Biteko told MPs here that production of the rare mineral at Mirerani hills in Simanjiro reached 781.2 kilogrammes in 2018 valued at Sh1.4bn compared to 147.7 kilogrammes valued at Sh 166m in 2017 and around 164 kilogrammes in 2016, valued at Sh 71m.

He noted revenues from small scale miners reached 1.4/- billion in 2018 while in the past they contributed between six and eight percent of revenue at Mirerani while Tanzanite One Mining Ltd (TML) contributed over 85 percent.

The minister told the House that total revenue from the mine site reached Sh 1bn whereby Sh 930m was from TML royalties and inspection fees while only Sh 164m, being 15

He told the legislature of ongoing installation of CCTV cameras at the mining site and an electricity infrastructure around the wall, an investment that has cost the government Sh 4.2bn

percent was from artisanal miners.

Tabling the 2019/2020 ministerial budget estimates, the minister said that in an effort to sustain the recorded increase in production and revenue, the ministry has completed construction of a brokers' office and is currently building a one stop centre within the walled site.

He told the legislature of ongoing installation of CCTV cameras at the mining site and an electricity infrastructure around the wall, an investment that has cost the government Sh 4.2bn.

"The main aim of the investment is to ensure that all activities related to the trading of tanzanite take place within the wall, to strengthen availability of statistics and prevent illegal trading of the rare mineral," he said.

He asked the legislature to approve Sh 49.4bn for the new financial year, noting that Sh 7bn from internal sources is meant for development while Sh 42.4bn is intended for the recurrent budget, Sh16.4bn slated for salaries and Sh 25.9bn other charges.

Talking about mineral trading centres, the minister called on regions and districts which have not complied by the directive to build minerals trading centres as soon as possible.

Trading centres had been set up in

TURN TO PAGE 2

Plastic bags ban: Controls sought on airport shops

By Guardian Reporter

STRATEGIES are required to control importation of plastic bags by passengers arriving in the country at various airports as they mostly come with commodities packed in single-use polythene bags used by duty free shops.

The Zanzibar Chief Secretary, Dr Abdulhamid Yahya Mzee, made this appeal lately when presenting a performance report covering July 2018 to March 2019 for the Office of the Second Vice President at the Kibweni State House.



Dr Mzee said that it was routine for travellers to buy various goods from duty free shops at airports where the shops use flimsy plastic bags for packaging

Dr Mzee said that it was routine for travellers to buy various goods from duty free shops at airports where the shops use flimsy plastic bags for packaging.

There is need for an arrangement which will see travellers arriving in the Mainland and Zanzibar being informed about the plastic bags ban, he said, affirming that the move will make the plastic bags ban of more successful and meeting government guidelines.

"There should special arrangements to prevent

Tanzania, Zambia compensation funds tie up cooperation accord

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

ZAMBIA'S Workers Compensation Fund Control Board (WCFCB) and Tanzania's Workers Compensation Fund (WCF) yesterday signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC).

Speaking shortly after the signing, the WCFCB chairperson Dr Elizabeth Nkumbula said the cooperation accord was an exciting moment as it will help in sharing ideas between the two.



"We as representatives of Zambia, are the only institution with an injury scheme of assurance. If we put our hands together with our colleague of Tanzania's WCF and come up with the best products and innovations, it will make both of us stars of social security institutions in Africa," she said.

Dr Nkumbula further said that Zambia and Tanzania have a long history of cooperation dating

TURN TO PAGE 2



9 770856 542009 >

Registered tanzanite output rises five times

FROM PAGE 1

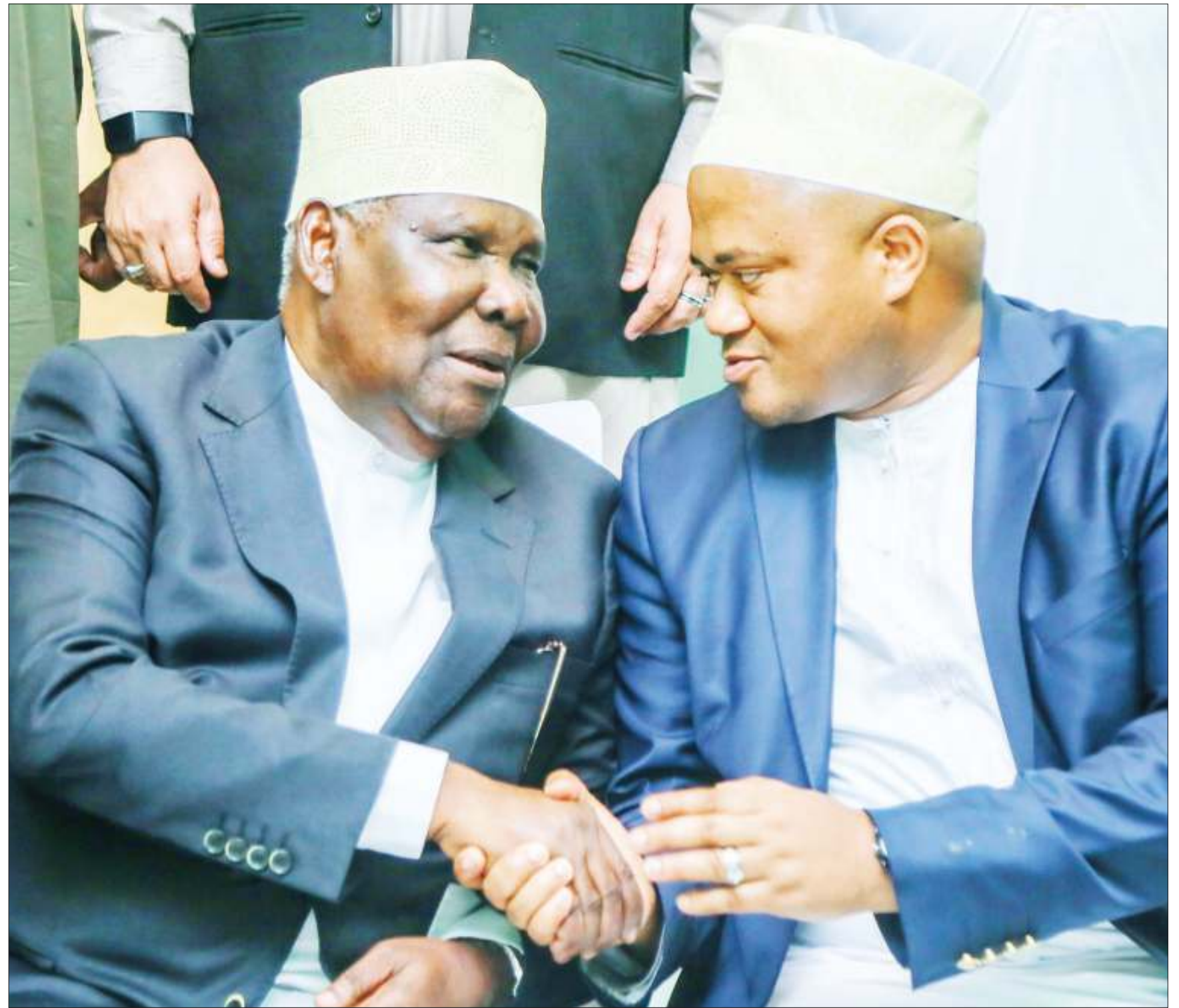
Geita, Kahama, Namanga, Singida, Chunya, Ruvuma, Shinyanga, Katavi, Dodoma, Kigoma, Tabora, Mara, Mbeya, Kagera, Iringa, Mwanza, Songwe, Tanga, Manyara and Sekenke-Singida.

On the production and collection of different minerals, the minister noted that by March 2019, about 27,550.91 kilograms of gold had been exported

outside from big and medium mining companies.

About 2,214.99 kilograms of gold were produced by small scale miners and gold traders.

By March the mining commission had approved 13,177 mining license applications. Along with measures to strengthen revenue collections in 2019/20, the ministry plans to collect Sh 470.8bn compared to Sh 310.5bn 2018/19, a 51.62 percent increase.



Zanzibar Second Vice President Seif Ali Idd has a word with CRDB Bank Plc managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela (R) at iftar the bank hosted for its customers in Zanzibar at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Plastic bags ban: Controls sought on airport shops

FROM PAGE 1

passengers arriving at airports to enter the country with single-use polythene bags," he said, appealing to responsible authorities to strengthen surveillance as some traders still use the phased out bags in special markets.

"I normally travel with special bags to carry goods from duty free shops," he elaborated, while urging stringent measures against violators of the ban since plastics have many negative impacts on the environment.

More than 621 kilograms of plastic bags have been seized during 90 operations carried out by authorities at different places within the Isles. He said 149 people were apprehended in connection with using the banned bags.

Zanzibar imposed a ban on plastic bags in 2011 under the Environment (Protection) Act, No. 49 of 2008.

Meanwhile, Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday said the government will not add more time on the use of plastic bags.

The VP also banned the sale of water packed in thin plastics usually known as 'Kandoro' water, saying they are not approved for safety and also bad for the environment.

She made the announcements in an address to Dar es Salaam regional leaders on the impending ban of using flimsy plastic bags.

The VP said there are social media undertones on plastic bags which the VP said was a campaign aimed at asking the government to extend the period.

"Let me make it clear that by June 1 there will be no plastic bags and Dar es Salaam will be our testing ground. Whenever we do well in Dar all other regions will follow because it is the main distributor of the products," she spelled out.

She said the ban was successful in Zanzibar when she was the responsible minister in the Isles and in her experience, it was local governments which conducted an information campaign on the matter.

In his budget speech in the legislature last month, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa announced a total ban on the production, importation, sale or use of plastic bags with effect from June 1.

Last week, the Vice President's Office declared that it had formed a multi-agency task force to enforce the ban come June 1.

Joseph Malongo, the Permanent Secretary in the Vice President's Office responsible for the Environment, issued the guidelines.

Malongo said inspection will be held in retail shops, market places, wholesalers, warehouses, factories, along the country's borders and any other places where plastic bags were sold.



I normally travel with special bags to carry goods from duty free shops

PM cautions on raising children in orphanages

FROM PAGE 1

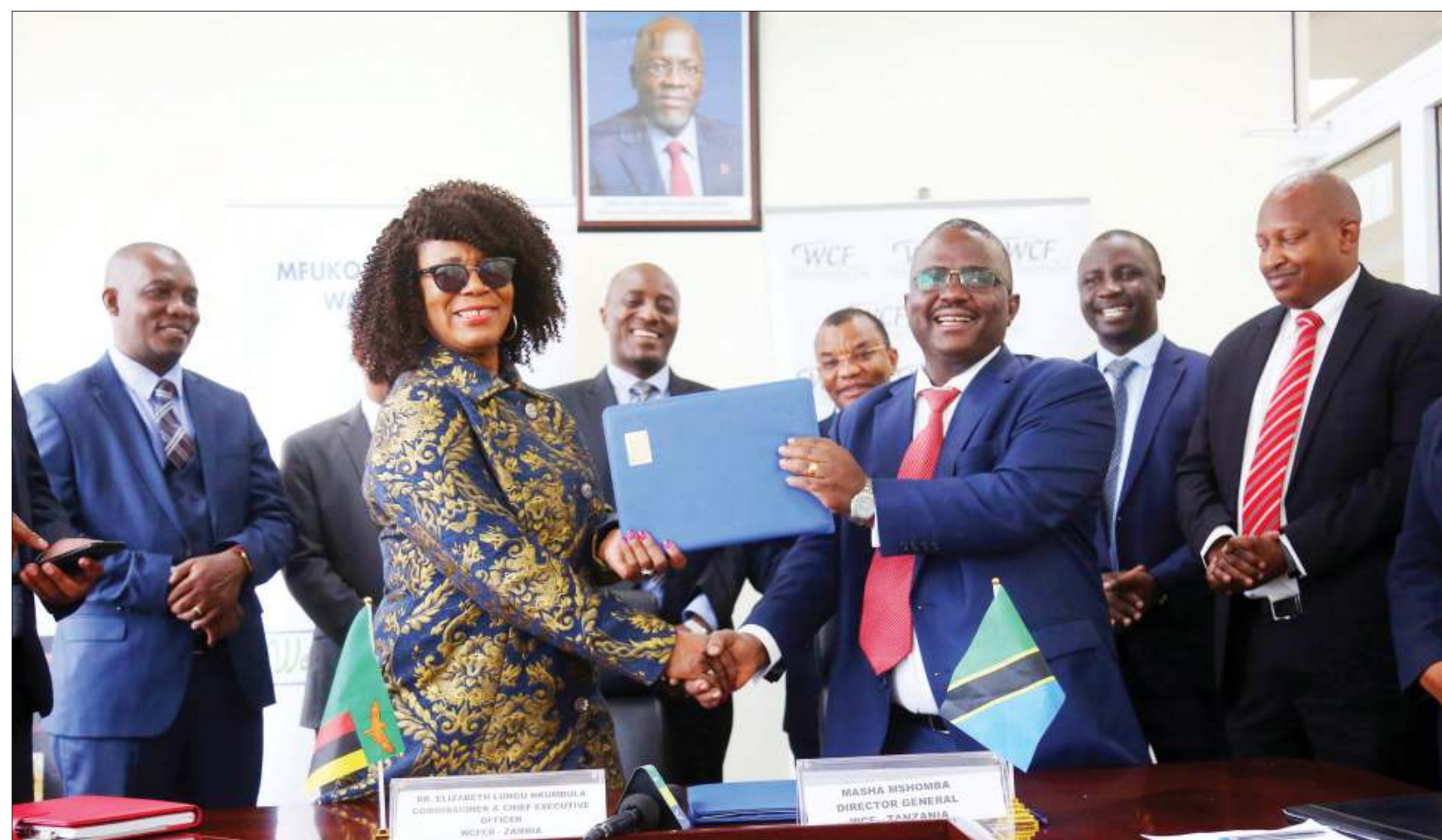
government through the Ministry of Health has been facilitating various social services to children at orphanage centers, with 900 children in Dar es Salaam, Mbeya, Kilimanjaro and Arusha regions having been provided with health insurance cover.

The Director of Chocolate Princess, Mboni Masimba said they organized the Iftar dinner to bring children together, where 325 orphans participated. They were from Ijango Zaida Orphanage Centre (Sinza), Alzama Orphanage Centre (Mbagala), Ashura Foundation (Vingunguti), Madina Orphanage

Centre (Tandale), Hiyari Orphanage Centre (Mbagala) and Hisani Orphanage Centre (Mwasonga in Kigamboni area).

The event was organized in collaboration with various stakeholders including Asure Yetim Vafki, the United Bank of Africa (UBA), Junaco, the Mo

Dewji Foundation, Lake Oil, ASAS, AZAM, Uncle K Catering, Zurii, Simply Special Decor and State Oil. It was attended by the Turkish Ambassador to Tanzania, Ali Davuto lu, a member of the regional peace committee, Sheikh Issa Othman, operators of orphanage centers and various Muslim leaders.



Zambia's Workers Compensation Fund Control Board commissioner and CEO Dr Elizabeth Lungu Nkumbula (L) exchanges documents with Workers Compensation Fund - Tanzania director general Masha Mshomba shortly after they had signed a memorandum of cooperation in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

FROM PAGE 1

from the leadership of Dr. Kenneth Kaunda and the late Mwalimu Nyerere, where they worked together to bring about the Tanzania-Zambia Railway (TAZARA) and the Tazama pipeline.

"This signing today continues our long history of cooperation as another milestone of continuity in the cooperation between our sister countries," the board chairperson noted.

On his part, the Director General

Tanzania, Zambia compensation funds tie up cooperation accord

of the Workers Compensation Fund, Masha Mshomba said that the signing is historical for the two workers compensation funds.

"Zambia has been in this business for more than 40 years. They have a long experience in workers' compensation and this agreement is normal

especially as such funds have a lot to share on paying compensations and to prevent faulty claims being approved," he stated.

As Tanzania has decided to build an industrial economy, a strong Workers Compensation Fund will help the government to reach its goals, he

emphasized.

"This cooperation accord signed is not the first as we signed the same with Germany's Workers Compensation Fund and we believe such agreements will help our organization build experience from different partners," he added.

SADC ministers busy pushing for regional priority power projects

By Special Correspondent, Windhoek

WATER and energy ministers from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) have urged member states of the regional bloc to commit to the regional priority power projects aimed at enhancing security of energy supply.

During the joint meeting of regional ministers, the SADC Secretariat was directed to present a comprehensive report on energy projects that are under preparation and development by regional project preparation facilities.

Ministers directed the Secretariat, assisted by Regional Electricity Regulatory Association of Southern Africa (RERA), to establish appropriate structures under RERA to develop and implement regional regulatory initiatives pertaining to other energy sub-sectors namely, petroleum, gas and renewable energy under its expanded mandate.

At the meeting, which took place at Windhoek hotel on Friday, SADC ministers expressed their commitment to the regional priority power projects aimed at enhancing security of energy supply and considered and approved the SADC Industrial Energy Efficiency Programme (SIEEP) as a programme that promotes energy efficiency and energy conservation practices at the industrial sector level. The ministers

also approved the three Southern Africa Power Pool (SAPP) membership categories of national power utility member, operating member and market participant member.

The ministerial meeting that was hosted by the Namibian government was attended by SADC ministers or their representatives from Angola, Botswana, eSwatini, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The meeting was also attended by representatives from international and cooperating partners, United Nations agencies and implementing agencies, development partners, youth representatives and was preceded by a three-day meeting of senior officials responsible for the energy and water sectors.

In the energy sector, the deliberations focused on security of energy supply, energy infrastructure development, progress on targets from the previous ministerial meeting decisions. The ministerial meeting further reviewed the regional power programmes and projects, petroleum and gas subprogrammes, renewable energy and energy efficiency issues, energy sector regulatory subprogramme implemented by the subsidiary organisations and the International cooperating partners supporting SADC Energy programme.



Natural Resources and Tourism deputy minister Constantine Kanyasu (in cap) addresses residents of Sarakwa village in Bunda District, Mara Region, yesterday on compensation for their crops which have been destroyed by wild animals. Photo: MoNT

Police in Mbeya arrest 4 suspects in connection with murder of relative

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

POLICE in Mbeya are holding four people allegedly in connection with the killing of their relative Tenson Meta (54) at Isangala village, Mbeya district.

Mbeya Regional Police Commander, Ulrich Matei linked the killing with superstitious beliefs.

RC Matei told journalists that the incident occurred on May 17th 2019 at 21:45 pm where the suspects are said to attack the deceased with sharp objects and later hide his body in car boot before they buried him in Chunya district.

The suspects are Devi Simbazy (44) a witch doctor and resident of Isangala village, Peter Ndege (43) residing at Kibaoni area in Chunya, Ally Mtukwa (51) from Itewa village in Chunya and Lameck Mwanyanje (39) also from Chunya district.

According to RPC, the suspects took the deceased to the traditional healer-Devi Simbazy claiming he was a witch. The witch doctor confirmed that the late Meta had evil magic powers and that he has been taking part in the killings of other family members.

"We are going to take stringent legal measures against people involved in the killing of innocent citizens due to superstitious beliefs", said RPC Matei adding police will travel to Chunya district to exhume the dead body.

He said police are still investigating the matter.

A six-year old girl Rose Japhet was killed in Mbeya region in the past three weeks and the killers went away with

her body parts.

The remains of the baby girl were found at Chimara Forest Reserve and the body was found decapitated and with the right foot amputated. The foot was later found buried nearby.

According to the police, the motive of the murder was monetary. The father of the deceased took his daughter to a businessman for five million shillings for her to be killed and her right foot amputated.

The incident happened barely three months, when ten children aged between three and six years were brutally killed and some had their organs chopped off in different occasions in Njombe Region

Reports have it that the killers were also chopping off the children's reproductive and respiratory organs in the killings that are linked to superstitious beliefs.

“We are going to take stringent legal measures against people involved in the killing of innocent citizens due to superstitious beliefs

By Guardian Reporter

Plastics ban: Dar calls for use of alternative bags

THE Dar es Salaam city council has called upon its residents including businessmen to collaborate with the government by adopting the use of alternative bags to replace plastics.

Dar es Salaam Mayor, Isaya Mwitwa gave the city's stance on the matter yesterday when he addressed journalists on how they prepared to implement the government's order to ban plastics come June 1.

He said the ban can only be successful if Dar es Salaam residents

can cooperate to ensure that the country can overcome climate change effects.

"The ban is on a goodwill base, what is needed is the civic education to our people and I have already given directives on how we can inform our people so that they are reached with information," he said.

The Mayor said the sanitation issue was a mandate for residents of the city and that each and every one was part and parcel of ensuring that the ban

was successful.

According to the Mayor, the city council has issued statements informing the public about the ban.

Tanzania is to enforce a total ban on the use of plastic bags by June, 2019, as the government moves to protect the environment from choking mounds of the deadly plastic waste.

Manufacturers of plastic bags were expected to use the two months window to unwind their businesses estimated to run into billions of

shillings.

The ban, seen as long coming, will mean no plastic bags will be manufactured or traded in the country from June. Tanzania joins other countries such as Kenya, Rwanda and Zanzibar to enforce a total ban on the use of plastic bags.

Environmentalists have campaigned for many years for authorities to ban the use of plastic but business interest groups have often prevailed due to fear of job and tax losses.

By Guardian Reporter

Police kill 3 suspected gangsters in shootout

THREE suspected bandits including a woman have been gunned down by police in Dar es Salaam city after a failed attempt to raid and rob money from one of the houses at Seremala Street in Kigogo-Fresh, Kinondoni district.

Dar es Salaam Special Zone Police Commander, Lazaro Mambosasa told journalists yesterday that the house they planned to raid is owned by a treasurer of a women group dubbed 'Umjoja Group'. He said the incident occurred on May 25, this year at 8pm.

Mambosasa said that police were tipped off by a Good Samaritan thus decided to patrol the area and managed to kill three gangsters including a woman. He said that police also recovered two pistols and three bullets.

"We were informed that robbers were planning to raid a house belonging

to Ally Dastan (66), husband to Moshi Said (56) who is the chairperson and treasurer of 'Umjoja Group', said the RPC noting that police killed the suspected bandits in an exchanged gunfire.

He said the suspects died as they were taken to Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) for treatment. He said police are searching for other two people who escaped during incident.

On November 26, last year Police in Dar es Salaam killed six suspected bandits who were on an attempt to rob a wealthy businessman.

Mambosasa was quoted as saying the suspected bandits were armed with an AK47 military firearm and 11 rounds of

ammunition.

"One of the dead bodies had an identification card showing he was working in Burundi," Mambosasa said, adding that police rounded and attacked the suspects at between 3.30 a.m. and 4 a.m. local time at Ubungo area where the businessman was traveling to Morogoro with a huge amount of money.

"We cannot release the name of the businessman for security reasons," said the police officer.

Mambosasa said preliminary investigations showed that the suspects had previously stolen huge amounts of money in Dar es Salaam and Geita regions.



Bedsheet vendors wait for customers along Msimbazi Road in Dar es Salaam's Kariakoo market area yesterday. Photo: John Badi



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ariel Glaser Pediatric AIDS Healthcare Initiative (AGPAHI) is a non-governmental organisation that plays a pivotal role in complementing the Government of Tanzania's efforts towards the attainment of its development goals. AGPAHI strives to provide quality and integrated HIV/AIDS health services to children and families. AGPAHI supports the provision of high-quality HIV and other health services and ensures that efforts are well-integrated into existing regional and district health systems.

AGPAHI is implementing various projects that are highly demanding and thus the organization is looking for a motivated, result driven, qualified and competent staff to fill the position of **Executive Assistant**.

Job Title: EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
Report to: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Location: DAR-ES-SALAAM

Purpose of the post

The Executive Assistant serves as the primary point of contact for internal and external constituencies on all matters pertaining to the Executive Director. The Executive Assistant serves as a liaison to the Board of Directors and Senior Management Teams; organizes and coordinates executive outreach and external relations efforts; and oversees special projects.

The Executive Assistant will also serve as a conduit to and from the Executive Director to the rest of the organization, composes and creates communications, maintains documentation related to contracts and official documents, and maintains an appropriate professional demeanor while interacting with all levels of staff,

Experience & Education:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience with social sciences background and an interest in national and global issues.
- Five to ten years providing support for upper-level management.

Skills & Abilities:

- Strong organizational skills that reflect ability to perform and prioritize multiple tasks seamlessly with excellent attention to detail.
- Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to build relationships with stakeholders, including staff, board members, external partners and donors.
- The ability to multi-task and to react productively to change and lead by example. A demonstrated commitment to high professional ethical standards and a diverse workplace.
- Ability to work independently and with professional discretion.
- Excellent writing, editing, grammatical, organizational, and research skills.
- Ability to work with a broad range of people including major donors, Board members, colleagues of the Executive Director and staff, and others.
- Excellent management, time-management, and problem-solving skills.
- Proficiency in Windows, including MS Word, EXCEL and PowerPoint.

Other competency

- Professionalism - Approaches others in a tactful manner; Reacts well under pressure; Treats others with respect and consideration regardless of their status or position; Accepts responsibility for own actions; Follows through on commitments.
- Quality - Demonstrates accuracy and thoroughness; Looks for ways to improve and promote quality; Applies feedback to improve performance; Monitors own work to ensure quality.
- Adaptability - Adapts to changes in the work environment; Manages competing demands; Changes approach or method to best fit the situation; Able to deal with frequent change, delays, or unexpected events
- Cultural Sensitivity - Respects cultural environment in which person is working and does not act in a manner that is outwardly offensive to the local community.

HOW TO APPLY

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter and CV (not exceeding four pages) and names and contact information of three referees before close of business on **Tuesday 11th July, 2019** to the Human Resources and Administration Manager, Ariel Glaser Pediatric AIDS Healthcare Initiative, by e-mail to recruitment@agpahi.or.tz Please mention the title of the position in your email and do not attach any document other than the CV and cover letter.

AGPAHI is an equal opportunity employer, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

215248801



TPB Bank Plc Board Chairman Dr Edmund Mndolwa (C) briefs journalists on the sidelines of the bank's shareholders annual general meeting in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. He is flanked by the bank's CEO, Sabasaba Moshingi (R), and Treasury Registrar representative Lightness Mauki. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Marijuana: UK's new frontier data ranks Tanzania the fifth in Africa

By Guardian Reporter

THE UK's New Frontier Data has ranked Tanzania the fifth in Africa, with 3.6 million of its citizens said to take marijuana.

In EAC, Tanzania leads the two other populous nations Kenya with 3.3 million consumers and ranked sixth in Africa while Uganda with 2.6 million consumers is ranked eighth in Africa.

Top consumers in Africa, according to the report, are Nigeria with 20.8 million users, Ethiopia with 7.1 million people, Egypt 5.9 million people and DR Congo taking the fourth slot with 5 million people.

According to the study, Nigeria has the world's highest rate of cannabis use, with 19.4 per cent of its population aged 15 and above having consumed it in the past year.

In 2018, Africa recorded a staggering value of up to \$37 million worth of marijuana consumed on the continent.

New Frontier Data's latest analysis reveals a huge demand for marijuana with more than 260 million adults worldwide consuming cannabis at least once per year. The collectively spending is a staggering US\$344 billion annually.

Asia is the world's largest market due to its geographical size with 39 per cent of the global consumers. Yet, Asia has the lowest regional usage rate of 2 per cent, while North America (15 per cent), Europe (12 per cent) and Africa (11 per cent), respectively, have higher percentages of adult consumers.

There has been a growing trend of countries around the world legalizing the usage of marijuana, especially for medical purposes.

In Africa, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Lesotho and Uganda are among countries that have cleared the medical application of marijuana. Kenya activists have opened a case in the high court to push for its legalisation.



In 2018, Africa recorded a staggering value of up to \$37 million worth of marijuana consumed on the continent

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

Parliamentary committee praises govt for controlling illegal exportation of minerals

THE Parliamentary committee on Energy and Minerals has commended the government through the ministry of Minerals and the Mining Commission for the ability to control illegal exportation of minerals.

Tabling the committee recommendations on the ministry's 2019/20 budget estimates, the deputy committee chairperson, Mariam Ditopile said, "It is the belief of the committee that the ministry will continue doing the same for the mineral sector to contribute immensely in the

national economy" she said. She noted that the committee was also pleased with the government efforts to solve some of the challenges in the sector, especially those that affect small scale miners.

According to the deputy chairperson, the decision to abolish VAT 18 percent and withholding tax 15 per cent on small scale miners was a positive move,

adding that artisan miners should now support the government efforts by paying the remaining taxes diligently.

However, the committee expressed disappointment by the disbursement of ministry' development budget, terming it below one per cent of the budgeted amount.

Ditopile argued that it is evident that the poor disbursement of development

budget delayed projects and made other projects not implemented at all.

She noted that the committee was aware that some Sh 8,600,000,000 was allocated for a project at a mine in Buhemba as part of capital for the State Mining Corporation (STAMICO).

The committee expressed disappointed with the project delay, adding that it might cause negative

effects on the project.

The opposition camp in the parliament also decried the low disbursement of development but in the 2018/19.

Shadow minister for Minerals, John Heche said some 13.6 billion was budgeted for development projects in the 2018/19 whereby Sh 9 billion was allocated for development at Kiwira

and Buhemba mines and other Sh 4 billions for recurrent activities.

"It is disturbing that by February, 2019 STAMICO received only Sh 2.7 billion for salary and other expenses" he said.

He said the opposition camp is not happy with the investment at Buhemba Gold mine, terming it one of the mines that has left bad memory among residents of Musoma rural.

On the Tanzanite One, Heche said the mine owned at 50/50 between STAMICO and Tanzanite One Company is facing a lot of challenges including lack of expert valuers of the minerals.

New twist surfaces in row over ownership of business

By Guardian Reporter

THE legal wrangle between the operator of the demolished famous Meku's Bistro restaurant in Moshi, Kilimanjaro region and his business partner Oryx Oil company limited has taken a new twist after the latter yesterday called for government's intervention for justice to prevail.

The wrangle between Peter Kaale of Community Petroleum Limited, the owner and operator of Mekus restaurant and Oryx Oil company limited originates from a deed of settlement that the two sides signed in August 2017 for leasing a petrol station and a restaurant premises located along Taifa Road, Moshi-Kilimanjaro.

The company's spokesperson advocate Emanuel Mlaki told a press conference yesterday that they now bank on the government's intervention after the other side had failed to obey court orders that restricted any activity to take place at the scene.

"We know our government listens, I appeal it should intervene so that justice can prevail, we have seen court orders are being ignored so that we all can have peace," he said.

The advocate called upon the Police in Moshi to implement the court order by restricting the new occupants to carry out any activity on the area.

On the bone of contention, Mlaki said on April 30 Oryx officials accompanied with auction brokers and armed security men who ordered all workers to vacate the premises at the same time started vandalising properties.

"We never received any notice before to vacate the place, because the law requires that if you want to remove someone you give a notice but, these people did not have any of the documents," he said.

He said his client has all the required documents to operate at the premises as the two sides entered a deed of settlement which was administered by the Housing and Land tribunal for Moshi.

The deed of settlement with the numbeed Land Application No.157 of 2017 which this paper got a copy was signed between Oryx oil company, Community Petroleum Limited and Alphonse Mwacha as a sub lessee, sublease and lessee respectively.

Oryx was represented by its executive director Sophonie Babo and Edgar Moshia who was introduced as company secretary.

The petroleum company was represented by Peter Kaale as director and Jacob Kaale as co-director.

The signing was commissioned by Daniel Lyimo of Mawaalla advocates and Helen Mahuna of Law Access.

Mlaki said following the matter they filed a case at the Moshi District Land and Housing tribunal for the court to declare who was the legal occupant of the mentioned area. The court ruled in favour of the applicant.

But the order was not implemented at Oryx and co continued to operate the on the area. The court also issued an order to stop the new occupants from carrying any activity on the premises.

Speaking on the matter, Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner Anna Mghwira said she had worked on the matter to an extent where she thought it has ended. "When I ordered the Moshi municipal authorities to bring the certificate that they issued to allow Kaaya to conduct business on the mentioned premises, they did not do so and instead went ahead to close his business, the young man has been in ups and down for a long time" she said.

According to the RC, the other side which fuelled the conflict was Oryx which leased the land to Kaaya but never showed up during all this period when the government said the place was not suitable for food businesses.

"They have showed up but, they have ignored court orders and now they have demolished someone's property worth millions, we even gave him another plot because he was generating revenue for the government," she said.

When contacted yesterday, Oryx Director Babo said he was not ready to speak to the media on the matter because it was under investigation.



We know our government listens, I appeal it should intervene so that justice can prevail, we have seen court orders are being ignored so that we all can have peace



A vendor hunts for customers for home-made mats along the Tabata Relini stretch of Dar es Salaam's Mandela Road yesterday. Photo: John Badi

Activists march against fossil fuels to mark Africa Day

HARARE

ACTIVISTS from more than 20 African countries were on Saturday expected to march in their thousands against fossil fuels, a major driver of climate change, while advocating climate justice.

Organised by pressure group 350Africa.org, the marches were designed, in their own unique way, to coincide with and celebrate Africa Day, held every May 25.

Since its origins, Africa Day has been a symbol of aspiration for self-determination against the exploitation of natural resources, something that has brought the continent to a state of perpetual conflict, teetering on the brink of a devastating climate crisis.

While Africa accounts for just five percent of the global greenhouse gases emissions total, it faces the greatest risks from climate change and global warming.

Extraction and consumption of fossil

fuels like oil and coal are the biggest drivers of the change in climates, a change which has spawned frequent and extreme events like drought, floods and tropical cyclones.

Landry Ninteretse, Africa head for 350Africa.org, highlighted the impact of climate change as manifested by the deadly cyclone Idai and Kenneth in Mozambique, Malawi, Tanzania and Zimbabwe, droughts and floods in parts of South Africa.

"With the exception of South Africa, African countries have done relatively little to contribute to climate change, yet are being severely impacted and have little to no resources to cope with the aftermath," Ninteretse said in a statement. "Less developed African countries are a natural disaster away from sinking into a negative loop of poverty and lack of access to social and economic opportunities, exacerbated by climate change," he said.

Nearly 60 events were due to take place throughout the continent on

Africa Day, with participants drawn from oil and coal affected communities including fishing and farming communities.

Women and youth renewable energy clubs, civil society, community, religious and government leaders "have all taken part in various activities to send a strong message that Africa doesn't have to rely on fossil fuels to satisfy its energy demand," Ninteretse explained.

Rather, the Burundian opined, the continent should "lead the world in the just energy transition powered by low-cost renewable resources."

In Zimbabwe, energy is one of the major sectors, including agriculture and transport, where Government has targeted to cut emissions by 33 percent between now and 2030. This will be achieved by increased investment in hydropower and solar.

The country last year turned on 300 megawatts of additional hydro electricity at Kariba, built by the

Chinese at a cost of over \$500 million, while plans are afoot to build a 300MW solar power plant near Gwanda.

Zimbabwe is not angling for net zero carbon emissions, at least until economic growth comes full circle, or somewhere close.

Regardless, it already is a net absorber, in every sense. The country accounts for under one percent of the global emissions total and its 15.6 million hectares of forest cover take care of a lot of the emissions.

But we can expect to see more solar power, large and small-scale hydro-electric power plants and more efficient transport systems, particularly rail, as part of its contribution to the global goal of cutting emissions that fuel climate change.

Until only a few weeks back when the water level in Kariba dam dropped to critical lows, electricity generated from hydro accounted for over 60 percent of all power generated locally.

Scientists recommend measures to contain woody weed spread in East Africa

By Special Correspondent

A Team of international scientists, including CABI's Dr. Urs Schaffner, have recommended ways to manage the devastating spread of the woody weed *Prosopis juliflora*, where in Baringo County, Kenya, its coverage rapidly increased by 2,031 percent in just 28 years.

Ph.D. student Purity Rima Mbaabu, affiliated with the University of Nairobi and co-supervised by Simon Choge, Kenya Forestry Research Institute, Dr. Sandra Eckert, Centre for Development and Environment, University of Bern, Switzerland, Prof. Maina Gichaba and Prof. Daniel Olago, University of Nairobi, and Dr. Schaffner, is lead author of new research which states that the rates of *Prosopis* invasion in Kenya are a "major threat to the environment and rural people's livelihoods."

The study calls for the "urgent implementation of coordinated and sustainable *Prosopis* management in Baringo County and other invaded areas in East Africa."

Mbaabu and fellow researchers, in the Remote Sensing published paper "Spatial evolution of *Prosopis* invasion and its effects on LULC and livelihoods in Baringo, Kenya," propose that the invasive *Prosopis* - which increased from 882 ha in 1988 to 18,792 ha in 2016 - can only be managed through an integrated management approach.

Integrated weed management is usually based on a combination of chemical, biological and mechanical control measures to reduce density of a weed in the invaded range and to slow down or stop its spread into uninvaded areas.

The scientists used a combination of dry and wet season Landsat satellite data, acquired in a seven-year time interval between 1988 and 2016 and performed a supervised Random Forest classification, to assess the impact of the *Prosopis* on land use and land cover (LULC) in the local environment, and its associated impact on (agro)-pastoral livelihoods.

In parallel/in exchange to the striking increase in *Prosopis*-dominated land,

LULC classes important for rural people's livelihoods experienced serious losses: grasslands were reduced by 86 percent, irrigated cropland by 57 percent, natural shrubland by 42 percent and rainfed cropland by 37 percent.

Mbaabu said, "While *Prosopis* species provide wood for local use and for charcoal production, they are a major threat to the environment and to rural people's livelihoods because they can suppress or replace native biodiversity and alter ecosystem functions and services. In particular, they severely limit livestock production, increase costs of crop production and consume a lot of water, thereby causing significant economic damage."

Overview map (A) and LULC maps (B-F) of Marigat subregion, Baringo County, Kenya, for the years 1988, 1995, 2002, 2009, and 2016. The overview map shows the topography, waterways and lakes, and Perkerra irrigation scheme. The red boundary zone is the extent of the study area. Credit: Remote Sensing

"Building on the long-term management experience gained in Australia, we propose that a combination of management options is required to achieve the sustainable and effective control of *Prosopis* in Baringo and other areas where it has spread."

"This includes regular inspection of areas at risk of invasion and the targeted removal of small *Prosopis* populations at the invasion front as well as ensuring active land use which also plays a critical role in controlling its spread."

Prosopis was introduced in Baringo County in 1982 as part of the Fuelwood Afforestation Extension project to help reduce soil erosion, provide fodder for livestock and help reduce the effects of

dust storms.

But the species, whose spread can be explained by a number of different factors, including dispersal of seed by livestock and wildlife and extreme climatic events such as the floods of 2013, soon became unmanageable due to their fast proliferation and ability to survive cutting by coppicing.

Dr. Schaffner added, "Many exotic trees and shrubs have been introduced into Africa, but a few have escaped cultivation and have become destructive alien invasive species reducing native biodiversity and limiting the livelihoods of those that live in rural communities."

"In Eastern Africa, where those living in rural communities are

more vulnerable to the impacts of invading species, there is a lack of coordinated and effective sustainable management of woody alien invasive species. This latest research will help form sustainable land management strategies that will help the countries to mitigate the impacts of the species."

The paper was published as part of the wider CABI-led project "Woody invasive alien species in East Africa: Assessing and mitigating their negative impact on ecosystem services and rural livelihood" which is funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and also involves research in Ethiopia and Tanzania.



Exim Bank head of retail banking Andrew Lyimo (R) shares a light moment with the bank's customers and guests including Zanzibar Information, Tourism and Heritage minister Mahmoud Thabit Kumbo (3rd-R) at iftar the bank hosted in Zanzibar for its customers at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

RC forms seven-strong task force over cashew farmers' claims of unpaid dues

By Guardian Correspondent, Lindi

LINDI Regional Commissioner Godfrey Zambi has formed a seven-man task force to probe the legality of cashewnuts farmers' concerns, particularly those who claimed that they weren't paid for their produce.

RC Zambi made the directives over the weekend during the annual general meeting of the Ruangwa, Nachingwea and Liwale Cooperative Union Limited (RUNALI). The meeting was held in Nachingwea town.

he said: "There are lots of complaints from some farmers, who claim that they weren't received payments after selling their cashew nuts. So, I want this team to work as soon as possible."

Zambi who was the guest of honour at the meeting, he directed the team to submit the report before the end of this month.

According to him, more than 190bn/- has been paid to farmers, but still

more complains are there, farmers are still demanding their arrears, "that's why I decided to form a team to make a follow up about their demands and to identify where the problem is."

He added that, the team is responsible to establish how many farmers have not yet received their payments and to identify the key problem, because the government wants every farmer to receive his or her own rights.

The team, according to Zambi, the team will work closely with cooperatives.

He said in there are lot of challenges in the cooperative unions caused by unscrupulous leaders, who cause the government to be blamed for their evils.

The RC revealed that in the last cashew nuts season, there were several leaders who use to steal cashew nut on the way to main warehouse for storage.

"And at the end, such leaders are the one to complain that cashew nut has

being stolen from the warehouse, but it is the same leaders who engage in the syndicate business," he explained.

The RC called on members of cooperatives to come up with a better system that will make them get better leaders. "It is important for cooperative unions to have the database of its members, by names, and size of farm for each farmer, to make it simple during the verification exercise."

He said other leaders in the cooperative unions aren't aware of particulars of their members.

For his part, chairman for Runali cooperative, Hassan Mpako promised to supervise effectively the directives made by the RC to ensure leaders of the union are accountable to members.

Runali cooperative union that was established in 2013 is made up of three districts including Ruangwa, Nachingwea and Liwale. It started with 52 members and grows up to 104 members.

Two foreign teachers out to climb Mt Kilimanjaro to support school

explained.

"Instead of providing communities with enormous amounts of money that can often be caught up in corruption, they find it better to help build it up from a base level - building schools, and giving people an education."

Andréa and Georgie set out for Tanzania on July 6, and spend eight days scaling the peak.

The half-Swiss Andréa will need her Alpine heritage. She's definitely not a mountaineer, she said, laughing, but she and Georgie love climbing.

"It's going to be intense, but we are training as much as we can, to make it as easy and enjoyable as possible!" Andréa said.

She trains at the gym every second day, and spends her weekends hiking in the hilly national parks.

Exciting though the climb will be, Andréa most looks forward to four days meeting the Ugandan schoolchildren.

"It's going to be confronting, but it

will be good to see them," she said.

As teachers, she and Georgie travel to schools around northern NSW, from small country schools to big public ones.

"It doesn't compare to what the students face in Uganda," she said. "Poverty is so prominent over there. Education is one of the most powerful tools that people can use to change the world. The war on poverty is so important to fight."

Andréa and Georgie have raised \$9500 as of Monday; a charity day at the Armidale Golf Club, with a raffle and silent auction, raised \$5000.

"Although we have our struggles here with the drought, we can't forget our neighbours," Andréa said.

The Foundation holds the Kilimanjaro trek annually, but runs other fundraising activities throughout the year, including a 10-year anniversary black tie ball in Sydney this month, and hikes up Mount Kosciuszko.

MBEYA WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION AUTHORITY

TEL: +255 25 2504298
FAX: +255 25 2503492
Email: md@mbeyauwsa.go.tz



P.O. BOX. 2932
MBEYA.

28th May, 2019

Tender No. AE/037/2019-20120/G/01-04 & AE/037/2019-2020/W/01

For

Supply of Various Goods and Works
Using Framework Contract

Invitation for Tenders

- This Invitation for Tenders follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project which appeared in Tanzania Procurement Journal Volume XIII; Issue No. 21 dated 21st May, 2019.
- The Mbeya Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (Mbeya WSSA) has set aside funds for its operation during the financial year 2019/2020. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payment under the contract for the Supply of Various Goods and Works as follows:-

S/N	TENDER DESCRIPTION	LOT DESCRIPTION	LOT No.	TENDER NUMBER
1	Supply of Water Pipes and Fittings	NA	NA	EA/037/2019-2020/G/01
2	Supply of Water Meters	NA	NA	EA/037/2019-2020/G/02
3	Supply of Water Treatment Chemicals	NA	NA	EA/037/2019-2020/G/03
4	Supply of Water Pump, Dosing Pumps and Accessories.	NA	NA	EA/037/2019-2020/G/04
5	Proposed Rehabilitation and Maintenance of Water Supply and Sewerage Infrastructures.	NA	NA	EA/037/2019-2020/W/01

- The Mbeya Water Supply and Sanitation Authority now invites sealed tenders from eligible Suppliers of Supply of Various Goods and Works as above.
- Tendering will be conducted through the National Competitive Tendering (NCB) procedures specified in the Public Procurement Regulations, 2013 – Government Notice No. 446 and is open to all Tenderers as defined in the Regulations.
- Interested eligible Tenderers may obtain further information from and inspect the Tendering Documents at the office of the Tender Board Secretary, Mbeya Water Supply and Sanitation Authority; Sinde Area, Sabasaba Road, P.o.Box . 2932, Mbeya from 8:00 A.M to 4:00 P.M on Mondays to Fridays inclusive except weekends and on public holidays.
- A complete set of Bidding Document(s) in English may be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address given under paragraph 5 above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Hundred Thousand Tanzania Shillings [Tshs. 100,000/=] only per every competed Tender. Payment should be made at the Cashier Counter available at Mbeya WSSA or after receiving Control Number from the Authority.
- All tenders must be accompanied by a Tender Securing Declaration in the format provided in the Tendering Documents.
- All tenders in one original Plus Two Copies properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered to the address below at or before 10:00 A.M on Friday 14th June, 2019. Bids will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend in the opening at the Mbeya WSSA MWAKALUKWA HALL which is available at Mbeya WSSA yard opposite to GPSA Premises Sinde Area, Sabasaba Road, Mbeya.
- Late tenders, portion of tenders, electronic tenders, and tenders not received, tenders not opened and not read out in public at the tender opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

Managing Director,
Mbeya Water Supply & Sanitation Authority,
P.O.Box. 2932.
Mbeya.

Tel: +255 (25) 2504298
Fax: +255 (25) 2503492
Email: md@mbeyauwsa.go.tz

Mpwapwa to raise 450m/- for health centre revamping

By Guardian Correspondent, Mpwapwa

THE Anglican Church, Mpwapwa Diocese intends to raise over 450 million/- aimed at revamping and extending St Lukes Health Centre which is owned by the church.

Speaking about the project, Mpwapwa Diocese Bishop Jacob Chimeledya nad the Chairman of the organizing committee Tom Mazanda, said they decided to embark on the project which includes construction of a maternity and childrens; ward, extension of the laboratory, purchasing new equipment and increasing the number of personnel, so as to meet the current needs as its serves many people.

"Mpwapwa residents know the importance of the health centre hence the reason for us uniting to raise funds for this noble course," they said through their statement to the press.

The Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Edwin Kiula said the health centre was registered in 1993 as a dispensary which they inherited from missionaries from CMS who started health services in 1876.

The St Lukes Health Centre attends to an average of 50-60 patients per day and expectant women who give birth range from 550-600 per year.

According to Dr Kiula, women treated at the health centre for other women related diseases are more than 400 and over 300 children are born every year while OPD patients range from 11,000-13,000 per year and the maternity clinic has between 18,000-20,000 attendees per year.

Among diseases treated at the health centre, according to the officer, include PID, pneumonia among children, diarrhea and malaria

According to the press statement, the health centre serves a wide range of people regardless of their backgrounds because it has specialists hence pulling people from

all corners of the country.

"The need continue to increases day by day hence we saw the need to fundraise so we can undertake the project," said the statement.

According to the statement, the needs at the time when the centre was established were few compared to the present but they are working to curb the challenges as it is outlined in the International 'Quality of care' guideline and the 'Big Result Now' which is being implemented nationally.

St Lukes Helath centre was for two years consecutively in 2016 and 2017 selected as the best health centre in the district following the Big Results Now survey which is under the Office of the President.

According to the statement, the fundraising event, which is to be held in Dar es Salaam on July 26, 2019, will be graced by retired President Jaka Mrisho Kikwete who will be accompanied by leaders from and outside Mpwapwa adding that they have already started receiving some of the contributions and pledges so as to raise the required amount in time, "We are appealing to members to contribute towards this noble course," said the leaders.

For those willing to contribute the account numbers are CRDB-MPWAPWA BRANCH ST. LUKES UJENZI A/C-0150507423904 and NMB MPWAPWA BRANCH ST LUKES UJENZI A/C- 504100H146 and for those using mobile phones the nukbers to send to are 0754-363405, 0786-149840 and 0713-014681.

They said the Diocese has appointed ENERGIA Events Limited from Dar es Salaam to coordinate the fund raising event including the harambee on July 26, 2019.

They called on various institutions, organisations, companies , leaders, businesspeople and Mpwapwa residents in general to assist in raising the required 450 million/-.



Ready-to-eat mixed fruit on sale at a stall along Dar es Salaam's Uhuru Street yesterday. Photo: Selemeni Mpochi

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

TANZANIA Natural Resources Forum (TNRF) has commended efforts being taken by President John Magufuli to review mining contracts, saying some contracts were unfair, controversial and did not benefit the general public.

The forum has also called for the President to do the same in the land sector, saying some investors entered into controversial contracts with the villagers contrary to the land acquisition process and procedures.

Speaking during the training of journalists on investigative reporting in Dar es Salaam recently lined up under National Engagement Strategy (NES) Tanzania supported by International Land Coalition, TNRF Executive Director Faustin, Zakaria said some investors have taken huge chunks of land in different places in the country to invest in energy and agriculture but have never put the acquired land into use.

Instead, some of them have ended

Tanzania Natural Resources Forum commends Magufuli for efforts to review mining contracts

up leasing the acquired land to the same villagers to grow their crops for higher price contrary to the land laws.

The Forum also extended similar congratulation to the Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development William Lukuvi for cracking down ghost investors. However, Zakaria called for the Minister to extend his support to make follow-up to ensure the revoked lands are given back to the people in time to avoid future unexpected challenges, and exploit His potential while He is still a Minister for the benefits of small holder farmers and pastoralists.

"As TNRF we have tried to make follow up to support the processes to make that the revoked lands reach the people, but the laws are contravening, this is the point where the Minister

should also extend his support to the end, he said.

Land based investment Working Group coordinator at TNRF Masalu Luhula called for journalists to specialize in investigative reporting saying that will help to expose wrongdoing, change minds, and change lives.

Citing an example, he said in land sector there are many issues that need urgent intervention from journalists. He said in many areas women have no rights to land acquisition, use and ownership. Reporters could also pay attention to land use conflicts.

"These are some of the pertinent issues that have not been given required attention to understand their weakness and strengths, the general public want to understand where there have been success stories so that could

be emulated by other areas prone to land use conflicts," he said.

Communication and Advocacy Coordinator Sophia Masuka called for journalists to write correct and accuracy information to the people saying well researched information helps the general public, policy and decision makers to make well informed decision.

During the two-day training, journalists learnt communication skills, basic features of land laws and land based investments issues, land and natural resource investigative journalism and women and land rights among other many topics with the aim to formalize them with natural resources sector including land based investment issues. Long time serving journalists Deo Mfugale and Gerald Kitabu also shared their experiences.



A vendor hunts for customers for used clothes, mainly shirts, along a Dar es Salaam street yesterday. Photo: Selemeni Mpochi

Deforestation decreases drinking water access in Malawi

LILONGWE

CLEARING a wide area of trees reduces access to clean drinking water in communities, a study conducted in Malawi has found.

Forests play key roles in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals on water, health, food and climate change, experts say. According to the researchers who conducted the study, between 1972 and 2009, Malawi lost 36 per cent of the forest area, a reason that motivated them to assess the extent to which clearing forests – deforestation – could impact access to clean drinking water.

"Our study shows that decreasing forest area by 14 per cent will reduce access to clean drinking water by 13 per cent," says Annie Mapulanga, lead author of the study and an economist at Malawi's Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining, adding that the findings have important

policy implications in terms of dealing with climate change.

According to the study published in the 23 April issue of the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, researchers obtained satellite data from Malawi's Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Environment, confirming deforestation in the country from 2000 to 2010.

They compared the satellite data with information on clean water access in households using country's demographic health surveys conducted in 2000 and 2010.

"Deforestation in the last decade in Malawi (14 per cent) has had the same magnitude of effect on access to clean drinking water as that of a nine per cent decrease in rainfall," the study says.

Hisahiro Naito, a co-author of the study and an associate professor of economics at Japan's University of Tsukuba, tells SciDev.Net

that their findings could have implications for other African countries such as Tanzania that are experiencing high deforestation rates.

Kenneth Wiyo, an associate professor of water and irrigation at Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Malawi, agrees with the findings that deforestation adversely impact access to clean drinking water.

He explains that deforestation badly affects companies that treat water for drinking "as they have to spend more to remove sediments and debris from water, thereby affecting cost, quality and quantity of water available to consumers".

According to Maxon Ngochera, water quality specialist in Malawi's Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development, the findings are key and calls on African governments to take action to preserve forests to increase access to clean drinking water.

Increasing ecosystem carbon is good for species - new study

By Gloria Pallares

IT is widely assumed that land uses that increase carbon in biomass and soil to mitigate climate change also benefit biodiversity. But that might not always be the case. Until recently, there was no clear picture on what the most likely carbon-boosting strategies, such as planting trees in open lands and halting deforestation, meant for biodiversity.

In response, scientists from the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and partner organizations decided to study the relationship between payments for adding ecosystem carbon and the level of biodiversity in 12 landscapes across seven countries – Finland, Indonesia, Mexico, Laos, Peru, Tanzania and Vietnam.

"We wanted to understand the impact of the most common ways of increasing carbon in practice, because it might not always follow the general trend," says lead author and associate professor with Peking University Markku Larjavaara. "Take the plantation of one single exotic tree species on native shrubland: that is set to augment carbon, but not biodiversity, even if these aspects go hand in hand in the landscape as a whole."

To that end, researchers conducted two sets of interviews. In one case, they asked 97 experts how land use would change from the business-as-usual scenario with hypothetical annual payments of US\$ 1 and US\$ 10 for every additional ton of stocked carbon.

Then, they asked 115 biodiversity experts to rate how beneficial those land uses would be for local species of animals,

plants and fungi in each of the landscapes –most specialists were focused on only one of the landscapes.

The research confirmed that more carbon generally means more biodiversity and the other way around, as researchers expected. "As a first guess, one can assume that something which is bad for carbon, such as agricultural subsidies, is bad for biodiversity as well," says Larjavaara.

Interestingly, scientists also found that all the suggested main strategies to increase ecosystem carbon were beneficial for biodiversity –in nearly all cases. In Finland, Laos, Mexico and Vietnam, for instance, specialists expected carbon payments to stimulate increase of carbon in already forested areas.

Other mechanisms that were found to increase both carbon and biodiversity are tree-planting in agricultural lands (Peru, Tanzania); converting agricultural lands into natural forests (Peru); and reducing decomposition and peat burning by planting trees in open degraded areas (Indonesia).

The archipelago of Zanzibar in Tanzania has the only landscape where the potential strategy of choice to increase carbon could be harmful to biodiversity. Specifically, some of the experts interviewed by researchers expected carbon funding to lead to the conversion of native coral rag scrubland into tree plantations.

The species that would be most impacted by these changes are the caffeine-free coffee species *Coffea pseudozanguebariae*, followed by the blue duiker (*Cephalus monticola*) and the shrub or

small tree *Xylothea tetensis*. The third most affected species would be the Zanzibar red colobus (*Ptilocolobus kirkii*) and the endangered Mafia Island toad (*Stephopaedes howelli*), both of them endemic.

Scientists note there are two ways of increasing carbon relative to business-as-usual scenarios: slowing down its loss –for example, by protecting natural forests– and speeding its increase –for instance, by establishing planted forests. The first option is generally good for biodiversity, while the second might not, points out the study.

"Take a tropical rainforest: it might first be converted into pasture and then turned into forest again," explains Larjavaara. "This new forest is likely to be much simpler, perhaps even a monoculture, meaning it will have a lot less biodiversity despite being a fairly good storage of carbon."

In light of the findings, authors call on policy-makers and land-use planners to take both carbon and biodiversity into account when making decisions on land use.

"Focusing in each of these aspects separately can lead to situations that make little sense, such as designating one area for biodiversity conservation and another for a carbon project," says the scientist. "We could achieve much better results if both areas were managed for both biodiversity and carbon."

The researcher hopes the study will open a path that others can tread and expand: "I really hope our study makes more people take both biodiversity and carbon into account when making decisions on land-use, rather than just blowing with the winds of markets."



Hazina Primary school academic master Dennis Nyakerandi presents an award yesterday to Salma Mushi, who emerged number one among 340 students taking part in an inter-primary school Science and Mathematics competition for Dar es Salaam Region organised by Feza Schools. Others are Salma's schoolmates who made the top 10 list. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Turning East Africa's tensions into strengths

By Duncan Omondi Gumba

CAN the threats to the East African Community (EAC) trade bloc, including accusations of 'trade wars' and border closures between Rwanda and Uganda, be turned into strengths through mediation by countries such as Kenya? And will the EAC continue taking a lead in Africa's transformation into a continental economic bloc?

The EAC is one of eight regional economic communities recognised by the African Union (AU). One of the ominous questions at its Council of Ministers meeting from 6 to 10 May in Arusha, Tanzania, was whether it would again survive the upheavals that brought it crashing down in 1977, at the height of a customs union success.

Will political differences between leaders and feuds between member states halt the momentum achieved since its relaunch in July 2000? Will the new EAC remain possibly Africa's most successful case for regional integration?

Recent headlines highlighting the tensions between Rwanda and Uganda, and Burundi and Rwanda echo the difficulties that precipitated the collapse of the old EAC. These feuds threaten progress within the bloc of six countries with an estimated population of 195 million.

The ministerial meetings were set to look at how regional integration could be strengthened. These included reviewing plans for a common currency and a political federation. Discussions of these proposals began at the February summit, where President Paul Kagame of Rwanda took over

the presidency from his Ugandan counterpart Yoweri Museveni.

The success of such plans will confirm the community's reputation as the most rapidly integrating regional economic bloc over the past few years. This is perhaps because of the need to make up for lost time after its relaunch and its pursuit of the ultimate goal of political federation.

Since its rebirth in 2000, with three original member states - Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania - the regional bloc has expanded. Burundi and Rwanda became members in 2007, while South Sudan joined in 2016.

The EAC is also 'the fastest growing region on the continent with a robust GDP growth forecast of 5.9 percent from an estimated 5.7 percent in 2018', according to the African Development Bank's 2019 African Economic Outlook.

Following the ratification of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the trade deal will enter into force on 30 May. The EAC, with its vast experience, could contribute to this ambitious continental project. However, it first has to overcome its current difficulties.

With the disintegration ghost in the EAC's history threatening to resurface, icy diplomatic ties and accusations of a 'trade war' from both Kampala and Kigali precipitated the 27 February closure of the Katuna/Gatuna border post between the two countries.

This closure of their busiest crossing point has drawn in Kenya's mediation, which stands to lose from an escalation in the trade stand-off. Rwanda closed the border post to stop its nationals crossing into Uganda, allegedly to

protect them from what officials termed 'illegal arrest, torture, harassment and deportation by Ugandan authorities'. For its part, Uganda accused Rwanda of espionage and infiltration of its security agencies. Two months later, as the countries sought to end the impasse through diplomatic channels, tensions seemed to ease as Rwanda allowed Gatuna residents to cross the border. Other Rwandans, however, were still prevented from crossing at Gatuna.

Kenya's ability to mediate is key to preventing an EAC break-up. It will determine whether the current threats of disintegration and internal conflict are transformed into strengths that can take the regional bloc forward.

The country's hand has been strengthened by its February reelection to the AU's Peace and Security Council. Its diplomatic status will likely receive a further boost as it lobbies for a non-permanent seat at the UN Security Council for the 2021-22 term. This raises hopes of Kenya successfully weighing in to help resolve the crises in Burundi and South Sudan.

The consequences of an EAC collapse would be felt across the region and beyond. This is a time of economic slowdown in China, a protracted Brexit, trade wars between the US and other major world powers, and cautious optimism about sub-Saharan African economies. Turning the current upheaval into a positive could deliver a stronger region that towers above others in terms of economic growth and trade opportunities.

Duncan E Omondi Gumba, Regional Coordinator for East and Horn of Africa, ENACT project, ISS Nairobi



Dar es Salaam Special Zone Police Commander Lazaro Mambosasa shows journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday pistols he said were seized from suspected bandits. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Solidaridad committed to leading Kilimanjaro, Arusha stakeholders

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

AN international network organization—Solidaridad East and Central Africa has expressed its commitment to lead stakeholders in Kilimanjaro and Arusha regions to explore and increase business investment portfolio, improve resilience and economic profitability in the Kilimanjaro landscape.

Solidaridad East Africa has shown the commitment in a workshop that validated the recently developed Kilimanjaro Landscape Investment Framework (KLIF) in Arusha.

Rakula Okoth, the SME and investment manager for Solidaridad East Africa said: "For investment functions to be proactively by solidaridad and other stakeholders, there is a need to bring together financial institutions and agree on finance mechanisms that would better save investment activities in the landscape."

The Finance institutions will also be able to tell the best finance models that could be developed to support investment in the landscape.

This past week in Arusha different stakeholders including local government representatives, farmers' and livestock keepers representatives as well as prospective investors met to deliberate on the prospects of the Kilimanjaro

Landscape Investment forum (KLIF) in order to harness its potential to drive economic growth.

The KLIF will bring together all the stakeholders in the landscape to collectively act on issues that affect their operations. The business cases lies within the distribution networks of the current livelihood making strategies. Among other responsibilities related to lobbying and marketing of available investment opportunities.

Kilimanjaro is home to the highest mountain in Africa, Mt Kilimanjaro 5895m and its proximity to Arusha the headquarters of East Africa Community and tourist city makes it an ideal investment destination in the region.

Solidaridad has been capacitating farmers' and livestock keeper groups, particularly Agriculture Marketing Cooperative Societies (AMCOS) and Livestock Cooperative Societies to harness and grab investment opportunities in their localities. Capacity building has also been done to the youth and women groups based in Moshi rural, Rombo and Hai in Kilimanjaro region and Meru and Longido districts in Arusha region.

In its findings, the Sokoine University of Agriculture experts led by Judith Valerian, revealed the potential of the KLIF, in which Solidaridad will engage the local communities to understanding basic and applied management principles to instil

confidence in prospective investors.

The capacity building modules, according to Mary Mkonyi from Solidaridad, aims at imparting knowledge on use of computers and ICT, record keeping, financial procedures which include loan management.

The Kilimanjaro region economy is growing and the middle class income is increasing; therefore creating huge market prospects. Investment in these areas will increase employment in the region substantially because of their inter-linkages with other sectors and hence enable the region to increase regional GDP and per capita incomes of its residents.

Coffee farmers' representatives drew the attention of the audience when they shared their appreciation, suggestions and challenges leading to coffee AMCOS stagnation over years.

The challenges include change of land uses, contradicting policy issues, multiple taxes, social media applications to attract youths involvement in the sector, and speed up sector transformation among others.

In all these, they proposed a collective actions on investments in the following areas; rain water harvesting and storage facilities, livestock processing industries, biogas plants, vegetable processing industries, and tourist camps in some areas in Arusha and Kilimanjaro regions.

Solidaridad East Africa is currently implementing initiatives on Sustainable Landscapes Management which aims at different commodities including; Coffee, livestock and banana. The program aims at improving the Kilimanjaro ecosystem through capacity building, adoption and mainstreaming of Sustainable Landscapes Management interventions on individual, CSOs, NGOs and government basis.



For investment functions to be proactively by solidaridad and other stakeholders, there is a need to bring together financial institutions and agree on finance mechanisms that would better save investment activities in the landscape

The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania
For Wildlife Research, Education & Conservation

Terms of Reference
Consultant: Baseline Study
Landscape Conservation Program in Western Tanzania

Project Title	: Landscape Conservation in Western Tanzania
Location	: Kigoma, Uvinza districts (Kigoma region) and Tanganyika and Mpanda districts (Katavi region), Tanzania
Document Date	: May 27, 2019
Purpose of the consultancy	: The Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) is seeking a consulting firm to undertake a Socio-Economic Baseline Survey of its Landscape Conservation Program in Western Tanzania.

Project Overview:
The Landscape Conservation in Western Tanzania (LCWT) program is funded through a cooperative agreement with The United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The program is designed to protect chimpanzee populations and their habitat in Western Tanzania. The project focuses on the following 5 key areas: Strengthened local government's ability to support effective Natural Resource Management, Expanded and Operationalized Land Use planning, Increased Monitoring of conservation target and development targets, Improved Reproductive Health/family planning and Strengthened Community Based Environmental Education.

The Project addresses threats to forest cover and chimpanzee population in the Gombe-Masito-Ugalla (GMU) ecosystem. The technical approaches are built on a deep understanding of the GMU landscape and the challenges shared by the ecosystem, its inhabitants, and a wide range of local, regional, and national stakeholders. Drawing from decades of experience in the region, the JGI's program strategy and core implementation principles aim to conserve chimpanzees and their habitats for future generations through an adaptively managed, data-driven program designed to build local capacity, relieve pressure on natural resources, and facilitate financial sustainability through alternatives livelihoods, entrepreneurship and social business.

The LCWT program covers 1,733,283 ha in the Masito-Ugalla Ecosystem which is distributed to different land uses types to include protected areas in (Gombe National Park, Tongwe East and West Reserves, and Masito Local Authority Forest Reserves, National forest reserves/miombo woodlands). The program works with 104 villages many that have village forest reserves. The focus area is in the regions Kigoma (Kigoma and Uvinza districts) and Katavi (Mpanda and Tanganyika districts).

Qualifications:

- Extensive documented experience in conducting high quality participatory quantitative and qualitative baseline assessments in conservation and international development context;
- Demonstrated experience in leading studies, including designing tailored assessment tools;
- Ability to expedite and mobilize high quality baseline survey team with trained enumerators;
- Knowledge of and prior experience working in the Western Tanzania context required, experience working in study districts is a plus;
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills in English required;
- Swahili language skills required;
- Strong organizational, analytical and reporting skills, presentation skills, attention to detail, and ability to meet deadlines;
- The consultant and all team members are required to have an up to date Human Subject Protection training (as required by International Review Board/ IRB);
- Experience using Survey123 is strongly preferred;
- Multiple field enumerators required.

Guidance on Application Process and Requirements
The Jane Goodall Institute invites expressions of interest from qualified and interested individuals. Interested consulting firm must respond including, but not limited to the following:

1. Cover Letter expressing interest and demonstrating previous experience in similar assignments and qualifications outlined in the above scope of work, preferably in the form of a writing sample;
2. Team composition and level of effort of each proposed team member (to include CVs of each team member).
3. Proof of up to date Human Subject Protection training as required by IRB for each proposed team member;
4. Sample of previous work in similar consultancy work (assessment/survey/baseline assessment) to include detailed methodology.

All applications should be submitted to the Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist at The Jane Goodall Institute, P.O Box 1182, Kigoma, Tanzania or emailed to: jgi-tanzania@janegoodall.or.tz by 5.00pm local time on Monday June 10th. Applicants who meet the relevant criteria will be invited to submit a full proposal detailing accomplishment of activities in 5 business days.

Chronogram
Preparation, research and reporting will take place in June-August 2019.

All questions should be directed to the LCWT Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist Elikana Manumbu atemanumbu@janegoodall.or.tz or Stella Mercurio at smercurio@janegoodall.org.

The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

TUESDAY 28 MAY 2019

**Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995**

UN peacekeepers playing vital role, deserve honour

THE International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, May 29, is a day to pay tribute to all the men and women who have served and continue to serve in United Nations peacekeeping operations for their high level of professionalism, dedication, and courage and to honour the memory of those who have lost their lives in the cause of peace.

It was so designated by United Nations General Assembly Resolution on December 11, 2002, after an official request of the Ukrainian Peacekeepers Association and the government of Ukraine to the UN General Assembly and first celebrated in 2003. The date, May 29, marks the anniversary of the creation of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) in 1948 to monitor the ceasefire after the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, which was the first ever UN peacekeeping mission.

The day is marked at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City with the presentation of the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal, statements by the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General, as well as a press release regarding the state of UN Peacekeeping missions and the continued necessity of their work.

There are also observances around the world; often countries will honor their own peacekeepers abroad, but the UN also organises festivals, discussion forums, and memorials in cooperation with local and national groups.

In 2009, the UN put a special focus on the role of and need for women in peacekeeping, both as role models and also to serve in a number of gender-specific capacities. National Peacekeepers' Day is commemorated

in Canada on 9 August in memory of the loss of life when a Canadian operated, white UN marked passenger airplane was shot down by Syria.

The 1948 Arab-Israeli War, or the First Arab-Israeli War, was fought between the newly declared State of Israel and a military coalition of Arab states over the control of former British Palestine, forming the second and final stage of the 1947-49 Palestine war.

The first deaths of the 1947-49 Palestine war occurred on November 30, 1947 during an ambush of two buses carrying Jews. There had been tension and conflict between the Arabs and the Jews, and between each of them and the British forces since the 1917 Balfour Declaration and the 1920 creation of the British Mandate of Palestine. British policies dissatisfied both Arabs and Jews. Arabs opposition developed into the 1936-1939 Arab revolt in Palestine, while the Jewish resistance developed into the Jewish insurgency in Palestine (1944-1947). In 1947, these on-going tensions erupted into civil war following the 29 November 1947 adoption of the United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine, which planned to divide Palestine into an Arab state, a Jewish state, and the Special International Regime encompassing the cities of Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

On 15 May 1948, the civil war transformed into a conflict between Israel and the Arab states following the Israeli Declaration of Independence the previous day. Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and expeditionary forces from Iraq entered Palestine, even though Jordan had declared privately to Yishuv emissaries on 2 May that it would not attack the Jewish state.

Firms should take internal audits seriously, perform with sincerity

THE internal auditing is an independent, objective assurance and consulting activity designed to add value to and improve an organisation's operations. It helps an organisation accomplish its objectives by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes. Internal auditing achieves this by providing insight and recommendations based on analyses and assessments of data and business processes.[2] With commitment to integrity and accountability, internal auditing provides value to governing bodies and senior management as an objective source of independent advice. Professionals called internal auditors are employed by organizations to perform the internal auditing activity.

The scope of internal auditing within an organization is broad and may involve topics such as an organisation's governance, risk management and management controls over: efficiency/effectiveness of operations (including safeguarding of assets), the reliability of financial and management reporting, and compliance with laws and regulations. Internal auditing may also involve conducting proactive fraud audits to identify potentially fraudulent acts; participating in fraud investigations under the direction of fraud investigation professionals, and conducting post investigation fraud audits to identify control breakdowns and establish financial loss.

Internal auditors are not responsible for the execution of company activities; they advise management and the board of directors (or similar oversight body) regarding how to better execute their responsibilities. As a result of their broad scope of involvement, internal auditors may have a variety of higher educational and professional backgrounds.

The Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) is the recognized international standard setting body for the internal audit profession and awards the Certified Internal Auditor designation internationally through rigorous

written examination.

The Internal Auditing profession evolved steadily with the progress of management science after World War II. It is conceptually similar in many ways to financial auditing by public accounting firms, quality assurance and banking compliance activities.

While internal auditors are not independent of the companies that employ them, independence and objectivity are a cornerstone of the IIA professional standards; and are discussed at length in the standards and the supporting practice guides and practice advisories. Professional internal auditors are mandated by the IIA standards to be independent of the business activities they audit.

Auditors in the Tanzania have been advised to discharge their duties in line with global practices because of the critical roles they play in detecting and deterring fraud in organisations.

Vice President Institute of Internal Auditors Tanzania (IIA), Juma Kimori made the call over the weekend when speaking at the audit awareness seminar, organised for journalists from different media outlets.

The seminar was part of marking May as an international Internal Audit awareness month meant to equip media personnel with knowledge and understanding of internal audit profession and its contribution to enhancing good governance and attainment of organization's objectives.

Internal auditors are the second eye of the board of directors in any organisations, and key in organisation's development, calling auditors to exhibit high professionalism in the discharge of their duties to ensure that the ethics of their profession and the public purse are always protected.

Internal auditors ought to update of skills and knowledge of public sector staff on best practices which will help in cutting rough edges and bring about improvement in service delivery.

The Institute of Internal Auditors should be a global leader in certification, education, research and technological guidance for the internal audit profession.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

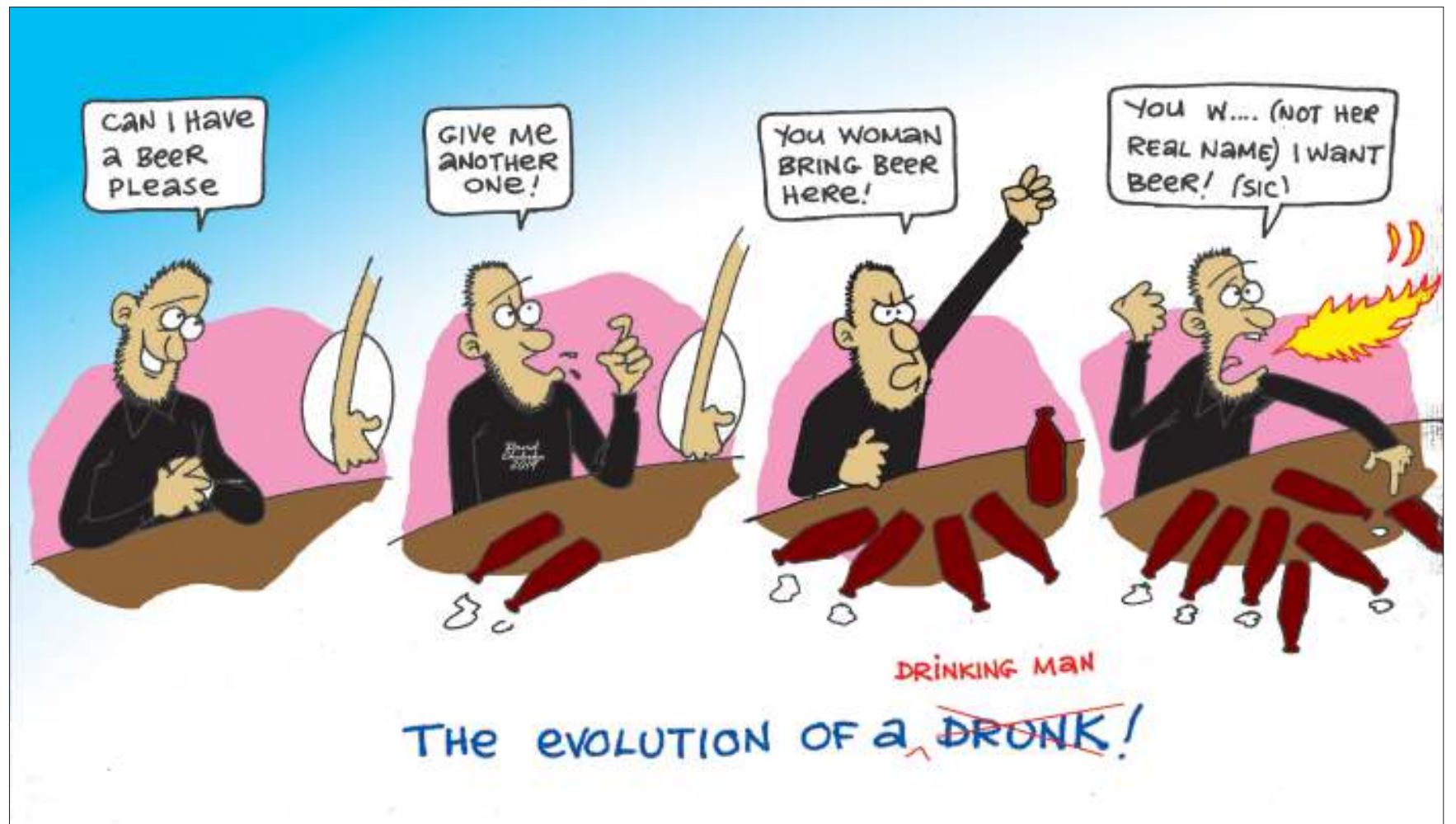
Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757154767
General line: 0745700710
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Manager Sales and Marketing: KAUTHAR DSOUZA
0767223311
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: www.ippmedia.com
epaper.ippmedia.com



Achieving self-sufficiency in Zim power generation

By Victor Bhoroma

ZIMBABWE is entering its third week of electricity blackouts under the national load-shedding programme announced by the country's power utility, Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority (Zesa).

The experience for various consumers seems like a déjà vu as rolling power cuts had been a daily norm from 2000 up until 2013 when prepaid meters were introduced.

The power utility communicated that the power cuts are a result of demand and supply mismatch, low water levels at Kariba hydro-electric power station, generation constraints at Hwange Thermal Power station and limited imports of electricity from traditional suppliers in the Southern African Development Community region. Zimbabwe is currently generating less than 820 megawatts (MW) from three power stations against a daily peak demand of 1 600MW in winter and 1 400MW in summer. Harare and Bulawayo thermal power stations are not generating electricity at the moment.

Zimbabwe imports at least 50MW daily from Eskom of South Africa and 100MW from Hydroelectric de Cahora Bassa (HCB) of Mozambique to meet the supply gap, but can access up to 450MW from the two regional power utilities if it pays off its arrears which amount to US\$80 million. As a result of outstanding debts, the two suppliers have reduced exports to Zimbabwe by 50MW and 100MW respectively until their dues have been cleared. The situation has been made worse by low water levels in Kariba Dam, where Zimbabwe and Zambia share equally less than 1 000MW currently being generated by Kariba Hydro-electric Power Station.

Zimbabwe has five power stations which have a combined generating capacity of 2 400MW. Years of mismanagement, poor planning, underinvestment and corruption in tenders to upgrade aging power stations or develop alternative renewable energy sources have taken the country back to a familiar problem.

The country now pins its hopes on the ongoing 600MW Hwange Power Station expansion funded to the tune of US\$1.5 billion by China Exim Bank, being undertaken by Sinohydro from China. The project is expected to be complete by March 2022.

The 2 400MW Batoka Gorge hydro-electric scheme (being developed jointly with Zambia) is still to commence and should be completed by 2025 if the US\$5 billion funding is secured on time. However, there are a lot of initiatives that Zimbabwe can push to ensure self-sufficiency in electricity generation in the next three



to five years. These include:

Electricity tariff review

The overarching goal for the government is to ensure that the tariff charged for electricity consumption allows Zesa to break even and keep the cost of production in the economy at optimum levels. Currently Zesa charges \$0,0986 per kilowatt hour (\$0,028 when using the inter-bank rate) while it costs \$0,11 per kWh to produce electricity locally.

Eskom and HCB charge \$0,13 per kWh, slightly below the regional average cost of \$0,14 per kWh. This mismatch means that Zesa will continuously sink into debt in order to sustain electricity consumption locally. Added to that, consumers owe Zesa over \$1.2 billion in unpaid bills and it owes suppliers its US\$500 million in turn.

The first task is to streamline Zesa operations and complete restructuring of operational costs to ensure that the organisation operates efficiently. After that, Zesa should be allowed to charge just above \$0,14 per kWh to domestic consumers (non-commercial consumers) and a subsidised rate of 20% to 40% cheaper for agricultural, mining, commercial and industrial consumers depending on electricity usage in production.

The benefit for such a tariff would be to foster discipline in electricity usage for domestic consumers and pursuance of renewable energy solutions (solar) for commercial, industrial or institutional consumers.

More importantly, a competitive tariff allows independent power producers to invest and supply the national grid at competitive rates.

According to newZWire (2019), the sub-economic tariff is one of the major issues keeping energy investors away. Over the past five years, the Zimbabwe Energy Regulatory Authority (Zera) has licensed over 51 independent power producers (IPPs), but those projects remain grounded due to low tariffs, which make no business sense for

financiers to fund local energy projects.

Investors also demand a bankable power purchase agreement (PPA), a long-term offtake agreement with a creditworthy buyer of the electricity. Zesa is not seen as creditworthy enough to allow debt repayment or a predictable and sustainable revenue stream. This may, in turn, affect securing favourable credit lines for the funding of other upcoming schemes such as Gwanda, Insukamini and Munyati solar projects, Batoka Gorge hydro-electric and Gairezi hydro-electric projects.

Red tape in licensing

Once tariffs are reviewed upwards, the government may then structure tax holiday schemes in exchange for electricity supply to the national grid with independent power producers for solar, wind and gas projects.

To ensure this, there is need to shorten the licence application processes for IPPs with the Ministry of Energy and Power Development, Zera, Environmental Management Authority (Ema) and Zimbabwe Electricity and Distribution Company (ZETDC) all involved in licensing new players over and above the usual institutions and local authorities.

Zimbabwe is endowed with abundant natural energy sources and local electricity production from clean energy sources is way cheaper than importing power from regional suppliers. If all the planned projects by private players are implemented in the next three to five years, Zimbabwe has potential to be self-sufficient in electricity generation and export excess capacity.

Repowering projects

Zesa is currently engaged in repowering projects for Munyati, Harare and Bulawayo power stations. The entity recently cancelled a US\$133 million tender for the repowering of Munyati Thermal Power Station awarded to an Indian company, Jaguar

Overseas and local partner Intratrek, after the firms failed to secure funding for the project four years after winning the bid. Efforts to get the same contractors to begin work at the US\$104 million Harare Thermal Power Station have stalled as the contractors want guarantees from Afreximbank that there is funding for the project, while so far only US\$52 million has been secured from the regional bank and requires agreements between the contractor and the power utility so as to be released.

After securing US\$110 million from India's Eximbank, Bulawayo Thermal Power Station repowering has been stalled by contractual dispute between Zesa and Bulawayo City Council. In order to resuscitate these projects, Zesa may need to re-tender and start afresh with an eye for private-public partnerships with potential funders. This allows potential funders locally and internationally to be partners in the management of the project to ensure efficiency in electricity generation. This route is largely dependent on the tariff of the day for return on investment.

Full smart metering

In order to grow revenues and ensure sustainability, Zesa needs to smart meter all electricity consumers as a critical success factor. Smart metering allows the struggling entity to collect steady revenue inflows to pay for power imports in the mid-term while servicing credit lines used in repowering aging power stations.

Zesa so far has less than 700 000 smart meters countrywide against a possible number in excess of 2.5 million. The entity has licensed close to 20 firms to help meet smart meter demand by new customers.

However, the ongoing foreign currency shortages have stalled the project. The smart metering project is a game changer for the power utility as it brings the power utility up to date with international best practices and allows them to supply electricity to prepaid consumers.

A review of the electricity tariff therefore provides a firm foundation for economic production of electricity on the local market. It will allow independent players to commence and complete planned projects while ensuring optimality for Zesa even when the country fails to receive good rains for powering Kariba hydro-electric power station.

Zimbabwe has massive electricity generation potential to ensure self-sufficiency and that potential needs private players to come on board for full realisation. This may take the form of PPPs, joint ventures or various other models with the power utility hence the need to complete the smart metering project to guarantee effective demand and payment of electricity.

Tarura uncovers ambitious plan meant to revamp Dodoma

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) in Dodoma region is implementing an ambitious plan which includes improving road networks to enhance socio-economic activities.

In an interview with the Guardian in Dodoma recently, the agency's regional road coordinator, Eng Lusako Kilembe said that improvement of the roads is in line with the fifth phase government's goal of ensuring development through improvement of road networks.

"The government aims at ensuring that rural and urban roads are passable throughout the year", said Eng Kilembe commending efforts by President John Magufuli, State Minister in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Suleiman Jafo and Tarura chief executive officer for prioritizing and setting aside funds for Dodoma roads.

He said the projects are also funded by various development partners. He said plans are ensure the country's capital has a good number of tarmac roads compared to other cities.

"We want road users to be able to comfortably use ring roads instead of relying on main roads", he said calling upon residents should maintain the roads taking into account the amount of money spent on the projects.

Eng Kilembe noted that Tarura is implementing projects which include building new roads that will help to obviate the congestion of vehicles on the roads, revamping old roads and putting up pedestrian paths to enhance road use safety.

He said once completed, the projects will attract investments in different sectors such as tourism, hotel, industries and schools. He said roads are among the major components that facilitates investments.

He appealed to the government to increase funding to the projects to ensure timely implementation.

TARURA is working on an 892.41 kilometer road network in the city whereas major district roads take up 371.99 kilometers and feeder roads a total of 395.69 kilometers, and community roads 124.74 kilometers in length.

Roads with a tarmac surface take up 130.53 kilometers, equivalent to 156 per cent of the total road network maintained by TARURA in city, being an increase of 225 per cent on the basis of 2010/2011 statistics.

A large part of around 69 per cent of the total road network still has a soil surface and a small portion of 16 per cent has a gravel surface, while the portion of the road network under the supervision of TARURA in the city of around 60 per cent was in a good and satisfactory state.

Major sources of funds for maintenance and development of roads under Tarura in the city are cash from the Roads Fund and development partners, where the principal partners are DFID of the United Kingdom, which is financing the program to remove bottlenecks, the European Union and the World Bank, delivered to the City Council.

During the 2018/2019 financial year, Tarura in cooperation with various stakeholders like the Dodoma city council; under the Tanzania Strategic Cities Project (TSCP) financed by the World Bank shall conduct maintenance work on city roads to tarmac level totaling 26.62 kilometers at the cost of 40.9bn/-.

Roads that will be included in this project are, the Kisasa-Njedengwa road (1.05 kilometers), Ilazo-Ipagala (4.2km), Ndovu-Swala-Zuzu-Boma-Birindi-Farahani -Bunge-ABP totaling 13.75 kilometers.

Others are Chang'ombe-Wajenzi road 0.88km and the Nala road (Lorry Parking with 0.74 kilometers).

During the 2019/2020 financial year, Tarura intends to start implementing work to construct to tarmac level roads whose feasibility study and intense design has already been conducted, on the basis of a

The agency had initiated a number of strategies targeting improvement of transportation infrastructure into and out of the city of Dodoma.

These strategies includes strengthening, improving and building roads meant to reduce congestion in the city and building round roads (circulation element) so that all areas can be reached all the time, and thus help to enable traffic conveyance.

Strategies also include strengthening, improving and building roads serving production areas and other economic activities and supporting the city council to implement its Master Plan.

Dodoma (literally "It has sunk" in Gogo), officially Dodoma City, is the national capital of Tanzania and the capital of Dodoma Region, with a population of 410,956.

Located in the centre of the country, the town is 453 kilometres (281 mi) west of the former capital at Dar es Salaam and 441 kilometres (274 mi) south of Arusha, the headquarters of the East African Community. It is also 259 kilometres (161 miles) north of Iringa through Mtera. It covers an area of 2,669 square kilometres (1,031 sq mi) of which 625 square kilometres (241 sq mi) is urbanized.

Out of the total population, 199,487 people (48.5 per cent) are male while 211,469 people (51.5 per cent) are female. The average household size is 4.4 people. The Roman Catholic Church reports that 19.2 per cent of the population are Roman Catholics. Dodoma is populated by different ethnic groups because it is a government administrative centre, although the indigenous ethnic groups are the Gogo, Rang'i, and Sandawe. There are also small Indian minorities.

Originally a small market town known as Idodomya, the modern Dodoma was founded in 1907 by German colonists during construction of the Tanzanian central railway. The layout followed the typical colonial planning of the time with a European quarter segregated from a native village.

In 1967, following independence, the government invited Canadian firm Project Planning Associates Ltd to draw up a master plan to help control and organise the then capital of the country Dar es Salaam that was undergoing rapid urbanisation and population growth. The plan was cancelled in 1972 in part due to its failure to adequately address the historical and social problems associated with the city.

On 1 October 1973, after a nationwide party referendum, the Tanzanian government announced that the capital would be moved from Dar es Salaam to a more central location to create significant social and economic improvements for the central region and to centralise the capital within the country. The cost was estimated at £186 million and envisaged to take 10 years. The site, the Dodoma region, had been looked at as a potential new capital as early as 1915 by the then colonial power Germany, in 1932 by the British as a League of Nations mandate and again in the post-independence National Assembly in 1961 and 1966.

With an already established town at a major crossroads, the Dodoma region had an agreeable climate, room for development and was located in the geographic centre of the nation. Its location in a rural environment was seen as the ujamaa heartland and therefore appropriate for a ujamaa capital that could see and learn from neighbouring villages and maintain a close relationship to the land.

A new capital was seen as a more economically viable alternative than attempting to reorganise and restructure Dar es Salaam and was idealised as a way of diverting development away from continued concentration in a single coastal city that was seen as anathema to the government's goal of social-unity and development. Objectives for the new capital included: that the city becoming a symbol of Tanzania's social and cultural values and aspira-



Tarura's regional road coordinator, Eng Lusako Kilembe

tions; that the capital city function being supplemented by industrial-commercial development; and that the mistakes and features of colonial planning and modern big cities such as excessive population densities, pollution and traffic congestion were to be avoided.

The Capital Development Authority (CDA) invited three international firms to submit proposals for the best location and preparation of a master plan: Project Planning Associates Ltd., of Canada; Doxiadis Associates International, of Greece (who had worked on Pakistan's new capital of Islamabad); and Engineering Consulting Firms Association, of Japan. A fourth firm from Germany submitted a proposal without invitation.

The winner, decided by the CDA together with independent American consultants, was Project Planning Associates, the same Canadian consultants whose plan for Dar es Salaam was seen as inadequate and not responsive enough to the local conditions and needs for Tanzania's largest city. Their plan envisaged a city of 400,000 persons by 2000 and 1.3 million by 2020.

Dodoma was envisaged as the first non-monumental capital city

as opposed to the monumental-ity and hierarchy of other master planned capital cities such as Abuja, Brasilia and Washington. It rejected geometrical forms such as grid iron and radial plans as inappropriate as the urban form was intended to undulate and curve with the existing topography and not in conflict with it so as to retain its rural ujamaa feel. As befitted Tanzania's development at the time, the car was seen as secondary in importance to public transport such as buses which were then utilised by much of the population.

In 1974, Dodoma had a population of 40,000 and was chosen as the actual site of the new capital as opposed to nearby Hombolo or Ithumwa. The existing population size was not seen as an impediment while existing infrastructure would reduce construction costs.

The city, designed over 2,500 acres (1,000 hectares), was meant to be "the chief village in a nation of villages," built at a human scale meant to be experienced on foot. Its basic principles follow the garden city model of a town set amongst a garden with green belts separating segregated zones for residents and industry.

As part of the move of the government, a capitol complex was

envisaged and multiple designs by different international teams offered competing visions and versions of the siting and layout of a capitol complex. These competing proposals, some paid for by foreign governments as a form of aid and others by the firms involved were presented as early as 1978. However, it was not until 2006 that the Chinese government delivered a finished parliament building in Dodoma. The final location of the parliament was not in its original intended location in the master plan, with the location now being developed as a site for a university.

As much of the initial design never came to fruition over the past 40 years, government offices and embassies have resisted moving offices to Dodoma. As a result, many government offices remain in Dar es Salaam, which remains the commercial and the de facto capital of Tanzania.

Dodoma was envisaged as a nation building project to cement a newly post-colonial independence identity and direction in Tanzania and is similar to projects in Nigeria (Abuja), Botswana (Gaborone), Malawi (Lilongwe) and Mauritania (Nouakchott).

There are several universities in Dodoma, two of which include the St Johns University of Tanzania,

owned by the Anglican Church of Tanzania, and University of Dodoma, with about 35,000 students. Both universities officially opened in 2007. In addition there is Mipango University and CBE.

The Anglican Church owns the only international school in Dodoma, Canon Andrea Mwaka School ("CAMS"). CAMS, established in 1950, provides education to children from Nursery to Form 4. The education is based on the English National curriculum and the school offers students the opportunity to take IGCSE examinations. An estimated 280 students are taught at the school.

The city's airport, Dodoma Airport is managed by the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority; the size of planes are limited to small aircraft at the moment. There are plans to build a new airport outside the city with increased runway length and weight-bearing capacity.

The city can be reached by flights operated by Air Tanzania, Auric Air, and Flightlink at Dodoma Airport south of Dodoma.

The city is also served by the Dodoma train station located near Kikuyu Avenue which has the Central Railway Line. The Central Railway Line connects it over a distance of 465 kilometres (289 mi) with Dar es Salaam in the east.



Residents of Nzunguni Ward C at Swaswa in the outskirts of Dodoma City have appealed to the head of land and planning department to know their fate about the land conflict between the residents and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, Dodoma Diocese. Photo: Correspondent Othman Nyoni

FEATURES

Post-2019 election violence and unusual coup alarm by government

By Seye Oluide

NIGERIANS again woke up to the alarm of another phantom coup d'état last Wednesday when the Chief of Army Staff, Lt.-Gen. Tukur Buratai, Minister of Information and Culture, Alhaji Lai Mohammed and the Inspector General of Police raised the alarm over a planned attempt by the major opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and its presidential candidate in the February 28 presidential election. They were accused of scheming to unseat the government. This brought to memory the incidence of 1997, when the military junta, led by the late Head of State, Gen. Sani Abacha announced that his deputy, and then Chief of General Staff, Lt. Gen. Oladipo Diya (rtd) and others planned to overthrow his government. The senior government officials, in separate press briefings, raised the alarm that several upheavals that have been threatening the nation's peace were being orchestrated by disgruntled politicians who lost out in the last presidential elections. The information minister specifically pointed accusing fingers at the major opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and its presidential candidate, former Vice President Atiku Abubakar as the brains behind the spate of violence that ravaged the northern part of the country since February 28.

Although cases of violence before and after elections are



Minister of Information and Culture, Alhaji Lai Mohammed

not strange to the Nigeria democratic system, what is however worrisome in the current situation are the threats it poses to the corporate existence of the country and the scare of another possible military incursion into Nigeria's longest democratic governance. Political and socio-economic events since President Muhammadu Buhari was declared winner after the exercise of which Atiku and PDP have since challenged in the court appear to be pushing Nigeria to the precipice.

The former vice president and his party are insisting that the last presidential election was not only marred with un-

precedented irregularities but that they also have substantial evidence to prove their points. Although there had been a series of pressures on Atiku to drop the case and accept the result as declared by the electoral umpire, the entreaties have, however, not been heeded. Since the election and even before it, Nigeria has witnessed a series of violence, banditry and other socioeconomic and political crises, especially in the northern region.

In response to the situation, Buratai had on Wednesday said defeated politicians are behind the current heightened security situation. He said some defeated politicians in the general elections are behind the mayhem. According to him, "The

myriad of security challenges we are facing now in the North West, North Central and other parts of the country, I want to believe and rightly so, is the fallout of the just concluded general elections. The military intelligence has some strong evidence, which it is still being cautious about so that it does not get it wrong."

Mohammed corroborated Buratai's allegation the same day, who during a press conference in Abuja, raised the alarm that opposition politicians are planning to truncate the Fourth Republic by sponsoring military coup having lost the last presidential election. Mohammed did not mince words in naming Atiku and PDP as the major culprits, saying: "The Federal Government

has strongly decried the increasingly unpatriotic and desperate opposition politics being played by PDP and its presidential candidate, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar," adding that never in the history of politics in Nigeria had an opposition party and its presidential candidate exhibited the kind of desperate tactics being deployed by the duo of the PDP and its flag-bearer, especially since the incumbent overwhelmingly defeated the former vice president in the 2019 presidential election.

Just like a bad rehearsed soap opera, the Nigerian Police Force, through its spokesman, Frank Mba, also said it discovered plots to attack the nation's oil facilities and destroy the economy by those it categorized as 'subversive elements masquerading as climate and environmental activists'. Their aim, he said, is to commence massive and coordinated attacks on oil installations across the country, especially in the Niger-Delta region and adjoining states. He added that the plots are politically motivated and are aimed at sabotaging oil installations with intended negative consequences on national security, economic development and the global oil market.

Nigeria has had five presidential elections since it returned to democratic rule in 1999. None had been so tensed up like the last one. However, some have interpreted the situation to mean that the Buhari government appears to have lost control of securing the country while others believe the ruling party has failed to show any seriousness to address the escalating rate of poverty and hunger currently

ravaging the country. The president himself recently alluded to the fact that he is worried about the rate of poverty among Nigerians. Unfortunately, while many Nigerians expect the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) to chart a clear path out of the near economic collapse and insecurity, its major stakeholders are busy plotting who becomes what in the next presidential election, which is four years away in 2023, particularly when they had just won an election.

2015 till date
As the process for the 2015 presidential elections began, there were palpable fears that the country might likely disintegrate following predictions from a foreign nation that the election might eventually divide Nigeria but Jonathan's magnanimity to voluntarily accept defeat calmed things down.

But therein lies the big question: would Buhari and APC accept whatever verdict the court pronounces in the suit filed against them in the 2019 presidential election especially if it did not favour them? With the allegations already being thrown around, this would seem an unlikely scenario.

While reacting to the government's coup allegation, Atiku and PDP urged Buhari to face the business of governance instead of raising false alarm of coup and accusing the opposition of plotting it. PDP wondered why the government is desperate to rope it and its candidate, who is already in court to challenge the outcome of the presidential election, in a phantom coup plot. The party said President Buhari wants to replay the phan-

Why the UN has failed civilians: Millions around the world still reported being displaced and killed

By Tharanga Yakupitiyage

DESPITE the United Nations Security Council's task of protecting civilians, millions around the world are still being displaced and killed with little to no accountability for perpetrators.

Marking 20 years since the UN Security Council included the protection of civilians in its agenda, the group convened for an open debate on the subject.

While there has been some progress, the global picture remains dire as civilians continue bear the brunt of the cost of war.

"Grave human suffering is still being caused by armed conflicts and lack of compliance with international humanitarian law... we have the rules and laws of war. We all now need to work to enhance compliance," said Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to the council.

Ahead of the meeting, Amnesty International's Crisis Response Director Tirana Hassan urged the Security Council to end its "catastrophic failure," stating: "World leaders have all but abandoned civilians to the ravages of war. This week's open debate in the Security Council must yield more than just posturing and empty promises. Concrete action is needed to reverse course, effectively protect civilians, stop war crimes and end impunity."

According to the UN, more than 22,800 civilians were killed or injured in 2018 alone across just six countries: Afghanistan, Iraq, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan, and Yemen.

All five permanent Security Council members are parties to many of these conflicts, and are thus responsible for the failure to protect civilians.

For instance, the United States-led coalition killed more

than 1,600 civilians in the Syrian city of Raqqa over four months in 2017.

The Saudi-led coalition, supported by Western arms from the United States, United Kingdom, and France, have also injured and killed thousands of civilians and deliberately blocked food assistance in Yemen, contributing to one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.

The UN Secretary-General particularly pointed to the indiscriminate use of explosive weapons in populated areas and its devastating impact as 90 percent of those killed and injured are civilians.

Many of those civilians are too often children.

"The great military powers cynically boast about 'precision' warfare and 'surgical' strikes that distinguish between fighters and civilians. But the reality on the ground is that civilians are routinely targeted where they live, work, study, worship and seek medical care. Parties to armed conflict unlawfully kill, maim and forcibly displace millions of civilians while world leaders shirk their responsibility and turn their backs on war crimes and immense suffering," Hassan said.

Beyond the deaths and injuries of civilians, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross Peter Maurer noted the long-term impacts of such conflict on communities, stating: "We see damaged infrastructure leading to the collapse of essential health, water systems, and more. It is not only civilian infrastructure that is harmed - the environmental consequences of conflict are often overlooked. This includes vital natural resources which, if damaged can have implications not only for the survival of civilian populations but also for environmental risks."

Since September 2014, a coalition led by the U.S. has conducted air strikes targeting many oil installations in Syria.

Dutch non-profit PAX found that such damage can generate significant air pollution and soil and water contamination, producing further long-term negative health consequences, including respiratory disorders and cancer.

A collapse in waste management services, often disrupted due to fighting, can also lead to contamination and health risks, posing a challenge not only for civilians still living in Syria but also for those who wish to return.

Maurer highlighted the need for the Security Council to protect displaced communities or at the very least to let them protect themselves.

"Too often do we see that in addition to being exposed to war and violence, populations are stopped from reaching safer spaces, are constrained by bureaucratic obstacles and are limited in their free movement," he said.

Guterres pointed to the need to enhance compliance with international humanitarian law as well as greater and more even progress on accountability.

"For the Security Council, this means being more consistent in how it addresses protection concerns within and across different conflicts, and being more comprehensive in terms of, for example, grappling with the protection challenges of urban warfare. And it means keeping today's conversation going," he told the council.

Such decisions are crucial for the peace, security, and protection of civilians worldwide.

"These decisions can save lives or end them; they can create hope or misery; and they can bolster or break the norms that protect universal humanitarian laws and principles... not only are the decisions of all UN Member States and especially the Security Council important, the absence of decisions by the Council also takes its toll on civilians," Maurer said.

The United Nations (UN) is an inter-governmental organization tasked with maintaining international peace and security, developing friendly relations



among nations, achieving international co-operation, and being a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations. It was established after World War II, with the aim of preventing future wars, and succeeded the ineffective League of Nations. Its headquarters, which are subject to extraterritoriality, are in Manhattan, New York City, and it has other main offices in Geneva, Nairobi, Vienna and The Hague. The organization is financed by assessed and voluntary contributions from its member states. Its objectives include maintaining international peace and security, protecting human rights, delivering humanitarian aid, promoting sustainable development, and upholding international law. The UN is the largest, most familiar, most internationally represented and most powerful intergovernmental organization in the world. At its founding, the UN had 51 member states; there are now 193.

On 25 April 1945, 50 governments met in San Francisco for a conference and started drafting the UN Charter, which was adopted on 25 June 1945 in the San Francisco Opera House, and signed on 26 June 1945 in the Herbst Theatre auditorium in the Veterans War Memorial Building. This charter took effect on 24 October 1945, when the UN began operations. The organi-

sation's mission to preserve world peace was complicated in its early decades during the Cold War between the United States and Soviet Union and their respective allies. Its missions have consisted primarily of unarmed military observers and lightly armed troops with primarily monitoring, reporting and confidence-building roles.[6] The organization's membership grew significantly following widespread decolonization which started in the 1960s. Since then, 80 former colonies had gained independence, including 11 trust territories, which were monitored by the Trusteeship Council. By the 1970s its budget for economic and social development programmes far outstripped its spending on peacekeeping. After the end of the Cold War, the UN shifted and expanded its field operations, undertaking a wide variety of complex tasks.

The UN has six principal organs: the General Assembly; the Security Council; the Economic and Social Council; the Trusteeship Council; the International Court of Justice; and the UN Secretariat. The UN System agencies include the World Bank Group, the World Health Organization, the World Food Pro-

gramme, UNESCO, and UNICEF. The UN's most prominent officer is the Secretary-General, an office held by Portuguese politician and diplomat António Guterres since 1 January 2017. Non-governmental organizations may be granted consultative status with ECOSOC and other agencies to participate in the UN's work.

The organization, its officers, and its agencies have won many Nobel Peace Prizes. Other evaluations of the UN's effectiveness have been mixed. Some commentators believe the organization to be an important force for peace and human development, while others have called the organization ineffective, biased, or corrupt.

In the century prior to the UN's creation, several international treaty organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross was formed to ensure protection and assistance for victims of armed conflict and strife. In 1914, a political assassination in Sarajevo set off a chain of events that led to the outbreak of World War I. As more and more young men were sent down into the trenches, influential voices in the United States and Britain began calling for the establishment of a permanent international body to maintain peace in the postwar world. President Woodrow Wilson became a vocal advocate of this concept, and in 1918 he included a sketch of the international body in his 14-point proposal to end the war. In November 1918, the Central Powers agreed to an armistice to halt the killing in World War I. Two months later, the Allies met with Germany and Austria-Hungary at Versailles to hammer out formal peace terms. President Wilson wanted peace, but the United Kingdom and France disagreed, forcing harsh war reparations on their former enemies. The League of Nations was approved, and in the summer of 1919 Wilson presented the Treaty of Versailles and the Covenant of the League of Nations

Mbeya RC roots for new modalities to ensure farmers' reliable markets

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MBEYA Regional Commissioner, Albert Chalamila has suggested the need for coming up with new modalities that will ensure reliable markets since farmers have been sensitized to engage in large scale farming for both, food and cash crops.

RC Chalamila made the suggestion when speaking at meeting

which brought on board agricultural stakeholders from private and public sectors to discuss ways to improve policies, regulations and come up with proper guidelines to boost agri-business.

Organized by Agricultural Markets Development Trust (AMDT), the meeting follows concerns that most of the challenges that traders in the agriculture value chain face are contributed by

poor policies, guidelines as well as lack of stakeholder's dialogue.

It also involved district executive directors, district commissioners, regional administrative secretaries and business officers from Southern Highland regions.

The RC underscored the need for review of tax regimes to suit current requirements. He said there are a number of challenges that farmers face in relation to

fees and transportation.

"Some of our tax regimes are dated back to 1990s...we must review them so that they fit current needs. We should not ignore to talk about improvements to tax systems," he said.

"When we sensitize farmers to engage in large scale farming, we must also ensure markets for our agricultural produce", said Chalamila.

ADMT business development expert, Tertula Swai said the meeting is aimed at discussing ways to improve value chain for agricultural crops produced in southern highland regions and improve business environment. We target at changing people's livelihood by enabling them generate a good income".

Swai said there are various ways to improve business envi-

ronment which includes stakeholder's dialogue between public and private sector.

She said through dialogues stakeholders suggests ways to facilitate cultivation, production, processing and transportation of the crops.

"It is the government's responsibility to ensure friendly business environment for farmers to attain their target," she said adding that

AMDT aims at improving the income of rural farmers through establishment of stable market systems.

She said apart from markets, the program works to ensure availability of agro inputs as well as better distribution mechanism of the inputs.

He said that AMDT focuses on crops such as sunflower, maize and legumes.

Zanzibar in new drive to review media laws

By Guardian Reporter

ON May 3, this year Zanzibar media practitioners joined their counterparts across the world to mark this year's World Press Freedom Day themed: "Media for Democracy: Journalism and Elections in Times of Disinformation".

The day came at the time when media practitioners in Zanzibar are overwhelmed with myriad challenges including poor pay and poor working environment.

"This has been making us living in awkward environment, as what we get doesn't match with cost of living," says Faki Mjaka, a Zanzibar-based journalist who is also a secretary of Zanzibar Press Club (ZPC).

He suggests the need for having association that will be there to fight for their rights in court. ZPC cannot get into court; our role is to ensure that journalists are well-informed on their day-to-day activities as well as working professionally. Hence, if there will be an association, it will be responsible for demanding journalists' rights and interests.

"It is high time for us to sit down and discuss challenges facing us and come up with recommendation on the amount we're to be paid," says Dr Mzuri Issa, director of Dr Mzuri Issa, director of Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA) in Zanzibar

She says that despite the indomitable role, the media is playing, there are some media practitioners, who work without having job contracts and without salary.

Dr Issa also suggests the need for establishing an association that would deal with journalists' issues including monthly pay that will make them live better lives.

"This is a challenge that gives journalists headache despite the fact that they have been playing a key role in informing, educating and entertaining the society on various issues. That's why we see the need for journalists to be empowered in various forms."

Dr Issa lauds media in the country for

writing different stories, which are meant to address socio-economic issues in the country.

"This has been making the government to come up with measures to address the challenge," she says, adding: "These challenges should be taken as impetus to continue working hard to unveil gender-based violence issues for the well-being of the society."

Director of information services (MAEL-EZO) Zanzibar, Juma Mohamed also reveals that media practitioners still face a number of challenges including being intervened in their day-to-day operations as well as poor monthly pay.

"As government, we're fully aware of those challenges and we've forwarded some of those issues to media owners to see on how to amicably address them," he says.

Salih Yussuf Mnemo, Isles' Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information, Tourism and Heritage says media law is needed to provide a guideline on how media practitioners should operate in the Indian Ocean archipelago.

He says the Newspaper Act NO.5 of 1988; is outdated as it doesn't meet the current media changes, hence need to be worked on for the betterment of media practitioners and media industry in general.

He says that on regular basis, leaders in the ministry are being encouraged and urged to review the current law.

"And the process is simple. It is just to bring on board all key media stakeholders and their views are collected on how the current law can be improved for the betterment of Zanzibar's media industry," says Mnemo.

The ministry's top official says despite of those challenges, the climate for press freedoms has improved in Isles despite the fact the current law is behind the times.

"Our journalists can testify here. They are operating freely and even media companies are operating smoothly. And there is no media here which has been threat-



Mihayo Juma Nhunga, Deputy Minister of State in the Zanzibar Second Vice President's Office, addresses a recent meeting on press freedom held in Zanzibar. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

ened to be suspended. That's why I'm saying that press freedom has improved," he says, adding:

"This has helped a lot to build good relations between the media and the government."

Deputy Minister of State, Second Vice President's Office, Mihayo Juma Nhunga says that the government has no problem with journalists and the government ensures that they operate freely and abide by professional conduct.

Nhunga who was the chief guest at the Media Day says that journalists in Isles are free to criticise and advise the government on how to address a certain challenge in the society.

He also urged journalists to unveil corruption and issues related to economic sabotage for the well-being of Zanzibaris and the government of Isles.

He described corruption as an area which hasn't worked by the Zanzibar journalists. "To me, I see this is an area that media need to invest and work more on it. As government, we're zero-tolerance that's why we see media as key partner in our anti-corruption drive," he says.

He also says the fight against illicit drugs and their harmful effects on people particularly youth is a key priority for the Isles' government.

Nhunga called on journalists to join the bandwagon in the crusade against drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking. He says illicit drugs not only affect the user, but the society at large through increased crime and violence and negative health and financial impacts.

He however pledged to work on challenges facing journalists in the Indian Ocean archipelago.

Salma Said, secretary of association of journalists dealing with developmental issues in Zanzibar (WAHAMAZA) said that this year's World Press Freedom Day is themed: "Media for Democracy: Journalism and Elections in Times of Disinformation" discusses current challenges faced by media in elections, along with the media's potential in supporting peace and reconciliation processes.

She also urges journalist to adhere to professionalism when reporting election issues, taking into account that the country is heading to general election next year.

She says during the meeting it was agreed that media should dwell on developmental issues, unveiling corruption and economic sabotages, as well as gender-based violence (GBV).

LSF announces plans to broaden legal aid services in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

THE newly-appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Legal Services Facility (LSF), Lulu Ng'wanakilala has reiterated the organization's priority to ensure timely and extensive availability of legal aid services continues to be at the core of LSF's agenda.

This goal is expected to be realized by broadening the delivery of these crucial services which, have provided access to justice for millions of Tanzanians since 2011 when the organisation was established.

Ng'wanakilala, said this in Dar es Salaam during an iftar event which was attended by

key stakeholders from the government, development partners, the private sector and civil society organisations, to welcome her and bid farewell to the outgoing CEO Kees Groenendijk who served as head of the organisation since its inception.

"LSF has undoubtedly been very successful and its strong influence made a significant contribution towards the eventual enactment of the new Legal Aid Act, 2017 which is not only beneficial for LSF's mission but, for legal aid in Tanzania in general.

Our agenda now is to enhance collaboration with the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs in making sure the Act is implemented

and from it a strong, reliable and effective legal aid community is established," she said.

Drawing from the extensive work the organization has done in every district of both mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar, she added, "Looking forward, our focus will be strategic particularly, focusing on how LSF can be more sustainable and build on what we have so far achieved.

Our broad aim is to ensure the legal aid sector through our nationwide network of paralegals reaches every community while placing at its centre women empowerment, civic engagement, economic empowerment and poverty reduction. We will also work with

other sectors, that LSF has traditionally not engaged including mining, agriculture, tourism/natural resources and the private sector, to ensure paralegals are able to help communities address every day legal issues that remain marginalizing obstacles to them".

To date LSF has created a network of over 4,000 functional paralegals who are providing legal aid and legal education to communities across the country.

Hundreds of thousands of women, men and children have benefited and continue to benefit from LSF-financed projects which are implemented by regional mentor organizations, paralegals units and other partner organiza-

tions.

"I am very optimistic that our collaborative efforts will propel LSF to expand our services and enable many more people to access justice and enrich their daily lives with the comfort of knowing they have legal aid available to them more than ever before and that it's free", she added.

Ng'wanakilala assumed office earlier this month and will lead an organization that has over the last 8 years cultivated and maintained strong relations with all levels of the government in helping ordinary citizens enjoy every day rights that were previously beyond their reach.

Malaysia's last male Sumatran rhino dies

KUALA LUMPUR

CURTAINS have come down on the Sumatran rhino in Malaysia after the last male died on the afternoon of May 27, 2019, local time of old age, according to reports in the Malaysian media.

Tam, short for Kretam, died at the Borneo Rhino Sanctuary in Tabin Wildlife Reserve, Lahad Datu in the state of Sabah, on the island of Borneo.

According to Sabah's deputy chief minister cum tourism, culture and environment Minister, Tam's death was related to old age and multiple organ failures.

Tam was suffering from kidney and liver damage for quite some time.

He was found wandering in the Kretam oil palm plantation (Hence his name) in 2008. His age at that time was estimated to be 20. He

would have been in his mid-thirties currently. The average life expectancy of a Sumatran rhino is between 35 and 40 years.

Tam's death leaves just one female, named Iman, as the last surviving Sumatran rhinoceros within the boundaries of Malaysia.

In June 2017, another female, Puntung was euthanised because she was suffering from cancer that was incurable.

Attempts to mate Tam with Iman and Puntung had not borne fruit, putting an end to hopes of reviving the species in Malaysia. However, Tam's genetic material will be preserved for any future attempts.

The Sumatran rhino is the smallest of the extant five species of rhinoceros found in the world today. The others are the White and Black Rhinoceros from Africa, the Great Indian One-Horned Rhino of the Indian Subcontinent and the Javan

Rhino, also from Southeast Asia.

Historically, the Sumatran rhino ranged across Northeast India, Myanmar, Thailand, Peninsular Malaysia and the islands of Sumatra and Borneo. They are now completely restricted to Southeast Asia, mostly the island of Sumatra.



His age at that time was estimated to be 20. He would have been in his mid-thirties currently. The average life expectancy of a Sumatran rhino is between 35 and 40 years



Newly appointed Legal Services Facility CEO Lulu Ng'wanakilala speaks to legal aid stakeholders in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Snakebites: The world's biggest hidden health crisis

By Mike Turner

SNAKEBITES kill up to 140,000 people a year, yet there's no reason so many should die. In the time it takes you to finish reading this, someone in the world will die from a venomous snakebite. Despite affecting a huge number of people, it's rare to hear snakebite spoken about as a health problem. But the global burden of death and disability due to snakebites is the same as prostate or cervical cancer; it's higher than infectious diseases like rabies or dengue fever.

Snakebites kill between 80,000 and 140,000 people every year: one person for every five minutes. Another 400,000 people suffer life-changing injuries, amputations and psychological trauma.

These numbers are almost certainly an underestimate, too. Many bites and deaths go unrecorded. That's why Kofi Annan, a former Secretary-General of the UN, describes snakebite as the "biggest public health crisis you have likely never heard of".

But it shouldn't be. Snakebites are treatable. People who get the right, well-made antivenom have a very high chance of survival. While venomous snakes will continue to bite people, there's no reason so many of those people should die. Clearly, the way the world currently responds to the challenge of snakebites is not right - now it's time to choose a different path.

The lack of urgency, and attention, could be because those afflicted are the world's poorest people. Most bites occur in rural areas of Africa, South-east Asia and South America, far from hospital care.

Victims are often the main breadwinners for their families but can't afford to seek treatment at hospitals anyway. In many cases, treatment costs more than their yearly salary, and the long-term effects of injuries push many survivors and their families from poverty to destitution.

If they do make it to a treatment centre, it will often have no antivenom available. If there is some in stock, there's a good chance it will be useless: until recently, the antivenom used in Ethiopia was effective only against Egyptian snakes, not Ethiopian ones. That's not unusual for many countries around the world.

And even if the antivenom is the right one, weak regulation and poor safety standards mean many batches are contaminated, so it may well cause an adverse reaction that will kill patients if the venom doesn't.

Little wonder I've heard tales of doctors buying antivenoms with their own money to help their patients survive, and advocates bringing in the right antivenom in bulk from abroad.

It is time for the world to take snakebites seriously. We need a response that goes far beyond the altruistic acts of individual doctors and campaigners.

Antivenoms are still created using a 19th century technology - injecting venom into a horse and extracting antibodies. It's shocking just how little this process has moved on in the last century.

And yet snakebite has been utterly neglected as a research and development issue. By our estimate, less than £30m has been spent on snakebite science in the past decade.

There are many modern advances that could be applied swiftly to make a big difference in a short amount of time to save more lives. This is why Wellcome is dedicating £80 million to transform the way snakebite treatments are researched and delivered.

Governments and ministries of health will have to get involved to make sure these treatments work in local settings and can be integrated into standard care, so that any victim of snakebite can receive treatment in time.



This week, the World Health Organisation publishes its first snakebite strategy - an ambitious plan to halve snakebite deaths by 2030. If we are to stand any chance of making this a reality, we now need strong commitments and action from governments, funders, manufacturers and NGOs.

Unlike many diseases, there is a real opportunity to stop snakebites killing so many people in the near future. There is a clear path ahead. We just need to take it.

Snakes are elongated, legless, carnivorous reptiles of the suborder Serpentes. Like all other squamates, snakes are ectothermic, amniote vertebrates covered in overlapping scales. Many species of snakes have skulls with several more joints than their lizard ancestors, enabling them to swallow prey much larger than their heads with their highly mobile jaws. To accommodate their narrow bodies, snakes' paired organs (such as kidneys) appear one in front of the other instead of side by side, and most have only one functional lung. Some species retain a pelvic girdle with a pair of vestigial claws on either side of the cloaca. Lizards have evolved elongate bodies without limbs or with greatly reduced limbs about twenty-five times independently via convergent evolution, leading to many lineages of legless lizards. Legless lizards resemble snakes, but several common groups of legless lizards have eyelids and external ears, which snakes lack, although this rule is not universal.

Living snakes are found on every continent except Antarctica, and on most smaller land masses; exceptions include some large islands, such as Ireland, Iceland, Greenland, the Hawaiian archipelago, and the islands of New Zealand, and many small islands of the Atlantic and central Pacific oceans. Additionally, sea snakes are widespread throughout the Indian and Pacific Oceans. More than 20 families are currently recognized, comprising about 520 genera and about 3,600 species. They range in size from the tiny, 10.4 cm (4.1 in)-long Barbados thread snake to the reticulated python of 6.95 meters (22.8 ft) in length. The fossil species Titanoboa cerrejonensis was 12.8 meters (42 ft) long. Snakes are thought to have evolved from either burrowing or aquatic lizards, perhaps during the Jurassic period, with the earliest known fossils dating to between 143 and 167 Ma ago. The diversity of modern snakes appeared during the Paleocene epoch (c 66 to 56 Ma ago, after the Cretaceous-Paleogene extinction event). The oldest preserved descriptions of snakes can be found in the Brooklyn Papyrus.

Most species are nonvenomous and those that have venom use it primarily to kill and subdue prey rather than for self-defense. Some possess venom potent enough to cause painful

injury or death to humans. Nonvenomous snakes either swallow prey alive or kill by constriction.

Evolution

The fossil record of snakes is relatively poor because snake skeletons are typically small and fragile making fossilization uncommon. Fossils readily identifiable as snakes (though often retaining hind limbs) first appear in the fossil record during the Cretaceous period. The earliest known true snake fossils (members of the crown group Serpentes) come from the marine simoliophiids, the oldest of which is the Late Cretaceous (Cenomanian age) Haasiophis terrasanctus, dated to between 112 and 94 million years old.

Based on comparative anatomy, there is consensus that snakes descended from lizards. Pythons and boas—primitive groups among modern snakes—have vestigial hind limbs: tiny, clawed digits known as anal spurs, which are used to grasp during mating. The families Leptotyphlopidae and Typhlopidae also possess remnants of the pelvic girdle, appearing as horny projections when visible.

Front limbs are nonexistent in all known snakes. This is caused by the evolution of their Hox genes, controlling limb morphogenesis. The axial skeleton of the snakes' common ancestor, like most other tetrapods, had regional specializations consisting of cervical (neck), thoracic (chest), lumbar (lower back), sacral (pelvic), and caudal (tail) vertebrae. Early in snake evolution, the Hox gene expression in the axial skeleton responsible for the development of the thorax became dominant. As a result, the vertebrae anterior to the hindlimb buds (when present) all have the same thoracic-like identity (except from the atlas, axis, and 1-3 neck vertebrae). In other words, most of a snake's skeleton is an extremely extended thorax. Ribs are found exclusively on the thoracic vertebrae. Neck, lumbar and pelvic vertebrae are very reduced in number (only 2-10 lumbar and pelvic vertebrae are present), while only a short tail remains of the caudal vertebrae. However, the tail is still long enough to be of important use in many species, and is modified in some aquatic and tree-dwelling species.

Many modern snake groups originated during the Paleocene, alongside the adaptive radiation of mammals following the extinction of (non-avian) dinosaurs. The expansion of grasslands in North America also led to an explosive radiation among snakes. Previously, snakes were a minor component of the North American fauna, but during the Miocene, the number of species and their prevalence increased dramatically with the first appearances of vipers and elapids in North America and the significant diversification of Colubridae (including the origin of many modern genera such as Nerodia, Lampropeltis, Pituophis, and Pantherophis).

Origins

There is fossil evidence to suggest that snakes may have evolved from burrowing lizards, such as the varanids (or a similar group) during the Cretaceous Period. An early fossil snake relative, Najash rionegrina,

was a two-legged burrowing animal with a sacrum, and was fully terrestrial. One extant analog of these putative ancestors is the earless monitor Lanthanotus of Borneo (though it also is semiaquatic). Subterranean species evolved bodies streamlined for burrowing, and eventually lost their limbs. According to this hypothesis, features such as the transparent, fused eyelids (brille) and loss of external ears evolved to cope with fossorial difficulties, such as scratched corneas and dirt in the ears. Some primitive snakes are known to have possessed hindlimbs, but their pelvic bones lacked a direct connection to the vertebrae. These include fossil species like Haasiophis, Pachyrhachis and Eupodophis, which are slightly older than Najash.

This hypothesis was strengthened in 2015 by the discovery of a 113m year-old fossil of a four-legged snake in Brazil that has been named Tetrapodophis amplexus. It has many snake-like features, is adapted for burrowing and its stomach indicates that it was preying on other animals. It is currently uncertain if Tetrapodophis is a snake or another species, in the squamate order, as a snake-like body has independently evolved at least 26 times. Tetrapodophis does not have distinctive snake features in its spine and skull.

An alternative hypothesis, based on morphology, suggests the ancestors of snakes were related to mosasaurs—extinct aquatic reptiles from the Cretaceous—which in turn are thought to have derived from varanid lizards.[18] According to this hypothesis, the fused, transparent eyelids of snakes are thought to have evolved to combat marine conditions (corneal water loss through osmosis), and the external ears were lost through disuse in an aquatic environment. This ultimately led to an animal similar to today's sea snakes. In the Late Cretaceous, snakes recolonized land, and continued to diversify into today's snakes. Fossilized snake remains are known from early Late Cretaceous marine sediments, which is consistent with this hypothesis; particularly so, as they are older than the terrestrial Najash rionegrina. Similar skull structure, reduced or absent limbs, and other anatomical features found in both mosasaurs and snakes lead to a positive cladistical correlation, although some of these features are shared with varanids.

Genetic studies in recent years have indicated snakes are not as closely related to monitor lizards as was once believed—and therefore not to mosasaurs, the proposed ancestor in the aquatic scenario of their evolution. However, more evidence links mosasaurs to snakes than to varanids. Fragmented remains found from the Jurassic and Early Cretaceous indicate deeper fossil records for these groups, which may potentially refute either hypothesis.

In 2016 two studies reported that limb loss in snakes is associated with DNA mutations in the Zone of Polarizing Activity Regulatory Sequence (ZRS), a regulatory region of the sonic hedgehog gene which is critically required for limb development. More advanced snakes have no remnants of limbs, but basal snakes such as pythons and boas do have traces of highly reduced, vestigial hind limbs. Python embryos even have

fully developed hind limb buds, but their later development is stopped by the DNA mutations in the ZRS.

Distribution

There are over 2,900 species of snakes ranging as far northward as the Arctic Circle in Scandinavia and southward through Australia. Snakes can be found on every continent except Antarctica, in the sea, and as high as 16,000 feet (4,900 m) in the Himalayan Mountains of Asia. There are numerous islands from which snakes are absent, such as Ireland, Iceland, and New Zealand (although New Zealand's waters are infrequently visited by the yellow-bellied sea snake and the banded sea krait).

Taxonomy

All modern snakes are grouped within the suborder Serpentes in Linnean taxonomy, part of the order Squamata, though their precise placement within squamates remains controversial.

The two infraorders of Serpentes are: Alethinophidia and Scolecophidia.[5] This separation is based on morphological characteristics and mitochondrial DNA sequence similarity. Alethinophidia is sometimes split into Henophidia and Caenophidia, with the latter consisting of "colubroid" snakes (colubrids, vipers, elapids, hydrophiids, and atractaspids) and acrochordids, while the other alethinophidian families comprise Henophidia. While not extant today, the Madtsoiidae, a family of giant, primitive, python-like snakes, was around until 50,000 years ago in Australia, represented by genera such as Wonambi.

There are numerous debates in the systematics within the group. For instance, many sources classify Boidae and Pythonidae as one family, while some keep the Elapidae and Hydrophiidae separate for practical reasons despite their extremely close relation.

Recent molecular studies support the monophyly of the clades of modern snakes, scolecophidians, typhlopids + anomalepidids, alethinophidians, core alethinophidians, uropeltids (Cylindrophis, Anomochilus, uropeltines), macrostomatans, booids, boids, pythons and caenophidians.

The now extinct Titanoboa cerrejonensis snakes found were 12.8 m (42 ft) in length. By comparison, the largest extant snakes are the reticulated python, which measures about 6.95 m (22.8 ft) long, and the green anaconda, which measures about 5.21 m (17.1 ft) long and is considered the heaviest snake on Earth at 97.5 kg (215 lb).

At the other end of the scale, the smallest extant snake is Leptotyphlops carlae, with a length of about 10.4 cm (4.1 in).[7] Most snakes are fairly small animals, approximately 1 m (3.3 ft) in length.

Perception

Pit vipers, pythons, and some boas have infrared-sensitive receptors in deep grooves on the snout, which allow them to "see" the radiated heat of warm-blooded prey. In pit vipers, the grooves are located between the nostril and the eye in a large "pit" on each side of the head. Other infrared-sensitive snakes have multiple, smaller labial pits lining the upper lip, just below the nostrils.

Snakes use smell to track their prey. They smell by using their forked tongues to collect airborne particles, then passing them to the vomeronasal organ or Jacobson's organ in the mouth for examination.[39] The fork in the tongue gives snakes a sort of directional sense of smell and taste simultaneously.

They keep their tongues constantly in motion, sampling particles from the air, ground, and water, analyzing the chemicals found, and determining the presence of prey or predators in the local environment. In water-dwelling snakes, such as the anaconda, the tongue functions efficiently underwater.

The underside is very sensitive to vibration. This allows snakes to be able to sense approaching animals by detecting faint vibrations in the ground.

Snake vision varies greatly, from only being able to distinguish light from dark to keen eyesight, but the

main trend is that their vision is adequate although not sharp, and allows them to track movements. Generally, vision is best in arboreal snakes and weakest in burrowing snakes. Some snakes, such as the Asian vine snake (genus Ahaetulla), have binocular vision, with both eyes capable of focusing on the same point. Most snakes focus by moving the lens back and forth in relation to the retina, while in the other amniote groups, the lens is stretched. Many nocturnal snakes have slit pupils while diurnal snakes have round pupils.

Skin

The skin of a snake is covered in scales. Contrary to the popular notion of snakes being slimy because of possible confusion of snakes with worms, snakeskin has a smooth, dry texture. Most snakes use specialized belly scales to travel, gripping surfaces. The body scales may be smooth, keeled, or granular. The eyelids of a snake are transparent "spectacle" scales, which remain permanently closed, also known as brille.

The shedding of scales is called ecdysis (or in normal usage, molting or sloughing). In the case of snakes, the complete outer layer of skin is shed in one layer. Snake scales are not discrete, but extensions of the epidermis—hence they are not shed separately but as a complete outer layer during each molt, akin to a sock being turned inside out.

Snakes have a wide diversity of skin coloration patterns. These patterns are often related to behavior, such as a tendency to have to flee from predators. Snakes that are plain or have longitudinal stripes often have to escape from predators, with the pattern (or lack thereof) not providing reference points to predators, thus allowing the snake to escape without being noticed. Plain snakes usually adopt active hunting strategies, as their pattern allows them to send little information to prey about motion. Blotched snakes, on the other hand, usually use ambush-based strategies, likely because it helps them blend into an environment with irregularly shaped objects, like sticks or rocks. Spotted patterning can similarly help snakes to blend into their environment.

The shape and number of scales on the head, back, and belly are often characteristic and used for taxonomic purposes. Scales are named mainly according to their positions on the body. In "advanced" (Caenophidian) snakes, the broad belly scales and rows of dorsal scales correspond to the vertebrae, allowing scientists to count the vertebrae without dissection.

Molting

Molting, or ecdysis, serves a number of functions. Firstly, the old and worn skin is replaced; secondly, it helps get rid of parasites such as mites and ticks. Renewal of the skin by molting is supposed to allow growth in some animals such as insects; however, this has been disputed in the case of snakes.

Molting occurs periodically throughout the snake's life. Before a molt, the snake stops eating and often hides or moves to a safe place. Just before shedding, the skin becomes dull and dry looking and the eyes become cloudy or blue-colored. The inner surface of the old skin liquefies. This causes the old skin to separate from the new skin beneath it. After a few days, the eyes clear and the snake "crawls" out of its old skin.

The old skin breaks near the mouth and the snake wriggles out, aided by rubbing against rough surfaces. In many cases, the cast skin peels backward over the body from head to tail in one piece, like pulling a sock off inside-out. A new, larger, brighter layer of skin has formed underneath.

An older snake may shed its skin only once or twice a year. But a younger snake, still growing, may shed up to four times a year. The discarded skin gives a perfect imprint of the scale pattern, and it is usually possible to identify the snake if the discarded skin is reasonably intact. This periodic renewal has led to the snake being a symbol of healing and medicine, as pictured in the Rod of Asclepius.



CURRENT NEWS

Poor health forces Aminex Plc's CEO to abruptly step down

Page14



TOP VIEW

Wari, Mara Phones link up to expand in Africa

Page14



VIEW FROM THE TOP

Corporate wellness in the vibrant oil and gas industry vital

Page15

Wentworth Resources' gas revenue from Mnazi Bay increases tenfold

By Smart Money Reporter

REVENUE from natural gas sold by UK based Wentworth Resources Plc increased from US\$13.4m (over 30.7bn/-) in 2017 to US\$16.2m (over 37.1bn/-) last year thanks to state owned utility, Tanesco and Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) timely payments for gas supplies.

In its annual report the company said as a result of the good performance, it had net cash of US\$0.8m by December 2018 compared to net debt of US\$13.9m in December 2017 although overall, it posted a net loss of US\$75.2m compared to US\$0.7m during the same period.

Among other things, the loss was caused by a Mozambican exploration impairment provision of US\$41.6m; one-off re-structuring and re-domicile costs of US\$2.3 million comprising recruitment, severance, travel, legal and professional charges; Tanzanian tax assessments of US\$1.0 million for the years 2013 to 2016, provision against Tanzania government receivables US\$5.0 million; and deferred tax write-downs of US\$26.7m.

"2018 saw us make material progress in simplifying our business and portfolio. On our core Mnazi Bay asset, we achieved record average production levels of 4,425 barrels of oil equivalent and associated gas revenue of US\$16.2mm, ending the year with a 56.8 per-

cent improvement," said Wentworth CEO, Eskil Jersing.

"We continue to work diligently with all our Tanzanian stakeholders in unlocking the latent value of the Mnazi Bay. Wentworth will continue to improve its fundamentals through 2019; and the board of Wentworth remains focused on its stated strategy of revenue stream diversification and maximising returns for shareholders," Jersing added.

During the year under review, the company completed corporate transition to the UK and also delisting from Oslo Børs resulting in a simpler transactional platform, driving efficiencies into the business model.

It also shifted all of its management to UK by June 2018 because its corporate headquarters relocated to UK from Canada while closing down its Maputo office in Mozambique where it said it also on, "On track to relinquish Tembo block in Northern Mozambique ahead of the end of the current appraisal term on 15 June 2019."

The company has now been legally re-domiciled from the Province of Alberta in Canada to the Isle of Jersey, incorporated as Wentworth Resources Plc and is trading under the new ticker, WEN, on the Alternative Investment Market of the London Stock Exchange.

"These substantive changes to the corporate structure have resulted in an enhanced and more efficient management platform, al-



Wentworth CEO, Eskil Jersing

lowing the company to evaluate and ultimately transact on, growth opportunities," the report noted.

This restructuring also resulted in a complete change in the senior executive management and in the structure of the board of directors. In line with UK Corporate Governance norms and in keeping with the QCA Corporate Governance Code, which the company has now adopted, the make-up of the board now constitutes an appropriate balance between executive directors and non-executive directors.

"Wentworth today is financially sound and even healthier than this time last year with an increasingly positive outlook: we expect 2019 to be a year of increasing balance sheet strength. Mnazi Bay production has grown materially in the last several years and is more predictable thanks to growing demand in Tanzania. Tanzanian Petroleum Development Company and Tanzania Electric Supply Company, the company's two primary off takers of Mnazi Bay gas, continue to fulfil their respective payment obligations whilst significantly improving on previous payment arrears," said Wentworth's Board Chairman, Robert McBean.

McBean said with future demand for domestic gas in Tanzania taking off and pipeline infrastructure in place with substantial spare capacity available, Wentworth and its partners can expand and meet this growing demand over the next few years, the report added.

"Wentworth is now perfectly poised for growth, both by adding to its current Tanzanian production base and by seeking accretive growth opportunities outside of Tanzania. The company's strong, loyal institutional shareholder base, combined with its strengthening bal-

Mobile phone firm pledges to uphold cultural diversity, invest in human capital

By Smart Money Reporter

RESPECT for cultural diversity and investment in training of human resources will remain focal areas as Airtel Tanzania Limited's management moves to ensure the company dominates the local market.

Airtel's Director of Human Resources, Stella Kibacha and her Communications peer, Beatrice Singano said in Dar es Salaam this week during an Ifar organised for the company's Moslem staff and clients, that management respects ethnic, religious and cultural diversity among employees.

"In order to embrace such diversity, we as a company decided to organise this event to accompany our

Moslem peers when breaking the fast. As Airtel Tanzania, we are proud of staff members who are working hard to ensure that the company delivers to the market," Kibacha said.

She pledged that the company's management will continue investing in building capacity of its staff members and innovation to ensure that it retains the pole position in a competitive market where the toughest survives.

Airtel Tanzania which is a subsidiary of India's Bart Airtel operates in more than 10 African countries which are spread across the continent from West to Central and Southern Africa bringing together people from different ethnic groups, religion and loca-

tion.

"As everyone of us know, we are currently going through the month of Ramadhan when Moslem in the world fast as part of their key religious pillars, among them are our fellow staff members and clients who are gathered here to share the Ifar together," the Human Resources Director added.

Backing her peer, the company's Director of Corporate Communications, Beatrice Singano said by organising the Ifar, Airtel's management played an important role in uniting the people and encouraging religious tolerance.

"This event show that management truly values the month of Ramadhan

which is an important period for the company's Moslems," Singano said while calling on Moslem peers to uphold the good behaviour associated with the holy month.

Speaking at the same event, the company's Head of Wholesale Business, Boniphace Mbwanjo said Airtel continues to lead the pack in the market by introducing new innovative products and services to suit customer needs.

He mentioned some of the new products which clients can make use especially to shop online as high speed Fiber Solutions, Line Solutions and Co-Location Solutions. "These products are a solution to online businesses success and are available

cheaply at any Airtel outlet countrywide," Mbwanjo said while urging customers to

try out the many innovative products available in the market.



Some of Airtel Tanzania employees and customers collecting food to break the fast at an Ifar organised by the company in Dar es Salaam this week. Photo: courtesy of Airtel.

Vodacom, Safaricom take over M-Pesa brand

JOHANNESBURG

VODACOM and Safaricom are in the process of buying the M-Pesa brand from parent company Vodafone, in a deal reportedly worth over R190 million.

Vodacom mentioned the deal in its recent full year results announcement, saying it expected the acquisition of the popular mo-

bile money service to "further accelerate our mobile money growth plans in Africa".

Vodacom group CEO Shameel Joosub confirmed the plans in an interview with ITWeb, saying Vodacom, through a joint agreement with Safaricom, has done a deal with Vodafone to "take over M-Pesa completely."

"So, Safaricom and Vodacom

will own M-Pesa and the teams and everything that goes with it. Now what we want to do is put the requisite investment in place, and then grow it.

So, we want to grow the platform and we will use elements of the platform even in South Africa," he said.

In 2016, Vodacom pulled the plug on its M-Pesa operation in SA.

When asked why Vodafone, which owns a 64.5% stake in Vodacom, would want to sell the M-Pesa brand, Joosub responded: "Because I convinced them. We can get more out of it and we want to capitalise it properly and really make sure we can put a lot of focus behind it; and really most of M-Pesa is Africa so essentially it's us driving it," he added.

WE ARE A CHINESE CONNECTED BANK IN TANZANIA

We take pride in our client centric offerings and financial solutions that best fit the China – Tanzania business communities.

With strength though our partnership with ICBC, the largest bank by asset in the world, Stanbic Bank Tanzania, actively explores the various financial solutions catering to the import/export businesses. Offering a dedicated Chinese desk with fluent Mandarin speaking relationship managers to offer you world class service.

Thinking of a Chinese bank in Tanzania, think about Stanbic Bank.

#morethanabank

Naomi Vincent
Manager, Client Coverage for Chinese Clients

Stanbic Bank Moving Forward™
A member of Standard Bank Group

Poor health forces Aminex Plc's CEO to abruptly step down

By Smart Money Reporter

LONG serving Aminex Plc's CEO, Jay Bhattacharjee stepped down immediately last week due to health reasons, the company's Board of Directors Chairman, John Bell said in a statement.

The board also appointed Tom Mackay as interim CEO, with immediate effect saying Mackay who joined Aminex in September 2014 as a non-executive director and was until his latest appointment, Senior Non-executive Director, will stay on as the process of searching for Bhattacharjee's replacement goes on. The board also named Linda Beal as Mackay's replacement.

"We are all very sorry that Jay has had to step down at short notice due to a medical condition which requires immediate attention," Bell said.

"Since he joined the company in 2013, he has overseen a number of projects, most notably the progress on the Ntorya Field, and has been a well-respected colleague. We wish Jay all the very best as he focuses his efforts on his health in the coming months," Bell added.

Giving a brief biography of Mackay's credentials, the statement said he is a geologist cum petroleum engineer with a successful career in petroleum operations, management and financing. Holding an honorary Bachelor of Science degree from Durham University, the interim CEO began his career as a Petroleum Engineer with Shell and subsequently moved to Clyde Petroleum Plc where he became Manager, Existing Ventures until it was acquired by Gulf Canada in 1997.

Meanwhile, Aminex board of directors are seeking shareholders' approval to transfer the company's listing category of ordinary shares on the UK Official List from a premium listing and into the category of a standard listing. Under the UK listing rules, the proposed transfer requires the company to first obtain the prior approval of at least 75 percent of the shareholders, the board said in another statement.

"If the proposed transfer does not occur because shareholders do not vote in favour of the transfer resolution, then the company will continue to maintain its premium listing and will not benefit from the greater degree of regulatory flexibility that a sole standard listing would provide," the statement warned.

Among such benefits, the statement added includes



Aminex Plc's interim CEO, Tom Mackay.

creation of shareholder value by developing the company's portfolio of assets in Tanzania and to seek opportunities in new areas within and outside Africa to balance cost and risk through the acquisitions of assets.

"Your board believes that the additional regulatory requirements imposed by maintaining the listing on the premium segment and primary Irish segment are no longer in the best interests of the company," said the Aminex statement.

By moving to a sole listing on the standard segment over time, the company would have greater flexibility to undertake certain transactions, including the acquisition of assets, without being required to seek shareholder approval and incur costs such as those associated with the publication of circulars which companies with a listing on the premium segment and/or primary Irish segment are required to produce by virtue of the additional 'super-equivalent' regulatory provisions, the statement noted.

Moi, Kibaki staff to cost taxpayers Sh117m in wages

NAIROBI

Taxpayers cost of staff attached to former presidents Mwai Kibaki and Daniel arap Moi has for the first time crossed the Sh100 million mark.

The Treasury will allocate the retired presidents' workers Sh117.3 million for salaries and allowances in the year starting July, up from the current Sh95 million – reflecting a 24.8 percent growth.

The pay to the aides will push their office budget to Sh243 million, highlighting the taxpayer burden of keeping the two happy in retirement given they also receive pension of Sh74 million per annum.

The law entitles them to two personal assistants, four secretaries, four messengers, four drivers, housekeepers, home cleaners and bodyguards, bringing the total staff count to 34 office workers excluding security guards who should be at least six.

Taxpayers also cater for workers in Mr Kibaki's Nairobi office that was bought at Sh250 million three years ago, and Mr Moi's office at Kabarnet Gardens, off Ngong Road.

The package has also come under heavy criticism on grounds that the retired presidents left office as rich men with property worth billions of shillings and vast business interests.

Mr Kibaki stepped down from the presidency in 2013 after serving two five-year terms while Mr Moi retired in 2002 having been in power for 24 years.

Running costs for Mr Kibaki's office will rise to Sh108.9 million in the year starting July, from the current Sh85 million while that of Mr Moi will increase to Sh79.3 million from Sh75 million.

Paying staff takes the largest chunk of the office running costs. Mr Kibaki's staff costs of Sh72.8 million will consume 67

percent of the budget.

Besides the office budget that is managed by State House, the two retired presidents receive addition benefits from the pensions department

Among other things, are fleet of four cars, which include two limousines, a fuel allowance equivalent to 15 percent of the monthly salary paid to the sitting president, an entertainment budget, petrol as well as house allowance.

The pension and these benefits saw the cash wired to their accounts at Sh74 million. If awarded equally their package for the current year assures each a monthly payout of Sh3 million – an amount that is more than twice President Uhuru Kenyatta's official salary of Sh1.2 million.

The State also pays for their medical care and that of their families, and meets the retired president's travel costs inside Kenya and abroad.



Former presidents Daniel Moi (right) and Mwai Kibaki at a past event.

Wari, Mara Phones link up to expand in Africa

PARIS

DIGITAL financial services platform Wari has entered into an alliance with African smartphone manufacturer Mara Phones. According to the agreement, signed in Paris at the VivaTech 2019 event, Wari's offerings will be preloaded onto Mara devices and Wari will bundle its services with the Mara Phone to all its clients.

Mara Phones' chief executive officer Ashish Thakkar said, "We are extremely excited about this collaboration and we expect to see Wari increase its presence and penetration with the bundling of the Mara Phone."

Kabirou Mbodje, chief executive officer at Wari, described the partnership as a good opportunity for Wari to diversify its offer and facilitate the utilisation of the MyWari app.

"The Mara Phones are the first 100% African built phones and we should be proud of this achievement. As two African champions, we must support each other and multiply African partnerships to create value and increase economic growth," said Mbodje.

"Africa is 54 countries. We're talking about a billion people, a huge continent, thirty currencies. Why it is not prosperous is because we're not integrated. We are small countries with no effect on a global scale. If we don't aggregate those markets together, we will not have leverage," he added.

The Mara Phones project was announced during the Africa Investment Forum in November 2018 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Although Thakkar said the initial target market would be first-time African smartphone users with manufacturing plants in Rwanda and South Africa, two devices - Mara X and Mara Z are already available with worldwide shipping available through DHL. Wari claims, since its incorporation in 2008, it is available in over 60 countries with 500,000 outlets globally and 45,000 pay points in Africa.



Mara Group's CEO which owns Mara Phones, Ashish Thakkar speaks at a past event.

S. Africa carbon tax finally becomes law

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's long-delayed carbon tax has been enshrined in law, the treasury said on Sunday, as one of the continent's worst polluters transitions to lower emissions in its efforts to meet agreements on global climate change.

The tax was first mooted in 2010 but has been postponed at least three times after mining companies, steelmakers and state-owned power utility Eskom said it would erode profit and push up electricity prices.

The first phase of the tax is from June 1 to December 2022, with a tax rate of R120 per tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent.

Allowable tax breaks will reduce the effective rate to between R6 and R48 per tonne of CO2, National Treasury said in a statement after the tax was signed in to law by President Cyril Ramaphosa.

"A review of the impact of the tax will be conducted before the second phase and will take into account the progress made to reduce GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions in line with our National Determined Contribution," the treasury said. The second phase will run from 2023 to 2030.

Big energy users including Sibanye-Stillwater and ArcelorMittal's South African operation had previously opposed plans to enact carbon tax laws, saying the levies are unaffordable and should be scrapped or delayed.

Local and overseas climate activists, however, believe the tax response falls short of emissions targets the country signed up for in the 2015 Paris Agreement. The tax is considered "highly insufficient" by the Climate Action Tracker group. The treasury said it does not expect the tax to push up electricity prices.

Ailing state power company Eskom, which has implemented nationwide blackouts this year, was granted a near 10% tariff increase for 2019 by the regulator but has complained that the increase will not solve its deep cash crunch.

As Moyo crisis swirls, shareholders reject Old Mutual exec pay



Old Mutual's suspended chief executive officer, Peter Moyo.

JOHANNESBURG

AS Old Mutual suspended its chief executive officer Peter Moyo on Friday, then announced it had decided to "separate" with him, shareholders stunningly rejected the remuneration of the company's executives at its annual general meeting (AGM).

The non-binding resolution on the implementation of the remuneration implementation report, in other words what it paid its executives in 2018, was rejected by 69.13% of shareholders who voted at the AGM. Only 30.87% voted in favour.

This is only the second time that shareholders of a JSE Top 40 company have outright rejected a company's remuneration. The first instance was at Shoprite's October AGM, where ordinary shareholders voted overwhelmingly against both remuneration resolutions: the policy and its implementation. Both passed overall thanks to the high-voting deferred shares, a structure the group is trying to unwind.

Old Mutual's non-binding vote on its remuneration policy received 54% of votes in favour. This is below the 75% required. Last year, Moyo was paid a total of R50.571 million.

This included nearly R14 million in distributions from the unbundling of Quilter plc and Nedbank - something described by the group as an "unintended consequence". He also received a R4.92 million sign-on bonus in 2017.

Chief financial officer Casper Troskie, who joined Old Mutual from Liberty at the end of March 2018, was paid a total of R20.626 million last year. Included in this was a R4.7 million sign-on bonus "in respect of unvested share awards which will vest in three tranches with no prospective performance conditions" and a buyout award of R2.43 million (also with no prospective performance conditions).

The estimated fair value of Moyo's shares under various incentive programmes (as at December 31) was R31.5 million, while Troskie's was R10.9 million. Both included certain tranches of their respective buyout awards.

'Managed separation' incentives

As part of the group's long-term incentive plans, once-off share awards were granted in a Managed Separation Incentive Plan (MSIP). This was "to align the senior management team with the completion of the Management Separation of the Old Mutual plc Group within a specified period, with the overall objective of unlocking

value for shareholders". Half of these awards were settled in cash, while 50% were deferred into forfeitable shares which vest in September this year. This award is curious in that the bulk of the managed separation work predates the executives in charge of Old Mutual Limited (and was done by Bruce Hemphill and Ingrid Johnson when they headed up Old Mutual plc).

The two largest shareholders in the group, as at December 31, 2018, are the Public Investment Corporation (PIC), with 10.8% of ordinary shares, and Allan Gray (7.81% of ordinary shares, on behalf of its clients). With such a low vote in favour of the remuneration resolution, as well as historical voting patterns, it is almost certain that both voted against.

The group's own asset management unit, Old Mutual Investment Group, voted against the resolution. It says this was warranted for four reasons: The company has granted transaction-related awards which are not supported by a compelling rationale; The CFO received a sign-on bonus and a buyout award which are not adequately explained; LTIP [long-term incentive plan] awards granted during the year appear to feature performance periods of less than three years and targets have not been disclosed prospectively; and There is scope for better disclosure around the operation of the annual bonus.

This is the first time shareholders have had to vote on both the remuneration policy and its implementation (as per King IV), under the JSE's listing requirements. Previously, as a UK-headquartered company with a secondary listing on the JSE, shareholders only had to vote on the directors' remuneration report (specifically excluding the policy). Last year, this (ordinary) resolution received 71% of the votes cast in favour.

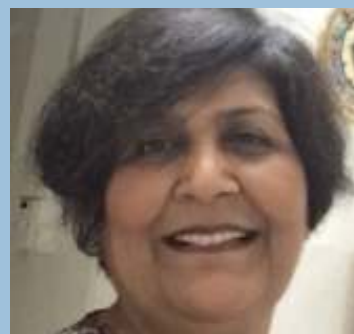
PIC still 'dissatisfied'

The PIC voted against this resolution last year, saying that it "has always expressed its dissatisfaction of the Managed Separation Incentive Plan (MSIP), as well as the magnitude of the rewards which are viewed as unjustified, and the impact it will have towards executive remuneration. The PIC voted against the remuneration report as it includes the implementation of the MSIP."

Old Mutual says, given that the two resolutions "received less than the required 75% of votes, [it] will directly engage with shareholders, the timing of which will be advised to shareholders in due course."

Corporate wellness in the vibrant oil and gas industry vital

CORPORATE WELLNESS



By Bhakti Shah, MPH

COLUMNIST Bhakti Shah recently spoke to Hussein Bofu of Oil and Gas East African Network about minimizing health risks and increasing productivity and improving performance of employees in the upcoming oil and gas industry, excerpts:

As the country's oil and gas expands, with new employees joining the oil and gas workplace for their first time. Do you think that is vital for oil and gas companies to develop wellness program relevant to new and local workforce?

Yes of course - working in the oil and gas sector is extremely demanding and this is substantiated by the fact that the utilization of wellness services in this sector is increasing rapidly around the world.

As the Oil and Gas industry expands in Tanzania, it will attract Tanzanians from across the country and expatriate staff. Looking at the industry trends in other parts of the world, The prevalence of both physical and psychological stressors is expected to increase and will lead to numerous health risks, which in turn will negatively affect the productivity and performance.

Research from the World Health Organization shows that one in five people worldwide are living with mental health issues. Modern workplaces are increasingly challenging and personal lives in this sector experience isolation and loneliness. Almost a quarter of adults are not physically active to prevent illness and one in three people are usually distracted at work by their financial situation. This applies to Tanzania as well, where the Tanzania Demographic and Health Statistics has reported a 16% probability of dying in the economically productive age-group of 30-70 due to non-communicable diseases.

Employees and their dependents in the Oil and Gas sector need assistance with work-life issues, including family support services and substance abuse intervention, nutritional issues, including weight management and dietary consultation as it relates to disease prevention and management. Family and relationship issues such as eldercare, childcare and addictions are also of concern in this sector due to the nature of work demands.

Employers in Oil and Gas industry must examine existing policies, practices and objectives as they relate to working conditions, retention and attraction, and socio-economic factors. Risk management strategies, as they related to each of the issues, should be identified, as well as factors including a well thought out wellness program will contribute to organizational success in general.

According to IPIECA, fatigue is the state of tiredness that is associated with long hours of work, prolonged periods without sleep and requirement to work when would normally be resting. How can organizations manage fatigue risks especially in oil and gas operations that employ workers in geographically remote areas?

The American Petroleum Institute defines fatigue as: "reduced mental and physical functioning caused by sleep deprivation and/or being awake during normal sleep hours. This may result from extended work hours, insufficient opportunities for sleep, failure to use available sleep opportunities, or the effect of sleep disorders, medical conditions or pharmaceuticals, which reduce sleep or increase sleepiness."

Fatigue is associated with shift work and overtime and links have been identified between fatigue and industrial disasters. Fatigue is also associated with medical conditions such as diabetes, obesity and hypertension.

Fatigue is determined by a multitude of Work-related factors such as shift schedule design, overtime and on-call arrangements, commute, environmental conditions and access to food and water, type of work, task design, staffing levels, breaks within shifts, safety culture, pay structures, commitment to fatigue risk management, sleep environment and individual factors such as sleep environment, sleep disorders, health, domestic and social commitments, commute, commitment to fatigue risk management, sleep hygiene, age, secondary employment.

In order to provide comprehensive protection from the impaired performance caused by fatigue, an organization should carry out a risk assessment and then institute fatigue risk management plan which gives consideration to all these factors. An effective fatigue risk management should recognize that fatigue is the joint responsibility of employers and employees and that communication, consultation and commitment on both parts are essential.

The fatigue risk management plan should take into account operational experience and practicalities and should be integrated into corporate safety and health management system.

What are the importance of collaboration among human resources, operational management and other departments within organizations in improving health and productivity of the employee at workplace?

With the rapidly changing business environment, oil and gas companies are transforming to being decentralized and agile. As a result, human resources function has evolved from being purely administrative role to that of a strategic business partner that demands interaction across the organization for improved efficiencies and performance.

Workplace health and safety policies and programs are of critical concern where heavy industrial construction and technical competency are fundamental components of the work environment. The Oil and Gas industry operates under very strict safety standards and government regulations to ensure the well-being of workforce...

The industry makes use of many different activities in all the sectors of the business cycle: from upstream to downstream. Health, safety and environment standards are applied at all levels of operations and therefore departments must collaborate together to implement programs that promote health, safety and resultant productivity.

Some offshore specialists routinely move from one installation to

another and tend to have no fixed work and leave cycle how does that impact performance of the employee?

Most offshore personnel are employed long-term on one installation, where their work schedules form a regular pattern. The schedule is usually planned months in advance. However, specialist personnel working on 'ad-hoc' basis are required to travel to different installations where and when required to meet particular operational needs. Consequently, these personnel are likely to work irregular and/or unpredictable schedules.

The working time arrangements operated in different areas worldwide depend largely on factors such as travel times and distances between the installation and the shore, employees' home location, the mode of travel and prevailing weather conditions, along with local and national employment practices. Most schedules are based on equal-time work/leave cycles for employees. In general, specialists tend to work on longer rotations so as to reduce the time and costs involved.

Long work hours are an integral feature of offshore employment, irrespective of a particular work schedule. Fatigue is potentially a serious problem for all offshore personnel.

Work on offshore installations involves potentially hazardous production and/or drilling operations. The intensive work patterns, the nature of tasks involved, and the effect of fatigue, are potential sources of risk to the safety and well-being of personnel. There is the operational risk of explosion, fire, structural failure, shut-down, reduced productivity resulting from human error and impaired performance, and risk to the physical and psychological well-being such as injury, illness, sleep disturbance, anxiety. Moreover, the family problems resulting from the offshore lifestyle may indirectly on the well-being and work performance of the offshore specialist. Long hours and fatigue may impair performance during the offshore work and may carry over into travel during and adjustment to, shore breaks.

On arrival offshore, workers need time to recover from travel fatigue, to adjust to work routine, and to become familiar with any operational changes that occurred while they were away. This adjustment typically takes 2-3 days from the period of shore leave and during this time, work performance may be adversely affected.

Recovery from fatigue requires adequate rest to replenish mental and physical exhaustion. A period of recovery makes people feel capable and ready for the next phase and prevents the accumulation of fatigue and the serious health consequences as a result. Rest and recovery does not necessarily mean doing nothing. Time spent on social and physical activities that are enjoyable facilitate recovery and well-being and performance on return to work.

What advice would you offer to Senior Management who would like to improve employee health outcomes and productivity?

Considering the occupational, physical and psychosocial stressors in this industry, employee wellness programs are a strategic imperative. A pro-active approach promoting employee well-being through a variety of well thought out initiatives and interventions will drive employee productivity, engagement and retention and meet new social expectation. Adopting a long-term strategic approach to employee health and well-being is key to ensuring that your organization and its people thrive.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Kenya Airways gets waivers after Sh77bn loans breach

NAIROBI

NATIONAL carrier Kenya Airways has obtained waivers from international lenders allowing the airline to breach liquidity ratios without suffering the penalty of having to repay debts worth Sh77 billion within one year.

Kenya Airways was forced by its auditors to restate its 2017 financials to reclassify the loans as "current" from "non-current", which in accounting

terms means that they are due for repayment within one year.

In an interview, the airline's chief executive officer, Sebastian Mikosz, said the airline's auditors, Deloitte, had demanded a restatement of its accounts after the airline failed to obtain waivers from its lenders by December 31, 2018. The restated results are carried in the national carrier's 2018 annual report.

Previously, he said, auditors would accept post-dated

waivers, but changed their stance this year citing adherence to accounting standards.

By the close of 2018, Kenya Airways which is known by its international code KQ, was not meeting the loan conditions and did not have the lenders' waiver. The auditors had allowed the airline to present the bank waivers after December 31 and did not ask for a restatement, a process that has been recurring annually according to Mr Mikosz.

"This year, we asked the lenders to issue us the waiver saying they would not trigger the loan covenants, and they agreed, giving it to us in March," said Mr Mikosz.

"The auditors, however, insisted that the waiver had come after December 31, and that by the rules we needed to have had it before the close of the year and hence the restatement. We are repaying the loans as per the amortisation schedule."

The loans in question were

taken from African Export-Import Bank (Afrexim), Citibank and JP Morgan for purchase of aircraft and funding of pre-delivery deposits for planes. Under the terms of the loans, KQ was expected to maintain a pre-agreed level of unrestricted cash to revenue ratio, failure to which the lenders would have the right to call in their money within a year.

Without a waiver, this would leave the airline facing a huge headache of how to repay the

Sh77 billion within 12 months, which considering its financial position would threaten the status of the airline as a going concern. The airline's short-term (current) debt, which in the original accounts had been stated as Sh7.1 billion as at December 31, 2017, was revised to Sh86 billion in the 2018 annual report. The airline, however, correctly classified the debt in its 2018 report, putting it at Sh77.36 billion. Should KQ obtain its 2019 waivers before

December, it will need a further restatement of accounts to reflect the loan shift back to non-current debt.

The reclassification of these loans is risky for the airline as it would likely spook other parties dealing with the airline due to concerns over the ability to pay off the money in 12 months. In such a scenario, failure to repay would risk loss of aircraft to the international lenders who hold the titles to the planes as collateral.

WORLD

Brexit tears up British politics as Farage tops EU election poll

By Bloomberg

BREXIT wrought more havoc on Britain's main political parties in European Parliament elections, with both Conservatives and Labour scoring their worst results in decades as voters opted for politicians with clear pro- and anti-European Union messages.

With nearly all the vote counts complete, Nigel Farage's Brexit Party, which wants the UK to leave the EU without an agreement, was in first place, with 32% of the vote across the country. In second place, with 20%, were the Liberal Democrats, who want to stay in the bloc.

Labour, which is split about what to do, was third on 14%, prompting fresh calls from senior party figures to back a second referendum to clarify its own policy and resolve the impasse in Parliament. The anti-Brexit Greens were on 12%.

In fifth place were Theresa May's Conservatives on 9%, a catastrophic result for the party of government. The heavy defeat immediately sparked calls for the Tories to speed up efforts to leave the bloc or risk being destroyed at the next general election.

May finally gave in to pressure from her Tory critics and announced Friday that she would quit as prime minister. Conservatives supporting a quick, hard

break with the EU are likely to use Farage's success to bolster their case for preparing to leave without a deal.

"Never before in British politics has a new party launched just six weeks ago topped the polls in a national election," Farage said, after he was re-elected an MEP. "The reason of course is very obvious: We voted to leave in a referendum, we were supposed to do so on March 29 – and we haven't."

The pound, which has weakened this month on growing concerns about a no-deal exit, was unchanged at US\$1.2717.

Existential risk

Britain was due to leave the EU on March 29 but May's failure to get the deal she negotiated with the bloc ratified in Parliament has forced the UK to delay exit day until Oct 31. Euroskeptic voters have run out of patience and punished the ruling Tories for their inability to deliver on the 2016 referendum decision to leave the EU.

Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt – one of those running to replace May – said on Twitter that the result was predictable but "painful" for the Conservatives. He warned of an "existential risk to our party unless we now come together and get Brexit done."

Boris Johnson, the current favorite to win the leadership, agreed with Hunt's



Brexit Party leader Nigel Farage speaks to the press after the European Parliament election results for the UK South East Region are announced at the Civic Centre Southampton, Southern England, on early yesterday. (AFP)

diagnosis. "The voters are delivering a crushing rebuke to the government – in fact, to both major parties," he wrote in his column for the Telegraph newspaper. "I cannot find it in my heart to blame them," Johnson wrote. "They gave us one chief task: To deliver Brexit. They have so far given us almost three years to do it. We have flagrantly failed to carry out their instructions. We have missed deadline after deadline, broken promise after promise."

There is little sign that the elections will break the deadlock in Parliament. Conservatives who rejected May's deal because it stayed too close to the EU – such as Johnson – will argue that support for the Brexit Party shows the public agrees with them. Other Tories will look at the loss of votes to the Liberal Democrats and come to the opposite conclusion.

With the race to succeed May underway, many of the candidates are seeking to appeal to Conservative activists, who are largely pro-Brexit, by announcing their support for a no-deal divorce.

But parties backing a hard, no-deal Brexit won only 35% of the vote share, while the combined support for all the parties backing a second referendum was 40%.

Two Cabinet members who aren't running, Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Hammond and Justice Secretary David Gauke, warned against pursuing a no-deal split. Hammond didn't rule out voting against his own government to prevent such an outcome.

"It would not just challenge me, but many of our colleagues," Hammond told the BBC.

While turnout was slightly higher in the UK than in 2014, the election didn't offer a clear result

as a proxy referendum on EU membership.

Parties backing leaving the EU claimed 44% of the vote. Parties opposing Brexit had 40%. Between the two was Labour, which officially supports leaving but staying close to the EU, even as many of its supporters and leading figures are calling for a second referendum.

Labour's splits were exposed as the results came in. Members of Parliament who represent pro-EU seats, such as foreign affairs spokeswoman Emily Thornberry, argued that the party needs to move to supporting a second Brexit referendum. Her colleague Caroline Flint, who represents a pro-Leave seat, said the opposite.

Even if leader Jeremy Corbyn were to conclude he had to help the government get Brexit delivered, he would struggle to get enough of his MPs to support it.

Corbyn issued a statement repeating his calls either for an election – his preference – or a referendum. In the past, his office has been clear that he only wants a referendum if the Brexit deal is one that he doesn't support.

'Clear lesson'

Liberal Democrat leader Vince Cable said his party's result had shown the advantages of a picking a side. "There is a clear lesson for Labour in tonight's results: Get off the fence," he said in an emailed statement. "In trying to please everybody they have pleased nobody."

Farage demanded a place for his Brexit Party in the UK's negotiating team with the EU. "If we don't leave on October 31 what you will see is the Brexit Party stunning everybody at the next general election," Farage told the BBC.

Agencies

Greek opposition party leader calls PM to quit after result of European elections

ATHENS

GREEK main opposition conservative New Democracy (ND) party leader Kyriakos Mitsotakis called Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras to quit so that Greece will be led to early national elections, after the results of the European parliament and local parliament elections on Sunday.

ND wins the European parliament elections with 32.7 percent of votes against 24 percent for the ruling Radical Left SYRIZA party, according to estimates based on the first official results announced on national broadcaster ERT.

"The change I had been talking throughout the pre-election campaign has already started. The Prime Minister must assume responsibility. He should resign and the country must be led to national elections," he said in a televised statement.

The government's term expires in October this year.

With about 10 percent of the votes counted nationwide, according to the early projections issued by the Interior Ministry, six parties will most probably send representatives to the European parliament, clearing the three percent threshold needed under



Greece's electoral law.

The centrist Movement for Change (KINAL) wins 7.8 percent of votes, the Greek Communist Party (KKE) ranks fourth with 5.6 percent and the ultra-Right Chr-

yssi Avghi (Golden Dawn) garners 4.8 percent of votes.

A new Right-wing party, the Greek Solution, wins 4.2 percent of votes, according to the projections.

A statement by the Premier was expected later on Sunday evening.

The conservatives noted that after the 2014 European elections when SYRIZA had won ND by 26.6-22.7 percent of votes Tsipras had asked for snap polls.

An ND party statement reminded that during this pre-election campaign the Greek leader himself had asked for a vote of con-

ference in his government's policies.

According to estimations based on the first official results candidates supported by the opposition have also taken a strong lead in most races for the election of regional governors, regional councilors, mayors and municipal councilors throughout Greece. A second round of local elections will be held next Sunday.

The final official results for the European parliament elections and the first round of local elections were expected yesterday.

Agencies

Israel's supreme court president criticises Netanyahu for plans to limit judicial power

JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S Supreme Court President Esther Hayut criticized Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday, for the intention of the right-wing parties in the parliament (the Knesset) to limit the power of the state's judicial system.

In the last general elections, held on April 9, the Likud right-wing party led by Netanyahu (pictured) and the other right-wing

parties won a majority of 65 seats out of 120 in the parliament.

These parties declared that they would act for legislation that would allow the parliament to re-enact laws that the supreme court rejected.

In addition, they intend to promote an immunity law that will prevent the prosecution of members of Knesset until the end of their term of office.

The center-left parties, which won only 55 seats, claim that such



laws will harm Israeli democracy, allow corruption by Knesset members, and are intended mainly to save Netanyahu, who is

suspected of criminal offenses in three cases.

Justice Hayut, who spoke at the annual conference of the Israeli Bar Association in the southern city of Eilat, quoted Netanyahu's remarks made during her swearing-in ceremony in October 2017, according to which "the need for a strong, independent, honest and impartial court must not be changed, and it will not change."

Hayut said "since that ceremony, a year and a half has passed,

and I ask what has changed during this period, has anything ever happened since justifying a deviation from these important principles? The answer is negative."

Hayut added that the negotiations between the parties to form the new government "are characterized by a blatant and unbridled discourse, to the extent that the Israeli judicial authority and judges are described as the enemy of the people."

Agencies

China-funded village television project handed over to Rwanda

RULINDO, Rwanda

THE completion ceremony of a China-funded village television project was held in Rulindo District, central Rwanda, on Friday, where China and Rwanda signed a handover document.

The project of Access to Satellite TV for 10,000 African Village, part of the outcomes of the 2015 Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) summit, provides 300 Rwandan villages with free access to satellite TV.

During the implementation, a total of 900 TV sets, 6,000 decoder sets, 600 projectors, 600 solar panels have been installed countrywide, said Jing Yuchang, CEO of StarTimes Media (Rwanda) Co., Ltd, at the ceremony.

StarTimes, which carried out the project, has trained over 120 Rwandan youth's engineers to help in the installation and maintenance of the equipment after the installation to ensure continuity of the project, said Jing.

With the newly installed TV sets and devices, a new world is opened for the beneficiaries who have access to all the information on agriculture, science and technology, education and etc., said Xing Yuchun, charge d'affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Rwanda.

The project will expand their horizon, improve welfare, and provide more opportunities for a better life, especially for the promising younger generation, she said.

The influence and role of TV has grown in Rwanda, but the penetration is low because of high costs of sets, lack of electricity and coverage access, said Assumpta Ingabire, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Local Government.

This project will help Rwanda achieve a better nationwide TV penetration, and ensure wide access to TV through public TVs, said Ingabire.

It helps local people to connect all over the world and will be helpful for people to receive more information, Rulindo mayor Emmanuel Kayiranga told Xinhua after the ceremony.

Xinhua

Kremlin vows to continue defending Moscow's position on Kerch Strait

MOSCOW

RUSSIA believes the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea cannot be applicable in the situation around the Kerch Strait and will continue consistently defending its position on this issue, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

"In case with the Kerch Strait, the 1982 Convention on the Law of the Sea cannot be applied, our Foreign Ministry has clarified this in detail.

Russia will certainly continue consistently defending its viewpoint on this story," Peskov said.

Three Ukrainian warships illegally entered Russia's territorial waters in the Kerch Strait on November 25, 2018.

Despite the repeated

warnings and demands to stop, the Ukrainian vessels continued their way, forcing Russia to use weapons. Three Ukrainian servicemen were lightly wounded. The vessels were detained and 24 Ukrainian sailors were arrested.

On May 25, the United Nations maritime tribunal ruled that Russia must release 24 Ukrainian sailors and hand the three naval vessels back.

The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea urged the two sides to "refrain from taking any action which might aggravate or extend the dispute."

Besides, the maritime court called on Moscow and Kiev to report to the tribunal back on their compliance over the Kerch Strait incident by June 25.

Agencies

Sending 1,500 US troops to Middle East will increase risks in the region, warns Lavrov

MOSCOW

US President Donald Trump's decision to send 1,500 troops to the Middle East may increase risks in the region, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told reporters yesterday.

"Regarding President Trump's decision to send 1,500 servicemen in addition to those now deployed to the Middle East and North Africa, as you know, risks always grow during a military buildup," Lavrov said.

Lavrov expects that Washington will hear sober voices that wagging a war against Tehran is nonsense. "At least we have grounds to hope for that. Today not everyone in the US leadership is obsessed with an aggressive drive," Lavrov stressed. US President Donald Trump instructed Acting Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan on May 24 to send an additional US contingent to the Middle East amid escalating tensions between Washington and Tehran.

According to CNN, the US will deploy Patriot missile batteries, a reconnaissance aircraft and forces to contain Iranian threats.

Agencies

Iran-US disputes not to drift towards war, say experts

TEHRAN

THE recent military build-up by the U.S. regional forces has increased danger of conflicts between Tehran and Washington and has worried regional and international players.

The United States has deployed warships and bombers to the Iranian southern waters, and has reduced the number of its diplomats and employees in Iraq, citing intelligence about potential threats to U.S. nationals by Iran or its allies.

Besides, the U.S. President Donald Trump announced on Friday that he

had decided to send 1,500 more troops to the restive Middle East region.

Basically, the tension between Tehran and Washington began to develop when Trump decided to pull the U.S. out of the Iranian nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in May 2018.

Washington cited the Iranian nuclear deal as "flawed," claiming that it did not address a number of major issues pertaining to the nuclear activities of Iran as well as its arms development and regional role.

Washington seeks to seal a new nuclear deal with Iran, to further curb

Iran's nuclear program, stop Iran ballistic missile development and halt Iran's push for influence in the region.

Now, Iran is under unprecedented sanctions on its economy, which were reimposed by the U.S. administration following Trump's quit from the nuclear pact. The sanctions had been lifted under the 2015 nuclear accord.

Iran has warned that it might not abide by some of the restrictions on its nuclear activities if its economic interests are not honored by the signatories of the deal.

On May 8, Iran's President Hassan Rouhani announced Tehran's with-

drawal from complying with the restrictions posed by the JCPOA on the country's enriched uranium reserves and heavy water supplies.

Rouhani also set a 60-day deadline for the remaining parties to the deal to fulfill their obligations, particularly in preserving Iran's interests in the areas of banking and oil.

He threatened that Iran might increase the level of uranium enrichment and start modernizing its heavy water reactor. Tehran's decision to suspend some of its nuclear deal commitments was meant to give time to Europeans to comply with their obligations and

to bring the international agreement back on its right track, said Behrouz Kamalvandi, spokesman of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI).

Accordingly, the U.S. president vowed to maintain policy of maximum pressure against Iran.

"Much now depends upon the dynamics inside the Trump administration and also on Tehran's assessment of what is going on there," Jonathan Marcus, a diplomatic correspondent, said.

Despite the escalating tensions and military reinforcements in the region, the leaders on both sides have stressed that they are not interested in war.

Saadallah Zarei, an Iranian expert on international affairs, said "there is no indication that the United States is seeking war with the Islamic republic." "As a matter of fact, there are many reasons why the United States refrains from military clashes with Iran," said Zarei. The Iranian expert cited deterrent power of the Iranian armed forces as an elemental factor for disinclination of Washington to engage in any military conflict with Iran.

Trump has indicated that he has more enthusiasm in dialogue than in war over the foreign frictions.

Agencies



Isabel Ge Mahe, Apple's vice-president and managing director of Greater China, speaks at a session during the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2019 in Boao, south China's Hainan province, March 26, 2019. (File photo)

'China leading the world in app development'

GUIYANG

TEN years after US tech giant Apple Inc launched its App Store, the number of Chinese developers tops 2.2 million, and they have become a leading force in app development, said Apple's China chief.

"Chinese app developers are leading the world in terms of app downloads and revenue, and have grown to be a very admirable community of innovators," Isabel Ge Mahe (Ge Yue), Apple's vice-president and managing director of Greater China, told Xinhua on the sidelines of the China International Big Data Industry Expo 2019 which opened in southwest China's Guiyang, Guizhou province, on Sunday.

"Through Apple's App Store, their products have entered the global stage and many of them have become successful cases internationally."

She cited the global success of short video sharing app TikTok, also known as Douyin in China, and the apps developed by China's Palace Museum, as examples of China's innovative ability. TikTok has 75 language versions and is liked by users from over 150 countries and regions, while the 11 apps developed by the Palace Museum have been downloaded by over 5 million users across the world.

She said Apple's China team had taken a series of steps to encourage home-grown apps to go global, and used its experience and resources to help promote them to the global market.

"In the area of mobile internet, China has become a spotlight of the world," Ge said. "We are proud to make our contributions to China in this digital age and work with Chinese partners for innovative development in the industry."

Apple has launched four R&D centers

in the Chinese cities of Beijing, Shenzhen, Shanghai, and Suzhou, employing a total of over 1,000 people dedicated to innovation in hardware, software and services, Ge said.

The Apple China chief also hailed the smooth progress of the construction of Apple's first China data center in Guiyang, adding that Apple had received tremendous support from the local government in the project.

Jointly built by Apple and Guizhou-Cloud Big Data Company, the Guizhou facility, with a budget of US\$1 billion, began construction in March. It will be Apple's third after the data centers in the United States and Denmark.

From Feb 28 last year, Apple's iCloud services on the Chinese mainland started to be operated by Guizhou-Cloud Big Data Company, a move Ge said helped provide better services for Chinese Apple users.

She reiterated Apple's long-time commitment in protecting users' privacy and data security.

"There is absolutely no so-called backdoor in Apple products," said Ge. "Protecting privacy is our top priority in designing Apple products and services."

Apple has also been an active promoter of using digital technology in bridging the gap in educational resources and aiding China's fight against poverty, according to Ge.

In 2018, Apple launched a program to provide digitalized pre-school and vocational education to students in less developed areas in China, with a donation of 25 million yuan (US\$3.7 million) to the China Development Research Foundation.

"We firmly believe that education is the best way to improve people's livelihoods and tackle inequalities in development," Ge said.

Xinhua

US pressure on Cuba runs counter to international law, Lavrov says

MOSCOW

THE US growing pressure on Cuba under the Helms-Burton Act contradicts international law, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told a news conference after talks with his Cuban counterpart Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla.

"The decision, which was endorsed in Washington, drastically contradicts both international law and demands of the overwhelming majority of members of the international community," Lavrov said.

In his turn, the Cuban foreign minister noted that the Helms-



Burton Act was part and parcel of the US policy of pressuring third states.

Earlier, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo informed that as of May 2, US nationals can sue for damages over private property seized during the Cuban revolution, which has become possible due to the full implementation of Title III of the Helms-Burton Act, a bill passed by former US President Bill Clinton in 1996.

Earlier, Washington regularly suspended the implementation of the Helms-Burton Act, which enables US citizens to sue foreign companies doing business in the US and investing in this property on the island.

Agencies

WHO terms 'gaming disorder' a modern disease



A Chinese mobile game player plays a multiplayer online battle royale game PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds, on his smartphone in J'nan, East China's Shandong province, on March 16, 2018. (File photo)

BEIJING

THE World Health Organization added "gaming disorder" to its list of modern diseases for the first time on Saturday at the 72nd World Health Assembly, Wcns.cn reported yesterday.

Treatment and prevention measures will be proposed before Jan 1, 2022, when the WHO's 11th revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-11) comes into effect.

The WHO added in June last year gaming addiction under its section of potentially harmful technology-related behaviors, including too much use of "the internet, computers, smartphones" and more, as reported by the US tech review site CNET.

Gaming disorder was included in the ICD-11, which was adopted on May 25, as a clinically recognizable and significant syndrome, of which young people are notably at risk, in 2018, according to a message by Pan American Health Organization and World Health Organization Americas.

Gaming disorder is described as a pattern of persistent or recurrent gaming behavior, which may be online or offline, and such impaired control over gaming has negative effects on family, social, educational, occupational and other important areas.

Multinational electronic games industry representatives criticized the decision of WHO and many organizations including Entertainment Software Association and UK Interactive

Entertainment called for WHO to re-examine the decision.

Global games market value increased to US\$134.9 billion in 2018, up 10.9 percent year-on-year with mobile games accounting for 47 percent of the total at US\$63.2 billion, up 12.8 percent year-on-year, gamesindustry.biz reported citing statistics from market analysts Newzoo.

China's actual sales revenue of gaming industry rose 5.3 percent year-on-year to 214.44 billion yuan (US\$31.11 billion) last year, accounting for 23.6 percent of the global gaming market, Financial Times reported, adding that social responsibility should be an important part of gaming industry development.

Xinhua

UN calls for release of arbitrarily detained, abducted persons in Libya

TRIPOLI

THE UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) on Sunday called for the immediate release of all persons arbitrarily detained and abducted in Libya.

"The Mission calls once again for all those arbitrarily detained and abducted to be immediately released, and reminds all parties to the conflict of their obligations under the International Humanitarian Law and the International Human Rights Law," the Mission said in a statement.

The statement expressed concern over the kidnapping of a member of the High Council of State in south of the capital Tripoli, which is witnessing violent clashes between the east-based army and the UN-backed government.

"The Mission is very concerned at

the report of the kidnapping of a member of the High Council of State from the Qasr Ben Ghasheer neighborhood in Tripoli," the statement said.

The Mission also expressed concern over an airstrike against a compound in Tripoli used by parliament members for meetings.

"Shelling civilian targets and kidnapping civilians, including political actors, send a worryingly anti-democratic message," the statement said.

The government accused the rival army of carrying out the airstrike on Thursday.

"The UNSMIL is working with parties on the ground to acquire the evidence necessary to prosecute all of those proved to have been involved in these violations and all other incidents against the civilian population and civilian infrastructure," the statement revealed.

Xinhua

Trump says he agrees with Kim Jong-un that Biden has 'low IQ'

TOKYO

US President Donald Trump said yesterday he agreed with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)'s insult of former vice-president Joe Biden's intelligence, calling the Democratic presidential candidate "a disaster" during a trip to Japan.

"Kim Jong-un made a statement that Joe Biden is a low-IQ individual. He probably is based on his record. I think I agree with him on that," Trump said at a joint press conference in Tokyo with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

A US reporter had asked the president whether it had been his intention in a Sunday tweet to appear to side with Kim, a dictator with a poor human rights track record, over a fellow American.

DPRK's official state news agency KCNA said last week that Biden, who



leads nearly two-dozen major candidates running for his party's nomination, was a "fool of low IQ" and a "snob bereft of elementary quality as human being."

Trump, who has appeared most worried about potentially facing Biden in the November 2020 presidential election, said in a tweet Sunday said he "smiled when [Kim] called

Swampman Joe Biden a low IQ individual, & worse. Perhaps that's sending me a signal?"

The US leader went even further in Tokyo on Monday. "I can tell you that Joe Biden was a disaster, his administration with President Obama, they were basically a disaster when it came to so many things," Trump said. "Whether it was economy, whether it

Power consumption reveals China's economic vitality

BEIJING

AS a key barometer of economic activity, China's power consumption rose 5.8 percent year on year in April, reflecting a flourishing development of new economic drivers and consumption upgrading.

Total power use reached 553.4 billion kilowatt hours in April. The increase of power consumption on new energy vehicles, photovoltaic production, and big data services were all over 50 percent, according to the National Energy Administration.

"Provinces in the southwest and the central and southern China have replaced eastern and coastal ones as the new leading regions in power consumption growth," said Ye Chun, vice director of the Department of Industry Development of the China Electricity Council (CEC).

Ye ascribed this shift to China's poverty alleviation work, infrastructure construction, quickened urbanization, home appliances quality improvement and tourism boom driven by the original ecological environment.

Power use in Tibet Autonomous Region, for instance, increased by 18.3 percent year on year in the first four months of 2019, ranking first in growth rate in the country.

"As a section of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway, the Lhasa-Nyingchi railway's construction work accelerated this year, driving up the electricity consumption," said Bai Xiaowei with the China Railway Electrification Engineering Group.

In April, daily power consumption in the manufacturing sector also reached its peak in the past five months, according to the CEC.

"The growth of power use in traditional industries and manufacturing sector has been stable, while industries connected with digitization and informatization see drastic rises in power consumption, which illustrates new driving forces are steadily replacing the old ones," Ye said.

Xuzhou, an old coal city in east China, is mining its new fortune in equipment manufacturing.

"In the first four months of 2019, equipment manufacturers' power use rose 60.37 percent year on year thanks to considerable order size," said Li Ying, head of the Department of Planning of the State Grid Xuzhou Power Supply Company.

Xuzhou Construction Machinery Group (XCMG), China's leading construction machinery manufacturer, is exporting products to more than 183 countries and regions worldwide. In March alone, XCMG's exports have exceeded 100 million U.S. dollars.

Xinhua

DPRK calls Bolton 'war monger' over missile comment

SEOUL

THE Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) yesterday called US National Security Adviser John Bolton a "war monger" and "defective human product" after he called DPRK's recent tests of short-range missile a violation of UN Security Council resolutions.

The statement by an unnamed DPRK foreign ministry spokesman came as US Presi-

dent Donald Trump continued his visit to Japan for meetings with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in which the nuclear standoff with the DPRK was expected to be high on the agenda.

Bolton (pictured) told reporters in Tokyo on Saturday that there was "no doubt" that DPRK's recent launches violated UN resolutions, and that sanctions against the DPRK must be kept in place. Trump later downplayed the missile tests,

tweeting, "North Korea fired off some small weapons, which disturbed some of my people, and others, but not me."

The DPRK is also referred to as North Korea.

The DPRK tested short-range ballistic missiles on May 4 and 9, ending a pause in launches that began in late 2017. The tests have been seen as a way for the DPRK to pressure Washington to soften its stance on easing sanctions against it without ac-



John Bolton, US National Security Adviser, speaking at a press conference.

tually causing the negotiations to collapse.

In the statement carried by Pyongyang's official Korean

Central News Agency, the DPRK spokesman said that the DPRK was rightfully exercising its rights for self-defense with the launches.

He said the DPRK has never recognized the UN Security Council resolutions, which it views as illegally denying its "rights to existence and development of a sovereign state."

"If any object is launched, it is bound to fly in trajectory," the spokesman said. He said a

demand that the DPRK ban all launches using ballistic technology regardless of the range is the same as asking it to relinquish its right to self-defense.

The spokesman said Bolton was an "ignorant" hard-liner who throughout different US administrations constantly pushed provocative policies against the DPRK, which the spokesman said included endorsements of pre-emptive strikes and regime change.

The spokesman also said that Bolton's "hammer act" was responsible for the collapse of a major nuclear deal between the countries reached in 1994, when the DPRK agreed to halt its nuclear program in exchange for US fuel aid.

The deal broke down in 2002 after US intelligence agencies said the DPRK was continuing its pursuit of bombs with a secret uranium enrichment program.

Agencies



General view of a tribute to Niki Lauda before the Formula One - Monaco Grand Prix at Circuit de Monaco in Monte Carlo, Monaco on Sunday. REUTERS

Mercedes to keep permanent red star for Lauda

MONACO

MERCEDES will keep a red star on their Formula One cars as a permanent remembrance of triple world champion Niki Lauda, the team's non-executive chairman who died last Monday.

A red three-pointed star on the engine cover is one of several on-car tributes to the Austrian at Sunday's Monaco Grand Prix, with the 'halo' head protection device painted red as a reference to Lauda's familiar red cap.

"Niki we miss you," is written on top of the halo, while the nose of the car bears Lauda's signature.

The Austrian, who was 70, wore a red cap to cover the burns sustained in a fiery 1976 crash at the Nurburgring which almost cost him his life.

The then-Ferrari driver, a two-times Monaco Grand Prix winner, returned within weeks and battled James Hunt for the championship, losing out that year but winning again in 1977 and 1984.

"I'm really happy how we started off this weekend with the red halo, and the little star - which is going to stay on the car forever - and the signature," said team principal Toto Wolff. "It was nicely done."

Mercedes have both their cars on the front row of the grid for the showcase race, with five-times world champion and overall leader Lewis Hamilton on pole position.

That pole position was also a record for Hamilton as his 59th for a single team, beating Michael Schumacher's 58 with Ferrari.

"To beat those records is something that makes me very proud, very proud for the team," said Wolff. "But as Niki would say it's all not worth anything if you don't win the championship."

Mercedes have won the first five races of the season one-two and look set to celebrate their sixth successive top-two finish this season.

Hamilton paid a moving tribute to Lauda after qualifying on Saturday, highlighting the role he had played in his 2013 move from McLaren to Mercedes.

"He was part of the process of changing my life," said the Briton.

"If I hadn't had the call all that time ago, I would be a one time World Champion now and probably 22 wins... and I sit here a five-time world champion and I definitely feel like I owe him a lot."

Meanwhile, the late Niki Lauda would have loved Lewis Hamilton's nail-biting Monaco Grand Prix victory, while praying all the time for divine intervention, according to Mercedes team boss Toto Wolff.

Sunday's race was the first since the death on Monday of the triple world champion, and Mercedes non-executive chairman, and was marked by tributes to the Austrian whose

spirit hung over the pits and paddock.

Hamilton, withstanding tremendous pressure on worn tyres from Red Bull's Max Verstappen to hang on for a fourth triumph of the season, told reporters he had wanted to honour his departed friend.

"I really was fighting with the spirit of Niki - he's been such an influence in our team and I know he will be looking down and taking his hat off," said the five times world champion after his 77th career victory.

Hamilton wore a red helmet with Lauda's design and name on it, while the silver car carried other tributes to the two times Monaco winner.

All 20 drivers and team members had stood for a minute's silence before the race.

Wolff, who had recalled earlier in the week how Lauda had prayed to God on another occasion when Hamilton was in a tense race that decided one of his titles, agreed with that sentiment.

"Niki would have had another little pray: 'Dear God, please just help me this once,'" he smiled.

"I think it was a world champion's drive for a world champion that is not with us anymore. And he would have loved it because it was down to the driver and fending off another great driver behind."

"It was a battle among champions like we've seen in the past in Monaco, between (Ayrton) Senna and (Nigel) Mansell and (Alain) Prost and all these great names."

Hamilton has now won three times on the streets of the Mediterranean principality.

Mercedes have won every race this season, the only blemish being the end of their run of five successive one-two finishes with Valtteri Bottas third, but they lived more dangerously than before.

Hamilton was sent out on medium tyres after his sole pitstop, the rubber faster but quicker wearing than the hards chosen by rivals, and made them last for 66 of 78 laps.

Wolff admitted Mercedes should have opted for the more durable compound.

"We thought the tyre would make it to the end and it didn't. But he saved us," the Austrian said of Hamilton's performance.

The champion said he had felt sure there was no way he could make it on the tyres and would have to make another stop, costing him the win.

"I was like, I'm not coming in whatever the case. I'm just going to drive with no tyres until they blow up," he said. "I really tried my best to stay focused and not crack under pressure."

"It's been such a hard week emotionally for us as a team. We just really wanted to do the job, to deliver on the word of Niki and I imagined him taking the hat off in support."

"When I was driving it was like 'what would Niki do?'. So I just kept going."

REUTERS

NBA: These finals will decide a champion, and much more



FILE - In this Wednesday, May 8, 2019, file photo, Golden State Warriors' Kevin Durant, left, walks away from referee Ken Mauer during the first half of Game 5 of the team's second-round NBA basketball playoff series against the Houston Rockets in Oakland, Calif. Durant is yet to progress to on-court work in his recovery from a strained right calf and won't be ready to return for Golden State in Game 1 of the NBA Finals on May 30. (AP Photo)

By TIM REYNOLDS

It all comes down to this.

No, really.

It ALL comes down to this.

The next four, five, six or seven games of the NBA Finals between Golden State and Toronto will not only decide the 2019 championship, but how this series plays out is inevitably going to affect how free agency unfolds starting in a month or so.

It'll affect Warriors star Kevin Durant and his annual stay-or-go decision. It'll affect Raptors star Kawhi Leonard as he ponders his next move, or if he'll be moving at all. Klay Thompson will be a free agent this summer. DeMarcus Cousins will be free this summer. Their thinking will inevitably be moved one way or another by this series; the decisions they'll all make in the coming weeks will have a ripple effect on the rest of the NBA.

Durant made clear over the weekend that he's tired of the incessant talk about his future.

"I know what I bring to the team," Durant said, "but I also know that a lot of people on the outside don't like to see us together."

New York will be paying intense attention to everything that gets said, tweeted, Instagrammed and intimated. Brooklyn will be in the same boat. So will the Los Angeles Clippers, who think they're on the cusp of building something really good, and the Los Angeles Lakers, who made the biggest signing of last summer by getting LeBron James and have done very little right since.

They will all be waiting to hear what Durant, Thompson, Leonard and Cousins decide.

And those are just the biggest fish - the whales, to use a term Miami President Pat Riley likes.

After that, there's another 60 or so players who could be free agents this summer - some have opt-ins and might not be relocating - and who are coming off seasons where they averaged at least 10 points per game. Their teams next season

will be affected on some level by who gets whom in the draft. How some teams pick in the draft will be influenced on what they're hearing about free agency. And that hinges on this series.

So it's not just a ripple effect.

The finals may create a tsunami.

"The latest I've heard from our basketball operations group is that, I believe, 40 percent of our players are going to be free agents this summer," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said at All-Star weekend in February. "So it's two sides of the coin. Some people could say, 'Oh my God, look at all that player movement.' On the other hand, that player movement could be very positive for a lot of teams."

Maybe, maybe not.

If the Warriors win this series, as the oddsmakers in Las Vegas expect, it'll be a third consecutive championship for Golden State - and some history. The Celtics, Lakers and Bulls are the only franchises to win three or more in a row. And out of that group, only the Celtics have won four in a row (eight, actually). Michael Jordan never did. Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant never did.

That would be the obvious recruiting pitch the Warriors would make to Durant and Thompson. 'Come back and try to win No. 4. Come back and try to do something that very few players have done and something no one has done in a half-century.' That lure would undoubtedly be strong. But if they lose this series, it would seem much easier

for either player to say it's been a great run and it's time to go play somewhere else.

If Durant stays, then the Knicks, Nets and Clippers would have to move on to Plan B for free agency.

Therefore, they probably should be rooting for the Raptors.

Durant is difficult to read because he uses social media to give cryptic hints that usually aren't hints at all. Leonard is impossible to read. For all anyone knows, he has already decided to stay in Toronto or sign elsewhere. Or maybe he hasn't even thought about the summer. Maybe he is as robotic as he tries to convey.

But the same theory applies: If Toronto wins this series, it'll be harder for Leonard to leave. So the teams that want him, they might want to root for the Warriors.

Let's use the Knicks solely for example purposes. If they don't get Durant or Leonard, then maybe Irving crosses them off his list. Maybe that would mean Kemba Walker climbs up their charts. Maybe that means Jordan decides to offer Walker the super-max of \$221 million or so to stay in Charlotte. And the ripples go on and on.

They won't be little waves gently rolling onto the shores, either.

This will be a summer of change and a summer of major spending in the NBA. This series is going to decide much more than who gets rings. This series will likely decide who plays where for many years to come.

AP

Hamilton wins Monaco Grand Prix in the spirit of Lauda

MONACO

LEWIS Hamilton withstood lap after lap of intense pressure on worn tyres to win a nail-biting Monaco Grand Prix on Sunday in a triumphant tribute to his Mercedes team's late Formula One great Niki Lauda.

The Briton, who now has 77 career wins and a 17-point lead over team mate Valtteri Bottas in the championship, had called for a miracle as Red Bull's Max Verstappen filled his car's mirrors, with the pair banging wheels late on.

The five-times world champion held on, taking the chequered flag for his fourth win of the season and third in Monaco, with Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel the runner-up after a time penalty demoted Verstappen to fourth.

Bottas, who was involved in a pitlane collision with Verstappen on lap 12 that led to the Dutch driver's penalty for an unsafe release, finished third.

"That was definitely the hardest race I've had," said Hamilton, before cooling down with a plunge into the trackside swimming pool in his sweat-soaked overalls after the podium ceremonies.

"I really was fighting with the spirit of Niki."

"I know he will be looking down and taking his hat off. I was trying to stay focused and make him proud," he added of the Austrian, a triple world champion and non-executive chairman of the Mercedes team who died on Monday, aged 70.

Mercedes, who extended their winning run to six, lead Ferrari by 118 points in the constructors' standings.



Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton celebrates winning the Monaco Grand Prix with Monaco's Prince Albert II (REUTERS)

Hamilton has 137 to 120 for Bottas, with Vettel moving up to third place on 82.

Hamilton and Verstappen finished under investigation after they banged wheels going into the chicane at the tunnel exit two laps from the end when the Dutchman tried to pass, but stewards took no further action.

The Briton was forced to cut the corner but kept his advantage.

HOPING FOR A MIRACLE
Hamilton, who started on pole, had earlier had some anxious and

angry exchanges with his team who admitted they had made a mistake with their tyre selection.

"I don't know what you're thinking by keeping these tyres on, man. You need to hope for a miracle," Hamilton said, with Verstappen on longer-lasting hard rubber and doing all he could to pass.

The 'miracle', with Hamilton wearing a retro red helmet sporting Lauda's name and colours while the car carried a variety of tributes, duly happened as if by the late champion's

celestial command.

"That was an incredible drive. There was no one else who could have done that," Mercedes chief strategist James Vowles told him over the radio.

"It was a world champion's drive for a world champion who is not with us any more," declared team boss Toto Wolff. "Niki would have loved it."

Monaco, with its twisty streets and unforgiving barriers, is notoriously difficult to overtake on but Hamilton still made all the difference.

REUTERS

Beckham scores as United faces Bayern 20 years after CL win

MANCHESTER, England

OLE Gunnar Solskjaer wound back the years as the Manchester United manager came off the bench to score for Alex Ferguson's side against a Bayern Munich team in the "Treble Reunion" match – 20 years to the day after United won the 1999 Champions League final.

Fans young and old descended on Old Trafford on Sunday to see some of the club's greatest players – including David Beckham – as Manchester United Legends beat Bayern Munich Legends 5-0.

Solskjaer again started on the bench but made an impact far quicker than that night at the Nou Camp in Barcelona, where his goal deep in stoppage time sealed a 2-1 victory over Bayern and the treble for United on May 26, 1999. United also won the FA Cup and the Premier League that season.

This time Solskjaer came on for Andy Cole shortly after kickoff and produced a smart finish inside four minutes to put United Legends on course for a comprehensive win.

Dwight Yorke gave the hosts a two-goal cushion at the break, be-

fore man-of-the-match Nicky Butt, substitute Louis Saha and returning favorite Beckham completed a rout in front of 61,175 fans at Old Trafford, raising 1.5 million pounds (\$1.9 million) for the Manchester United Foundation.

With the teams led out by Ferguson, supporters were treated to the familiar sight of Beckham firing cross-field balls, Jaap Stam showing no mercy at the back and Paul Scholes bossing the midfield.

After a difficult season – with United finishing sixth in the Premier League – Sunday's match brought a feel-good factor back to Old Trafford.

"I've got to thank the supporters again for supporting us and the money will be well spent," Solskjaer told MUTV. "I think everyone knows how much it means to play for Manchester United and this match, for everyone, means so much more than just turning up because it was such a big part of our lives.

"We have a big job getting back to these moments. We want to have moments to celebrate and that's what we're trying to do."

AP

Mustafi: Arsenal's defence has done a good job

LONDON

SHKODRAN Mustafi insists Arsenal's defence is "doing its job" despite its poor record over the season.

Mustafi has been a regular in an Arsenal backline that conceded 51 goals in the Premier League this season, the most in the top five and more than twice as many as Manchester City and Liverpool, keeping just eight clean sheets.

However the top two were the only sides who scored more than them over the season, so given they only missed a place in the top four by a single point, a strong case can be made that their defence cost them a Champions League spot.

They could still claim that place by beating Chelsea in the Europa League final in Baku on Wednesday, and Mustafi defended their record, insisting that criticism came because errors in the backline are "the easiest thing to attack."

"If you make 90 percent of your job and in the 10 percent the opponent scores a goal, people forget about the 90 percent," the German centre-back said.

"If in the end of the season you made 70 points it is for a reason. I don't think that if the defence is not doing our job you would make 70 points.

"If a striker misses a goal or a penalty or whatever, you get a new

opportunity five or 10 minutes later. For us defenders, if you make one mistake and they score, even if in five minutes you save something on the line, people still won't talk about it. You get to live with it because it is part of our job."

Mustafi went on to point to Arsenal's style of play as a possible reason for their porous backline.

"We are a team who in a lot of games want to press up high and that gives teams opportunities to score goals against us. It gives teams space to try to break on us.

"You have to go through all the details in all the games and see what was wrong. But at the end of the day, even when we try to play out of the back, people say, 'Why are they doing this? Why aren't they just kicking it out from the back?' But that is not our game.

"The coach prefers that we make mistakes but still play our game.

"You are not going to win without an identity and that was how we wanted to play. We wanted to press high and score goals. Then obviously we wanted to not let the other team score. But it is a football game – other teams want to score as well.

"We didn't reach the position we wanted to reach. That is a disappointing fact. But we still have the opportunity in the Europa League to reach the goal we wanted – and a trophy as well."

(AGENCIES)

De Ligt discusses future amid United, Barca link

LONDON

MANCHESTER United and Barcelona transfer target Matthijs de Ligt has said he will make a decision on his future after Netherlands' upcoming UEFA Nations League campaign, but added he does like the Premier League.

The Ajax captain, 19, is one of the most sought-after players in this summer's transfer market after an impressive campaign where he led the Amsterdam side to the Dutch league and cup double – as well as the semi-finals of the Champions League.

He is certain to leave Ajax this summer for a huge fee and Old Trafford sources have told ESPN FC they believe De Ligt is going to sign for Barca. However, when asked what his next destination is likely to be, De Ligt would not make a decision until after the Nations League finals.

"Where do I see myself? Well, obviously the Premier League is a big competition – Spain also – but you have other competitions," he told AP. "It's not [just] about those two.

"I still don't know anything about where my future is, so I see how it goes."

Sources have told ESPN FC that United have offered De Ligt a deal worth £250,000-a-week to move to Old Trafford – more than the player will receive at Barcelona.

But despite the prospect of playing in the Premier League with United, De Ligt has made it clear to the club that his preference is a move to Barcelona, who have already completed a €75 million deal for his Ajax teammate, Frenkie de Jong.

While United remain huge admirers of De Ligt, who is not expected to leave Ajax until after his involvement with Netherlands at the Nations League in Portugal next month, there is an acceptance within Old Trafford that Barca have all but tied up a deal for the player.

Meanwhile, Bayern Munich president Uli Hoessens has told Jerome Boateng the defender's best option would be to leave the club.

Boateng joined Bayern from Manchester City in 2011 but has been linked with a move away from Allianz Arena. He was an unused sub during the 3-0 DFB Pokal victory over RB Leipzig on Saturday and did not join in the postmatch celebrations.

(AGENCIES)

Valverde under pressure after dismal end to Barcelona season

MADRID

A COUPLE of weeks ago, few questioned Ernesto Valverde as Barcelona coach.

The team had just won a second straight Spanish league title under his command and was close to making it to the Champions League final after beating Liverpool 3-0 in the first leg of the semifinals.

The team was also through to the Copa del Rey final, where it would try to win an unprecedented fifth straight title in the competition.

Valverde seemed to be comfortably in control as the club moved closer to winning the treble.

Things quickly took a turn for the worse, though, and Valverde woke up on Sunday under added pressure and facing increased criticism.

Barcelona lost 2-1 to Valencia in the Copa del Rey final on Saturday, a result that followed the disastrous elimination against Liverpool in the Champions League and added to the team's woeful end to what had been a great season.

"A month ago we were celebrating the league title. Fifteen days ago we were thinking we had a chance at a treble," Valverde said. "And we came up short in the decisive moments in both the Champions League and the Copa del Rey."

The disappointing ending brought out a wave of criticism of Valverde, who last year also finished the season under a cloud after another humiliating Champions League elimination – that time it squandered a big first-leg lead against Roma in the tournament's quarterfinals.

The criticism seems more pronounced this time, with some fans and local media calling for a change at the helm.

It didn't take long after Barcelona's loss to Valencia in Seville for club President Josep Bartomeu to come out and defend the coach.

"Ernesto has a contract and he remains the team's coach," Bartomeu said. "This loss was not the coach's fault. The team created a lot of scoring chances but the ball didn't go in, and what counts is how many times you score."

Bartomeu had already defended Valverde after the demoralizing 4-0 loss to Liverpool in the Champions League, saying the club was not considering a change in command for next season.

Valverde said he was not worried and felt supported by the club despite the disappoint-



Ernesto Valverde

ing ending.

"It's a bad feeling, we won't deny it, but we have to stay strong," he said. "What we want as coaches is to have a chance to come back. It's tough to lose, it means something went wrong. We have to take the responsibility for it."

Even if Valverde stays as expected, it doesn't mean there won't be changes for Barcelona.

Several players played below expectations this season, especially former Liverpool star Philippe Coutinho, who was regularly jeered by fans and whose place with the club remains uncertain.

Bartomeu will likely have to go shopping in the offseason to try to improve the supporting cast for Lionel Messi, who had a fantastic year but wasn't able to save the season by himself. When Messi looked ordinary, no one was able to take over his role as protagonist, and it proved costly in the decisive moments.

Young midfielder Frenkie de Jong is joining

from Ajax and he should significantly boost the midfield, but Barcelona will definitely need to add to its attack, as Luis Suarez was the only true striker who performed consistently well. He couldn't play in the Copa final after undergoing knee surgery and his absence was felt as the team struggled to capitalize on its scoring chances.

Veteran Gerard Pique is set to return for another season in defense, but there are still doubts about the fitness of Samuel Umtiti, who missed several matches this season because of injuries.

"We've been thinking about next season for a while, but it's not the time to discuss the future," Bartomeu said. "We ended with the Spanish league title, it was important. We couldn't win the Copa, but we'll just move on."

Meanwhile, Luis Suarez has defended himself from criticism for undergoing knee surgery that prevented him from playing for Bar-

celona in the Copa del Rey final.

The Uruguayan released a statement Sunday saying he had no option despite the timing of the final, which Barcelona lost 2-1 to Valencia on Saturday.

Suarez said he had to undergo surgery "against my will" after rupturing his meniscus against Liverpool in the Champions League semifinals.

He said the surgery earlier this month had nothing to do with a cartilage issue that he had been nursing since the beginning of the season.

Barcelona won the Spanish league but finished the season on a low after being eliminated by Liverpool in the Champions League and losing the Copa final to Valencia.

Suarez scored 25 goals in 49 matches this season, second only to Lionel Messi on the scoring charts for Barcelona.

AP

Man City chief defends spending, blasts La Liga

LONDON

MANCHESTER City chairman Khaldoon Al Mubarak has defended the club's spending and accused La Liga president Javier Tebas of hypocrisy over allegations that they are distorting the transfer market.

The Premier League champions, who are under investigation from Uefa over a potential breach of Financial Fair Play rules, have spent more than £1 billion on players since they were bought by Sheikh Mansour in 2008.

Speaking at the Financial Times' Business of Football summit on Tuesday, Tebas criticised the ownership models of City and French champions Paris Saint-Germain saying they caused an imbalance that is stretching football to its economic limits.

"He talks about how we distorted the market? There is a hypocrisy in this statement that is ironic," Al Mubarak said. "Number one, let's look at the Spanish league, the time of breaking records on player acquisitions, I mean, who started that?"

"Let's go back to the world records, Figo, Zidane. These huge jumps in these transfers, where did they happen? You know, the history, you have to look back at the history of La Liga, a league dominated by two clubs and Mr. Tebas should look back at the history of that league and how distortion that has happened throughout the ages.

"And then you look back at transfers. In the top ten transfers of all time, Manchester City has not a single player in that, not a single one."

Tebas, who has run Spain's top league for the past six years, singled out Qatari-owned PSG and Abu Dhabi-owned City claiming the sport is like a "plaything of a state".

Al Mubarak said: "I think there's something deeply wrong in bringing ethnicity into the conversation. This is just ugly. I think the way he is combining teams because of ethnicity. I find that very disturbing to be honest."

The city chairman also believes that Tebas is concerned about the potential dominance of English clubs in Europe with four Premier League sides qualifying for the Champions League and Europa League finals. "Let's not forget this is the best league in the world and if you look at this season, there is no better testament to this statement where the two European competitions the Champions League and Europa Cup, the finals are being competed by English clubs," he added.

"That's a fact and that bothers a lot of people in many places. We have the best league in the world,



Khaldoon Al Mubarak

Gwiji by David Chikoko



(AGENCIES)

SPORT

Valverde under pressure after dismal end to Barcelona season

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Sports stakeholders should support junior teams - call

By Correspondent Renatha Msungu, Dodoma

SPORTS stakeholders in Tanzania should play an active part in promotion of talents in an effort to produce good performers in future.

Dodoma's Fountain Gate Academy's Manager, Wendo Makao, issued the statement after presenting jerseys to the region's combined side which will compete in the secondary schools games, UMISSETA, scheduled for next month.

Makao noted there is a need for sports stakeholders in the country to support the youngsters given the approach will help the latter turn into good performers.

"I request the stakeholders to back the youths that are participating in sports," he noted.

He disclosed Fountain Gate Academy value promotion of sports among youths and for that matter the institution is in

the forefronts of efforts to develop sports domestically.

Dodoma regional combined team's coordinator, Madale Wanyi, thanked Fountain Gate Academy for the support, maintaining his squad will excel in the coming tournament.

Wanyi noted other sports stakeholders should emulate Fountain Gate Academy's gesture in a bid to effectively develop sports.

He was adamant the stakeholders have every reason to put their weight behind junior outfits, which are taking part in various competitions.

Jumanne Limo, Dodoma regional combined squad's player, noted they believe they will excel in the coming tournament thanks to the support.

Limo disclosed the squad thanks Fountain Gate Academy for the kits and requested other stakeholders to support sports.

Biashara United get morale boost

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

BIASHARA United's efforts to maintain their place in the next season's Mainland Premier League have got a boost as the squad has received 1.5m/- from Musoma Rural Constituency Member of Parliament, Sospeter Muhongo.

The Musoma-based squad will lock horns with Mbeya City FC at the Highland Estate ground in Mbeya, with the former needing victory over the latter to make certain of their presence in the top flight next season.

The support gears towards seeing to it the Musoma outfit's players give their all in the duel and come out with a win.

Members of Biashara United technical bench and players have each got 50,000/-.

The outfit's secretary general,



Biashara United

Haji Mtete, noted Muhongo handed over the cash to the squad last weekend, adding that the latter believes the players will get good results in the match.

"Muhongo has been a staunch

supporter for our club and he has decided to present us with the cash in an effort to motivate the squad, given we will succumb to relegation should we lose the match," Mtete disclosed.

The official noted Muhongo has been supporting the club right from the time the outfit was competing in the First Division League.

The Member of Parliament, Mtete noted, has kept on supporting the club in the on flight and he wishes to see the side take part in the league next season.

"I'm sure we will get the better of Mbeya City FC, as we beat them 2-1 in the first phase clash in Mara. We want to ensure we come out with a convincing victory in the match," he disclosed.

Biashara United have been positioned 12th in the table with 44 points, Mbeya City FC have assured themselves of taking part in the top flight next season, given they are positioned eighth with 47 points.

Fight for safety in focus as Premier League ends

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE 2018/19 Mainland Premier League season comes to an end today with six teams fighting for survival at various stadiums in the country.

Simba that have collected 92 points play fourth placed Mtibwa Sugar that have recorded 49 points at the Jamhuri Stadium in Morogoro.

Simba won the title when they beat Singida United 2-0 a week ago courtesy of goals netted by Meddie Kagere and John Bocco.

The Mtibwa versus Simba game will create much attention as the visitors will be presented with the trophy the same day.

Mtibwa Sugar, who lost to the champions elect 3-0 at the Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam two weeks ago, are likely going to use today's match as payback time.

They will moreover not be willing to lose two games in a row as before today's game they lost 2-0 to Azam at the latter's backyard, Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam.

Second-placed Yanga that have 86 points will play third-placed Azam FC at Uhuru Stadium, The encounter will be an opportunity for Azam to seek revenge given they succumbed to 1-0 loss to their opponents in the first phase match.

All top 10 teams, Simba, Yanga, Azam, KMC FC, Mtibwa Sugar, Lipuli FC, Ndanda FC, Mbeya City, Alliance FC and Coastal Union in that order, are safe from the relegation.

Africa Lyon that have posted 23 points have already lost the battle to avoid relegation from the league. Other six teams namely Ruvu Shooting, Kagera Sugar, Mwadui, Stand United, JKT Tanzania, Mbao and Prison are fighting to avoid the drop.



Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC left fullback, Salum Chuku (L), challenges Simba SC right fullback Zana Coulibaly during the 2018/19 Mainland Premier League's recent match that took place at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TFF

The real battle will see Ndanda confront Mwadui in a game which will be played at the former's venue, Nangwanda Sijaona, in Mtwara.

The hosts are safe but the visitors, who have 41 points, must make sure they win the game and pray that JKT Tanzania, Mbao, Prisons, Ruvu Shooting and Kagera lose their respective games.

Singida United, who are safe from relegation thanks to Kagera Sugar's 2-0

loss to JKT Tanzania last weekend, will play away to Coastal Union.

Other games that will determine teams that will remain in the league will pit Mbao against Kagera Sugar, whereas Prisons will take on Lipuli at the Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya. Mbao have registered 44 points, Kagera Sugar have 43 points. To avoid playing playoffs, Prison must win their game against Lipuli FC.

In today's other games, relegated Africa

Lyon lock horns with KMC FC, Mbeya City host Biashara United.

Simba head coach, Patrick Aussems, speaking after his team's one all draw against Biashara United, said his team will make sure that they win their last game against Mtibwa Sugar.

"We did not play well today because the pitch was full of water but I am sure of improved performance in our last game against Mtibwa Sugar," he said.

Namibia thump Mozambique in COSAFA Cup

DURBAN

ABSA LOM Iimbondi created one goal and scored another as Namibia claimed a potentially precious 2-1 victory over Mozambique in their 2019 COSAFA Cup Group B clash at the King Zwelithini Stadium on Sunday.

And Malawi defeated Seychelles 3-0 in the second match of the day in the pool to take the lead on goal-difference after the first round of matches, though it is still very early days.

It was another day of quality football at the tournament with excellent goals and two fascinating contests that were watched by a number of scouts in the stands.

A goalless first half between Mozambique and Namibia gave no indication of the drama

that was to come as the deadlock was finally broken with 20 minutes remaining.

Namibia went 'route one' and set Iimbondi free down the right-hand side. His low cross was easily turned home by Kamatuka, who had the simplest of tap-ins into an empty net.

That goal had come against the run of play and Mozambique drew level with a superb free-kick from Witi.

The forward had only just come onto the pitch from the bench and with his first act, he crashed the ball into the back of the net from a 25-yard set-piece.

At that stage the momentum appeared to be with The Mambas, but it took another piece of brilliance to restore the lead for Namibia.

Iimbondi had been lively all afternoon and

when he picked up the ball 30-yards from goal, there looked real danger. But still there was nothing that Mozambique goalkeeper Guirru-go could do except watch the shot nestle into the corner of the net.

Mozambique pushed for an equalizer after that, but Namibia were able to hold on for the win.

Malawi cruised to a 3-0 victory over Seychelles and might have had more were it not for some fine stops from goalkeeper Ian Ah-Kong.

Gabardinho Mhango missed an open goal when a brilliant first touch left him with the simple task of putting the ball into the back of the net, but he put his shot wide of the post. He made up for that shortly afterwards

though with a superb free kick that he rifled low into the corner of the net from the edge of the box.

Malawi continued to see most of the ball and doubled their advantage shortly after halftime as Mhango turned provider with a great run to the by-line, before a left-footed cross that is easily tapped home by Richard Mbulu.

The cherry on top came late on when Gerald Phiri Jnr picked up a loose ball in the box, controlled with his right foot and finished with his left.

The action will continue on Monday when Eswatini play their second Group A game against Comoros Islands at the same venue at 17h00 (15h00 GMT).

5 EATV **TONIGHT @21:00**

NIRVANA

TUESDAY

11:00 DADAZ (live)
13:30 Kall Za Wana
14:00 Dakika 10 Za Maangamzi
15:00 FUNGUEA
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music
19:00 EATV SAA I
19:30 MJADALA
21:00 Nirvana
21:30 Wakilisha
22:00 Grace Na Asili Yangu
22:30 Bongo Hills

NIRVANA is hip and edgy. It explores the latest trends in fashion, art, style and recreational activities. **NIRVANA** speaks to the trend makers, shapers and observers. It's a one stop shop for everything trendy.

east africa RADIO

05:00 EA Breakfast
09:00 Supamix
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

Flexibles by David Chikoko

