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## World Bank now pledges \$2.2bn for refugees, host communities

GENEVA

THE World Bank has announced that it will offer up to \$2.2 billion in grants over a three-year period for projects focused on refugees and their host communities. Known as the Window for Host Communities and Refugees, or WHR, the funding package aims to address the long-term development needs of displacement in 14 low-income countries that are hosting a significant number of refugees, including Uganda, Ethiopia, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. Around 85 per cent of the 19.9 million refugees under the mandate of UNHCR are hosted by low-income countries. The \$2.2 billion comes under the recently approved 19th replenishment of the International Development Association – the arm of the World Bank focused on the world's lowest-income countries. The replenishment takes effect

**Ten countries have already started implementing WHR projects under IDA's current funding cycle, IDA18.**

in mid-2020. The bank recognizes that there is an increasing overlap between development and humanitarian issues, said Axel van Trotsenburg, the World Bank's managing director of operations, during the Global Refugee Forum in Geneva, where the

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# AfDB approves US\$272m for key airport in Dodoma

**BACK** in August the bank signed a \$180 million (414.07bn/-) loan agreement with the government for financing the construction of 110.2 kilometer Dodoma City outer ring road to bitumen standard

By Guardian Reporter

THE African Development Bank has approved a US\$272.12 million (625.47bn/-) loan to Tanzania for the construction of a new international airport in the capital, Dodoma.

The funding package, which was approved on Wednesday, comprises a \$198.6 million loan from the bank, \$23.52 million from the African Development Fund (ADF) and \$50 million in co-financing with the Africa Growing Together Fund (AGTF) – a co-financing facility of the People's Republic of China managed by the bank.

The Ministry of Finance and Planning said yesterday that the new airport will be built at Msalato, about 12 kilometres from the capital. The project involves the construction of high-

**The Ministry of Finance and Planning said yesterday that the new airport will be built at Msalato, about 12 kilometres from the capital.**

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Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan greets students of Qurian Madrasa at Mpitile in Kaskazini (A) district, North Unguja during her visit yesterday. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

## Scientists fete Ngorongoro 'new' peak at park's 60th anniversary

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Ngorongoro

AT least 600 scholars, scientists and researchers are gathering today on the rim of Ngorongoro Crater as the conservation area marks the 60th year since it was established, also visiting the country's fourth highest peak in process.

As various scientific papers regarding the six decades of conservation are being tabled in Ngorongoro, the Conservation Area Authority affirms that the peak of

**Ten countries have already started implementing WHR projects under IDA's current funding cycle**

Loolmalasin in the precincts of the crater is the country's fourth highest peak, though not often mentioned.

The country's highest peak is on Mount Kilimanjaro in Moshi, a tourist feature at 5895 metres known as Kibo traditionally or Uhuru Peak the tallest mountain block on the African Continent and highest free-standing mountain in the world.

Kilimanjaro is adorned on the east with Mawenzi Peak that is second in height in the country, while Mount Meru towers at the height of 4,562.13 metres. The mountain

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## Mkuruti tree on the verge of disappearing in Rufiji

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

MKURUTI tree, one of the most valuable and expensive tree species in the country used for construction purposes is on the verge of disappearing in Rufiji district, Coast region due to illegal logging and timber harvesting. 'The Guardian' can assert.



A five-month investigation in different villages in the district where mkuruti constitutes the main species in village land forest reserves (VLFs) has shown that mkuruti is currently on the verge of disappearing as many traders prefer it to other types of tree species.

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## Scientists fete Ngorongoro 'new' peak at park's 60th anniversary

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is more mentioned as it stands alone while Mawenzi is overshadowed by Kibo peak. Overlooking Arusha City, Mt Meru is known as the country's second highest mountain after Kilimanjaro.

Now on the standalone factor, emerges Loolmalasin peak at the edge of Ngorongoro Crater, which is known for many years but wasn't being regarded as a mountain peak of repute.

Experts say Mount Loolmalasin is a mountain on its own with a peak elevation of 3,682 metres above sea level, located in Ngorongoro District of Arusha Region. It is considered the third highest mountain after Mount Kilimanjaro and Mount Meru, but Kilimanjaro has two major peaks and a third one in the middle that all stand above the other two high standing mountains all in the northern tourist circuit.

Loolmalasin is now being touted as Tanzania's third highest mountain after Kilimanjaro and Meru, featuring a summit reaching 3825 meters.

Mount Hanang, peaking at 3418 metres and protruding above Lake Balangida in Katesh (Manyara) was until recently considered by some authorities as the higher peak but recent checks by some experts have ascertained that Loolmalasin is higher.

On the other hand, the so-called 'Mountain of God,' or Oldonyo Lengai peaking at 3,188 metres above sea level near Enkaresero village and close to Lake Natron, is now regarded as the fifth tallest feature, while it also harbors an interesting feature of a rumbling active volcano.

Earlier, the Deputy Conservator at the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority, Assangye Bangu reported that the Loolmalasin summit peaked at 3667 meters, but this was discounted by expert mountaineer Juan Ramon Morales who recently scaled it with all the measuring tools, and affirmed it was higher than that.

"Loolmalasin is officially the third highest mountain of Tanzania. It's located in an area commonly known as the 'crater highlands' when trekking from the village of Nainokanoka during popular trips towards Lake Natron," Morales says.

"We climbed to measure the peak again at another new angle which peaked at 3825 metres on that point and that 145 metres higher than the more frequented peak," he explained.

Blanketed in fog most of the time and the fact that visitors to Ngorongoro seem to mostly concentrate on the legendary crater, it was easy for Loolmalasin to escape attention throughout all these years and now the mountain is emerging to claim its part of the fanfare.

The global trekker recommends the months of January, February as well as from June to October as best to scale the Loolmalasin.



Tanzania Gender Networking Programme managing director Lilian Liundi (R) talks moments after closing a capacity building workshop of journalists on gender issues reporting. The event took place in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## AfDB approves US\$272m for key airport in Dodoma

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capacity airport infrastructure to meet expected growth in air transport from the city's new role as the administrative capital.

Work will be carried out over four years and will include a passenger terminal, a runway, air navigation equipment. Operational services such as a fuel distribution company, water supply systems, electrical power distribution substations and a fire-fighting service are also envisaged, the statement noted.

The new facility is expected to handle up to 50,000 aircrafts and a million passengers per year, most of which are expected to be international flights. It will facilitate up to 200 million passengers trips in East Africa, as well as international trade networks, especially business travelers and tourists.

"An expanded air transport network in Dodoma, together with the ongoing high-speed railway construction on the central corridor is part of necessary infrastructure investments to help unlock and disperse spatial development in the countryside. This will strengthen the city's potential as a strategic growth pole in keeping

with Tanzania's national development aspirations of fostering shared growth for all the regions," asserted Amadou Oumarou, the Director of the Bank's Infrastructure and Urban Development Department.

As of late November 2019, the African Development Bank portfolio in Tanzania comprised of 21 public and two private-sector operations, with a

total commitment of approximately \$2.1 billion.

The transport sector alone accounts for 51 percent of project funding, followed by energy (16 percent), water and sanitation (12 percent), finance (6 percent), agriculture (6 percent), multi-sector interventions (5 percent) and social projects (4 percent).

It is expected that upon completion the airport

will provide efficient road transport access to Dodoma city and facilitate national and international trade flows.

Back in August the bank signed a \$180 million (414.07bn/-) loan agreement with the government for financing the construction of 110.2 kilometer Dodoma City outer ring road to bitumen standard.

## Mkuruti tree on the verge of disappearing in Rufiji

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This situation has irked some conservationists who are worried that if deliberate measures will not be taken, it may compromise the ecology of the Rufiji river system.

Prof Rodgers Malimbwi of the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) described mkuruti tree as key in the ecological system, saying in the past, the tree was used as a medicinal plant and firewood, but with disappearance of other strong trees such as mninga, mkongo and mvule, mkuruti has now emerged as the choice for logs and timber orders.

In several villages in Rufiji district, mkuruti is swiftly disappearing basically due to illegal logging and timber harvesting.

Hamza Mushi Nduli, the secretary of Mtanazama village natural resource and environment committee, said the licenses issued to the traders have problems. Some unscrupulous businessmen tend to abuse them.

Lack of enforcement of laws at the district level has given the traders loopholes to conduct harvesting, he said.

Things started going wrong when the district harvesting committee monopolized the selection and appointment of businessmen who harvest the trees. In the process, villagers were not involved anymore, he said.

"We only receive the names of the logs harvesters who have been approved from the district. So, when they enter the forest to harvest the trees, they never follow the village harvesting plan. Instead, they tend to abuse the harvesting permits and invade the village land forest reserve in search for more and bigger logs contrary to their permits."

The logs from mkuruti tree species were found hidden at Mtanazama village land forest reserve, he elaborated.

The Village chairman, Adiona Ali

Milandu confirmed that the traders had abused harvesting permits by harvesting the logs in the VLFRs.

"Recently, more than 470 logs were harvested illegally. We found that the businessmen had invaded village land forest reserves and harvested more logs than the allowable size and number. We ferried the logs and auctioned them at 42m/-," he stated.

"Once they are given harvesting permits, they are never supervised. As a result, they conduct harvesting in the night and transport the logs and timbers through 'panya' roads via Kisarawe and Kibiti main routes to Dar es Salaam," the village leader explained.

The village through community based forest management (CBFM) has a long-term conservation plan of the village land forest reserve. But the coming of unscrupulous traders has destroyed this plan, putting at risk some crucial ecological functions of the tree species, he asserted.

Acting District Executive Director Brighton Kilimba urged the villagers to collaborate with the district forest office to notify about illegal logs and timber harvesters so that measures can be taken.

He said his office in collaboration with the district forest office and the Tanzania Forest Service Agency (TFS) shall work on the problem to find a solution.

Rufiji District Commissioner Juma Njwayo said that the district is taking action against all illegal log harvesters, with the TFS Manager in collaboration with the district forest officer visiting the area regularly and taking action.



A member of local government at Mikocheni Street in Dar es Salaam, Amani Mero explains to journalists on the open space which was invaded by unknown person yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## Govt vows to strengthen Tanzania dairy sector

By Guardian Reporter

THE government says it aims to strengthen the country's dairy industry in order to increase production to bring benefits to both producers and consumers.

Speaking on Wednesday during Youth Festival of Dairy Industry in Kilimanjaro region organized by Netherlands development Organization (SNV) and other partners including Siha and Hai District Councils, the Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Abdallah Ulega mentioned the strategies that include improving the investment environment in the dairy sector and removing various levies.

The Deputy Minister explained that the levies include those for permits for milk transport vehicles under 51 litres, registration

of milk collection centres under 201 litres, registration of milk producers under 51 litres and registration of dairy inputs.

He said the government will also improve state farms by providing them with quality livestock that will later be distributed to milk producers and the mobilization of the private sector to improve dairy cows' yields and called upon wananchi to use the National Artificial Insemination Centre (NAIC) to have modern dairy cows.

He said the ministry plans to control cows' diseases by using homemade vaccines, increase cattle dipping campaign where the government provides subsidy as well as improving livestock keeping laws.

On her part the Chairman of Siha and Hai District Youth Net-

work Regina Urassa asked the Deputy Minister to include the youths in any entrepreneurship opportunities that arise.

She also mentioned challenges they face that hinder the attainment of their goals as shortage of land for the youth to conduct their activities such as production of livestock fodder, lack of sufficient capital to widen their businesses as well as combating unregulated milk sales that disregard product quality.

She said the youths from Siha and Hai districts were attracted by the project that was organized by SNV and other stakeholders including district council authorities and up to now there are 19 groups with a total of 747 youths who have received training and provided with various equipment.

## World Bank now pledges \$2.2bn for refugees, host communities

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funding was announced.

"Some people view refugees as temporary when the reality is different, that they may have to stay much longer [than expected]. In that case, it becomes imperative to think about how you can ensure education, health, clean water, basic infrastructure, and protect against gender-based violence," he said.

"Making long-term investments that address the needs of both refugees and the communities that host them is a critical part of the long-term solution to this growing challenge."

Ten countries have already started implementing WHR projects under IDA's current funding cycle, IDA18.

IDA19 totals \$82 billion – a three percent increase compared with IDA18 – and will run from July 2020 to June 2023. Donors meet every three years to replenish the fund – one of the largest assistance funds for the world's 76 poorest countries – and review its policy framework.

In addition to the financing for refugees and host communities, \$18.7 billion of the new IDA19 package will go toward supporting countries affected by fragility, conflict and violence, in the hope of addressing the root causes of displacement, the bank said.

There is clearly a call for the World Bank to do more, and that means putting up the money to finance projects, van Trotsenburg said.

The bank's announcement came as world leaders, civil society groups, corporations and refugees community representatives convened in Geneva for the first Global Refugee Forum this week. The forum was an effort to put the United Nations Global Compact on Refugees – a blueprint for ensuring that host communities and refugees get the support they need – into motion.

"This is the piece of that blueprint in how development partners can help us go much further in finding solutions," said Kelly Clements, deputy high commissioner at UNHCR, which co-hosted the forum with Switzerland. The humanitarian-development nexus is not new, but the World Bank's pledge will continue to transform the response to refugee crises around the world, she declared. Examples of projects that have received similar funding include the construction of new schools, hiring of teachers, improvement of roads and building of civic projects.

### Health deputy minister appeals for concerted efforts in prevention services to address NCD

By Aisia Rweyemamu

THE Deputy Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children Dr Faustine Ndugulile has urged health stakeholders to invest more in prevention services in order to address the rising number of Non Communicable Diseases (NCD).

"We have done very well in managing communicable diseases but we witness the rise of NCD's in the country, therefore prevention service is much needed than cure," Dr Ndugulile said recently in Dar es Salaam when launching the Tanzania Comprehensive Cancer Project (TCCP). TCCP is a four years project aimed at strengthening and expanding the quality access and capacity of cancer care services through an innovative Private Public Partnership (PPP) initiative.

The minister said that more initiatives are needed to reduce the number of patients coming to hospital, saying without doing so the cost of treatment will be very high and increase the burden to the government. Dr Ndugulile added: "We need a prevention service that will enable people to live a life that will not lead them to permanent illnesses such as diabetes and heart diseases.

The minister has also urged health stakeholders to focus more on investing in pediatric cancer specialist because it is among areas with small number of experts.

"Let's build research capacity for looking at the root cause of such diseases to find out the magnitude of the problem and how to fight it," Dr Ndugulile recommended.

The minister explained that the NCD's have been a major challenge facing the health sector. "if we fail to deal with it now, it will continue to cost the health sector."



Tanzania Cigarette Company Ltd (TCC) legal affairs and relations director Godson Killiza (3rd L) hands over a dummy cheque worth 20m/- to Temeke MP Abdallah Mtolea who received it on behalf of women with disabilities group (Uwaviute) at ceremony held in Dar es Salaam yesterday as part of the Corporate Social Responsibility by TCC. Photo: Selemani Mpochi

### Dr Kalemani stresses need for more investments, research in alternative power sources

By Guardian Reporter

ENERGY Minister Dr Medard Kalemani has tasked the Tanzania Electrical Supply Company (TANESCO)'s management and board to conduct regular inspection to identify new sources of power for the country to attain its 10,000 MW target by 2025.

The minister also directed the state owned power utility to ensure that all villages are connected with power before July 2022.

During the meeting which brought together officials from the ministry and Tanesco board, Dr Kalemani stressed for increased efforts in researching for as many power sources even if some of them are not meant to be implemented in the near future.

"Taking an example of the ongoing Julius Nyerere Power Project in Rujifi, its research was conducted

many years ago, so we should not stick in researching only for today, but think for the future generation," Kalemani said.

He further directed Tanesco to also ensure that all factories and new public offices are connected to power so as to increase coverage and raise revenues.

The minister said that the government's electrification drive aims to ensure that all areas are connected to electric power by June 2021.

He also wanted the board and management to increase revenue collections from the current 46bn/- per week to 52bn/- per week.

"The company should also make sure that it clears its debt by 2026, improve ethics of the workers and improve customer services. Tanesco should also improve infrastruc-

tures to provide quality services across the country," he said.

For her part, deputy minister Subira Mgalu commended Tanesco for implementing well various projects that have seen a number of households being connected to power.

She also directed the firm's board to focus more in collecting debts from customers including public institutions, the funds which will help operations of the company.

Deputy Commissioner of electricity, Eng Innocent Luoga said that power availability in the country is stable thus urging Tanesco to focus on increasing the number of customers.

"You should also strengthen power availability in regions that are not connected to the National Grid," Eng Luoga counseled Tanesco.

### Chadema picks Mnyika as new party Secretary General

By Guardian Reporter

CHADEMA national chairman Freeman Mbowe has appointed Kibamba MP John Mnyika as the new Chadema secretary general replacing Dr Vincent Mashinji.

The opposition party leader also appointed Benson Kigaila as the party's new deputy secretary general (Mainland) and retained Salum Mwalimu as the deputy secretary general (Zanzibar). He also picked John Heche as leaders'

representative in the central committee's secretariat.

Speaking on the appointments, Mbowe said it was a difficult moment to get a proper secretary general, noting, however, that he was glad to have someone, whose maturity had been within the party.

"We trust those appointed because they matured within the party. I've elected appropriate people capable of protecting the interests of the party ahead of the

2020 General Election," he said, adding:

"We've limited time before the general election; therefore, there is no time to sleep. We will work day and night, exert enough pressure upon ourselves because we want to win and form the government."

Speaking on the appointments of Kigaila and Mwalimu, he said he acknowledged their outstanding jobs when serving under previous positions.

"Kigaila shouldn't think he has been appointed to attend the Fiestas festival. I don't expect you at the party headquarters between now and the general election. We need to strengthen our party from the grassroots," he said.

According to Mbowe, Mwalimu made a significant contribution in Zanzibar's politics, which is still needed.

Commenting on Heche, the party leader said Chadema still needed his service after conced-

ing defeat in the Serengeti Zone chairmanship poll by Esther Matiko who emerged victorious.

He said he avoided picking two names that could have been voted by members in order to prevent splitting the party.

Chadema has, therefore, concluded the election of its senior leadership after electing Mbowe as the national chairman, Tundu Lissu as vice chairman (Mainland) and Said Mohamed Issa as vice chairman (Zanzibar).

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# Plans in offing to make Hululu falls source of water for Morogoro region

By Guardian Reporter

DEPUTY Minister for Water Juma Aweso has called on the ministry's experts to prepare a document on a planned project that would make Hululu falls on Mgeta river in Mvomero district to be the main source of water for domestic use in Morogoro and neighbouring regions.

The Deputy Minister gave the directive on Wednesday when he visited the falls that is 1,500 metres above sea level and said waters from this source will end long time water problems in the area. River Mgeta empties its water to Ruvu River that is main water source for Dar es Salaam and Coast regions.

"I always feel sorry for Morogoro region's residents seeing them experiencing water problems, we asked our internal experts why was that so... as we see the increase of factories and population... it is time to move away from Mindu dam and should come up with a plan that would solve the water problem in the region by using water from Hululu falls," he said.

He said on the issue of protecting water sources, one official from Mgeta valley board, Simon Ngonyani should be praised by ensuring Hululu Falls water source is protected and be-



Hululu water falls at Mgeta in Morogoro

come sustainable as after the document is prepared work on the project will start.

For his part, Ngonyani said due to Hululu Falls big size he was certain they will greatly assist in solving water problems in Morogoro and neighbouring regions.

He said the falls are significant because mgeta river empties its water into Ruvu River that is the main source for water for Coast and Dar es Salaam regions including the whole industrial belt.

Ngonyani also used the opportunity to remind factories owners in Wami-Ruvu Industrial Belt to join forces and contribute funds towards protection of water sources.

Acting manager of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (RUWASA) John Msengi said water supply in the region is below warning level despite Sustainable Development Goals as for the Morogoro Municipality the supply is 77 percent and for rural areas it is 69 percent.

He added: "What we are required is that by 2020 water supply for Morogoro Municipality should reach 90 percent and for rural areas 85 percent for Morogoro the problem we are facing is lack of investment in water infrastructures hence Hululu falls is the only answer to these challenges."

## Satellite images help create land use maps in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

USING high-resolution satellite images to create land use plans could lead to economic development without depletion of natural resources in rural Tanzania.

According to a World Bank report, competing demands for many of Tanzania's natural resources such as land, forests and water are causing their degradation, and thus limiting their ability to continue providing goods and services.

For instance, the report shows that the increasing demand for water beyond available supply, poor land use that reduces agricultural productivity and bad watershed management practices by the people are some of the drivers of forests and watercourses degradation.

Less than 15 per cent of 15,000 villages in Tanzania's countryside have a land use plan, making the need to develop cost-effective methods for land use planning necessary, says Salla Eilola, lead author of the study published in the October issue of Landscape and Urban Planning.

The high-resolution satellite images, the researchers say, enables informed decision-making on current land use, various natural resources location in the village as well as future land use allocations such as settlement expansion areas or sites for investors.

The researchers from the University of Turku in Finland and Tanzanian experts developed a geospatial mapping method based on high-resolution satellite images from 2014 to 2018. The high-resolution satellite image printouts were used to discuss future land use allocation.

"Land can be allocated for investments that attract potential business investors," explains Eilola.

"And investors will have better guarantee that the available land is not disputed."

Eilola, who is a doctoral student at the Department of Geography and Geology, University of Turku says that people can view internet map services such as Google maps and provide rather accurate location information over the natural resources and physical assets in the villages.

"This land use planning process leads to a land use map and land use regulations that guide land use in a village for the next ten years at a time," says Eilola.

According to Niina Käyhkö, a co-author of the study and an associate Professor in Geospatial Research at the University of Turku, the Tanzanian village landscapes [offer] multiple benefits such as food, water, firewood, construction material, medicine, spiritual wellbeing [that] are linked to landscapes.

"Realising the multiple uses of the landscape is important and should be considered in the land use planning in allocating land for new land uses such as forest plantations or tourism," says Käyhkö.

Utilising remote sensing imagery and other geospatial data and technologies is becoming easier as different image providers such as Google Earth and Bing provide up-to-date high-resolution imagery covering the entire world free of charge, Käyhkö explains.

Affordable geospatial technologies and better access to satellite data are rapidly increasing in Africa and therefore geospatial mapping methods can be used in land use planning elsewhere also, the study says.

Chris Shisanya, a Professor at the Department of Geography, Kenyatta University, Kenya, says that this is the way to go for rapid assessment of resource utilisation and planning in Africa.

"We have used this method to map hazards in all former provinces of Kenya. We continue using the same in various aspects of our planning at county levels," explains Shisanya. "Each county now has a geographical information system section in their structures with the role of mapping resources and utilities within their boundaries of jurisdiction."

"If need arises, satellite data can easily be made available and used for resource planning purposes. In fact, governments should invest in making the hard copies of these satellite images available at community levels," he says.

## Dar firm offers Masters degree sponsorship to 3 UDSM students

By Aisia Rweyemamu

THREE university students have benefited sponsorship worth 10.3m/- to study Masters Degrees in Swahili language at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) thanks to the initiative made by corrugated roofing iron sheets manufacturing firm-ALAF.

ALAF sponsored three students as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

Speaking yesterday in Dar es Salaam during a ceremony to present funding agreements to the students, Prof Donatha Tibuhwa, the UDSM director for Directorate of Post Graduate said the provided sponsorship will improve the development of Swahili language and enabling the country to have good number of Kiswahili experts.

"This is a good start and it is good for other companies to come out and join ALAF Limited initiative purposely to promote the language for the interest of the country", Dr. Masha explained.

For his part the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ALAF, Dipti Mohanty said they are proud to support the government initiative of promoting Kiswahili.

The CEO said as a way of bringing back to the community they have decided to provide a sponsorship to three students to Masters degree in Kiswahili language.

"This is a part of our CSR, as a company we work and live in a community, we are responsible for that society, this is the reason we sport many things including we support many things including education and healthcare," he explained.

Mohanty explained that the company has been doing numerous efforts to promote Swahili language among them is organising Swahili award for reorganising people who are doing very good in Swahili.

"We are trying to promote Kiswahili as much as we can and we promise to continue providing more sponsorships according to the situation".

Speaking at the event, the University of Dar es Salaam Director Institute of Kiswahili Studies Dr. Ernesta Masha explained that they received a lot of application but the three students namely Hppylight Joseph, Stephania Kyungu and Alphonsia Ambrosi had won it.

Among the criteria used is an applicant must have a GPA of 3.8 and above and not above the age of 25.

One of beneficiary, Hppylight Joseph noted that: "We are very grateful for the opportunity and we promise to maintain discipline so that we could do better in our studies."



Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Umy Mwalimu addresses health and social workers experts of Katavi region during her visit yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## TTB seeks to strengthen ties with China

By Francis Kajubi

THE Tanzania Tourism Board (TTB) has pledged to strengthen tourism ties with China, calling on Tanzanians to use the long lasting bestowed friendship of the two nations to transfer Tanzanian culture and traditions to China.

Speaking at the Splendid Hunan, Culture and Tourism promotion in Tanzania, TTB chairman, (rtd) Judge Thomas Mihayo, said that Tanzania with more than 120 tribes of different traditions that varies from their kind of living and foods should take advantage of such diversity

as an opportunity rooting their traditions in China that could earn them money in return.

"Every Tanzanian is responsible of making sure that he or she spreads our culture and traditions regardless of their position but only if they had a chance to do so. The kind of our tribal dance and food are tourism gifts in us that we can introduce in China and the rest of the world hence make our culture popular" said Mihayo.

Mihayo called upon Chinese to consider Tanzania as their first priority to visit when I comes to touring to Africa. He

said that apart from national parks and game reserves, Tanzania is now focusing on cruise and conference tourism to boost the number of visitors to the country.

Recent statistics released by the ministry show that the number of tourists entering the country increased from 1.3 million in 2017 to 1.5 million in 2018 whereby tourist activities generated USD2.4 billion which is an increase of 7.2 per cent from USD2.3 billion earned in 2017.

He asserted that the global growth of tourism last year stood at an average of 6 per cent but for Tanzania the sector grew at 13 per cent.

The sector leads in attracting foreign currency had contributed 17.5 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth.

According to him, China is a good friend of Tanzania but yet the people from both sides had not learnt well the two sides' culture thus efforts apart from festivals and trade expos need to be put in place. He called upon Tanzanian's to pay a visit the Hunan province with large tourism resources and great potential for tourism development.

Hunan Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism Deputy Director, Guo Guquan, called upon

Tanzanian's to tour the Hunan province as it is blessed with beautiful landscapes. Mountains accounting for about 51 per cent of the whole province.

"Hunan's culture and tourism industries have a strong foundation. Currently, there are two UNESCO world natural heritage sites in Zhangjiajie and Langshan, and one UNESCO world cultural heritage site in Laosicheng. There are 443 A-class scenic spots, of which 9 are 5 A-class scenic areas and 104 are 4 A-class scenic areas" said Guquan.

According to him, there are 150 museums in Hunan including memorial halls, 118 national intangible cultural heritage projects and 121

representative inheritors of national projects. There are eight airports one of them being Changsha Huanghua International Airport operates 360 domestic and international routes.

He said the ancestors of the Chinese nation, Emperor Yan and Emperor Shun were buried in Hunan. It is the home province of a group of leaders and founders of the new hina including Mao Zedong, Liu Shaoqi and Ren Bishi.

On his part, Wang Siping, Cultural Counselor of Chinese Embassy in Tanzania, said that Hunan is center of film and television culture, leisure, animation and food culture are key features of the province's hospitality.

# African experts: Access to clean energy key to boosting food security

By Guardian Reporter

GREATER investments in off and mini-grid technologies are required to transform smallholder farming in Africa and achieve food security amid rapid population growth, experts said in a study released in on Thursday.

The experts from Malabo Montpellier Panel in their report titled "In Energized: Policy innovation to power the transformation of Africa's agriculture and food system," said that access to clean energy will improve productivity at smallholder level to alleviate poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

"Access to reliable, affordable and sustainable sources of energy to prepare land, plant, harvest, process, distribute and cook food will ensure that Africa's agricultural sector can respond to this demand, all within the context of climate change and scarce natural resources," said Ousmane Badiane, co-chair of the Malabo Montpellier Panel.

He said that universal

access to cleaner sources of energy is key to enhancing production, processing and consumption of nutritious food in a rapidly urbanizing African continent.

The report from leading African scholars said the continent can leverage off-grid projects to boost uptake of clean energy among small-holders and revolutionize food production systems.



**"Access to reliable, affordable and sustainable sources of energy to prepare land, plant, harvest, process, distribute and cook food will ensure that Africa's agricultural sector can respond to this demand, all within the context of climate change and scarce natural resources," said Ousmane Badiane, co-chair of the Malabo Montpellier Panel.**

According to the report, nearly five million families in Africa installed solar home systems in 2018, hence boosting the continent's green agenda.

The report said that achieving universal energy access in Africa will require investments worth about 120 billion U.S dollars annually until 2040.

It proposed development of energy policies that prioritize health and food security agenda in Africa amid climatic shocks that have worsened rural poverty, hunger and diseases.

The experts from Montpellier Panel said that access to renewable energy will benefit African women through spending less time to collect fuel for cooking alongside minimal indoor house pollution.

Joachim Von Braun, a co-chair of the panel said that access to clean energy will reduce exposure to noxious fumes among women and girls in Africa whose contribution to the continent's food security is profound.



Kishindo Cha Funga Mwaka promotion ambassador Neema Ally (R) hands over a dummy cheque worth 5m/- to Emmanuel Mwajumba from Mikochei in the outskirts of Dares Salaam after emerging the winner. Photo: Our Correspondent.

# Bank launches school fees loan scheme

By Francis Kajubi

DCB Commercial Bank expects to reach thousands of its customers in the eight regions it operates through its newly school fees loan scheme launched yesterday in Dar es Salaam.

The loan that goes up to 5m/- is repaid in six months period from the date of borrowing and the interest on it is based on negotiations between the bank and the borrower.

Addressing journalists yesterday in Dar es Salaam, bank's Business Director, James Ngaluko, said DCB fee loan is a continuation of the

bank's strategy to create quality products and services that benefit customers.

The bank has come up with this product in the process of eliminating the fear of parents when it comes to the education of their children that goes in line with the DCB Skonga account that enables a child to be educated once a parent experiences permanent disability or death.

"DCB continues to bring to market the products that affect the lives of Tanzanians enabling our customers to benefit from their bank. This loan is an emergency loan offered to the parents within 48 hours for a

child fee once in urgent need," said Ngalkuko.

He said as customers continue to celebrate the end of the year and welcome 2020, the Bank has seen us offer a unique gift to them as it is clear that the fee issue is one of the biggest challenges facing many parents at the beginning of the year.

DCB Fee loans are very low interest and will be paid directly to the child's school. The loan gives a customer the option to borrow up to five million shillings within 48 hours and the repayment period is optional for up to six months.

The head of Personal Banking Unit Fortunata Benedict said: "

Many parents in recognition of the importance of education for their children have found themselves struggling to raise money for fees in any way to get themselves into trouble; As a parent now you do not need to have to pay the stress of paying a fee, let the DCB think about your child's education issues this is a definitive financial solution"

It should be noted that in 2019 DCB has provided a variety of opportunities for clients including offering thousands of Tanzanians the opportunity to invest by buying shares and becoming legitimate owners of the bank through a preferential stock system.

CB Kibubu gives the customer the opportunity to save a little bit of money through a cellphone (DCB Digital) and ensure that many Tanzanians have access to banking services. The bank also recently launched DCB Marketplace aimed at freeing the farmer and agribusiness from the value chain.

DCB Lamba kwanza enables the customer to earn interest rates of up to 14 per cent on the spot and at the beginning of the month. The other recent product is DCB Skonga, aiming to help parents throughout the education of their children when they experience permanent disability or death.

# Three pangolin species closer to extinction - IUCN

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

THE pangolin's future looks gloomy, according to the latest update by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which assesses the conservation status of species.

Of the eight known species of the pangolin, one of the world's most trafficked mammals, two African species, the white-bellied (Phataginus tricuspis) and the giant ground pangolin (Smutsia gigantea), have been moved from "vulnerable" to "endangered" on the IUCN Red List. One Asian species, the Philippine pangolin (Manis culionensis), has been uplifted from "endangered" to "critically endangered." No species improved in status in the assessment.

Much of the decline in the armor-clad mammals can be attributed to the loss of their habitat and large-scale poaching for the animals' scales and meat, experts say.

"It is extremely disheartening but unsurprising that three additional pangolin species are now formally classified as endangered and critically endangered," Audrey Delsink, Africa wildlife director of Humane Society International, said in a statement.

Pangolin scales, largely made of keratin just like human fingernails, are sought after in Asian markets, mainly China and Vietnam, where people erroneously believe the scales have medicinal properties, such as promoting menstruation and lactation and in treating rheumatism and arthritis.

The shy mammals are also hunted for bushmeat in Africa, although in China, pangolin meat is consumed both as a luxury food item and for its purported curative properties. In 2016, countries voted to list all eight species of pangolin on CITES Appendix I, banning commercial trade in the animals. Yet, widespread trafficking of their body parts continues.

Despite the rampant poaching, researchers know little about pangolins, also known as scaly anteaters, because they eat ants and termites. The animals are nocturnal and difficult to survey, and there isn't a whole lot of quantitative information about their population status in the wild. What conservationists do know, however, is that both the live animal and its scales, meat, and other body parts keep appearing in illegal wildlife seizures around the world. Between 2000 and 2019, for instance, at least 850,000 pangolins were trafficked internationally, a recent study found.

Every species of pangolin is threatened with extinction, and their status is only getting worse. Three of the four Asian pangolins – the Chinese pangolin (Manis pentadactyla), Sunda pangolin (Manis javanica), and Philippine pangolin – are critically endangered, while the Indian pangolin (Manis crassicaudata) is listed as endangered on the IUCN Red List.

All four African species – the Cape or Temminck's ground pangolin (Smutsia temminckii), white-bellied or tree pangolin, giant ground pangolin and black-bellied or long-tailed pangolin (Phataginus tetradactyla) – were previously listed as vulnerable. The latest IUCN update moves two of these species to a higher threat category.



Mtwara Regional Commissioner Gelasius Byakanwa presents National Health Insurance Fund identity card to one of the residents who had joined the scheme yesterday. Looking on is NHIF board chairperson Anne Makinda. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# TODA issues ultimatum to online taxi service providers

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIA Online Drivers' Association (TODA) has issued a seven-day ultimatum to the online taxi service providers (Uber and Bolt) amid growing concerns among drivers regarding low productivity, among other challenges.

Speaking on Thursday at a press conference in Dar es Salaam, TODA's chairperson for reconciliation committee Ebony Ford said that Uber and Bolt drivers have been hit with numerous challenges of which have been treated

with a blind eye by companies hence making it even harder for drivers to survive in the industry.

Ford has outlined some of major challenges as frequent price fluctuation which has left drivers in a losing side due to the small amount of money they are able to accumulate, the amount which does not reflect the operating costs that they are incurring.

"Uber and Bolt have been lowering transport fees to customers, in fact this may seem as good news to customers but in reality, the situation has

brought more harm than good to drivers. The drivers' income has gone way too low and we are not sure if we will be able to continue operating if this matter is not resolved any time soon," said Ford.

Ford also said that the drivers have been indirectly forced to work long hours per day so as to try to boost their daily income to match the amount that they are required to submit to car owners.

"Currently up to 25% of the commission for each trip completed is taken by the companies, thus, if you include

the operating costs for each specific trip, the driver remains with nothing," Ford added.

TODA outlined some other challenges that drivers are facing include lack of communication between them (drivers) and service providers (Uber and Bolt) especially when it comes to providing offers to customers.

According to TODA, these uncommunicated offers have been adding loads to an already overloaded ship.

According to John Mmbunga, TODA's reconciliation committee member, these

challenges have raised a lot of concerns among drivers to a point where some have considered boycotting as an immediate way to seek solutions.

"TODA as an association responsible for safeguarding the drivers' rights, we have today decided to issue an ultimatum to Uber and Bolt so that, together we find a common ground that is fair for everyone. When the seven-day ultimatum period ends while our demands are not yet met, we will urge the drivers to take any other action that

will be deemed necessary. We have been patient enough, we cannot take it anymore," said Mmbunga.

Mmbunga also urged the relevant government authorities such as LATRA to intervene in the matter after the previous attempts by the association to seek solutions for their challenges were overlooked by Uber and Bolt.

According to TODA's data, in 2018, there were more than 3,000 online drivers using Uber and Bolt of which 80% of drivers are youths who are working for car owners.

# Africa Youth Parliament admits Somaliland comes on board as 55th member

By Odindo Ayieko

THE African Youth Parliament (AYP) is pushing for the recognition of Somaliland as an independent state.

The AYP with representation from 54 countries in Africa has already admitted Somaliland membership in its gathering.

In a statement from the AYP after a visit in Somaliland late November, the parliament stated: "The African Youth Parliament is a continental and youth-led organization with representatives from (54) Sovereign Nations in Africa with Somaliland coming on board as the 55th Member State."

The statement added: "Our visit to Somaliland does not imply that AYP has visited a territory of its Member States but the reality on the ground is that the Republic of Somaliland is standing its own feet."

The AYP further announced in the statement that they will be welcoming membership from Asian states as it bids to get a global face.

"It may interest you to know that Asia is also coming on

board as a bilateral partner to African Youth Parliament and that explains the engagements of AYP Ambassador to Asia here with us," the statement read.

The African Youth Parliament was founded in 2003 at a meeting convened in Nairobi Kenya with the intent to work towards promoting and advocating for youthful solutions to Africa's fundamental challenges.

Key in its objectives is to facilitate consultation, expression and action among youths in Africa, foster the sharing of information and interaction among youths at international levels, promote effective youth participation for Nation building and to give impetus to and support national and international solidarity by and for youths.

The AYP also aims to contribute to the socio-economic integration of young people and the promotion of entrepreneurial, educational, cultural, sporting and civic values for a better Africa.

It further contributes to youth representation in all

local, national and international meetings thereby promoting the culture of volunteerism, humanitarian actions and sustainable development.

AYP said the purpose of its visit was a strategic and assessment and advocacy on information about the culture, democratic system and quintessential leadership that is innate in the territory of the Republic of Somaliland and which could be modelled as a prototype for leadership in the entire African continent.

The delegation was made up of Bamikole Oladele Babs, Speaker of AYP from Nigeria, Melv in Songwe Shuye the AYP Deputy Speaker in charge of Central Africa from Cameroon, Oloja Olanrewaju the AYP Head of Project and Development from Nigeria, Omsalaina A.A. Mohamed AYP Deputy Speaker in-charge of East Africa from the Republic Sudan, Abdirisak Yusuf Jama the AYP Country Representative of the Republic of Somaliland and Ambassador Diamond Lamichhane Security Adviser/ AYP Ambassador to Asia.



NMB senior manager business card section Manfredy Kayala (2nd L) hands over Tecno Pop 2 mobile phone to motor bike driver of Buguruni Rozana stand Mohamed Abdallah after winning 200 transactions by using Master Boda QR at a ceremony held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Right is senior manager business card department Lupia Matta and Bodaboda and Bajaj riders chairman Dar es Salaam region Michael Massawe.

# Energy firm shines in employers of the year awards

By Guardian Reporter

PUMA Energy Tanzania has scooped four awards at the 2019 employers of the year awards held in Dar es Salaam.

The company was announced best employer with best attraction and retention strategies, best employer in managing aged workforce, second runner up best private sector company and 2nd runner up Overall winner 2019 Employer of the year.

As the second runner overall winner, Puma is placed among the Top 3 best employers in the country

after TBL and GGM

Speaking at the event that was organized by Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE) and graced by Jenista Mhagama, Minister for State in the prime minister's office responsible for Labor, Parliament, Youth and the Disabled, the company's Managing Director, for Puma Dominic Dhanah said: "We have this year signed a 3 years collective bargaining agreement with workers union TUICO for significant improvement of working conditions of our employees".

He added that Puma Energy

Tanzania

invest heavily in people through various programs like employee personal development and in-job trainings.

"We pride ourselves on developing diverse and expert local teams with an agile approach to safely and sustainably serving our customer needs. We have a mission to energize communities to help drive growth and prosperity", said the Managing Director.

The company, Dhanah said, involves in corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities where this year, through its school

road safety drawing competition, it delivered significant improvements by providing road safety education to over 100,000 students in 6 regions and over 89 schools in mainland Tanzania and 5 schools in Tanzania Zanzibar by 2019.

In 2019 we embarked to donate funds to operate at least 20 kids with critical heart conditions at Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute, he said.

Dhanah noted: "Being a market leader in the industry, we have a role of ensuring that we continue to make a significant difference to the country and communities

around us. We will continue to play our role as an energy company and responsible employer in Tanzania".

He said the oil marketing firm focuses on empowering local communities and making a real difference to communities in which we operate!

Dhanah also congratulated all the winners and all other employers who participated in the awards.

He said: "This year I witnessed a very stiff and tough competition which shows tremendous improvements of businesses and human resource practices in the country".

# East Africa on verge of major fish seed boom

By Guardian Reporter

PLANS to increase East Africa's aquaculture production have received a major boost with the fast-tracking of a marine hatchery project that has been domiciled in the semi-autonomous Indian Ocean Island nation of Zanzibar.

The project, which is supported by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), is being financed by both the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the Zanzibar government, will in the coming years be expected to produce 10 million milkfish fingerlings, one million sea cucumber juveniles, and one million mud crabs annually. The project will be a major step toward addressing fish seed shortages not only in Zanzibar - which is part of Tanzania - but also other countries within the Lake Victoria basin, such as Kenya and Uganda.

According to the East African Community (EAC) - an intergovernmental organization composed of six countries in the African Great Lakes region - aquaculture production in the region remains low, contributing a mere 13.5 percent of Eastern Africa's total fishery output.

"The main challenges include inadequate supply of quality fish fingerlings and feeds, limited extension services and limited support on credit facilities because aquaculture is considered by financial institutions to be a high-risk business," Olivier Nduhungirehe, chairperson of the EAC Council of Ministers, said during presentation of the EAC regional budget estimates for 2019/2020.

However, with the anticipated production of fingerlings at the Korea-Zanzibar Marine Hatchery Center - which has been located at the State University of Zanzibar - East Africa's fishing and aquaculture industries are likely to expand and meet the increasing demand for quality fish both for local consumption and for export.

In Zanzibar, fingerlings are commonly collected from the wild, a practice deemed unsustainable with potential to lead to overexploitation.

But once the the ongoing Korea-Zanzibar marine hatchery project - one of East Africa's biggest multi-species marine hatchery initiatives - becomes fully operational, it would support both Zanzibar's and East Africa's drive towards achieving food security by providing a sustainable supply of adequate seed fish to replenish the marine and inland fish sources.



Minister of State in the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government Selemani Jaffo makes a point shortly after he visited Chiunguta health centre project in Masasi district. Photo: Correspondent Hamis Nasri

# Insurers advised to expand scope of operations by going into rural areas

By Guardian Reporter

PLAYERS in the insurance industry have been advised to expand their scope of operation by reaching all regions, particularly rural areas.

Chairman of the Association of Tanzania Insurers (ATI), Khamis Suleiman made the call on Wednesday in Dar es Salaam when speaking at the function to bid farewell to 2019 and welcome the 2020.

"This is important as many people

live in rural areas, which are in need of insurance services, that is why we must act and bring those services closer to them," he said.

Khamis said that next year, ATI and its members have allocated a budget in educating people on importance of insurance and its related services, "that's why I'm asking insurance companies to reach all regions with limited insurance services."

In Tanzania, insurance companies are concentrated in Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Arusha and Mbeya regions.

Khamis said that the ATI tasks is to ensure that insurance services reach all at affordable costs as well as contribute to the country's economy which is at 1 percent of the national GDP. "This is a very small contribution and our aim is to make the sector contribute 3 percent in the next three years," he said, adding that ATI has achieved a lot in 2019 particularly in ensuring that there is a fair insurance market price. "We want to see companies remain stable and pay all government taxes," he

said.

According to Khamis, last year there were lots of challenges particularly on financial statements. "But, this year things can be improved."

He also cited limited education on insurance education as one of the challenges facing the sector and in 2020 "we're going to invest heavily in addressing this challenge."

For his part, Director of licensing and Market Conduct Supervision at Tanzania Insurance Regulatory

Authority (TIRA), Samwel Mwiru, said many people have shown interest of using insurance services, hence there is a need for insurers to explore the opportunity by improving service delivery.

According to Mwiru, there are 32 insurance companies, 130 brokers and 600 agents across the country.

"The challenge is that people are unaware of what insurance companies are offering to them," he said, suggesting the need to team up and provide education to them.

# Locust invasion grips vulnerable East Africa

By Adane Bikila

EAST Africa is on the brink of a prolonged food insecurity crisis amid fears the desert locust invasion in Ethiopia and Somalia will spread to neighbouring countries.

Djibouti, Eritrea, Kenya, South Sudan and Sudan are at risk of the invasion.

The pest has already resulted in significant losses on croplands and jeopardised the livelihoods of small-holder farmers in Ethiopia and Somalia.

In Ethiopia, they have cov-

ered nearly 430 square kilometres and have consumed about 1.3 million metric tonnes of vegetation over a two-month period.

The locust has affected thousands of hectares of land in the autonomous Somali regions of Galmudug, Puntland and Somaliland.

David Phiri, Food and Agricultural Organisation sub-regional coordinator for Eastern Africa warned that the locust was worsening the food security situation.

He said as the weather seemed favourable for the locust breeding, there was a

high probability that the pest would continue to breed until March-April 2020, with a high probability of spreading to other Eastern African nations.

"Unless we control the spread, it will greatly affect people and livestock in many parts of the sub-region, which is already home to 50 percent of Africa's food insecure people," Phiri cautioned.

The desert locust is the most dangerous of several species of locusts. It is normally present in the desert areas across 20 countries

between West Africa and India, covering nearly 16 million square kilometres.

Locusts are a collection of certain species of short-horned grasshoppers in the family Acrididae that have a swarming phase. These insects are usually solitary, but under certain circumstances they become more abundant and change their behaviour and habits, becoming gregarious.

No taxonomic distinction is made between locust and grasshopper species; the basis for the definition is whether a species forms

swarms under intermittent suitable conditions.

These grasshoppers are innocuous, their numbers are low, and they do not pose a major economic threat to agriculture.

However, under suitable conditions of drought followed by rapid vegetation growth, serotonin in their brains triggers a dramatic set of changes: they start to breed abundantly, becoming gregarious and nomadic (loosely described as migratory) when their populations become dense enough



Mikocheni 'A' Ali Hassan Mwinyi area Ten Cell leader, Amani Mero speaks to the press about an open space area that was allegedly sold to an individual without the knowledge of the area residents who now want the Government to return the sold land to the public. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Dar's Mikocheni A leadership under fire over sold open space

By Guardian Reporter

RESIDENTS of Mikocheni 'A', Ali Hassan Mwinyi in Dar es Salaam are up in arms after a potential "investor" is accused of grabbing public land.

The enraged residents told reporters from various media houses in Dar es Salaam that the

said investor, whom they mentioned as Nakiete, has put up a wall fence around the contested piece of land, after claiming that he obtained it through legal means.

They marched to the office of the chairman of the local governments where they were told that the chairman was away and was not taking calls.

Journalists finally got hold of one Salma Zuberi who is said to be the local government officer and acting Chairman.

She however said on phone that her office was not aware of the matter and that no complaint had been brought to them, something that the area residents refuted and said the matter has been

dragging for some time now.

The Ten Cell leader of the area, Amani Mero expressed disappointment over the matter and accused the local authorities for backing up the sale without the consent of the public.

"Our children now have nowhere to play and these area had so many trees but

since he was allocated the area, all the trees were cut down and the area fenced within one day under tight security," said Mero who wondered why the fence had to be done within a night and under tight armed security.

One of the residents, Richard Riwa said that the wrangles between Nakiete and area residents began when they discovered that the area which for years has been used as a playground on plot number 628, has been sold to Nakiete.

He said that after trying to find out how the area which has been considered as a playground for years ended up in the hands of the investor, local authorities responded that the investor was the legal owner of the area.

"Last year, we discovered that he was in the process of putting up a wall around the plot, and the funny part is that he was doing this in the cover of darkness, accompanied by bouncers armed with machetes," he said. The enraged residents said that since he discovered that the issue of the land was under media scrutiny, he has been reluctant to respond to any calls.

They accused the local government authority in the area of colluding with unscrupulous investors who benefit from illegally sold land meant for recreational activities.

"Since this man has been around, he has sold a big number of plots illegally, and it is disappointing to see that nothing is being done about it," said one of the residents, John Peter.

The area residents are now appealing to the Government to reconsider the allocation of the land to the individual since they were never consulted.

When contacted for comment, the area Local Government Chairman, Bernard Lwehambura did not pick up his phone.

## Poll: Mobile phones top the list of tech speeding up aid operations in 2019

By Emma Batha

MOBILE technology had the biggest benefit of all technology on aid operations in 2019, according to an exclusive poll by the Thomson Reuters Foundation on Wednesday, with drones and satellites also helping to speed up help to people in need.

From drones delivering children's vaccines in Vanuatu to satellite early warning systems in Africa's drought-ravaged Sahel, technology is revolutionising aid operations.

Humanitarian groups said new tech had helped them respond to disasters quicker in 2019, assess needs more accurately, reach far-flung communities and mitigate potential risks.

The U.N. children's agency UNICEF said drones held great promise for delivering medical supplies to rural areas and responding to disasters like earthquakes and floods, with their potential being explored from Namibia to Kazakhstan.

Sierra Leone launched a drone testing corridor last month, with UNICEF's support, while Malawi will open Africa's first drone and data academy next year to train drone pilots and data scientists.

But most of the 18 agencies polled between Nov. 25 and Dec. 8 said mobile technology had brought the biggest benefits to the people they were helping.

"The increased global access to mobile devices has had a massive impact on the humanitarian world," said the Danish Refugee Council's Christian Gad.

With more than five billion people globally now having mobile phones, this allows people caught up in crises to get vital information for staying safe, keep track of loved-ones, access services and receive cash transfers.

The United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) described mobile banking as "a real game-changer".

In Somalia, it is pioneering a phone-based system allowing money to be sent directly to participants in livelihood protection

programmes.

"This avoids a raft of challenges we've long faced in getting cash to remote parts and safely into people's hands so they can buy food locally and avoid selling off assets to get through lean times," said the FAO's Dominique Burgeon.

Mercy Corps said "bundled mobile services" providing multiple tools and resources in one place had been a huge boon.

In east Africa, it has provided more than 3 million farmers with apps aggregating information on everything from weather forecasts to livestock market prices to help them boost harvests and incomes.

For millions caught up in crises, electronic voucher cards give families the freedom to buy what they need, while supporting the local economy.

In Bangladesh, the World Food Programme has given cards to more than 200,000 Rohingya refugee families. Fingerprint verification is embedded in the cards to ensure people receive their correct entitlement and prevent fraud.

World Vision also pointed to the use of biometric technology in Ebola vaccine trials in Sierra Leone where hand-held tablets with iris-scanning cameras help ensure participants get the right doses and deter impersonation.

A drone pilot watches a customized drone fly over a rice field during a test using drone technology in the fight against malaria, near Zanzibar City, Zanzibar, October 31, 2019. REUTERS/Baz Ratner

Other agencies including CARE said open-source tools that can be used with mobiles were transforming the collection and processing of information in disasters, replacing cumbersome paper-based assessments.

This speeds up decision making, allowing humanitarian workers to get aid to the worst hit places faster and respond quickly to changing needs.

Agencies are also using technology to collect feedback remotely from

communities receiving assistance.

"I'm most excited about the technologies ... that focus on giving the people we work with a greater voice and the ability to hold us to account better," said Oxfam GB's Danny Sriskandarajah.

International Medical Corps said innovative software was also transforming what is known as "the last mile", helping streamline pharmaceutical supply chains and slash delivery times to hard-to-reach places.

EARLY WARNING

Technology is not only helping aid agencies respond to disasters, but to mitigate them.

Action Against Hunger has created a Pastoral Early Warning System which uses satellite data to track droughts and anticipate risks in the semi-arid Sahel which skirts the Sahara.

The data enables the agency to measure plant growth and surface water across the 4,000 km (2,485 miles) Sahel.

"To have such a phenomenal level of information is totally transforming how we plan for and respond to crises," said Action Against Hunger's Marie-Julie Lambert.

"This year, we already know that vegetation levels in Senegal and Mauritania are alarmingly low. Without this technology we wouldn't have been able to predict the sheer scale of the looming crisis."

Several organisations highlighted how tech was helping empower and protect girls and women.

Plan International is rolling out a social media platform called Girls Out Loud providing a safe, private space to discuss topics like sexual health and gender violence.

In Jordan, ActionAid UK is working on an app to help refugee women access services, while in Vietnam it has developed a Safe City app enabling users to mark safe and unsafe locations, find the most secure routes, sound an alarm and make emergency calls.

## Ministry develops new system to curb water-borne diseases

By Correspondent Devota

Mwachang'a

THE Ministry of Health, Social Development, Gender, Elderly and Children has developed Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) portal dubbed: 'Tanzania WASH Portal' which is aimed at reducing spread of pollutant-borne epidemics.

WASH which is part of USAID-implemented projects in Africa including Tanzania is also geared to ensure people are able to fully develop into health, they must have access to clean water, safe toilets and hygienic.

According to Remideus Kakuru, acting director of Environmental Health Services from the Ministry of Health, Tanzania Wash Portal is an advancement of the National Sanitation Management Information System (NSMIS) which was developed by Tanzanians from the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM).

He said: "NSMIS follows the governmental system based on safety issues that are important to the data management; it is reliable because it is integrated with government systems."

"The issue of the feeding accurate information is important to the system, as it enhances access to information, people can access the information without using a password, we allow people to be critical, so we do not compromise the data that people will question about its quality," Kakuru said when speaking during a two-day training organized by the Ministry of Health and brought together over 50 regional and districts health officials in Dodoma over the weekend on application and dissemination of "Tanzania WASH Portal".

He asked regional and district health officials to manage the putting of accurate data into the system assuming that accurate data input will provide accurate reports as opposed to bad

results because "the garbage in is the garbage out"

Developer of NSMIS System from University of Dar es Salaam, Tuzo Englbert said in the use of electronic systems the challenges are unavoidable, it is high time now for the users of the Portal system notably the health workers to be good ambassadors to disseminate it to other users.

"When you get feedback from people who have visited the portal system and read the information, you should take the position as the Ministry by taking those views on their behalf and bring us there so they want to be done and we work on it because they can't reach us directly," Englbert said.

Anyitike Mwakitalima, head of the WASH Unit and Coordinator of the National Sanitation Campaign (NSC) from the Ministry of Health explained that the "Tanzania WASH Portal" system has been developed to facilitate access to information on sanitation issues or

environmental health in the community.

He said: "At this time the hygiene and sanitation information are no longer a secret, it is available to anyone who needs it for research, writing or personal use to those wanting to find out where the country is in a healthy issues position."

"Anyone with the ability to use a computer or smartphone can access sanitary information. We do this because we have had a huge challenge with various people having difficulty accessing information, many have been forced to write letters to the ministry or call to request hygiene information," Mwakitalima said.

Before the portal, he said: "Information was unclear, but now things have improved."

He urged health practitioners to compile all data including health at workplaces; there are regions that have already entered all information

correctly. Dodoma region is a good example as it includes all information plus food, money, human resources and hygiene. Other regions such as Iringa, Kilimanjaro and Njombe also do the best although they include more sanitary information.

"We have recently identified the eleven worst-performing regions in sanitation through the campaign of availability to safe toilets namely "Nyumba ni Choo" which include Morogoro, Tanga, Mbeya, Songwe, Geita, Mwanza, Mara, Shinyanga, Simiyu and Kagera.

Songwe region was the last in sanitation performance, "but now it is on top of Lindi and Kigoma regions."

Acting director of Prevention in the Ministry of Health Dr Janeth Mghamba said: "Regional and district health officials are the main stakeholders for data collection and hygiene, I believe you have great experience with the old system (NSMIS) and now

you are using this electronics system of (Tanzania WASH Portal) which helps you to determine which areas will attract the presence of cholera or diarrhea, what are the conditions of hygiene, access to water and toilets. The data we get should be used to provide a variety of interpretations."

Principal health officer, President Office Regional Administrative and Local Governments (PO RALG) Juma Motoka said regional and district health officials are heavily relied upon to perform the necessary timely and accurate data entry to the system. The duties of health officers are numerous and there is a need for a statistical system to include all the data, all data entered into the system for each task performed.

"Things have changed and our consciousness has to change with respect to deadlines, there is a need for more staff to be more aware of the NSMIS system. We thank our stakeholder

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for helping us achieve this," explained Motoka.

WaterAid country director Tanzania Dr Ibrahim Kabole described the new system as transparent and ready to work with various stakeholders to improve performance by ensuring that the portal is embedded in government systems from the ministry to local level.

Operations Manager USAID Water for Africa through Leadership and Institutional Support (WALIS) Alayne Potter also views the portal system as important in scaling up sanitation.

Mafinga Town Council health officer Gaudence Haule noted that the system is instrumental in collecting and submitting accurate data from village and local areas and subsequently using indicators to create interventions that will be used to make decisions to improve health and sanitation.

"We thank the stakeholders and the ministry to educate us about the Portal system which will enable the consolidation of sanitary data systems, which will now be incorporated and will be different from those introduced in the NSMIS system. This will reflect the reality of the situation," explained Haule.

Kagera Regional Health Officer, Nelson Rumbeli explained about the training and said that it has added more skills and accountability to data collection where the system will help to know the information without waiting to make a phone call, this is an opportunity for people to identify statistics of diseases caused by lack of hygiene and the presence of dirt environment in the regions. Tanzania statistics WASH Portal shows the number of high-quality toilets in the country has increased to 62.4 per cent by September this year compared to 34 per cent in 2015.

## Vegetable farmers need to improve farming practices for better yields

IMPROVED vegetable cultivation in Tanzania helps farmers as well as consumers. It means quality but affordable vegetables for the population throughout the year and a higher income for growers.

Demand for vegetables in Tanzania is growing with the increasing population. Another fact is that an increasing number of people are living in cities. This makes that more and more people in the cities depend for their vegetables on the delivery of vegetables to the cities.

This increasing demand is a positive development for the growers because for them vegetable cultivation is an important source of income. And the traditional merchants and - upcoming - supermarkets wish to meet the increasing demand. Especially the upcoming supermarkets are demanding farmers to supply vegetables of a constant quality throughout the year.

However, growers find it difficult to meet the demands of the supermarkets. Their cultivation methods result in vegetables of variable quality. Another fact is that they cannot supply throughout the year because they are usually not working according to plan but they depend on the rainy season.

We believe that for good yields experts should help farmers to improve their cultivation methods. This already starts with the raising of planting stock. Farmers are sowing vegetables on small plots of land and then transplant the seedlings to the open field.

Vegetable farming is one area of farming in central Tanzania that is capable of bringing quick and considerable money to small-scale farmers especially when done during the dry season.

Farmers in Ihumwa area on the outskirts of Dodoma Municipality, who deal in vegetables, including fruits says it is a money spinner that can help the Tanzanian economy out of the present economic recession bedeviling the country.

The vegetables involved are fruity or leafy. Fruity vegetables include paw paw, pineapples, tomatoes and peppers,

among others, while leafy vegetables include lettuce, cabbage, spring onions, and the likes.

The farmers say vegetable was best planted in the dry season, adding that when it was done during such a time, one was assured of steady income through seasons.

According to them, vegetable farming is one of the easiest agricultural engagements as they are always in high demand all year round, saying vegetable farming contained short seasons and was very lucrative because the period was unlike what one spent cultivating other crops, and a fast money making business that needed less amount of capital investment.

Farmers have had no regrets venturing into vegetable farming, stressing that the business had high rewards and was stress free if well managed.

We therefore commend the World Relief - an international relief and development agency for constructing rain-harvesting structures in the area which were being used for irrigation purposes in the area, taking into account that Dodoma is one of the driest regions in Tanzania.

We are told that farmers in the area used to grow vegetables during the rainy season only, but it was impossible for Dodoma residents to do farming during the dry season.

Now many people were engaging in vegetable farming because of the availability of markets compared to other crops we are calling for farmers to venture into it considering the meagre start-up capital required.

More importantly we ought to encourage youth to venture in vegetable farming as it was the best crop in Dodoma because of its ready market as many people were eyeing the booming market in the country's commercial capital, Dar es Salaam.

Authorities in Dodoma should ensure that vegetable farming in the area remained a 'game-changer' for women and youth.

## Human development ranking shows that the problem is deeper than we appreciate

WHAT should we think when Tanzania is ranked 159 out of 189 countries in the Human Development Index

-do we applaud or back in despondency? A recent report by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) says that Tanzania has registered impressive progress in human development since 1990 though it still ranks among the low human developed countries. This is the summary for us of the HDI report, its index for 2019 launched at midweek, showing progress but at a low achievement level.

The report focuses not just on the specifics of the human development index but rather on inequalities. The reason for this is energetic campaigns and protests the world over which has characterized the past few months or nearly the whole year when the report was being researched and compiled. The report's title, 'Beyond income, beyond average, beyond today: Inequalities in human development in the 21st century' shows that there is a wider problem, not just how far we have come in human development - health care for all, education for all or access to clean water for all, not to speak of usable and improved roads for all, etc. It is an issue of personal achievement and how this is shown in a satisfaction index.

The report puts Tanzania's human development index (HDI) for 2018 at 0.528 or around half of what is desired, where we hear the position is shared with Uganda. For one thing, Tanzania has a bit of handicap on account of size of territory, thus infrastructure costs more here than in our East African Community partners; conversely there is also the benefit of having vaster natural resources, etc.

There has arguably been significant progress, as the report says that between 1990 and 2018, Tanzania's HDI value increased from 0.373 to 0.528, an increase of 41.8 percent as life expectancy at birth increased by 14.8 years, mean years of schooling increased by 2.4 years and expected years of schooling increased by 2.5 years. Tanzania's gross national income (GNI) per capita increased by about 88.2 percent between 1990 and 2018, and if one takes up technology, ease of life has never been more explicit than at present.

Still there are clear gaps that defy even our imagination, as people wish to live the full breadth of their lives in dignity, not wallowing in unemployment and single meals per day. Trying to figure out how we shall achieve that milestone is hard, if nearly 30 years has reduced poverty to less than a third of the population, but a full third more or less lives on tenterhooks. If anything goes wrong, this portion of the population also falls into poverty - and there is little that the plans we have can do to address the shortcoming, of living without worry.

Tanzania's 2018 HDI of 0.528 stood above the average of 0.507 for countries in the low human development group and below the average of 0.541 for countries in Sub-Saharan Africa for instance. As we haven't had the sort of ravages that have characterized other countries in Africa, this implies that our economic methods are relatively less achieving than elsewhere. Perhaps for that reason we should continue focusing on improving conditions of doing business, as only on that premise can a more dynamic economy be projected for the future. The social fabric ought to be shored up, by increasing opportunities.

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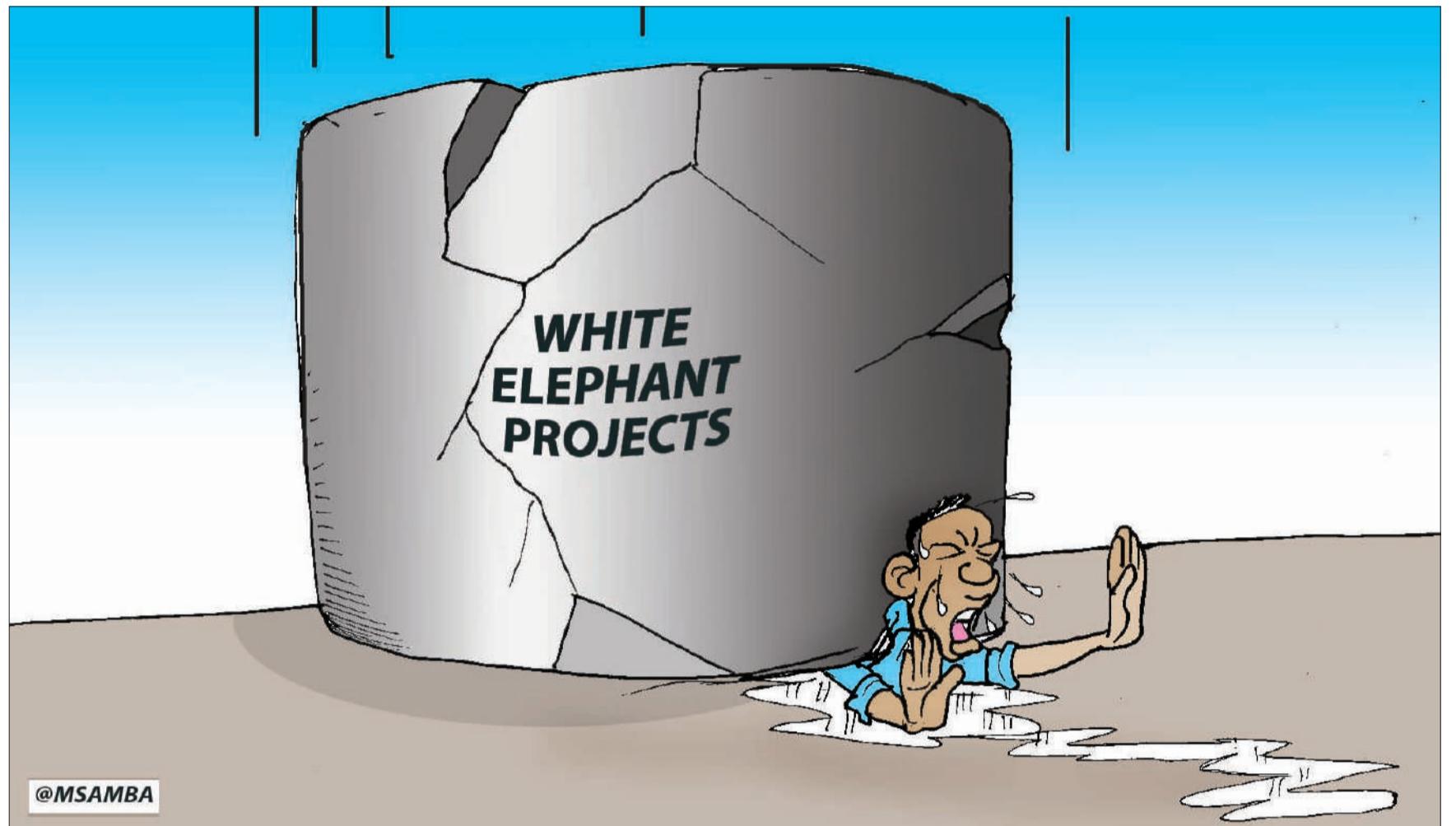
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## With echoes of Adolf Hitler, Julius Malema makes his move to establish an African reich

By Ismail Lagardien

At the outset, Nazi expansion (according to Hitler), was to be achieved 'through the unification of all Germanic peoples'. This has distinct echoes of Julius Malema's stated objective to unify all Africans in something akin to an African reich, and wage a war against scapegoats. Hitler started with the Jews as scapegoats. In the EFF's case whites, Indians and 'non-Africans' in general are Malema's scapegoats.

The term fascism is thrown about with way too much alacrity in South Africa and abroad. While we should be wary of the rise of fascism, throwing the term around as easily as we do, has the dangerous effect of reducing it to a throw-away almost meaningless term. The danger of this is that when actual fascism rises, or there are groups that display actual fascist tendencies, the term may already have become meaningless, and the villains are ignored or dismissed as buffoons - when they are, actually, a danger to society.

So, it is often best to start with definitional or theoretical issues and historical perspectives. I am working on a longer-term project on the subject, part of which will devote time to these methodological issues.

In the meantime, based on news reports (Daily Maverick was banned from attending the Economic Freedom Fighters' National People's Assembly), one of the EFF's stated objectives over the past weekend - a borderless Africa with a single government and a single army with a single commander-in-chief with a type of gauler (governor) in each state, or region - has distinct echoes of German fascism (Nazis), in particular, Adolf Hitler's imaginaries of a continent-wide reich, to create a lebensraum (a territorial space for a particular group to extend its reach and flourish) for Germanic peoples.

Malema's African reich is quite different from general arguments for regional integration. Malema's vision has the hallmark of an element of last century's fascism that would be foolish to ignore.

Malema's vision of an African reich will be headed by Godrich Gardee, who was removed as the EFF's secretary-general, and an office will be established in each of the continent's main regions. Over the past weekend, a delegate from Liberia (unnamed) suggested that the leaders of local

parties (across the continent) would each hold the title of "president" so that there's only one commander-in-chief - Malema himself.

This is key. It is especially reminiscent of Nazi Germany's gaulerites, which were governed by a local political official, all of whom remained subservient to Hitler - the commander in chief. Bear in mind, also, that Hitler assumed the role of commander-in-chief.

In the process of creating his African reich, Malema, as self-declared commander-in-chief wants to extend the EFF's reach across Africa, and unify all Africans under one commander in chief - not unlike the Nazi führer (leader). This has powerful homologies with one of Hitler's cornerstone policies. Malema, is smart (but no less dangerous) and couches his rhetoric in terms of suffering Africans who are "all victims of the same enemy agents". This, too, has powerful homologies with Hitler's demonising of Jews.

In February 1920, Hitler presented the Nazi Party Platform at a Nazi Party meeting - not unlike the EFF's weekend gathering with attendant sycophancy. In presenting the Nazi Party Platform in a 25-point programme, party officials publicly declared their intention to segregate Jews from "Aryan" society and to revoke Jews' political, legal, and civil rights.

Point 4 of the programme, stated: "Only a national comrade [Aryan] can be a citizen. Only someone of German blood, regardless of faith, can be a citizen. Therefore, no Jew can be a citizen." Anti-Jewish propaganda insisted that only the Nazi Party could succeed in gaining a mass following. The exploited pre-existing images and stereotypes to give a false portrayal of Jews who were considered "an 'alien race' that fed off the host nation, poisoned its culture, seized its economy, and enslaved its workers and farmers."

In the place of Jewish scapegoats, Malema identified, "the threat is white monopoly capital" which he declared "must be crushed". Echoing Hitler on national comradeship, and that only those persons of "German blood" could be citizens of the envisaged African envisaged reich, Malema declares that the "African brother and sister" are victims of "the same enemy agents". What is becoming clearer is that Malema is positioning himself as commander-in-chief of an African reich in the same way Hitler granted himself absolute power, and with at-

tendant scapegoats.

Scapegoating Jews in Hitler's Germany was done 'legally'

At the outset, Nazi expansion (according to Hitler), was to be achieved "through the unification of all Germanic peoples". This has distinct echoes of Malema's stated objective to unify all Africans in something akin to an African reich and wage a war against scapegoats. Hitler started with the Jews as scapegoats. In the EFF's case whites, Indians and "non-Africans" in general are Malema's scapegoats. The parallels between the EFF and the Nazis increase. In a booklet distributed by the Nazi's in 1943, The Jew as World Parasite, the writers explain: "We believe the Fuhrer when he says that the end of this struggle which was unleashed against us by the Jewish world parasite, will result in the extermination of Jewry in Europe. But until this extermination is complete, we must always remember that the Jew is our absolute enemy and that he has only one goal: our complete extermination."



**"Anti-Jewish propaganda insisted that only the Nazi Party could succeed in gaining a mass following. The exploited pre-existing images and stereotypes to give a false portrayal of Jews who were considered "an 'alien race' that fed off the host nation, poisoned its culture, seized its economy, and enslaved its workers and farmers."**

For his part, Malema identified white people, and told his followers over the weekend that "we are all victims of the same enemy agents". This has a solid echo with the above passage of Jews as the "absolute enemy".

Hitler demonised Jews, suggesting that they controlled the banks. Malema echoes this, without any sense of history. It is "white capitalists", who keep their money in the banks and "refuse to invest it". It was reported on Tuesday that Malema has identified "the banks" as one of his first targets in his "war" against the financial

sector. Until the EFF has the political power to change the Constitution, it might become difficult to draw the financial sector or banks into a "war". This could change if the EFF grows and replaces the DA as the official opposition or they eventually take power from the ANC. At that point, they can decree anything.

For instance, on 26 April 1938, Hitler issued a "Decree for the Reporting of Jewish-Owned Property". This paved the way for the appropriation of Jewish property - and in many cases, outright theft was given a gloss of legality. Again, we are reminded of this decree, when Malema drives for the appropriation of white-owned property.

This is not a defence of the iniquitous distribution and ownership of land in South Africa, it is simply the identification of a range of parallels and continuities that the EFF shares with the fascists of the 20th century. The decree of 1938 (remember the EFF want to change South Africa's Constitution) marked a veritable turning point in Nazi Germany. One legal advisor for the Nazi ministry of economics deemed it the "forerunner to a complete and definitive removal of Jews from the German economy". We should not be surprised, then, if the EFF's final solution is the removal of whites (or non-Africans) from its ideal African reich.

As explained above, I am working on something more substantive on the topic, but we make a mistake when we compare Malema directly, and without important caveats, to the last century's two most prominent fascists, Benito Mussolini and Adolf Hitler.

Fascism, like, say, liberalism, has evolved over the years and has shown different faces in different parts of the world. For instance, Hitler and Mussolini might be the cynosure of 20th-century fascism, Generalissimo Francisco Franco who ruled Spain until 1975, and Portugal's António Salazar who ruled that country until 1974 were fresh incarnations of fascism too. It is in this reproduction of fascism that Malema fits into seamlessly.

There are also comparisons that can be drawn with a range of despots, from Augusto Pinochet to Pol Pot, Joseph Stalin and Idi Amin - all of whom reflect the politics of revenge, revanchism and misguided objectives of returning their societies to some form of prelapsarian utopia - before the whites, or the Jews or any other scapegoats arrived.



# A post-election reckoning for British politics

By Robert Skidelsky

Speaking outside No 10 Downing Street following his emphatic election victory, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson thanked long-time Labour supporters for having “lent” his Conservative Party their votes. It was a curious phrase, whose meaning depended entirely on context. The Tories had breached Labour’s strongholds in the Midlands and north-east England on the promise of “getting Brexit done”. Leaving the European Union, as Britain will on January 31, 2020, will be Johnson’s repayment of the debt he owes these voters.

But “getting Brexit done” won’t be enough for the Tories to hold on to their parliamentary seats, as Johnson recognised. The Conservatives, he said, will need to turn themselves once again into a “one nation” party. For its part, if Labour is to regain its heartlands, it will need to find a way of reconnecting with its alienated supporters.

What this double reconfiguration entails is reasonably clear. The Conservatives will need to break with Thatcherite economics, and Labour will need to loosen its embrace of minorities and minority culture. Both will need to move back to a middle ground. The libertarian dream of a free market in both economics and morals does not resonate with an economically interventionist but socially conservative electorate.

Brexit was a reaction to economic betrayal, the British version of a European-wide revolt by what French President Emmanuel Macron called the “left-behinds”. This label is precisely right as a description, but overwhelmingly wrong as a prescription, for it suggests that the future is technologically determined and that people simply will have to adapt to it. The state’s duty, according to this view, is to enable the left-behinds to board the cost-cutting, labour-shedding bullet express,



Exit poll results projected on the outside of the BBC building in London show Britain’s Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s Conservative Party predicted to win 368 seats and a majority, left, and Jeremy Corbyn’s opposition Labour Party to win 191 seats, as the ballots were counted in the general election. File photo

whereas what most people want is a reasonably secure job that pays a decent wage and gives them a sense of worth.

No one would deny that governments have a vital role to play in providing people with the employment skills they need. But it is also governments’ task to manage the trade-off between security and efficiency so that no sizeable fraction of the population is left involuntarily unemployed.

Guaranteed full employment was the key point of consensus of the Keynesian economics of

the 1950s and 1960s, embraced by right and left, with the political battle centred on questions of wealth and income distribution. This is the kind of dynamic centre the Conservatives should try to regain.

Any Toryism that seeks to be genuinely “one nation” must acknowledge that the fiscal austerity that the Conservatives imposed on the country from 2010 to 2017 caused great and unnecessary harm to millions of people. The Tories must

show that they understand why austerity was wrong in those circumstances and that the purpose of the budget is not to balance the government’s accounts, but to balance the economy at full employment.

Deficits and surpluses reflect the state of the economy. This means that no effort should be made to cut the deficit when the economy is shrinking or to expand it when the economy is growing because that produces deflation in the

downswing and inflation in the upswing – exactly the opposite of what is needed. George Osborne’s greatest contribution to Toryism now would be to explain where and how, as chancellor of the exchequer, he went wrong between 2010 and 2016.

A party pledged to govern from the centre should implement policies to stabilise the labour market. These should include a permanent public investment programme aimed

at rebalancing the United Kingdom’s regions and “greening” its infrastructure, together with a buffer of guaranteed public-sector jobs that inflates and deflates automatically with economic downturns and upturns. The beauty of the second lies precisely in its automaticity, guarding it against the charge of being at the mercy of vote-hungry politicians.

Together, these policies would limit business fluctuations, rebalance the economy geographically, and lay the ecological foundations for future growth. What they imply is a deceleration of the rush to automate and globalise, regardless of social cost.

Labour, for its part, needs to recognise that most of its voters are culturally conservative, which became clear with respect to Brexit. The election result disclosed a culture gap between Remainers and Leavers, which for a subset of London and university-campus-based Remainers amounted to a culture war between a politically correct professional class and a swath of the population routinely dubbed stupid, backward, and undereducated, or, more generously, misinformed. One symptom of this gap was the common media depiction of Johnson as a “serial liar,” as though it was his mendacity that obscured from befuddled voters the truth of their situation.

Political correctness ramifies through contemporary culture. I first became aware of a cultural offensive against traditional values in the 1970s, when school history textbooks started to teach that Britain’s achievements were built on the exploitation of colonial peoples and that people should learn to feel suitably apologetic for the behaviour of

their forbears. Granted that much history is myth-making, no community can live without a stock of myths in which it can take pride. And “normal” people don’t want to be continuously told that their beliefs, habits and prejudices are obsolete.

In the continuous evolution of cultural norms, therefore, a new balance needs to be struck between the urge to overthrow prejudice and the need to preserve social cohesion. Moreover, whereas the phrase “left behind” may reasonably describe the situation of the economically precarious, it is quite wrong as a cultural description. There are too many cultural left-behinds, and their cultural “reskilling” will take much longer than any economic reskilling. But such reskilling is not the right prescription. Metropolitan elites have no right to force their norms on the rest of the country. Labour will need to remember that “normal” people want a TransPennine railway much more than a transgender future.

In short, just as the right went wrong in forcing economic individualism down people’s throats, so the left has gone wrong in its contempt for majority culture. In the UK, the price for elite incapacity in both areas has been Brexit; in Europe and the United States generally, it has been the growth of populism.

Economic and cultural utopians alike are destroyers: they want to tear down what has been built in order to create something more perfect. The dream of perfection is the death of statesmanship. Politicians who aspire to govern on behalf of the whole community should aim for the best possible result, not the best result possible. BM

# More women in tech will lead to peaceful gender equal world

ISLAMABAD

It will take around 100 years for the world to reach gender parity according to the Global Gender Gap Report 2020 just published by World Economic Forum.

Evidence indicates that climate change and inequality are directly related. This link manifests itself in increased poverty and food insecurity through rising number of droughts and water related problems.

Water and ICT’s seemed like world apart from in 2017 when I discovered first hand how technology can be used to facilitate water disputes in Pakistan. The community I work with had long standing water disputes.

Facilitators for dispute resolution at most times had no data on what worked and did not work in resolving conflicts in the area. Tech helped us to bring women and men to the table and learn from their stories to act as better dispute resolution facilitators.

That intervention led to the establishment of Women4PeaceTech, a platform that aims to decrease gender in equality and empower women through technology based trainings for economic empowerment while contributing towards sustainable peace.



Tanzanian ICT entrepreneur, Rose Funja, shows off one of the drones she uses as a key tool in her data mapping business. File photo

While I was researching models for a women and tech platform, I came across very few such organizations or platforms available to women – especially in developing countries. This situation reflects the existing absence of women in the tech field.

When men and women have the same level of digital fluency – defined as the extent to which they embrace and use digital technologies to become more knowledgeable, connected, and effective – women are better at using

those digital skills to gain more education and to find work

According to the ITU, the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies (ICTs), ICT Facts and Figures 2017, the proportion of women using the Internet is 12% lower than the proportion of men using the Internet worldwide. In least developed countries this drops to only 5% women compared to 7% of men.

Statistics show that the number of tech based jobs has increased but the

number of women in tech has decreased since 1980. All over the world the number of women in tech is low, so much so women ratio is only one in five of global startup founders. Women lag behind in jobs in almost all ICT industries all over the world.

In developing countries like Pakistan where gender inequality is already pronounced, women in tech remain a very small percentage. Although the Pakistan government has put in place programs like ICT for Girls and women

entrepreneurs their reach and access is still very limited to urban areas only.

Yet the potential impact of women in tech is great: Evidence from the International Peace Institute suggests that economically empowered women lead to more peaceful societies. In developing countries, where women mobility is somewhat restricted due to gender inequality issues, working in tech and online platforms can provide women a source of income from the safety of their homes.

Research conducted in 31 countries by Accenture found that when men and women have the same level of digital fluency – defined as the extent to which they embrace and use digital technologies to become more knowledgeable, connected, and effective – women are better at using those digital skills to gain more education and to find work. Findings also suggest that digital fluency help women find and stay in their jobs, it also improves their chances to excel at education.

When women get the opportunities to change their perspectives and access to avenues through ICTs, their economic empowerment impact a whole set of factors even in informal settings. For example, in Rwanda, some 3,500 women farmers are now connected through mobile technology to information, markets and finance.

In India women are creating businesses with impact from their homes using digital platforms. Movements against harassment and violence have started from the internet and have empowered women to speak their truth impacting societal change.

However, to improve gender equality in tech and entrepreneurship, we need to plan and design for it. Men still continue to use digital technologies more frequently than women and are more proactive in learning new digital skills.

This can be partly attributed to how our education systems are designed that discourage women from STEM as well as to access to opportunities to learn digital skills for women. Women must be encouraged to improve their digital skill set. Training and online courses can be a very good avenue for learning new digital skills.

Programmes that are

designed to attract startups must specifically target women inclusion in them. Tech initiatives should aim at creating more and more spaces for women where they can develop digital skills especially for economic empowerment, identify their own potential to lead and learn about available opportunities.

Especially in developing countries, governments should take lead in creating digital training platforms for women that not only reach urban women but also empower rural women. This should be complemented by gender inclusive ICT policies at the government level that ensure women and girls affordable access to digital technologies.

Women startups should be encouraged and financed for success on priority. Women mentors in digital world must be made visible and accessible to women learning digital skills.

Local initiatives can play a very important role in digital training of women. Local campaigns to create awareness and interest of available digital literacy opportunities can go a long way in empowering women.

Despite its promise of vast opportunities, the tech world remains a male arena. If we want to create a peaceful and equal world for all then we need to open the arena to all.

Agencies

# Address malnutrition, not just food security

KUALA LUMPUR

Malnutrition remains a formidable challenge in most societies, with less than a tenth of countries in the world not experiencing at least one major malnutrition problem.

In relatively more food secure countries, where almost everyone has enough to eat, and few live in fear of a sudden loss of access to food, micronutrient deficiencies and diet-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs) often still loom large.

One such country is Malaysia where rice is, by and large, available and affordable to almost everyone. However, what else Malaysians eat is quite problematic, causing to undernutrition in terms of micronutrients and other food-related health problems.

Malaysia has long been a melting pot of different cultures, resulting in various traditional foods and food customs coming together and changing with new technological, demographic, environmental, market and other behavioural influences.

Like most other societies, Malaysia has not been exempt from global trends, with greater food consumption away from home, and the growing



popularity of 'convenience foods', deep-frying as well as sugared food and beverages.

Diets must improve. Undernutrition, or nutrient deficiencies, remains high, even though hunger, or dietary energy undernourishment, has greatly declined. However, stunting among children under 5 increased from 17.2% in 2006 to 20.7% in 2016, as the share of underweight children rose from 12.9% to 13.7%.

Public health efforts should ensure adequate

micronutrient absorption in daily food consumption as deficiencies causing serious problems are largely ignored. For instance, median Malaysian calcium intake was less than half the recommended level in 2014.

Meanwhile, 4.9 million Malaysians were anaemic, around half women of reproductive age. Temporary supplementation for pregnant women is desperately needed, but anaemia in the general population deserves far more attention.

Overweight and obesity increase the risks of many NCDs such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and cancers. Alarming, NCDs are now the leading cause of premature death and disability. Malaysia is now among the 'heaviest' societies in Asia, with 17.7% of adults obese, and a further 30.0% overweight in 2015.

In less than two decades, the prevalence of diabetes increased from 6.9% in 1996 to 17.5% in 2015. NCDs reduce productivity and quality of life, and unnecessarily raise

health costs, both private and public, with 10-19% of national healthcare spending in 2018 obesity-related.

While dietary energy consumption, mainly of carbohydrates, initially rises with income, further increases in food spending tend to increase dietary diversity.

But without nutrition awareness, changing food behaviours are typically influenced by new cultural norms, e.g., convenience considerations, peer

influence, advertising and fads.

Overweight and obesity are also subject to genetics, behaviour, food consumption, physical activity, illness and globalization, e.g., more 'food processing' and 'convenience foods'. Tackling these factors will improve health and use of scarce healthcare resources.

Improving policies. Like others, Malaysia's nutrition programmes and policies have evolved. Post-independence nutrition programmes initially

focused on improving living conditions among rural populations who constituted over two-thirds of its population in the late 1960s.

These efforts have included school feeding programmes, especially for poor children. But such programmes have been undermined by poor intersectoral, multi-stakeholder coordination, inadequate financing, limited human resource capacities and capabilities as well as poor monitoring and evaluation.

A well-organized, government-financed universal school lunch programme can not only improve nutrition for children, but also farmer incomes and food safety. These have successfully inculcated good habits in children, such as better nutrition, health awareness, physical development, learning, academic performance and cooperation.

In countries ranging from Brazil to China, procurement for such programmes has improved food production, increased incomes for farmers and others, parental participation in ensuring food safety and quality, instead of merely enriching transnational food giants. Better food for all

Marketing of 'junk' and other unhealthy foods causing malnutrition needs to be restricted, especially to children, e.g., with stricter regulation of food and beverages sold in school canteens.

Food safety will also need to be improved, e.g., by reducing the overuse of antibiotics for animal, including fish breeding, and of pesticides, most of which also harm humans.

The recent California court decision deeming a popular herbicide carcinogenic raises questions about 'no-till' agriculture promotion, ostensibly to increase carbon sequestration in farm top soil, to mitigate greenhouse gas contributions to global warming from agriculture.

'All-of-government' nutrition strategies are needed to effectively and comprehensively tackle national malnutrition challenges. Sustainable food systems are needed to promote healthy diets, while public nutrition education is badly needed for both children and adults.

Like other middle-income countries, Malaysia has considerably improved food availability, affordability and stability. What remains is to improve nutrition, health and wellbeing, especially by tackling micronutrient deficiencies and diet-related NCDs.

Agencies

## UN Chief warns of rising misogyny, xenophobia, discrimination, racism and hate speech

ROME

As we prepare to bid farewell to 2019, we must take a clear-sighted look at the global situation and the new challenges we face.

Our world is undergoing a shift. It is no longer bipolar or unipolar. But it is not yet truly multipolar. Balances of power are changing, creating new and dangerous risks.

Around the globe - and just a few hundred kilometres from here - national and regional tensions are spreading.

The Sahel, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan - these conflicts are causing terrible suffering and uprooting millions of people.

Rather than wars between sovereign States, we now see asymmetric conflicts between States and non-State groups. With the growing interference of third parties, these conflicts rapidly take on a regional dimension and are linked to new forms of global instability and terrorism.

The impact of the Libyan conflict on the Sahel and the Lake Chad regions shows how national conflicts can draw in neighbouring states and global powers, creating regional insecurity with implications across continents.

It is particularly worrying to see that the Security Council has declared an arms embargo and that we have several member states providing weapons.

In the background to these conflicts is the renewed threat of nuclear proliferation, which is making a worrying comeback.

If we hope to make our world more peaceful and secure, we must start by addressing the underlying causes of tension and conflict.

Prevention is more essential than ever; and prevention on the scale we need is only possible through multilateral



Antonio Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General, in an address to the Italian Senate. File photo

ism. That is why all the work of the United Nations is based on crisis prevention and mediation; combating violent extremism and strengthening peace and security; advancing sustainable, inclusive development; and protecting the human rights and dignity of all people, everywhere.

We are pursuing all these efforts in cooperation with regional organizations, including the European Union, a long-standing and essential partner.

I want to focus on five areas in which we face new risks and widening fault lines - and suggest some ways of solutions.

The first area is a failure of global solidarity with the most vulnerable.

I arrived in Rome from Geneva, where I attended the Global Refugee Forum. This forum aims to turn the Global Compact on Refugees, agreed by governments last year, into action, by sharing responsibility for refugees between members of the international community.

I commend the openness, care and compassion the Italians have shown towards tens of thousands of refugees who have arrived on your shores in recent years.

It is deeply troubling that refugees and migrants continue to die as they cross seas and deserts. We must do everything we can to prevent it, by taking action in countries of origin, transit countries and countries of destination.

Above all, we need collective responses,

including development programmes that target young people with opportunities and jobs in regions of origin. We must investigate and prosecute the human traffickers and criminal networks that profit from people's misery.

We must strengthen regular pathways for migration and the resettlement of refugees.

And honour the integrity of the international refugee protection regime, not just in words, but in deeds.

European Mediterranean countries that receive refugees and migrants like Greece and Italy are entitled to solidarity and support from their European partners. Unfortunately, until now, we have not seen that solidarity and support fully materialized.

It is unacceptable that people who fear for their lives are being blamed for societies' problems. We must all support each other.

We are seeing a troubling pushback against human rights around the world, including rising misogyny, xenophobia, discrimination, racism and hate speech of all kinds.

Populists try to exploit discontent and division to win and keep power.

We must challenge them with leadership and political courage, based on reason and facts. That is why I have initiated two new strategies at the United Nations: to safeguard religious sites, and to combat hate speech in all its forms.

Diversity is not a threat but an asset. But

it requires investment in social cohesion, so that every community feels that its identity is respected, and every person can participate fully in society as a whole.

The second troubling disconnect is between people and planet.

The climate crisis is no longer a long-term problem. It is here. And it is now.

It is a dangerous reality for many people, especially those living in some of the poorest and most vulnerable countries in the world. While they contribute the least to greenhouse gas emissions, they are suffering most.

I saw this myself last year when I visited the Caribbean and Mozambique in the aftermath of devastating storms. And I have to say, you madame president have spoken about that. My first trip when I got married was to Italy.

And I was so deeply shocked when seeing on television the dramatic impact of climate change and that wonderful pearl of European civilization. I want to express my deep solidarity with Venice and with Italy.

We have fooled ourselves

into thinking we can fool nature. But nature is fighting back, with a vengeance.

The last few years have been the hottest ever recorded. Sea levels are the highest in human history. Icecaps are receding and deserts are expanding. Our ecosystems are facing unprecedented threats.

Climate-related natural disasters are becoming more frequent, more deadly and more destructive, with growing human and financial costs.

Drought in some parts of the world is progressing at alarming rates, endangering food security, triggering conflicts, and forcing people from their homes.

Every year, air pollution associated with climate change kills seven million people. The climate crisis is a dramatic threat to human health and human security. And this is just the beginning.

If we fail to act now, history will record that we had all the tools needed to change - but we chose not to. Our children and grandchildren will not forgive us if we sacrifice their future for fake short-term profit.

The emperor Nero is still remembered, rightly or wrongly, for fiddling while Rome burned. Do we want to be remembered as the generation that fiddled while our planet burned?

I am disappointed, as I said in the aftermath of the meeting, with the results of the climate talks, COP25, in Madrid.

The international community missed an opportunity to show increased ambition in mitigation, adaptation and finance in order to be able to tackle the climate crisis.

But as I also said, we will not give up. It was clear at the talks that most countries are still determined to advance more ambitious climate action, and that businesses and financial institutions are moving ahead.

The science is clear: we must reduce greenhouse emissions by 45 per cent by 2030; achieve carbon neutrality by 2050; and limit the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius by the end of the century.

Even if the Paris commitments are fully respected, they will not be enough to set us on that path. But many countries are not even meeting those commitments. Greenhouse gas emissions are still growing at an alarming rate.

We are currently on target to produce nearly three times as much coal as is safe for our planet and for our future. But having said so, my message remains one of hope, not of despair.

The scientific community tells us that the roadmap to stay below 1.5 degrees is still within reach - if we act now.

The technologies needed are already available. And the signs of hope are multiplying. More and more cities, financial institutions and businesses, civil societies entities are committing to the 1.5 degree pathway.

The most important sign of hope is that young people are mobilizing and taking the lead everywhere - including in Europe. But we need more political will.

It is time to put a price on carbon and stop subsidizing fossil fuels with taxpayers' money. We must stop rewarding pollution that is killing people and tax carbon rather than income. The polluters - not the people - must pay.

We must stop building coal power plants in the world from 2020 onwards. And stop digging and drilling and take advantage of the vast possibilities offered by renewable energy and nature-based solutions.

The world's largest emitters must pull their weight. Without them, our goal is unreachable. I welcome the EU's recent commitment to become carbon

neutral by 2050 and to work on a European Green Deal, including a more ambitious mitigation target for 2030, and funds for a just transition to a green economy.

Next year's conference, COP26, hosted by the United Kingdom in partnership with Italy, will be a defining moment. In the 12 months ahead, we must keep climate ambition at the top of the international agenda.

We must secure more ambitious national commitments - particularly from the countries with the highest emissions - to start reducing greenhouse gas emissions immediately, consistent with reaching carbon neutrality by 2050.

We must also meet the expectations of developing countries for resources and support towards adaptation and mitigation, disaster response and recovery.

We cannot ignore the social dimensions of the transition in energy. National commitments must include a just transition for people whose jobs and livelihoods are affected.

We have no time to waste and we fully trust Italy's leadership in the preparations of COP26. The global solidarity gap and the climate crisis are linked with three other widening fault lines that should concern us all.

First is the risk of an economic, technological and geo-strategic fault line dividing the world in two.

The two largest economies, the U.S. and China, could create two separate and competing areas of influence, each with its own dominant currency, trade and financial rules, and military strategies. Each would have its own internet and its own forms of artificial intelligence.

Agencies

# AfDB appeals to African nations to continue with climate change ambitions

MADRID

THE African Development Bank has urged the continent's nations to stay the course on climate action, after a marathon session of talks at the twenty-fifth Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 25) in Madrid.

At the just-concluded conference Africans were reminded of the all-too-real consequences if these talks fail to deliver results. Thousands of East Africans have been displaced in the wake of heavy rains that have battered the region since October, and more wet weather is expected due to an Indian Ocean Dipole attributed to the warming of the ocean.

Such extreme weather events should galvanise Africans; their governments are spending 2% of GDP on climate related disasters, said Anthony Nyong, Director for Climate Change and Green Growth at the African Development Bank. He encouraged the global community to remain steadfast in finding effective solutions to climate change. The annual

negotiations are now in their 25th year.

"The global community, and in particular Africa has a lot to offer in terms of solutions; what is evidently lacking is the global political will to turn potential into wealth to serve humanity and the planet," said Nyong, who led the Bank's delegation to the UN conference.

At the conference, African delegates pushed for support for climate finance to build resilience against the impact of climate change and for special consideration for Africa around targets contained in the treaties under discussion.

The discussions at COP 25 centred around the landmark 2015 Paris Agreement, which calls on countries to cut carbon emissions to ensure that global temperatures do not rise by more than 2°C by the end of this century, while attempting to contain it within 1.5°C. The conference ended with a declaration on the "urgent need" to close the gap between existing emissions pledges and the temperature goals of the Paris agreement.

The African Development Bank attended the conference to lend strategic support to its regional member countries in the negotiations.

Nyong pointed out that Africa is committed; 51 of the 54 African countries have already ratified their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement signed at the landmark COP21 in Paris. The NDCs are specific climate change targets that each country must set.

Support for the Bank-funded Desert to Power project highlighted Africa's determination to strive for a climate-friendly world, especially for its local populations, said Nyong. Desert to Power is a \$20 billion initiative to deploy solar energy solutions across the entire Sahel region, generating 10,000 MW to provide 250 million people with clean electricity.

"The African Development Bank stands ready as ever to assist its regional member countries to build resilience against climate change, as indicated by the Bank's decision to join the Alliance

for Hydromet Development, announced at COP 25. The Alliance will assist developing countries to build resilience against the impact of natural disasters caused by extreme weather," Nyong said.

The Bank will also continue to drive initiatives to strengthen the ability of regional member countries to advocate robustly at global forums such as COP 25, Nyong added. One example was the Bank's participation at the annual African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) and support for the Africa Group of Negotiations (AGN).

"We look forward to engaging further with regional member countries and other parties to ensure that the continent's development agenda remains on track," Nyong added.

Leaders and institutions from 196 nations plus the European Union, who have signed up to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, attended the conference in Madrid. (Distributed by APO Group)



Exim Bank head of human resources Frederick Kanga (2nd-L) joined by colleagues in receiving two awards - Overall Winners in the Best Local Employers category and Overall Winner in Employee Engagement category - at the Employer of the Year Awards (EYA) for 2019 organised by the Association of Tanzanian Employers. The awards ceremony was held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Gender violence should not be treated as mission accomplished

By Guardian Reporter

GENDER-based violence, specifically violence against women (VAW) is one of the leading causes of death of women between the ages of 19 and 44 globally.

According to Association for Progressive Communications, the figure is generally higher in countries where women's rights are not sufficiently guaranteed or respected.

International instruments have set out governments' obligations to prevent and respond to violence against women. Many countries enacted special legislation or established new divisions focused on violence against women, but the results are not good enough.

The consequences for women can be fatal. Unless governments are held accountable for promises to prevent and eradicate VAW, prosecute perpetrators and provide adequate support for survivors, the situation will not change.

Gender based violence is affecting societies in African countries including Tanzania and the country has intensified war against the problem yet; the issue cannot and should not be treated as a mission accomplished.

It should not be considered mission accomplished because the problem is still big in some parts of the country. Cultural factors are believed to exacerbate the problem.

In Mara region, the problem is big with different types of gender-based violence being practiced and indeed, this problem bears magnitude consequences especially for women and girls.

Such tradition include 'Nyumba ntobhu' (house without a man)-form of non-sexual same-sex union among Kuiru women of the Mara Region whereby the partnerships are formed between older, usually widowed women without male descendants and younger, childless women, known as mokamöna (daughters in

law).

Tanzania has ratified a number of international conventions that provide for the rights of women and girls particularly those who are at risk of and affected by child marriages.

In some areas of the region sometimes, a girl is forced to get married in childhood, some as early as at 11 years old, so as to provide for her brother to get a dowry in order to marry.

In most cases, fathers are always at fault because they are the one who at the forefront of arranging the marriage despite young age of their children and in most cases this happens immediately after undergoing Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), which is another worst form of gender violence.

The young girls also suffer because of bride price, which is normally given to the parents of the girl as a way of thanking them and her relatives for taking care of her. The girls pay heavy price of beating and other sort of violence because men think they have the right to do so because some of them pay so many cows as dowry.

Beating of women is also common in Mara region, especially in Tarime district. It is believed that Kurya women consider that if they are not beaten by their husbands or lovers, they are not loved.

However, after series of education among women in the region, to some extent, this is changing as women no longer think so, but the men have not changed and still beat them. Beating is a continuous cycle, as it happens between spouses, sometimes a brother also beats his sisters if they do not do house work or they do something wrong. Some of the girls acknowledged;

In efforts to prevent and eradicate gender based violence, the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Simon Sirro said they will continue to prosecute perpetrators and provide adequate support for survivors.



Speaking at an occasion to officially open Police Gender and Children's Desks (PGCDs) at different police posts in Mara region recently, IGP Sirro said the situation will not change if offenders are not taken to task and he demanded the desks to operate 24 hours as a response mechanism.

The launch of the Desks in Bunda, Butiama and Serengeti Districts from 27 to 29 November coincided with the 16 Days of Activism, a global campaign that calls for an end to gender-based violence (GBV) which runs from 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, to Human Rights Day on 10 December.

The construction of the three PGCDs in Mara region mean that women who are reporting incidents of violence no longer have to approach the main desk in the police station but are taken to a separate building, where officers - predominantly female - are specially trained to handle cases such as domestic violence, rape and sexual assault.

Officers working at the desks are also closely linked to teams working in the healthcare and social service sectors, maximizing efficiencies and ensuring that survivors receive the timely care and support they need to start rebuilding their lives.

IGP Sirro came up with 'reasonable force' campaign, which police officers are generally allowed to use reasonable not excessive force to take a person into custody.

Sirro visited several police stations and posts in Serengeti, Butiama and Buda and singled out male dominance culture as a problem in Mara region, insisting that the police force will not tolerate any kind of discrimination and violence in the country.

"It is unfortunate that men in Mara region are using their girl children as source of income. They trade them with cows for dowry. This is inhuman and a backward trend which should not be entertained."

"We cannot tolerate backwardness... all sorts of discrimination and violence,

be it gender or of any kind in the country, will be dealt with accordingly," warned commander Sirro.

The IGP ordered police officers to arrest all men who batter their wives as well as parents who fail to take their children to school but insisted such arrest should not be conducted excessively.

Sirro said in 2018, a total of 43,480 cases of gender based violence were reported countrywide and 41,416 cases have so far been reported this year.

He also called on religion leaders to step to preach and pray to their congregations for them to shun practices that cause pain and discriminate others.

On his side, Butiama District Commissioner (DC) Annarose Nyamubi said child marriages and early pregnancies remain a big problem in the district, saying that the government is committed to mitigate the problem.

"In some areas, commitments go unmet as prevention and response mechanisms are weak, uncoordinated and often un-

der-resourced," he said.

DC Nyamubi said the problem of gender violence in the district is divided into several segments which include women battery, early pregnancies, impregnating school girls and child marriages.

"I call upon national and international organisations as well as IGP to work closely with our office and I'm convinced that this problem will be solved because we are dealing with human beings, who only need to be educated and in some cases enforcement of the law," he said.

Several Butiama residents have asked the government to step up efforts in the fight against gender violence, saying the scourge is hurting innocent and the weak section of the society.

In response, several men who were reached for the commentsin regard to the opening of gender desks in Mara region said it will create a problem and distablis marriages. They argued that some women and girls will develop rebellion.

"We have heard what

commander Sirro has said but I personally cannot deise beating my wife in case I catch her cheating with another man...I can hardly take this matter to the gender desk," lamented one of the man, who refused to disclose his name.

Bunda District Commissioner (DC) Ms Lidya Bupilipili said one of the biggest challenges in the district is the use of birth control plan by school going girls, which only suggest that most of them are engaging in underage sex practices.

She complained, "Parents are investing heavily on unnecessary things...they invest into things which have little or no value whatsoever to their families, instead of investing their time and resources in educating their children. In this case, most children especially girls are cut looseand begin to practice bad behaviors."

In the case of gender violence, Ms Bupilipili said it is unfortunate that the problem has refused to end in the district and in most cases; it is men who mistreat women and girls.

"I've never received a case in which a man is butchered by woman but cases of women being attacked by machetes are rampant... it is unfortunate that some of the village leaders do not see it as a problem and they believe that it is part of their customs," lamented the DC.

Tanzania has ratified a number of international conventions that provide for these rights of girls and young women in the country, particularly those who are at risk of and affected by child marriages.

Several stakeholders including the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) have been working closely with the government in the fight against gender based violence.

UNFPA continues to support efforts to build a stronger response to violence against women and children in Tanzania with the launch of three PGCDs in Mara region.

UNFPA, supported by the

governments of Norway and Sweden through the One Fund, has equipped PGCDs in Zanzibar and Manyara Region over the past year and continues to support the Children's Dignity Forum (a Tanzanian NGO) to build the capacity of Police to handle GBV cases effectively, treating survivors with dignity.

An additional three PGCDs, constructed with UNFPA's support, were set to be launched in Buhigwe, Manyovu and Uvinza, Kigoma Region this month, adding to the 420 plus desks that are now operational across Tanzania and Zanzibar.

UNFPA Representative in Tanzania Jacqueline Mahon, urged women and children to use the PGCDs in Mara region and to speak out and break the wall of silence and shame that exists around violence, reemphasizing UNFPA Tanzania's commitment to accelerating efforts to achieve zero GBV against women and girls by 2030 and a Tanzania in which every woman and child enjoys their right to live a life free of violence.

Notwithstanding, the government's commitment, violence against women is a common occurrence in Mara Region - 61 per cent of women (aged 15 to 45 years) have been subjected to physical violence while 23 per cent have experienced sexual violence - both figures higher than the already high national average. But survivors rarely tell their stories with only 9 per cent of women in Tanzania making a report to the Police, citing limited resources for care and support as their main reason for remaining silent.

Experts say, elimination of violence, including the cultural acceptance of violence, is fundamental to achieving societies where all people have the capacity to live dignified lives free from fear, discrimination and associated poor health outcomes, and all UN member states have signed a commitment to eliminate such violence against women and girls.

# Carbon markets can provide a crucial part of the solution to the climate crisis

SEOUL, South Korea

One of the main discussions at the COP25 climate change talks was [HYPERLINK "https://www.reuters.com/article/us-climate-change-agreement-carbon-trading/madrid-climate-negotiators-seek-to-break-deadlock-on-role-of-carbon-markets-idUSKBN1YE2E7"](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-climate-change-agreement-carbon-trading/madrid-climate-negotiators-seek-to-break-deadlock-on-role-of-carbon-markets-idUSKBN1YE2E7) Article 6, which is designed to provide financial support to emerging economies and developing countries to help them reduce emissions by using global carbon markets. Carbon pricing is an essential piece of the puzzle to curb emissions. Without a value on carbon, there is less incentive to make positive changes, especially in the private sector. The most efficient way to carry this forward is to allow trading of carbon both nationally and internationally, which will ensure the lowest cost of mitigation for participants globally.

The COP25 negotiations in Madrid have largely been dominated by Article 6 negotiations on potential carbon markets as they are perceived by many, including businesses, as a way to generate financial flows to emerging economies and developing countries, and to re-

duce emissions at the lowest possible cost. Thus, it's crucial to adopt decisions on Article 6 as rules need to be set to show how such markets will operate - this is the guidance the Article 6 rulebook will create. The sooner the better, overall mitigation in global emissions (OMGE) will be possible under the Paris Agreement through international carbon trading with aspects such as corresponding adjustments, which were lacking under the Kyoto Protocol. Carbon markets are a way to not only manage HYPERLINK "https://www.theguardian.com/science/2019/dec/13/richer-nations-accused-of-stalling-progress-on-climate-crisis" Article 6, which is designed to provide financial support to emerging economies and developing countries to help them reduce emissions by using global carbon markets. Carbon pricing is an essential piece of the puzzle to curb emissions. Without a value on carbon, there is less incentive to make positive changes, especially in the private sector. The most efficient way to carry this forward is to allow trading of carbon both nationally and internationally, which will ensure the lowest cost of mitigation for participants globally.

The HYPERLINK "https://www.theguardian.com/science/2019/dec/13/richer-nations-accused-of-stalling-progress-on-climate-crisis" Article 6, which is designed to provide financial support to emerging economies and developing countries to help them reduce emissions by using global carbon markets. Carbon pricing is an essential piece of the puzzle to curb emissions. Without a value on carbon, there is less incentive to make positive changes, especially in the private sector. The most efficient way to carry this forward is to allow trading of carbon both nationally and internationally, which will ensure the lowest cost of mitigation for participants globally.



US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (C) during the UN Climate Change Conference COP25 at the 'IFEMA - Feria de Madrid' exhibition centre, in Madrid, on December 2, 2019. File photo

programs, funded by developed country governments such as Norway and Sweden. GGGI is working with the Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment on wider policy approaches, which have been made possible under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement through cooperative approaches. This program looks at helping its member and partner governments to identify areas above their Nationally

Determined Contribution (NDC) targets, where emissions reductions directly resulting from policy interventions are quantified and transacted. This creates a flow of carbon finance, in exchange for the transfer of the resultant internationally transferred mitigation outcomes (ITMOs). These programs will not only create ITMO transactions but also set up the lasting infrastructure needed for countries

to be able to govern and properly account for future transfers, ensuring environmental integrity and transparency.

GGGI has a key role to play. A further good example is HYPERLINK "https://www.gggi.org/swedish-energy-agency-and-global-green-growth-institute-partner-to-establish-article-6-activities" Article 6, which is designed to provide financial support to emerging economies and developing countries to help them reduce emissions by using global carbon markets. Carbon pricing is an essential piece of the puzzle to curb emissions. Without a value on carbon, there is less incentive to make positive changes, especially in the private sector. The most efficient way to carry this forward is to allow trading of carbon both nationally and internationally, which will ensure the lowest cost of mitigation for participants globally.

The two organizations will work together to catalyze international trading of mitigation outcomes in support of the increased climate ambitions needed under the Paris Agreement. Through a joint cooperation, SEA and GGGI will identify and structure mitigation activities and support the establishment of governance frameworks within host countries as required under the developing rulebook of Article 6 of

the Paris Agreement, with the goal of completing ITMO transactions.

Although specific rules related to cooperative approaches under Article 6 have yet to be codified, Article 6 aims at supporting the authorization of international emissions trades while avoiding double counting and ensuring environmental integrity, permitting the movement of the related emission reductions be-

tween registries, and better linking national emission trading schemes, project-level transactions, and cooperative approaches.

What next? Carbon markets can and should be seen as an opportunity to lower the cost of cutting greenhouse gas emissions and enabling countries to commit to more ambitious targets. At next year's Glasgow climate change conference, countries need to come forward with more ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions. GGGI's work on pioneering designs for international carbon transactions over 2020 will help shape how the carbon markets can contribute to this increased ambition. It has also made the 2020 NDCs a priority in HYPERLINK "https://www.gggi.org/site/assets/uploads/2018/03/GGGI-at-a-Glance-Brochure-191107-WEB.pdf" Article 6, which is designed to provide financial support to emerging economies and developing countries to help them reduce emissions by using global carbon markets. Carbon pricing is an essential piece of the puzzle to curb emissions. Without a value on carbon, there is less incentive to make positive changes, especially in the private sector. The most efficient way to carry this forward is to allow trading of carbon both nationally and internationally, which will ensure the lowest cost of mitigation for participants globally.

# Trophy hunting: No place for forced removals in wildlife conservation

By Ivo Vegter

The countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) have been demanding for animal rights groups to be kicked out of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), if the treaty is to be saved; by their opposition to the principle of sustainable use in conservation (read: hunting), animal rights groups from the rich world are dismissing the views of range state countries that actually have charismatic animals to protect.

Two weeks ago, the Conservation Action Trust, a South African animal rights group, published an opinion piece by Ross Harvey in these pages. In it, he declares that trophy hunting, as advocated for by SADC range states, "may entrench a Western narrative of supremacy underpinned by chauvinistic, colonialist and crudely utilitarian anthropocentric attitudes".

So African countries are colonising themselves, now? The SADC declaration at the close of the most recent CITES conference included this paragraph:

"This anti-sustainable use and anti-trade ideology now dominates decisions made by many states who are party to CITES. States are increasingly influenced by the dominance both at meetings of the decision-making structures of CITES and in their run-up by protectionist NGOs whose ideological position has no basis in science or experience and is not shared in any way by the Member States of SADC and their people."

But the Conservation Action Trust will have none of it. Harvey acknowledges the science that trophy hunting

bans imperil biodiversity, but he agrees with a response that policy should be based not only on science, but also on emotion. And his emotions, it seems, trump the views of millions of Africans.

He'd have us believe that unlike hunting, telling Africans what to think and how to manage their affairs do not "entrench a Western narrative of supremacy underpinned by chauvinistic, colonialist attitudes".

Perhaps the uppity SADC representatives should have asked his permission before threatening to withdraw from CITES because they were sick of Westerners telling them what to do.

In his headline and opening paragraph, he invokes the sixth extinction, disappearing birds, and disappearing biodiversity, as if they are somehow caused or made worse by trophy hunting. They aren't.

The narrative of a "sixth mass extinction" is not only wildly exaggerated, as was the recent paper about disappearing birds, but extinctions are largely caused by habitat loss, not trophy hunting.

"Morally, the idea of hunting any species faced with plausible extinction is intuitively disturbing," he writes. But it isn't, and intuition isn't science. In 1965, game in South Africa was practically extinct outside its national parks. While domesticated livestock numbers increased by a factor of 4.5 during the 20th century, the number of game halved.

Since the advent of the private game ranching industry in the 1970s and the law that established private game ownership in 1991, numerous species have been brought back from the brink of extinction, and game numbers



— contrary to what happened in East and West Africa — began to rise again.

Today, National Parks and protected areas account for six million hectares, or about 5% of South Africa's land area, supporting six million head of game.

Private game ranches cover more than 21 million hectares, supporting a similar number of game.

When I was a kid, in the 1970s and 1980s, we used to visit Kruger often as a family. I recall vividly how rare sightings of big antelope such as roan and sable were. Even today, South Africa's National Parks support fewer than 500 sable antelope, fewer than 200 roan antelope and only about 1,000 bontebok. All are more rare than black rhino, which number 1,382 on state land. The private game ranching industry has bred these species right out of trouble, however. Today, private ranches, reserves or farms host 4,500 sable, 2,300 roan and more than 7,000 bontebok.

In some cases, private game ranches account for 90% of the total popu-

lation of wildlife species.

Elsewhere, African species that are critically endangered or extinct in the wild, like the scimitar-horned oryx, the addax and the dama gazelle, roam the Texas plains in their hundreds, entirely supported by hunting revenue.

Harvey claims that trophy hunters consist "largely" of "Western individuals". In South Africa, at least, that is far from true. Foreign hunters account for only 18% of the game ranching industry's total revenue. Local hunters account for 54%. By contrast, eco-tourism, which is often proposed as an alternative by animal rights groups, accounts for only 5% of total revenue.

The reason for this is simple. The vast majority of game ranches are not in scenic locations on the beaten tourist track. The few that are well-positioned to profit from eco-tourism likely already do so. Some operate as dual-purpose facilities, supporting eco-tourism, but making the majority of their revenue from hunting

parties, and ensuring that the twain never meet. Many others couldn't hope to attract the hundreds of photographic tourists it would take to make up for the fees paid by a single big game hunter.

Harvey mentions the experience of declining elephant numbers in the Selous Game Reserve, but both he and the source he cites conflate hunting with poaching, and never offer data to support which is the actual threat to game populations. They mention "rampant corruption", without explaining why they then lay the blame at the door of trophy hunters.

Nor do they address the fact that hunting alone is not necessarily the complete answer. South Africa's game numbers only took off once private property rights in game were established. Unlike in Tanzania, most hunting in South Africa is not subject to quotas set by the government. It is controlled by private ranch owners, who each know best how to manage their own game.

They also ignore contradictory evi-

dence, such as the Bube Valley Conservancy in Zimbabwe, which was converted from a barren cattle ranch to a thriving reserve supporting all of the Big Five, funded exclusively by trophy and meat hunting.

Many more private game ranches and reserves depend for a large part of their income on trophy hunting. With only a small share of revenue coming from ecotourism, the idea of prohibiting hunting would be so counterproductive as to be ridiculous.

Harvey says trophy hunting is typically defended under a "consequentialist moral framework". That is, because the outcomes are expected to be good for society and wildlife, it is deemed morally acceptable. Then he says "the failure of consequentialism lies in its inability to omnisciently predict the collective outcome with any degree of computing accuracy".

It seems weird to admit positive outcomes, yet complain that you can't perfectly predict them. Besides, the consequences of prohibiting hunting are very well documented. Kenya lost more than 80% of its wildlife since banning hunting in 1977.

Paolo Strampelli is a postgraduate conservation biologist with an aversion to hunting, works in southern Tanzania, specialising in large carnivore conservation. He explains that banning hunting, as advocated by animal rights idealists, will have dire consequences for Africa's wildlife.

"As a conservation biologist, while I of course care about the welfare of individuals, the main priority for me will always have to be the long-term survival of the population," he writes in an article republished by Africa Geographic. "Both myself and other fellow conservation biologists that have spent time on the ground learning about the issue, and who share these views, care deeply about wildlife. Our main interest is try and ensure that policy decisions help provide these threatened populations with the best long-term chance of survival. We have seen what happens when wildlife has no value: millions of acres of wild land can be lost in the space of

a few years; within months, farms and cattle take the place of wildlife which has been there since the dawn of man. More lions can be poisoned or killed in retaliation for livestock losses in one location in a month than are killed through trophy hunting in one year across the whole country in one year."

No wonder Harvey doesn't like consequentialist morality. The consequences of his emotional and anti-scientific views, were they to be imposed on African wildlife range states, would indeed be terrible.

Unless... well, unless we hear about the alternatives to trophy hunting that Harvey says do exist, and for which he says "global funding for their replication and scaling is now necessary".

He doesn't tell us what those alternatives are, beyond linking to an article, presumably in the hope that we'd simply accept it's true without checking. What he concealed is that the cited article actually advocates "green militarisation and human population displacement".

You read that right. He wants to impose forced removals upon poor, rural African populations by militarised eco-warriors, because it works. And he's worried that hunting is "morally reprehensible"? He's worried that hunting is an expression of colonialism? This is simply astounding.

Harvey and the Conservation Action Trust demonstrate that SADC countries are right to believe that animal rights lobby groups care more about animals than they do about African people.

For them to lecture Africans about morality is despicable. Remind me again, why do they have a voice at CITES? Why should anyone listen to their ideology of neo-colonial oppression and misanthropic totalitarianism?

Agencies

## BUSINESS

FEEL GOOD

## New ways Africans are splurging on their physical and mental health

IMPRESSIVE

## Six incredible fashion designers in Africa include 2 Tanzanians

LAGOS

Ranging from established to up-and-coming, what we love is that despite international exposure, all are primarily still based on the continent.

Folake Folarin-Coker of Tiffany Amber in Nigeria

Whilst Lagos-born Folake Folarin-Coker spent most of her childhood in Europe, the Petroleum Law graduate returned to Nigeria in 1998 to launch the label Tiffany Amber. A decade later, she made her debut at Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week in New York. She returns this year as part of the Arise Magazine's African Icons show to present her "Rhythm of Africa" collection.

Taibo Bacar from Mozambique

This son of a dressmaker believes he was simply born with an eye for fashion. Since he began his formal career in 2005, Taibo Bacar has showed across the African continent including Tanzania, Angola, Botswana, and South Africa. In 2010, the Mozambican was the first African designer to present a collection at Milan Fashion Week.

Aisha Obuobi of Christie Brown in Ghana

Inspired by her seamstress grandmother, Christine Brown, Aisha Obuobi is the behind one of Africa's premium women's fashion brands. Obuobi won The Emerging Designer of the Year Award in 2009 at the inaugural Arise Africa Fashion Week in Johannesburg, and a year later was the only

Ghanaian label chosen to showcase in the Arise L'Afrique-a-Porter as part of Paris Fashion Week in March 2010.

Anisa Mpungwe of Loin Cloth and Ashes in Tanzania

In two years, 28-year old Anisa Mpungwe has gone from working out of a little studio in her parents' house to opening her flagship store in Johannesburg, South Africa. In 2008, she was the first black female to win the coveted Elle New Talent Competition and two years later was the first Tanzanian female to be invited to show Mercedes Benz New York Fashion Week as part of the Arise Magazine Collective show.

Mahlet Afework of Mafi in Ethiopia

While many 18-year olds might be trying to figure out what to do with their lives, Ethiopian Mahlet Afework founded her fashion label, Mafi. With her latest collection described as streetwise and sassy, Afework caters to clients wanting to be modern and edgy. Earlier this year she participated in the Africa Fashion Week held in New York.

Doreen Estazia Nomi of Eskado Bird in Tanzania

It all started at the age of three, when Tanzanian Doreen Nomi would play assistant in her mother's clothing boutique. From volunteering as a dresser at fashion shows to styling local celebrities, it was all in preparation for her to launch her own brand. Eskado Bird now has two distinct lines catering for both the high-end and more casual market.



Working out at a gym in Johannesburg.

JOHANNESBURG

There's a bustle of activity outside Virgin Active Gym in Johannesburg, South Africa. The door revolves continuously as people walk in and out. Inside, the floor is packed, and the air is thick with a cacophony of sounds.

There's the occasional clink of metal coming from the weights section, the fast-paced house music escaping from the Zumba studio, and the constant humming of treadmills and indoor bikes. This is a daily routine for many health and fitness enthusiasts, not only in South Africa, but across the continent.

You don't need to visit every country in Africa to realise how many Africans

are spending good money to stay in their best health. All it takes is a quick scroll through social media, and you'll see the magnitude of the growing health-oriented culture sweeping across the continent.

An increasing demand for wholesome foods

As more Africans become increasingly discerning about what they put in their mouths, healthy eating is turning into a lifestyle for those who can afford the price tag it comes with. As Google stated in its 2016 Food Trends Report, peo-

ple are, "Turning to food to fill needs beyond hunger or cravings."

They want to be educated on the impact of each ingredient on one's body, and how to optimise their diet in order to look and feel their best." The demand for wholesome foods is at an all-time high, and more people are willing to splurge for those special diets.

The organic food revolution is quietly sweeping across the world, and Africa isn't about to be left behind. Today, organic products are available in most stores all

over the continent as farmers produce large quantities to meet the increasing demand from Africa's growing middle class. The continent's top producers of organics include Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Tunisia, and Sudan. Investing in physical well-being

With the abundance of wellness information online, health junkies are combining nutritious diet and exercise to achieve the lifestyle they want. The health and fitness industry is among the most profitable industries in Africa.

Consider the latest report by The Economist that gym companies in South Africa rake in over R12 billion (more than US \$900 million) in revenue every year. According to the publication, this is the highest figure of any gym industry in the world. While the figure may not be representative of the whole continent, it paints a fair picture of how much Africans invest in their physical well-being.

Yoga is also massively gaining popularity on the continent as many people start to realise the physical, mental, and spiritual benefits of the practice. While yoga has become highly commercialised and associated with premium lifestyle, a Kenyan non-profit organisation is making the practice accessible to anyone. The Africa Yoga Project, an initiative launched in 2007 to empower the youth,

has grown into a continental phenomenon reaching out to various communities and teaching people about the benefits of the ancient tradition that dates back 5,000 years.

Health products and services on the rise

With more disposable income, Africa's growing middle class is the main driver of the healthy lifestyle trend. In Kenya, almost 50% of the population falls under this group, and the booming wellness market in the East African country has given rise to a wave of health companies eager to get a slice of this growing sector. One of India's largest weight management companies, VLCC Health Care, ventured into Kenya last year, offering consumers a fitness and diet plan that starts with an analysis of a customer's DNA.

At a time when customers know exactly what they want, it's important for brands to keep up with the changing consumer demands. Companies that don't meet consumer needs risk being left behind. Trendwatching.com predicts that, "Health products, services, and experiences that promise well-being and let users tell a story are bound to cause delight in 2017." All signs point to a growing health market in Africa, and for anyone looking to start a healthy foods business on the continent, there has never been a better time.



Anisa Mpungwe in her shop in South Africa.

## Meet the woman who finished her Master's degree in just 5 months

CAPE TOWN

From a very young age, Msa Mesatywa would watch the evening news and grew an interest in financial issues and the economy.

When Msa, who is from Mthatha, Eastern Cape, passed her matric in 2013 she wanted to become an accountant. However, when she applied to study at Nelson Mandela University she had to do an extended program to qualify for an accounting qualification.

After the first year, she realised she did not like accounting, so she took economics as a major. "That's how I fell in love with eco-

nomics," says the 25-year-old Msa. When she was a new university student doing her bachelor's and later honours degrees in economics, Msa struggled with time management and multi-tasking.

"I would always do things at the last minute and end up being under pressure, which resulted in me having heavy headaches and sleepless nights unnecessarily. I overcome that by drafting a schedule for my study times."

She mastered her scheduling skills and graduated with an honours in economics in April this year and submitted her research proposal for her master's degree a month later. Msa

had to work extremely hard and she studied for a minimum of 12 hours a day with only a one hour break in between in order to finish her master's in record time – which she did. "It was not easy, but I enjoyed the process," she says.

Msa graduated for the second time this year in early December. "Most people don't know that you can do a master's degree in five months. What happens is that [at Nelson Mandela University] you have an option of doing either research only, which is intense, or both coursework and research, which will take you a year to complete."

Msa acknowledges that

many students struggle in university as they also have to worry about how to finance their studies. Fortunately, she had a bursary and could focus all her energies on her studies without worrying about fees.

She is now preparing her research proposal for a PhD and hopes to present it and get accepted for the program early next year. Msa's family is very proud of her achievements. "Unfortunately, my parents passed away when I was in Grade 5 (mom) and Grade 10 (dad) and my aunts took over and they have been supportive ever since," says Msa. She looks forward to adding PhD to her growing list of qualifications.



Msa Mesatywa has plans to pursue a PhD degree.

## INTERVIEW

# How to start a wedding planning business; an entrepreneur's insights

KIGALI

Having observed the high rate of weddings and introduction ceremonies in Rwanda taking place most weekends, Diane Ingabire had no doubt that if she focused on the main highlights of such functions, such as decoration, food, clothes, it would earn her good revenue.

After conducting research on the necessary requirements, she started a Kigali based enterprise known as "Didy décor and events planner." Her company deals in events management, decorations, securing venues, and organizing weddings. She spoke to Business Times Joan Mbabazi about earning from Kigali's wedding scene.

## What impelled you to start this kind of business?

Ever since I was in high school, I have always wanted to be involved in for design and creativity. I was in charge of decorating the church, school parties. With my passion, I knew that I would suit best for this job.

When you compare the number of weddings that come up every weekend, I was sure I would earn from this business. I literally organize the whole wedding. All I need is the budget and plan a wedding that fits in the couple's pockets. In less than a year, the business has started paying off.

## What are your exact duties as an events planner?

I deal in Events management. I assist business people in applying project management to create and develop large-scale events such as festivals, conferences, ceremonies, weddings, formal parties, concerts, or conventions. I



facilitate business people with advice on hosting such events.

I also help them in making financial plans, find the venue of the events, cater for food and drinks, dress the groom, bride, groomsmen and maids and other aspects of the wedding such as the cake, sound systems, tents, makeup, chairs, decorations, hairstyling, among others.

## What are some of the trials you encounter in this business?

Winning clients' trust is a bit hard. Some panic, up to the last minute wondering if I will do for them a perfect job, surprisingly, when the wedding turns out successful, they bring me clients. Some clients don't want to be advised, they want me to do for them what they want, which sometimes is not good. But because they are my bosses, I respect their

requests. I also experience unrealistic expectations. Some clients want way too beyond what they paid for. All in all, although the couple might make some difficult choices, my job is to figure out the best possible options that work within the couple's budget.

## How can someone earn from this kind of business?

Event planners are always on demand; from weddings to corporate gatherings, there is always a need of someone who can help make an event run without hitch. You need to find a specific niche and become an expert in that niche. Contemplate what you most enjoy doing or who you would preferably like to work with. Conduct market and industry research, and take a good hard look at your competition to see any drains in your local event planning marketplace.

Social media should be a way to market yourself, for instance, post a few of your work on Instagram and Facebook. That will earn you clients and increase your reach. But most importantly, uniqueness should be key. People get bored of the same designs, you have to be creative. Wedding planners should focus on creating and sharing original visual content, either in shots from the last event they planned or a helpful infographics created.

In order to pull clients, combine your marketing approach with great customer service. Emphasis on creating a user personality based on your primary market research of your actual customers. This will help you get a clear understanding of your clients. It is advisable to free up your time to do what you do best, you will be able to bring in more clients and more money, while still providing the best service possible.

This could be through what you are good at. For example, this could be through popular tasks like, website construction and design, the creation of your logo, bookkeeping, and related tasks that are not directly linked to your work as an event planner.

Connect with industry professionals. Reach out to a network of decorators, caterers, florists, photographers, videographers, who do wedding planning events. Explain that you are expanding your business and what types of clients you prefer working with. Ask your connections if there are certain people they think you should connect with and ask if they could send an email introduction for you.

If you have a team of wedding planners taking on different events or team who support large-scale projects you plan, your business will make more money. If you have something on your mind, something that can help you raise your earnings, don't hesitate to try it. Discuss with your team, what else you can offer to attract more clients and grow your sales.

## So what do you base on while charging your clients?

Prices depend on the number of services that the clients would want. If I am doing literally everything, from the venue, decorations, music, to food and much more, the prices are higher. An event organized in a hall is more expensive than that organized in the gardens. The more requirements by the couple, the more expenses. Your wedding planner revenue depends on skills, location, and how well you promote your business. Charging what you are worth and cumulating your fees occasionally, is a vital factor.

## OUTSTANDING

# Why should you buy, read local books this Christmas

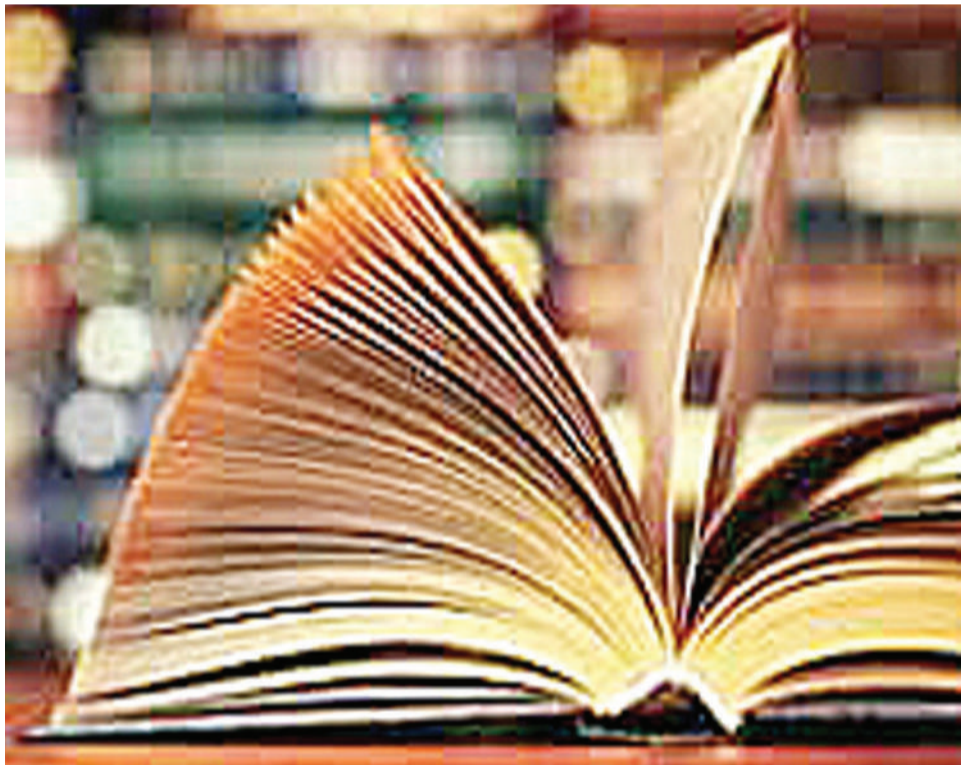
By Amy Heydenrych

Telling people what to read is a sensitive business. I take my book recommendations to others very seriously, but this season, if you're on your way to buy a few books for your holidays, think local.

To buy a book and read it is a pleasure reserved for one's precious spare time, a moment to escape and nurture your personal interests. So, while I could tell you to read local simply to support our country's authors, this would come across as unhelpful, patronising even. To position South African authors as in need of support intimates that the product on offer is possibly less competitive than its overseas counterparts.

The real reason to support South African writing is because the stories are damn good. We're at an exciting place in local literature, with short story and poetry anthologies challenging the status quo, and a range of African experiences, from the everyday to the political, making it onto the page in fresh ways.

As a reader, there is something to be said for seeing yourself and the places you know in a story, to feel the story resonate with the land from which it was born, as if it was born from within you too. As a parent or teacher, there is a deeply important responsibility to give chil-



dren access to stories alive with characters that look like them, in settings they can relate to, in a first language that they understand. These are all wonderful and exciting reasons to make the South African literature shelf your first stop in any bookstore.

But here is the harsh reality. Books, while romantic, poetic and essential, remain commercial products. That means that the print runs they receive and the prominence one title gets over another depends on retail interest and sales. In order for local literature to thrive, we need to buy books. De-

spite the increasing efforts of retailers to display local titles, it can still be difficult to find a local book that's on your radar. Maybe the book isn't out yet, or copies have already sold out. We live in a world where it is easier (and we expect) to walk into a store and find the things we want, but if you have the time and foresight to order a South African title from your favourite bookshop or book dealer, it is a tangible register of demand. Of course, there is also a larger issue at hand. In a contracting global economy, books are often an expensive luxury item. Yet stories are essential, es-

pecially those told by local voices. Our writers capture our country in all its facets, creating a legacy, making people feel heard and at home, or simply making us laugh.

If you are in the place to buy a book this Christmas and want to try a local title, here are a few things you can do, with some that don't require spending at all:

Ask someone at your independent bookshop to recommend a South African title to suit you or the person you are buying for. Join a local book club, or start your own. Support independent book dealers - there are a

number of amazing entrepreneurs who can recommend and deliver South African titles to your door. Start a book club at your office. It's a great way to build relationships in an informal manner, and, if you invite local authors, it helps them reach readers we wouldn't otherwise. Support independent bookstores and publishers who are championing South African children's literature such as Ethnikids. This is, arguably, where diverse representation matters most. Join a Facebook book club such as The Good Book Appreciation Society, which has a plethora of local recommendations across all genres. Be mindful that some of the big, hyped international titles are everywhere because they have a big marketing budget to match. Just because one book is extra visible doesn't mean that others are less worthy of your attention. Pre-order your favourite author's new title in store before it is released. One of the most daunting and exciting prospects of local literature is the element of the unknown. It's impossible to know every new South African author that comes on the scene, which books are good and which reads won't suit your personal taste. I hope you take a chance on a local read this Christmas, and find something that delights and surprises you.

## FESTIVE SEASON

# 'This is a season to be jolly, who'll save spendthrift Kenyan?'

NAIROBI

Who will protect the hapless Kenyan from himself? And can the Kenyan be helped? I mean, what's with us Kenyans in December?

We have no rhyme or reason to our buying; no, spending. We plough through Jamhuri Day, which mercifully this year was not on a Friday or Monday. Otherwise, we would have spent on the 'extended weekend'. We plough through Christmas to New Year, travelling upcountry, just resting (whatever that means) and going on holiday.

And speaking of holidays, part of the ritual includes Nairobian getting away from Nairobi and Nairobian, to go on the annual pilgrimage to Mombasa to go meet other Nairobian there. In ritualistic style we plough through December's festivities (real and imagined) and unashamedly gaze in suffocating desperation at January's seemingly unending financial chasm, and wonder what happened.

And then we press repeat as we did so last year, will do so the next, and the year after that. We just can't help ourselves, can we? And sellers won't be the ones to do so. Certainly not. They are happy to ride the Kenyan buyer's wave of insanity that crashes to shore every December.

The malls are appropriately dressed to put you in the mood to spend. What with their bright lights, jingly music and alluring 'sales' all calling you out by name? The media is expertly surfing this wave by bombarding us with unending offers and holiday-mood-inducing music. I know

one that has declared itself, "your official Christmas channel."

And then, in the thick of this dizzying celebratory mood, you pay the Kenyan his salary for December on the 15th. Is this not a recipe for disaster? Judging by how he conducts himself immediately thereafter, he doesn't see this as an advance but as a sudden bonk in wealth creation. November's salary isn't fully exhausted and kaboom!, here's more. Jackpot! What follows? Sniff sniff, can you smell that?

The intoxicating aroma of crispy new notes just begging to be (ab)used. Can you see that? The glittering hypnotic lights guiding you lamblike to let yourself be slaughtered on the altar of the cashier's till. Can you feel that? The magnetic touch of the eighth cold bottle of beer; the texture of the new skirt, the smoothness of the iPhone curves; that touch can only be appeased by spending on it (sorry, buying it).

Attempts at giving a 13th salary, invitations to buy holiday packages in monthly instalments and visit the village in November before prices hike, have all failed. They are no fun; they call for planning. They don't trigger the adrenalin-charged, last-minute execution Kenyans are obsessed with.

Two years ago when Form One selection was announced, for the first time, in early December, the Kenyan parent's lamentation was, "Argh! Now why did (CS) Matiang'i do so? Now we must pay fees which means not having any money for spending!" Who will protect the hapless Kenyan from himself?



Members of musical group Three's Company, Michael James, Ciru James and Chris Coutinho.

# What about menu of music and food as pre-Christmas treat?

NAIROBI

One of the sweetest pre-Christmas presents one can give oneself this season is a trip with several friends to the Matronze Gallery and Café next weekend, either on Friday December 13 or Saturday, December 14, to sup and be serenaded by the amazing 'Three's Company'. They will be performing Seasonings Greetings from 7pm both nights.

The 'new' trio doesn't quite qualify to be called 'new' since all three, pianist Michael James, soprano Ciru James and tenor Chris Coutinho have been on stage together in Nairobi several times before, although not as 'Three's Company'. And not for quite some time. In fact, their performance will be something of a reunion

for three friends who share a love of musical theatre and will share that love 'musically speaking' at Matronze.

"We performed together in 'Viva Mexico' at Phoenix Players back in the 1980s," recalls Chris Coutinho. "That is when Ciru [who was Wanjiru Gecau back then] played the High Priestess and I played Bernardo while Mike was the show's musical director," adds Chris who's been on stage since kindergarten when he proudly sang the National Anthem.

"That was also when we first went on stage together" Chris continues. "At the time, Ciru was teaching music at Kenton College and Mike was also teaching at ISK. But as she needed a musical director since she was staging Oliver at Kenton, and he needed

a first-class soprano to play the High Priestess, they assisted one another," he says, recalling how by then, he had already begun flying with Pan-American Airlines, so he didn't see them much after that. Nonetheless, they never lost touch. Chris has been back in Kenya for a few years, but Mike and Ciru just got back in September.

"We had both been teaching and heading music departments in the UK," says Ciru who is currently working with kids from Korogocho who are part of the group started by Liz Njoroge called Ghetto Classics.

Telling Business Daily a bit about their upcoming performance at Matronze, Mike asks, "Have you heard of Spagetti Opera? It's done in Italy; it's where musicians serenade the dinner guests both

before and in between courses during a festive meal," he says.

From 7pm on Friday December 13, Ciru and Chris will be singing duets before and in between the sumptuous three-course Christmas meal, with Mike accompanying them on keyboard. Then during the meal, Mike and Ciru will be playing festive duets on piano.

The other reason 'Three's Company' don't qualify to be called 'new' is because Mike James is a living legend in Kenya for having launched the first musical theatre productions at Starehe Boys School in the 1980s, staging memorable shows like Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat and 'Dracula Spectacula.

"There really wasn't a musical

performance programme until I started it," says Mike who also recalls how he also started Inter-house musical competitions. It was thereafter that he moved to ISK, meanwhile performing often with Phoenix Players.

Ciru James also made waves in the 1980s before she left to study overseas. She was a founder member of Musically Speaking, which originally included other Alliance Girls classmates Joy Mboya, Suzanne Gachukia and Susan Matiba. When she left to do her A levels and then proceed on to the Guild Hall School of Music in UK, the quartet became a trio which also made history. But, so did Ciru, performing in musicals like The Mill on the Floss which Mike composed the music for.

DIVERSIFICATION

PUGLIA

"We're witnessing a shift. We're moving from the information age to the health age," Italian hotelier Aldo Melpignano told journalists recently. The owner of the Borgo Egnazia hotel and spa in Puglia, southern Italy, was introducing a five-day retreat based on the habits of the world's longest-living people.

As part of the experience, guests start the morning with yoga, go for a fast walk, work on their real-life, non-digital social network, do nothing for a bit, have a massage, then walk barefoot around the hotel's organic farm to pick vegetables - for meals to be eaten only until they're 80 per cent full.

If Melpignano's "health age" comment is right, it's a testimony to how much spas have evolved in the past 20 years - not to mention the past 2,000. Tap "spa" into Google and you get 3.9 billion search results. Slightly overwhelming if you're just idly browsing

# The world's best wellness experiences



Four Seasons Hong Kong runs a Masters of Wellness programme.

for somewhere to spend a relaxing weekend. But it's evidence of how the word spa now embraces much more than its traditional meaning. That is: an aesthetically uplifting public space devoted to health and relaxation, built around a supply of naturally hot or heated mineral-rich spring water.

From laughter therapy to aura-cleaning

Spa is now the catch-all word embracing all manner of new wellness and self-care obsessions. These run the gamut from - deep breath - mindfulness, meditation, DNA testing, good sleep, gut bacteria, clean eating, colonics, boot camps, laughter therapy, crystal use, being wrapped in seaweed or mud, vitamin IV drips, Traditional Chinese Medicine (barely known these days in China, it is worth noting), Ayurveda, tai chi, qi-

gong, alternative medicine, tree houses, Tibetan singing bowls, bioenergetics, transformational breathwork, essential oils, mala beads, reverence for plants, chakra-cleaning, aura-clearing, shamanism, chi nei tsang abdominal massage, fasting,

vegetarianism, veganism and all kinds of yoga and Pilates and gym workouts, to - another deep breath - the widespread craving to disconnect, be outside and get back to nature.

From Antigua to Zanzibar, we now have an astounding selection of spas to choose from. And the next time we lie down on a massage bed, we might send a mental message of thanks across the centuries to the people to whom we most owe this great choice. The Romans.

Two thousand years ago, it was the Romans (and in particular the Roman soldiers) who, as they conquered and colonised their way around Europe, North Africa and the Mediterranean, spread the idea of the spa as an essential

part of everyday life. No doubt, the soldiers were eager to have somewhere to heal their wounds, recover from their exertions and simply get warm and clean. Emulating the grand marble baths in Rome - improved versions of baths the ancient Greeks had erected, so sincere thanks to them, too - Roman soldiers built baths (and encampments) around natural hot springs wherever they came across them.

The ruins of many still exist today. So, of course, do many of the towns their encampments grew into. In some, such as Bath, England, you can still relax in the (now renovated) baths they dug, and enjoy the series of variously heated rooms - the tepidarium, caldarium and frigidarium - at the heart of every Roman spa. No one is sure where the word spa comes from. Some think it

an acronym for the Latin phrase Salus Per Aquam, health from water. But it was certainly the Romans who named a Belgian village Spa, after building baths around its hot springs. Over the centuries, Spa became so noted for the healing effects of this water - mineral-rich thanks to the rock it passed through before gushing from the ground - that from the 1300s, the name Spa began to be added to any place where people found bathing in or drinking the local spring waters beneficial.

How health farms became five-star retreats

Spas as we know them today, however - lavish, luxurious, with an ever-expanding menu of treatments, therapies and experiences - took off only in the 1980s. Until then, those spas that had survived the growing influence of the post-Second World War pharmaceutical industry (with its pill for every ill, obviating many people's instinct to seek a traditional spa cure) had become seen as the province of cranks.

COMPETITIVE

## The young Iraqi chef sharing the joys of kubba with the world

LONDON

Philip Juma's newly opened food stall in London's prestigious Borough Market is aiming to change perceptions of Iraq in the western world through its rich and authentic cuisine. He opened Juma Kitchen, his first permanent site in Borough, in late November, serving the small and carefully crafted selection of handmade kubba, otherwise known as Iraqi dumplings, which are an essential part of the country's food culture. "It is a huge step and a milestone for Iraqi cuisine to be visible to a western audience," says the British-Iraqi chef.

Juma hopes his signature dishes portray a different side of Iraq to the world, one that moves away from what the country has endured over the years. "You cannot say Iraq these days without something else being included with what the country has gone through. It's so sad," he said.

Juma, who attended the University of Leeds and is a former equity broker, grew up eating the food of his father's homeland, remembering hours spent in the kitchen watching his relatives prepare numerous dishes for gatherings.

For Juma, having a place in Borough is more than about simply serving food, but a portrayal of what Iraq is truly about, something he describes as "magical". "Iraqis love their community, having a connection, identity and, most importantly, the cuisine. It's heart-warming," he says.

Even though it's only been open for less than a month, Juma says his new stall has given a boost to London's Iraqi community. "What I felt and witnessed from the Iraqi community has been beyond beautiful. The support and how proud everyone is of this project means so much to me."

Many Iraqis feel a sense of nostalgia and begin to reminisce about the "good old days" after taking a bite of Juma's delicious food. "There's something that gets triggered in them about their identity and nostalgia of how Iraq was and how it should be."

One bite of his kubba and their "faces light up", he adds. It is one of the country's most quintessential dishes. It comes in a variety of

textures and shapes and usually has a shell of rice and is stuffed with minced lamb or beef. There are three main types - kubba haleb, potato chap and kubba hamuth - which Juma serves in his unit. Kubba haleb is a fried croquette of yellow rice stuffed with beef. It is crunchy and chewy, and leaves people wanting more.

Potato chap, on the other hand, has a shell of mashed potatoes, which is stuffed with minced meat - either beef or lamb. It is shallow-fried until golden and crispy. Finally, kubba hamuth is made up of a mix of ground rice and minced beef, while the inside is stuffed with minced lamb and beef that's blended with onions and spices. A thick tomato sauce is added to it, along with turnips, and it's served hot. All the meat he uses is halal.

For Juma, making kubba is an art form. "They are so unique, labour intensive and intricate," he admits. "It's quite amusing when you serve them to people, as they are scoffed down in two seconds." But, he says, you can't get more Iraqi than the trio he serves, adding that he could eat a thousand of them in one go. "There are so many stories associated with the various kinds of kubba in Iraq. Each family does it differently and conversations are usually sparked between families on the techniques of how they are made."

Juma's own recipes reflect the region's rich heritage and strong culinary traditions. "It's that moment when Iraqis are eating my food, and where I take them, which is always to a happy place. That really is something special... My heart is so full."

Despite the strong start, the road ahead for Juma Kitchen remains tough, as awareness of what Iraqi food consists of is low in London. "The competition will be fierce in Borough, but the real challenge will be to get through to people, as the majority of visitors, let's say around 95 per cent, may have never tried the cuisine before," he says. Even though Borough Market is a touristic spot, it's not always busy, and convincing customers to try something new can be difficult.



Iraqi-British chef Philip Juma at his Borough Market stall where he sells different types of kubba, left.



ITV

SATURDAY 21 Dec

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:00 Habari
- 8:00 Al Jazeera
- 9:00 Watoto Wetu
- 10:00 Mjue Zaidi rpt
- 10:45 Usafiri wako rpt
- 11:15 Shamba lulu rpt
- 11:45 Mapishi rpt
- 12:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt
- 12:40 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost
- 14:40 Igizo rpt: Pigo la moyo
- 15:15 Igizo: Mkaguzi
- 16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
- 16:20 Igizo: Mtego
- 17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
- 18:00 Habari
- 18:15 Mapishi
- 18:30 Igizo: Dhoruba
- 19:00 Sanaa na wasanii
- 19:30 Jungu Kuu
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Shangweka
- 21:30 Kesho leo
- 22:00 Kipindi maalum: Insta Moja
- 22:15 Hawavumi lakini wamo
- 23:00 Isidingo rpt
- 01:30 CNN International

SUNDAY 22 Dec

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:00 Habari
- 8:00 Al Jazeera
- 9:00 Watoto Wetu
- 10:00 Isidingo
- 10:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt
- 11:40 Bongo Movie rpt: My Angel
- 12:00 Tamasha la Michezo
- 14:00 Mwangaza
- 16:00 The Great queen Seonduk
- 16:45 Igizo rpt: Mkaguzi
- 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mapishi
- 18:30 Matukio ya wiki
- 19:30 Igizo: Mtego
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Biko
- 21:10 Mizengwe
- 21:30 Mjue Zaidi
- 22:15 Bongo Movie: The Virgin
- 00:30 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost

MONDAY 23 Dec

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 Habari
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:30 HABARI
- 8:00 Al Jazeera
- 9:00 CNN international
- 9:30 Soap: Isidingo the need
- 10:00 Watoto wetu
- 11:00 Jagina
- 11:30 Igizo rpt: Pigo la moyo
- 12:00 Al Jazeera
- 12:30 Jungu kuu rpt
- 13:00 Mjue Zaidi
- 13:45 Sanaa na wasanii rpt
- 14:15 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost
- 15:00 Meza huru rpt
- 16:30 Watoto Wetu
- 17:00 The Base

- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:10 Aibu yako rpt
- 18:15 Mapishi
- 18:45 Kesho leo
- 19:00 Afya ya Jamii
- 19:30 Isidingo
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:05 Dakika 45
- 22:00 Insta Bet
- 22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost
- 23:00 The Base
- 00:00 Al Jazeera
- 02:00 CNN International

TUESDAY 24 Dec

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 Habari
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:30 HABARI
- 8:00 Al Jazeera
- 9:00 CNN international
- 9:30 Isidingo
- 10:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:30 Shamsam za pwani
- 11:30 Igizo: Mtego rpt
- 12:00 Al Jazeera
- 12:30 Afya ya jamii rpt
- 13:00 Uchumi na biashara
- 13:30 Shamba lulu rpt
- 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost
- 15:00 Meza Huru rpt
- 16:30 Watoto wetu
- 17:00 The Base
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:10 Yu wapi
- 18:15 The Great queen Seonduk
- 18:55 Jarida la wanawake
- 19:30 Isidingo
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:05 Tanzania yetu
- 21:35 Chetu ni chetu
- 22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost
- 23:00 The Base
- 00:00 CNN International

WEDNESDAY 25 Dec

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:30 HABARI
- 8:00 Al Jazeera
- 9:00 CNN international
- 9:30 Isidingo
- 10:00 Movie: Deception Pt 1&2
- 12:05 Korean drama: The great Queen Seonduk
- 12:45 Jarida la wanawake rpt
- 13:15 Dakika 45
- 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost
- 15:00 Movie: Tanzanite
- 16:30 Watoto Wetu
- 17:00 The Base
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mizengwe rpt
- 18:30 Ijue Sheria
- 19:00 Kipindi Maalum: Kipanya Chooni
- 19:30 Isidingo
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Aibu Yakol! Hata wewe?
- 21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco
- 21:40 Ripoti Maalum
- 22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost
- 23:00 The Base
- 00:00 Al Jazeera
- 2:00 CNN International

THURSDAY 26 Dec

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi

- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:30 HABARI
- 8:00 Al Jazeera
- 9:00 CNN international
- 9:30 Isidingo
- 10:00 Movie: Maisha Pt 1&2
- 11:40 Ripoti Maalum rpt:
- 12:20 Ijue Sheria
- 12:50 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Kipanya chooni
- 13:20 Tanzania yetu
- 13:50 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost
- 14:30 Movie: Lonely heart Pt 1&2
- 16:30 Watoto Wetu
- 17:00 The Base
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mapishi
- 18:30 Jagina rpt
- 19:00 Usafiri wako
- 19:30 Isidingo
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Malumbano ya hoja
- 23:00 The Base
- 00:00 CNN International

FRIDAY 27 Dec

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:30 HABARI
- 8:00 Al Jazeera
- 09:00 CNN international
- 9:30 Isidingo
- 10:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo
- 11:30 Usafiri wako
- 12:00 Al Jazeera
- 12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco
- 13:00 Jagina rpt
- 13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt
- 14:15 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost
- 15:00 Meza huru
- 16:30 Watoto Wetu
- 17:00 The Base
- 17:30 Ibadu ya kiislamu
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mizengwe rpt
- 18:30 Shamba lulu
- 19:00 Uchumi na biashara
- 19:30 Isidingo
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:05 Kipima Joto
- 23:00 The Base
- 00:00 CNN International

SATURDAY 28 Dec

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:00 Habari
- 8:00 Al Jazeera
- 9:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:00 Mjue Zaidi rpt
- 10:45 Usafiri wako rpt
- 11:15 Shamba lulu rpt
- 11:45 Mapishi rpt
- 12:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt
- 12:40 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost
- 14:40 Igizo rpt: Pigo la moyo
- 15:15 Igizo: Mkaguzi
- 16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
- 16:20 Igizo: Mtego
- 17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mapishi
- 18:30 Igizo: Dhoruba
- 19:00 Sanaa na wasanii
- 19:30 Jungu Kuu

- 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Shangweka
- 21:30 Makala Maalum: Watoto
- 22:00 Kipindi maalum: Insta Moja
- 22:15 Hawavumi lakini wamo
- 23:00 Isidingo rpt
- 01:30 CNN International

SUNDAY 29 Dec

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:00 Habari
- 8:00 Al Jazeera
- 09:00 Watoto Wetu
- 10:00 Isidingo
- 11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt
- 12:00 Bongo Movie rpt: The Virgin
- 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
- 15:00 Mwangaza
- 16:00 The Great queen Seonduk
- 16:45 Igizo rpt: Mkaguzi
- 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mapishi
- 18:30 Matukio ya wiki
- 19:30 Igizo: Mtego
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Biko
- 21:10 Mizengwe
- 21:30 Mjue Zaidi
- 22:15 Bongo Movie: The Second Wife
- 00:30 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost

CAPITAL

Sat 21 Dec

- 08:00 CNN International
- 09:00 Drive It rpt
- 09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt
- 10:00 Culinary delight rpt
- 10:30 Innovation rpt
- 11:00 Out n'about rpt
- 11:30 Sports Gazette rpt
- 12:00 Usafiri wako rpt
- 12:30 Eco@Africa rpt
- 13:00 Business edition rpt
- 13:30 Korean Drama rpt: Ilijmae
- 14:30 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa?
- 17:15 Tanzania Yetu rpt
- 17:45 Bundesliga kick off
- 18:15 Capchat rpt
- 19:15 Mizengwe
- 19:30 The Decor
- 20:00 Korean Drama rpt: Ilijmae
- 21:00 Out n' About
- 21:30 Movie: Take down
- 23:00 Life is a teacher rpt
- 01:00 Al Jazeera

Sun 22 Dec

- 08:00 CNN International
- 09:00 In good shape rpt
- 09:30 Capchat rpt
- 11:00 Sports Gazette rpt
- 11:30 Korean Drama rpt: Ilijmae
- 12:00 Jagina rpt
- 12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt
- 13:00 In good shape rpt
- 13:30 Series rpt: Godwin
- 15:15 Aibu yako
- 15:30 Drive it rpt
- 16:00 Dakika 45 rpt
- 16:45 Mizengwe rpt

- 17:00 The Decor rpt
- 17:30 Meza huru
- 19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt
- 19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights
- 20:00 Korean Drama rpt: Ilijmae
- 21:00 Shift
- 21:15 Capchat live
- 22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa?
- 00:00 Al Jazeera

Mon 23 Dec

- 06:00 Al Jazeera
- 08:00 CNN International
- 09:00 Movie: Knight Rider
- 10:30 Movie: Black Water
- 12:00 Turning the spotlight rpt
- 12:30 Bundesliga kick off
- 13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa?
- 14:00 In goodsahape rpt
- 14:30 Sports Gazette rpt
- 15:00 Cookery rpt: Culinary Delight
- 15:30 Jagina rpt
- 16:00 Series rpt: Life is a teacher
- 16:30 Tanzania Yetu rpt
- 17:00 Eco@Africa rpt
- 17:30 Meza Huru
- 19:30 The Decor rpt
- 19:30 Shamba lulu
- 20:00 Series: Life is a teacher
- 20:45 The Monday Agenda
- 21:30 Capital Prime News
- 22:00 Kipima Joto
- 00:00 Al Jazeera

Tues 24 Dec

- 06:00 Al Jazeera
- 08:00 CNN International
- 09:00 Movie: Fantastic Four
- 10:30 Movie: Behind Enemy Line
- 12:00 Innovation rpt
- 12:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt
- 13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa?
- 14:00 Usafiri Wako rpt
- 14:30 Monday Agenda rpt
- 15:00 Drive It rpt
- 15:30 Business Edition rpt
- 16:00 Series rpt: Life is a teacher
- 16:30 Capchat rpt
- 17:30 Meza huru
- 19:00 Innovation
- 19:30 Jagina rpt
- 20:00 Series: Life is a teacher
- 20:45 Telenovela: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa?
- 21:30 Capital Prime
- 22:00 Turning the spotlight rpt
- 22:30 Eco@Africa
- 23:00 Al Jazeera

Wed 25 Dec

- 06:00 Al Jazeera
- 08:00 CNN International
- 09:00 Movie: I think I love my wife
- 10:30 Movie: Forget About it
- 12:00 Capchat rpt
- 13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa?
- 14:30 Mizengwe rpt
- 15:00 Drive It rpt
- 15:30 Out & About rpt
- 16:00 Series rpt: Life is a teacher
- 16:30 Culinary delight rpt
- 17:00 Innovation rpt

## WORLD

# Less than half of all Americans want Trump ousted post-impeachment - poll

NEW YORK

LESS than half of all Americans say President Donald Trump should be removed from office following his impeachment by the U.S. House of Representatives, according to a Reuters/Ipsos opinion poll released on Thursday, presenting a challenge for Democrats who will seek his ouster in a U.S. Senate trial.

The national online survey tmsnrts/2EEmWPW, conducted in the hours after the House voted along party lines on Wednesday to charge Trump with abusing his office and obstructing Congress, found that the rare and highly contentious act by lawmakers has done little to change minds in a divided country.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the top Democrat in Congress, had been initially hesitant to bring impeachment

charges against Trump because she was concerned there would not be enough public support.

Her party then sought to build that support through public hearings on the allegations that Trump withheld military aid for Ukraine and pressured its president to investigate a political rival, Joe Biden, before Wednesday's historic impeachment vote.

When asked about the specific impeachment charges, 53% agreed that Trump abused his office and 51% agreed that he obstructed Congress.

Some 42% of respondents - most of them Democrats - said Congress should carry out its ultimate sanction and remove the president from office, as the Senate has the power to do.

Another 17% said Trump should be formally reprimanded with a congressional censure, 29% said they want the



U.S. President Donald Trump speaks during a campaign rally in Battle Creek, Michigan, U.S., on Wednesday. REUTERS

impeachment charges dismissed, and the rest said they did not have an opinion.

Trump, the third president in U.S. history to be impeached, now faces an impeachment trial early next year in the Senate. The Republicans who control the chamber have largely supported Trump throughout the House proceedings. The leader of the upper chamber, Senator Mitch McConnell, has said there is no chance of the president being convicted.

The public has remained sharply divided on impeaching Trump, who has denounced the impeachment hearings as a witch hunt and an illegal attempt to oust him from office.

Overall, only 44% of the American public said they approved of the House's handling of Trump's impeachment, while 41% disapproved.

And when asked how the impeachment left them feeling about the president, 26% said they are more

supportive of Trump now, while 20% said they are less supportive, and 48% it has not changed their view one way or the other.

The Reuters/Ipsos poll showed that a minority of Americans want the Senate to remove Trump and Democrats' potential to encourage more people in their party to vote Trump out of office in the November 2020 election.

"If Trump is acquitted and he does a victory lap, it really could be a minus for him," said University of Michigan political scientist Nicholas Valentino. "It could become a mobilizing tool for the Democrats."

The Reuters/Ipsos poll was conducted online, in English, throughout the United States. It gathered responses from 1,108 people between Dec. 18-19 and has a credibility interval, a measure of precision, of 3 percentage points.

Agencies

## Wine caves and billionaires: Buttigieg under fire over fundraising at Democratic debate

LOS ANGELES

RISING Democratic candidate Pete Buttigieg came under attack during a debate among U.S. presidential hopefuls on Thursday, as his rivals questioned the 37-year-old mayor's thin political resume and criticized his fundraising from wealthy donors.

During the sixth debate for Democrats seeking their party's nomination to challenge President Donald Trump in the November 2020 election, an intensifying feud between leading contenders Buttigieg and U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren over transparency and fundraising burst to the surface.

Debating a day after Trump's impeachment in the Democratic-led House of Representatives, the seven candidates were unanimous in supporting that action, but their unity on the issue quickly gave way to spirited

and personal battles over money in politics and experience.

The exchanges underlined the increasing stakes in the Democratic race seven weeks before the first contest in the state-by-state nominating process in Iowa on Feb. 3. Opinion polls show the race up for grabs, with Buttigieg (pictured) taking the lead in Iowa and former Vice President Joe Biden, U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders and Warren fighting for the top in national polls.

U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar, lagging the frontrunners and pinning her hopes on a strong showing in Iowa to propel her candidacy, also took a shot at Buttigieg by comparing her Senate accomplishments to his public record.

Warren questioned whether Buttigieg, the mayor of the Indiana city of South Bend who previously served in the U.S. military and was deployed



to Afghanistan, was beholden to his big-money donors and described his ritzy, closed-door fundraiser in a wine cave in California. In a shot at Buttigieg, Warren said she did not sell access to her time or "spend time with millionaires or billionaires."

"The mayor just recently had a fundraiser that was held in a wine cave full of crystals and served a \$900-a-bottle wine," said the Massachusetts senator, who does not hold big-ticket fundraisers and has focused her campaign on fighting corruption and corporate greed.

"Billionaires in wine caves should

not pick the president of the United States," Warren said.

Buttigieg shot back at Warren, who has a net worth in the millions of dollars, noting that he was the only candidate on the stage who was not a millionaire or billionaire.

"This is the problem with issuing purity tests you cannot yourself pass," Buttigieg told Warren. "Your net worth is 100 times mine. We need the support from everybody who is committed to helping us beat Donald Trump," Buttigieg added.

Klobuchar noted Buttigieg's failure to win statewide election in Indiana. "Try putting together a coalition to bring you back to office with 80% of the vote as a gay dude in Mike Pence's Indiana," Buttigieg said, referring to the U.S. vice president, who previously served as governor of Indiana and is an opponent of gay rights.

The less-crowded debate stage, which featured the fewest participants since the debates began over the summer, gave more time to middle-tier contenders. Klobuchar and entrepreneur Andrew Yang took the spotlight in several of the night's most memorable moments.

A day after the historic impeachment vote, the candidates promised to make the case to a divided American public that Trump's impeachment was necessary. They said his leadership had diminished the country's stature and respect abroad.

"It's not only in the Middle East we see the consequences of the disappearance of U.S. leadership," Buttigieg said, noting Trump was ridiculed behind his back at a recent gathering of world leaders. "It's not just the mockery at a cocktail party... It's the looks on the faces."

Agencies

## South Sudan citizens upbeat as leaders vow to form unity government

JUBA

SOUTH Sudanese citizens on Thursday were upbeat after President Salva Kiir and ex-rebel leader Riek Machar vowed to form a transitional government of national unity by mid-February 2020 in a bid to end more than five years of civil strife in the world's youngest republic.

David Manyang, who hails from Jonglei region bordering Ethiopia to the east, said that he had al-

lowed his young family to return home from Kampala, Uganda to spend the festive season amid hope for the long term stability.

"Following the recent face-to-face meeting between President Salva Kiir (pictured) and opposition leader Riek Machar, we are confident there will be no more chaos in the country," said Manyang. "I will now enjoy this year's Christmas celebrations with my family and friends," he added. Manyang said that citizens are no



longer worried about insecurity as it used to be in the past because many families are returning home after lengthy stay abroad. Juma Peter, a Juba resident, ech-

oed Manyang's sentiment that the presence of the two arch-rivals in the capital at this time as citizens are ready for festivities is very encouraging in terms of confidence-building.

Peter said what would make this year's festivities peaceful more than previous years is because there have been no security advisories from the foreign embassies warning their citizens, saying that the advisories used to scare locals. "If you look at the

movement of people along the major roads linking the country to the neighboring countries, for instance, in Sherikat a suburb of the capital, Juba, where a bus park is located, you see that people are not going out like last years," Peter said. Sara Subandrio, a resident of Juba's Munuki suburb, hailed reconciliation efforts spearheaded by President Kiir and rebel leader Riek Machar saying it will bring lasting peace, stability and hope in South Sudan. **Xinhua**

# Uyghur man from Xinjiang achieves success in inland China

ABDULLAH Urasimu is a man from northwest China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region running successful barbecue business in Nanchang, capital of east China's Jiangxi Province. However, the endeavor of the man, who now owns 44 chain restaurants, is known by few.

"Every restaurant of mine represents ethnic unity, as I could have achieved nothing these years in Nanchang without the help of my brothers of Han nationality." That's what Abdullah always says.

Abdullah and his wife arrived in Nanchang in Sept. 2002 after a five-day trip on a hard-seat train. Due to the different arrival times of passenger and freight trains - something that the couple failed to figure out then, they were trapped in an awkward situation that they arrived much earlier than their 160 kilograms of raisins did, and all they had was 40 yuan (about \$5.72) in cash. Fortunately, they were helped by

the warmhearted who offered water and food to them and helped them get through a 3-day difficult period at the train station.

Abdullah is from Moyu County, Hotan Prefecture in southern Xinjiang. In 1997, he traveled eastward with a relative to seek a livelihood. He once sold sweet Xinjiang raisins in many Chinese provinces, including Jiangsu, Zhejiang, and Jiangxi.

"Liang kuai qian yi liang (2 yuan for 50 grams)" was the first sentence Abdullah learnt to say in Mandarin.

"My customers never bargained with me, as they consider the efforts it took me to bring the products from a place so far away. Some even thanked me for the deals," said Abdullah, adding that these details warmed him.

When he first settled in Nanchang, Abdullah failed to find an appropriate dwelling because of tight budget. Relevant departments of the Nanchang municipal government, after learning



Abdullah Urasimu roasts kebabs skillfully in his restaurant

his condition, found one for the couple and promised them that they could pay the rent after they made enough money. Abdullah's dried fruit business en-

countered low season in summer as these months in Nanchang were always rainy. Therefore, to find a new way to make a living posed a big problem for him.

By chance, Abdullah met a woman who sold pancakes. "She was doing very well with her business. And she taught all her techniques to me to help me out, all for free," said Abdullah, who set up a pancake stall at Nanchang railway station after he mastered the skills in 2007, and gradually gained a foothold in the city.

"When you make friends with good people, your flowers blossom," Abdullah often says this Uyghur adage.

Starting from 2010, Nanchang started improving the environment around the train station and requested to remove the food stalls there. For quite a time, Abdullah couldn't understand the decision and hardly accepted it.

Xu Yong, a local police officer explained relevant policies to Abdullah, tell-

ing him that running unregulated food stalls was not long-term plan, and he would only secure a livelihood in Nanchang with his own restaurant.

What Xu said made Abdullah realize the importance for him to own a restaurant, so he rented a place soon and started his barbecue business which has been on an upward trajectory since then.

"I was offered 'green channels' by the market supervision, tax and municipal management departments when I went through the formalities for opening the restaurant. I was always told by the officials that I can work hard and make a name. They said they would help me through difficulties," Abdullah recalled, sharing his memories of the early days of his restaurant.

In 2017, Abdullah registered a catering management company, and so far, it has incubated 44 chain restaurants and employs more than 240 people.

In an effort to help more fellow-

townsmen from Xinjiang increase income, Abdullah, with the support of the organizations of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in Jiangxi and Xinjiang, serves as the leader of a management and service team for migrant workers and business people from Hotan.

When recruiting, Abdulla would prioritize his fellow villagers who want to secure a job in the inland, and teach them how to cook and roast. He also offers interest-free start-up loans for the star performers.

Besides, he has invested tens of thousands of yuan and established a Mandarin training center together with a local management committee of Xihu District. The center has held six training sessions so far, benefiting more than 200 people.

"Xinjiang and Jiangxi are both homes to me, and I love them both," said Abdullah.

People's Daily

## Central gov't supports diversified development of Macao

THE Chinese mainland and the Macao Special Administrative Region have seen constant progress in exchanges and cooperation since Macao's return to China in December 1999, and the central government will support the diversified development of Macao's industries and further involve the city in the overall national development plan, a senior official said.



Over the past 20 years, to facilitate trade between Macao and the mainland, many efforts have been made to promote and simplify customs procedures, according to a report from the Xinhua News Agency on Monday, citing Wang Lingjun, a vice minister of the General Administration of Customs of China.

Wang (pictured) said that the mainland customs agency has adopted measures, including filing requirements for breeding plants, in a bid to ensure the safety of food transported to Macao.

The Gongbei Port, which links Zhuhai, South China's Guangdong Province to Macao, has promoted measures such as "centralized declaration" and "24-hour appointment customs clearance" to ensure "zero stagnation" of fresh agricultural products, said Wang.

Between December 1999 and October this year, the Gongbei Customs inspected and released nearly 1.8 million tons of fresh agricultural products for Macao. The mainland supplies nearly 300 varieties of products to Macao each year, Xinhua said.

Apart from a series of simplified custom measures to facilitate trade, Macao has enjoyed strong support from the mainland, and it has been thriving under the "one country, two systems" principle.

Macao's GDP expanded to 444.7 billion Macao patacas (\$55.2 billion) in 2018 from 51.9 billion Macao patacas in 1999 when the city returned and the average wage has reached 20,000 Macao patacas per month, official data showed.

Looking forward, the city is set to play a more significant role in the central government's grand plan of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, which aims to build a global economic and technological powerhouse in southern China that could be on par with bay areas in New York and San Francisco.

The central government will continue to support Macao's role as a core engine in the Greater Bay Area, and strengthen its characteristic industries where it has an advantage, Xinhua reported, citing an official from the National Development and Reform Commission, the country's top economic planner.

Global Times

## First British flight arrives in Egyptian resort city after four-year ban

CAIRO

EGYPT'S Sharm el-Sheikh on Thursday received the first British flight, after Britain lifted a four-year ban on flights to the Red Sea resort, Egyptian Civil Aviation Ministry announced.

The ministry said in a statement that the first direct British flight, with 110 passengers onboard, departed from Birmingham, London.

In October, the British Embassy in Cairo announced that the British government had removed its advisory against flying to Sharm el-Sheikh.

The ban had been in place after an Islamic State bombing brought down a Russian passenger plane in October 2015, leaving 224 dead.

Russia, another major source of tourists to Egypt, initially suspended all direct flights to Egypt following the attack. It resumed direct flights to Cairo last year but direct flights to popular Red Sea resorts have yet to be resumed.

The Egyptian airports apply all the international security measures and safety standards, and are working to improve services for customers, Egyptian Civil Aviation Minister Younis al-Masry said in a statement on Thursday.

Al-Masry added that the ministry is keen to cooperate with other agencies to increase inbound and outbound travel, noting that "the aviation sector is one of the most important sectors contributing to the national economy."

Tourism is a main source of income for Egypt. It created 13 billion U.S. dollars' revenues in 2010 alone, when some 14.7 million tourists visited the country. **Xinhua**



## Xi lauds Macao progress as Ho Iat-seng sworn in as 5th-term CE

MACAO

HO Iat-seng was sworn in here yesterday morning as the fifth-term chief executive of the Macao Special Administrative Region, officiated by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

In his speech at the ceremony, Xi yesterday extended cordial greetings to all the Macao residents on behalf of the central government and people of all ethnic groups in the country.

Xi made the remarks while addressing a gathering in celebration of the 20th anniversary of Macao's return to the motherland.

Development

Congratulating the Macao CE and principal officials of the SAR government who were sworn in yesterday, Xi said over the past 20 years, Macao had achieved the best ever rate of development in its history.

Xi pointed out how Macao's economy had grown by leaps and bounds since its return to the motherland with its per capita GDP soaring to the world's second highest.

Macao's efforts to appropriately diversify its economy delivered early

results, Xi said yesterday, citing flourishing emerging industries such as exhibition and convention, traditional Chinese medicine and special finance.

He urged Macao to focus on projects based on the region's conditions and well-conceived procedures to appropriately diversify its economy.

Macao should grasp the opportunity brought by the building of the Belt and Road and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, Xi said.

The president attributed the achievements to the concerted efforts made by the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) government together with people from all walks of life, the support of the central government and the mainland, as well as the leadership of Ho Hau-wah and Chui Sai-on.

The Chinese president thanked compatriots at home and abroad and foreign friends for caring for and supporting Macao's development.

One country, two systems

Xi said Macao compatriots have always had firm confidence in "one country, two systems" as he summed up Macao's key experience in success-



Ho Iat-seng

fully practising the principle.

Xi said the vitality and strength of "one country, two systems" will be fully evident as long as there is a firm belief in the principle and earnest practice of it. He praised Macao compatriots for having taken forward the principle of "one country, two systems" in the correct direction.

Xi said "one country" is the prerequisite for and basis of "two systems." Only by ensuring no distortion of the "one country, two systems" practice can the cause of "one country, two systems" be

championed. He also said patriotism is the key factor in Macao's successful practise of the "one country, two systems".

Macao compatriots have a tradition of patriotism, as well as a strong sense of national identity, belonging and national pride, firmly consolidating the social and political foundation for "one country, two systems, Xi said.

Constitutional order

Xi lauded Macao for having firmly established a constitutional order based

on the Constitution and the Basic Law, and having improved its governing system since its return to the motherland in 1999.

The Macao SAR had ensured that central authorities could exercise overall jurisdiction while accurately implementing a high degree of autonomy, Xi said.

Rights based on the law

Xi said Macao residents widely enjoyed rights and freedom enshrined in the law, as the Macao SAR had seen an orderly development of its democratic political system.

The Chinese president praised Macao for becoming one of the safest cities in the world, overcoming its previous notoriety, since its return to the motherland.

Governance

The Chinese president called for steady efforts to strengthen institutions for the law-based governance of Macao and ensure that government decision making is well-conceived and public services are efficient. He called for further efforts to promote social harmony and stability in Macao.

Xinhua



**Putin shrugs off 'irrelevant' remarks from overseas, vows to uphold Russia's interests**

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has said at his annual news conference that assessments and remarks emanating from overseas do not affect his commitment to upholding Russia's fundamental interests.

Responding to a question from a British journalist about a comparison between the Russian leader and a character from the Harry Potter book series made by UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Putin admitted that he had long got accustomed to reacting to remarks by various political figures in various countries about him and about Russia "in an appropriate manner."

"I know what my country's interests are. Whatever and whoever says anything about me, well, it has absolutely no value when compared to the fundamental tasks, which Russia is interested in solving," he stressed. "However, we do comprehend this, heed it and take it into account in our work."

On the other hand, Putin noted that Johnson should be congratulated on winning the recent parliamentary elections in the UK. "He was more sensitive to the sentiment of British society than his political opponents, and that was why he won. As far as I understand, he is determined to transform his Brexit plan into reality," he stressed. **Agencies**

## Bolivia's Evo Morales says he is still president

BUENOS

EVO Morales said on Thursday that he is still president of Bolivia and that the recent arrest warrant against him is "unjust" and "illegal."

"Legally, I am still president. My resignation was not considered by the Legislative Assembly, as provided for in Art. 161, Num. 3 of the CPE (Bolivia's

State Constitution). Even if it was accepted, they also failed to comply with the procedures for constitutional succession, so (Jeanine) Anez proclaimed herself president illegally," Morales wrote on his Twitter account. He said that the law allows him to remain in office until his mandate concludes on Jan. 22, 2020.

Morales resigned on Nov. 10



following weeks of opposition protests against his re-election to a fourth term. On Nov. 12, opposition senator Jeanine Anez assumed the presidency of the Bolivian Senate, which has

allowed her to also proclaim herself interim president of the country.

Later, Morales flew to Mexico and then arrived in Argentina on Dec. 12 as both countries offered him refuge.

On Wednesday, Bolivia's attorney-general's office issued an arrest warrant against Morales, accusing him of "sedition, terrorism, and financing terror-

ism." "The arrest warrant is unjust, illegal, and unconstitutional, because it is not proceeding legally. I am still president and for that reason Bolivian legal procedures must be complied with," Morales tweeted Thursday.

Bolivia's interim government said Thursday that it will approach the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to

determine whether refugees like Morales are permitted to engage in politics.

"We are going to consult them on whether it is permissible for refugees to give opinions of a political nature, to undertake political actions that put the stability of the country ... at risk," said Foreign Minister Karen Longaric of the interim government. **Xinhua**

## Greater Bay vision takes tangible shape

AFTER almost a year's development, China's ambitious Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area has been gradually taking shape and injecting fresh momentum to the two special administrative regions (SAR), industry observers said.

They noted that the area, with smoother movements of people and resources, is on a path to rival other major bay areas in the world.

Following the release of the blueprint in February, the central government and local authorities have released follow-up policies, aiming to boost flows of resources and integrate the Hong Kong SAR and Macao SAR further into the grand national plan.

The most recent step is an easing of housing policy for talent from the two SARs, which allows those who have no property in the Chinese mainland to buy one apartment in Guangzhou, South China's Guangdong Province, said the Guangzhou Real Estate Trade Registration Center on Wednesday.

In November, China's top economic planner - the National Development and Reform Commission - announced that it will implement significant policies beneficial to Hong Kong and Macao. Infrastructure construction, including several high-speed rail-

ways in the area, is on schedule.

The grand plan is gradually unfolding, and it has no doubt offered fresh momentum to the two SAR, Liu Guohong, director of the Department of Finance and Modern Industries at the China Development Institute in Shenzhen, told the Global Times on Wednesday.

The Greater Bay Area offers tremendous opportunities for Macao's insurance institutions and accounting houses, the mainstay of the local financial market, to expand operations, said Wong Kuok long, a member of the Financial Professional Committee of the Guangdong Association for Promotion of Cooperation among Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao.

The close bonds among relevant professionals from Macao and their counterparts in the Chinese mainland make it easier for flows of talent and businesses in both directions, Wong, also vice chairwoman of the Women's Association of Macao, told the Global Times in an interview on Tuesday.

Research cooperation in the region can receive a boost under the grand plan.

Song Yonghua, rector of the University of Macao, said in an interview with the Global Times on Tuesday that researchers in Macao can now participate in the



establishment of national scientific research platforms more effectively, and apply for cross-border research grants and research projects with greater convenience.

Greater cooperation with other cities in the area will also benefit the commercialization of the university's research outcomes, he noted.

Given various external and domestic headwinds in Hong Kong, the Greater Bay Area provides new impetus to Hong Kong's economy and creates development opportunities for local people, especially youth, Carrie Lam, chief executive of Hong Kong SAR said in October.

She added that Hong Kong should take a more proactive role in the Greater Bay Area with its strengths in financial and professional services, aviation, and innovation and technology.

The vision for the area, which is

home to 71.16 million people and had aggregate GDP of \$1.6 trillion in 2018, extends far beyond its domestic functions.

"If looked at indicators such as economic size, port throughput and population, the area is no doubt a powerful rival to Japan's Tokyo Greater Bay Area, the San Francisco Bay Area and the New York metropolitan area in the US," Liu said.

Liu noted building the area means the country needs to merge different tax, customs and legal systems.

That process will bring challenges, but it also means opportunities and offers unprecedented attractions for all types of capital and players in the world, who can all find elements they want in the region.

Global Times

## New Algerian president sworn in, vows to put promises into practice

ALGIERS

ALGERIAN President-elect Abdelmadjid Tebboune was sworn in on Thursday as the eighth president of the North African country since it gained independence from France in 1962, vowing to put what he has promised into practice during his five-year term in office.

After the inauguration, Tebboune accepted the resignation of Prime Minister Nourredine Bedoui and appointed Foreign Minister Sabri Boukadoum as interim Prime Minister, while dismissing Interior Minister Salaheddine Dahmoune and replacing him with Housing Minister Kamel Beldjoud.

Tebboune (pictured), however, requested the rest of the cabinet to stay in office as part of a caretaker government pending the formation of a new team. In his national address in the wake of the inauguration, Tebboune announced that the discussions will start in a couple of weeks over drafting a new constitution that would pave the way for the establishment of a new Algeria based on the rule of law.

The new constitution will limit the presidential term to two mandates and curb the



prerogatives of the president, he said.

Tebboune also promised to meet the demands for radical changes and the rule of law that were voiced in the past 10-month protest. "I'm committed to fulfilling the demands of the public protest movement within the limits of the national laws and the nation's values and principles," he said.

"I'm committed to making radical change of the governing system through deepening democracy and the rule of law, reinforcing social justice, and protecting human rights," the new president added.

Tebboune expressed his readiness to establish diversified economy that generates jobs and wealth by encouraging private and public firms to invest in different sectors, helping the youth start new business, and providing support for

home-bound women to launch their own small businesses.

He also pledged to curb the mounting imports bill as part of the efforts to boost national products and safeguard foreign reserves.

In addition, Tebboune vowed to reinforce the presence of Algeria in the international arena, putting the settlement of the crisis in neighboring Libya on the top of his agenda. Notably, he said Algeria will "spare no effort to reform the Arab League, which reflects the union and common destiny of the Arab world."

On the Palestinian issue that is central to the Middle East, he voiced Algeria's continued support for Palestinians in securing their legal rights and establishing an independent country with Jerusalem as its capital. Tebboune also reaffirmed Algeria's commitment to continued efforts to combat terrorism and transnational organized crime, "in a bid to contribute to world peace and security."

Algeria has been plagued by wide-scale public protest since Feb. 22, which forced former President Abdelaziz Bouteflika to renounce campaign for a fifth term before stepping down in April.

Xinhua

## US, China move in right direction to stabilise economic relationship - experts

NEW YORK

THE phase-one economic and trade deal announced by the United States and China signals the world's two largest economies are moving "in the right direction" to stabilize their all-important economic relationship, American experts told Xinhua in recent interviews.

"This is a positive step that will prevent further tariff escalation, which would be harmful to both the U.S. and Chinese economies," said Edward Alden, an economist and senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

Sourabh Gupta, a senior fellow at the Washington-based Institute for China-America Studies, agreed.

"It is a 'good enough' deal. It signals that China and the U.S.

have been able to place a floor beneath their trade, investment and IPR (intellectual property right) quarrels and are moving in the right direction in terms of stabilizing their all-important economic relationship," Gupta said.

Though it has been a "long and circuitous road" to the phase-one deal, it is good for both the United States and China, as well as for the world, said Robert Kuhn, chairman of the Kuhn Foundation.

"The agreement is measured and balanced, carefully negotiated to achieve some specific objectives now and to prepare the way for continuing agreement on harder issues in the future," Kuhn said.

Stephen Roach, a senior fellow at Yale University's Jackson Institute of Global Affairs, said the



Chinese Vice Premier Liu He, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chief of the Chinese side of the China-U.S. comprehensive economic dialogue, attends a new round of high-level economic and trade consultations together with U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin in Washington D.C., the United States, Oct. 10, 2019. (File photo)

deal underscores "the commitment of both nations to provide some relief to the tariff-related pressures on both economies, as well as the broader global economy."

All three experts, however, emphasized that the implemen-

tation and enforcement by both sides will be "crucial" to the success of the phase-one deal.

"This is a pause in the trade war, not the end," said Alden, adding there is a long way to go before the United States and China resolve "the fundamental

differences" between the two countries on trade.

"At this time, it is gratifying to see that the two sides can find common purpose when their interests - and the will to realize these interests - coincide," Gupta said.

"Hopefully, as this 'good enough' deal starts getting implemented sincerely, some of the restrictive export controls too will be lifted and the two sides can once again enjoy a more 're-coupled' economic relationship," he said. "But that day still seems somewhat in the future."

"But so long as implementation of this phase-one deal is secured in 2020 and there are no other adverse actions taken, I think the curtain can finally be drawn down on the most challenging and bitter 18 months or so in U.S.-China economic ties," Gupta added.

"For this itself we should be grateful. But both sides should not be deflected by this modest victory from pursuing much higher aspirations of a more recoupled trade and investment relationship in the decade of the

2020s. Economic ties are and will remain the ballast of this all-important relationship," he said.

"That all said, no one in either country expects long-term rivalry - and worse, suspicion - to much diminish any time soon. Those of us who want to see the U.S. and China as real strategic partners still have much work to do," said Kuhn.

Both sides need to focus on more common ground "that would continue to bind the two economies together, rather than underscore the differences in conflicts" so as to repair the soured relationship, Roach said.

China and the United States have agreed on the wording of a phase-one economic and trade agreement based on the principles of equality and mutual respect.

Xinhua

The  
Guardian

# SPORT



Simba C team's keeper, Abdallah Omary, makes a save in front of JKT team's Bilal Hussein, when the squads clashed in a friendly duel in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## Ex-model sues Harvey Weinstein, renewing allegations of abuse at 16

NEW YORK

A FORMER model who accused Harvey Weinstein last year of sexually abusing her when she was 16 years old filed a new lawsuit against him Thursday, saying she didn't want to be included in a proposed global settlement that would split \$25 million among various accusers.

Kaja Sokola, who previously made the allegations in a class-action lawsuit that identified her as Jane Doe, said the proposed settlement was not "fair or just." She said it lacked accountability for Weinstein and his alleged enablers and provided insufficient compensation for his accusers.

Sokola is suing Weinstein under New York's Child Victims Act, which gives people a one-year window to sue over sexually abuse they say they endured as children, sometimes decades ago. Her lawyers say it is the first lawsuit filed against Weinstein under the law.

A message seeking comment was left with Weinstein's publicist.

Sokola alleges Weinstein assaulted her at his Manhattan apartment in 2002, just days after they'd met at an event involving her modeling agency. She says Weinstein promised to take her to lunch to discuss her career, but instead took her to his empty SoHo apartment and "aggressively and threateningly" demanded sex.

In the lawsuit, Sokola alleges that Weinstein instructed her to take off her clothes, boasted about having "made" the careers of a pair of Oscar-winning actresses, and intimated she'd never work as an actress unless she gave in to his demands.

"Terrified and struggling to hold back tears, Sokola said she did not want to do anything further and resisted his demands," the lawsuit states. "Sokola had no intention or understanding when she agreed to a business lunch that she would be put in this position."

Sokola says Weinstein's demeanor "became intense, as if he was hunting prey," and that he made her touch his penis while he touched her genitals and grabbed at her breasts.

The lawsuit also alleges Weinstein's brother and various movie studio executives were aware of his behavior and failed to stop him.

Messages seeking comment were left with lawyers for Robert Weinstein and a representative for Disney, which bought their Miramax film studio in 1993.

The Associated Press does not typically identify people who say they are victims of sexual assault unless they grant permission, which Sokola has done.

Dozens of women have accused Harvey Weinstein of wrongdoing.

He is scheduled to stand trial Jan. 6 on charges he raped a woman in a Manhattan hotel room in 2013 and performed a forcible sex act on a different woman in 2006.

He has pleaded not guilty and maintains that any sexual activity was consensual.

Sokola's lawsuit includes only part of the allegations she detailed as Jane Doe in October 2018.

In that court filing, she also accused Weinstein of subjecting her to years of harassment and emotional abuse and said he blocked her from a successful acting career as payback for refusing his advances.

Sokola, now a clinical psychologist and psychotherapist in her native Poland, says in the lawsuit filed Thursday that she felt angry at Weinstein during the encounter and ashamed that he was causing her to unwillingly engage in sex acts.

"Weinstein made clear that refusing his sexual demands would mean giving up the opportunity to make it in Hollywood," the lawsuit says. "As Harvey Weinstein finally let Sokola leave, he told her that she needed to work on her stubbornness."

AP

## Russell Westbrook scores 40 as Rockets rally to defeat Clippers

LOS ANGELES

RUSSELL Westbrook has had his share of big games at Staples Center in front of family and friends. The Houston Rockets All-Star guard had one of the best outings of his career Thursday night.

The Lawndale native and former UCLA standout scored 40 points and grabbed 10 rebounds as the Rockets rallied for a 122-117 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers.

"It's fun to come in here and get a big win, but the win is the main thing," Westbrook said.

It is the most points Westbrook has scored in 45 NBA games at Staples and his 12th with 30 or more. It is also the 44th 40-point game of his 11-year career, which ties him with Karl Malone for 22nd on the career list.

"When you give so much attention to (James) Harden you forget the other MVP that is on their team," Clippers coach Doc Rivers said. "You have to respect him and play him the right way. We lost our discipline a lot on him tonight, especially in transition. Once he gets in front of you, you're not going to catch him, and that happened a lot during the second half."

Westbrook is the first Rocket other than Harden to have a 40-point game since Kevin Martin scored 45 against Portland on Jan. 5, 2011. He is also the first Houston player besides Harden to have consecutive games with 30 or more points since Jeremy Lin in 2013.

Houston rallied from a large deficit for the second straight game. It was down 16 three minutes into the third quarter before coming back to take the lead at the end of the quarter. The Rockets trailed by 25 on Monday night against San Antonio before winning by two, marking the largest comeback in franchise history.

The Rockets — who have won two of three against the Clippers



Houston Rockets' James Harden releases a shot during the first half of the team's NBA basketball game against the Los Angeles Clippers on Thursday, Dec. 19, 2019, in Los Angeles. (AP Photo)

this season — are 7-6 when trailing by double digits this season.

Westbrook scored 14 points during a wild fourth quarter that saw both teams lead by at least six. The Rockets led by three at the start of the quarter before extending it to 101-89. Los Angeles went on a spurt of its own to lead 113-107 with 4:29 left. The Rockets closed on a 15-4 run to snap the Clippers' 10-game home winning streak.

Harden scored nine of his 28 points during the final six minutes, including a 3-pointer with 2:57 remaining to put the Rockets up for good at 116-113.

"We kept plugging and the difference in the final 3 minutes was that James hit a few daggers and took his game to a higher level," Rockets coach Mike D'Antoni said. "(PJ Tucker's) defense on (Kawhi) Leonard was unbelievable and Russ was really good out there all night."

Paul George led the Clippers

with 34 points and Leonard added 25. Los Angeles shot 56.7% from the field during the first half (27 of 48) but made just 41% (16 of 39) over the final 24 minutes.

Clippers guard Patrick Beverley had yet another tense night against Westbrook and was ejected with 2:52 remaining after receiving his second technical. Westbrook was also given a technical for taunting Beverley as he left the floor.

"We had a chance to knock them out and we didn't," Rivers said. "In the fourth quarter our problem was more of our composure. I just thought we lost it as a team. It happens. It shouldn't, but this is a good learning lesson for us."

The Clippers led by 15 at halftime and extended their lead to 77-61 three minutes into the third quarter before the Rockets went on a 14-2 run. They scored nine of the last 10 points in the period to lead 90-

87 going into the fourth.

"We lost that aggression in the third quarter that we started the game with and that was it," George said. "Russ made some big shots when James was struggling and he was ultra aggressive."

George grabbed his 4,000th career rebound during the second quarter. He is one of 10 active players that has at least 12,000 points, 4,000 rebounds, 2,000 assists and 1,000 steals.

Meanwhile, in Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo looked over at LeBron James and Anthony Davis and thought about his past.

"I wasn't supposed to be here," the 6-foot-11 Greek Freak said. "Hardly looked that way Thursday night. Antetokounmpo had 34 points and 11 rebounds, and the Milwaukee Bucks beat James, Davis and the Los Angeles Lakers 111-104 in a showdown of the NBA's top teams."

AP



Dar es Salaam's Betras basketball team's players, Victor Michael (R), and Salum Shaib, feature in training at JMK Youth Park in the city on Wednesday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## Russia plans to file appeal against Olympic ban



Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks during his annual news conference in Moscow, Russia, Thursday, Dec. 19, 2019. Putin says that global climate change poses new challenges to Russia. Speaking at his annual news conference Thursday, Putin said that global warming could threaten Russian Arctic cities and towns built on permafrost. (Agencies)

MOSCOW

RUSSIA has signaled it will file an appeal against its four-year Olympic ban due to World Anti-Doping Agency sanctions which President Vladimir Putin on Thursday branded "unfair."

The Russian anti-doping agency's supervisory board voted Thursday to file an arbitration case with the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Switzerland. WADA last week ruled Russia had manipulated doping laboratory data to cover up past offenses.

Putin said it was not fair to threaten Russia with more doping-related punishment, and that any sanctions should be on an individual basis. "I think it is not just unfair but not corresponding to common sense and law," Putin said.

The case will likely be referred

to CAS within the next 10-15 days, supervisory board chairman Alexander Ivlev said. After a panel of three CAS arbitrators is chosen, a verdict will be issued within three months.

"The ball will be in WADA's court and the issue will be discussed in a legal context," Ivlev said. "We consider the argumentation to be fairly strong and we will see how the issue develops."

Thursday's decision must be approved by another panel of Russian sports and anti-doping figures, but that seems a formality.

Most of the panel's members, including the Russian Olympic Committee and Russian Paralympic Committee, have said they want an appeal. Sports officials are likely to have substantial influence over how the case is argued and the hiring of lawyers, rather than leaving

it in the hands of Russian anti-doping agency CEO Yuri Ganus. He is a frequent critic of top officials and has said the appeal has little chance of success.

Senior political figures including Putin had also signaled they wanted an appeal filed.

"We need to wait calmly for the relevant rulings, including the arbitration court ruling and we'll know what position we're in," Putin said Thursday. "Russian athletes have been training and will keep training for all competitions."

The WADA sanctions, announced last week, ban the use of the Russian team name, flag or anthem at a range of major sports competitions over the next four years, including next year's Olympics and the 2022 soccer World Cup.

However, Russian athletes will

be allowed to compete as neutrals if they pass a vetting process which examines their history of drug testing, and possible involvement in cover-ups at the lab.

That has prompted anger from some Western athletes and organizations like the United States Anti-Doping Agency, which wanted a blanket ban on Russian athletes.

USADA chief executive Travis Tygart said he wasn't surprised by Russia's plans to appeal and said it was another example of the country refusing to take responsibility for its doping program.

"Yet again, they deny accountability and continue to waste precious and limited resources in an effort to weasel out of the consequences, all the while leaving clean athletes of the world without justice or clarity on

their path forward," Tygart said in a statement. "Let's hope CAS has the independence and courage to see through these machinations and finally stand firm and take decisive action that puts in place a complete ban, which is allowed for and proportional to the intentional fraud, deception, and destruction of clean athletes and the Olympic values seen here."

Putin added that WADA's recommended four-year ban on Russia hosting major sports competitions would have little effect, pointing to the 2022 men's volleyball world championships as an event Russia intends to keep.

WADA demands events are moved unless it's "legally or practically impossible" to do so, which could create a loophole for event organizers who don't want to break financial commitments.

AP

## Wily Jorge Jesus stands in Klopp's way as Flamengo aim to stop Liverpool

DOHA

JURGEN Klopp's impact on Liverpool during four years in charge has been transformative, but the man in the opposing dugout in Saturday's Club World Cup final has needed just a few short months to make history at Flamengo.

Jorge Jesus was only appointed by the Rio de Janeiro giants in June, the arrival of the white-haired 65-year-old Portuguese coach raising eyebrows in Brazil.

He immediately made his mark and in the last month has seen the country's best-supported side win the Copa Libertadores for just the second time and then claim a first Brazilian title in a decade, finishing 16 points clear.

Jesus has overseen just two defeats in 29 league games and his team are now one win away from lifting the Club World Cup after defeating Al-Hilal 3-1 on Tuesday.

Only the small matter of Klopp's Liverpool stands between them and a first victory for South America in this competition since Corinthians beat Chelsea in 2012.

"This is the most important game of my career. It is the cherry on the cake of Flamengo's season, the biggest final I have been involved in," said Jesus.

Those comments in some ways speak to the importance of this occasion in South America, with the Club World Cup their one chance to compete with Europe's giants.

Interest in this competition is always muted in Europe, especially as it comes in the middle of the club season. Meanwhile, the number of Flamengo fans visible around Doha, decked out in red and black, confirms what this event means to them.

"This is the game of our lives and we will be at our very best," said the former Atletico Madrid and Chelsea full-back Filipe Luis to Globoesporte.

Jesus has taken them there, to their 74th and final game in 2019, having become a rare foreign coach to work in Brazil, never mind succeed.

- Down to the bare bones -

Jesus was already a comparative veteran when his managerial career really took off upon joining Benfica in 2009.

He stayed six years, becoming their longest-serving coach while winning three Portuguese titles and reaching two Europa League finals. His move to Flamengo came after three more years at Sporting Lisbon and a brief stint at Al Hilal.

Regular observers of Brazilian football have noticed the success he has enjoyed with a more typically intense, European approach, and that will give them reason to believe an upset could happen against Klopp's team.

"Of course with Jorge Jesus there is European influence but the players themselves are already quality," Klopp insisted.

"If there was not a European coach it would already be difficult. Jorge Jesus is very, very experienced and was very successful in Portugal and now in Brazil as well, so we have a lot of respect for that."

Liverpool are hoping victory can give them renewed energy in their draining Premier League title push.

It has been quite a week for the Anfield club since they beat Watford 2-0 last Saturday and moved 10 points clear at the top of the table. On Sunday they flew to Qatar before Monday's Champions League last-16 draw paired them with Atletico Madrid.

After a team of academy players lost 5-0 at Aston Villa in the League Cup on Tuesday, Klopp's senior side edged out Monterrey in the semi-final in Doha on Wednesday. Thursday brought confirmation of the signing of Japanese star Takumi Minamoto from Red Bull Salzburg.

Now they are hoping to crown a fabulous year by winning this trophy for the first time, but the pressing issue for Klopp will be to see if Virgil van Dijk can return after illness.

With Fabinho, Dejan Lovren and Joel Matip already absent and Georginio Wijnaldum missing Wednesday's game too, the European champions have been down almost to the bare bones.

AFP

## Lampard seeks to outwit Mourinho as Leicester face Manchester City

LONDON (AFP)

Frank Lampard will lock horns with former boss Jose Mourinho in a Premier League London derby this weekend as second-placed Leicester seek to take advantage of Liverpool's absence at Manchester City.

Elsewhere, out-of-form Arsenal travel to Everton and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer takes his Manchester United side to bottom club Watford. League leaders Liverpool, who have a 10-point lead at the top of the table, are away at the Club World Cup in Qatar.

AFP Sport picks out some of the key talking points ahead of the weekend's Premier League fixtures. Master V apprentice

When Jose Mourinho took over as Tottenham boss last month, his side were 12 points behind Frank Lampard's Chelsea and looked out of the running for the top four.

But Spurs will leapfrog their London rivals into fourth place in the Premier League if they come out on top on Sunday in a match pitting the grizzled Portuguese veteran against one of his key players during their time together at Stamford Bridge.

It is not the first time the pair have locked horns from opposing dugouts. Lampard came out on top last season when he took his Derby side to play Manchester United at Old Trafford in the League Cup, but both have since moved on to new clubs.

Chelsea have stumbled in recent weeks, losing four of their past five Premier League matches, with the boss hinting at striking reinforcements in the January transfer window.

The mood is different at Spurs. Former player Ledley King said

AFP

confidence was back and the top four was a realistic goal.

"(Mourinho) is a winner," he told Sky Sports. "He's won everything. From my experience if someone like that comes into your club you listen, you take everything on board and you try to soak up as much as you can."

Leicester's tough task  
Leicester must realistically beat Manchester City and Liverpool in their next two matches to stand any chance of winning a second Premier League title in five seasons.

A win for Brendan Rodgers' high-flying team on Saturday would close the gap to Liverpool to seven points ahead of their summit meeting with the Premier League leaders on December 26.

Defending champions City, on the other hand, can move to within one point of Leicester if they end the Foxes' nine-match unbeaten league run.

Rodgers urged his side to keep their progress in perspective after their run of eight straight wins was ended by Norwich last week.

"We are a team that's been developing over this last nine, 10 months from a mid-table position and now people are talking about challenging for titles," he said.

"For us our feet are very firmly on the ground and the players have been absolutely amazing."

Solskjaer's United conundrum  
How will Ole Gunnar Solskjaer approach Sunday's match away at lowly Watford?

United have notched up some memorable results against the top clubs this season, beating Chelsea, Tottenham and Manchester City and drawing against Liverpool.

## English clubs triumph in Europe's year of comeback shocks

LONDON

THIS was a year of unprecedented English domination of European club competition, as the Premier League finally turned its financial power into results on the field, but 2019 will be best remembered for a series of stunning comebacks.

For the first time ever, all four finalists in Europe's two club competitions came from the same country with Liverpool beating Tottenham Hotspur in the Champions League final and Chelsea defeating Arsenal for the Europa League title.

In women's football, the World Cup, held in France, brought unprecedented interest for the tournament with the United States defending their title by beating the Netherlands 2-0 in the final in Lyon.

Interest in the women's game has arguably never been higher, with broadcast records broken all over the globe in the June-July showpiece.

Olympique Lyonnais continued their domination of the women's European club game - a 4-1 win over Barcelona in Budapest ensuring a fourth straight Champions League title.

The men's Champions League is often criticised for the predictability of the group stage, which usually sees the established wealthy clubs deal with their less well-off challengers.

Yet while that remains a fundamental weakness of the competition, this year the knockout stage certainly delivered plenty of drama.

Manchester United produced one of the great comebacks, when under new manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer they went into their round-of-16, second-leg at Paris St Germain, having suffered a seemingly deadly 2-0 reverse at Old Trafford.

Yet a stoppage-time penalty from Marcus Rashford gave them a 3-1 win at the Parc de Princes and a remarkable aggregate victory on away goals.

Never in 106 attempts in Europe's top club competition had a team progressed in a knockout tie after a 2-0 home defeat and the game will go down as one of United's great nights despite them being eliminated by Barcelona in the quarter-final.

LATE DRAMA

The quarter-finals produced more late drama,



FILE PHOTO: Liverpool's team bus travels past fans during their victory parade for the Champions League in Liverpool, Britain June 2, 2019. REUTERS

this time with the added ingredient of Video Assistant Referee (VAR) controversy, as Manchester City were eliminated by Tottenham, on away goals, after the tie ended 4-4.

A late goal from Raheem Sterling looked to have sealed City's progress and sent their manager Pep Guardiola racing up and down the touchline, leaping into the air, punching the sky in wild jubilation.

City's wildly celebrating fans thought their outlandish dream of a quadruple of titles was still very much alive.

Then - as Turkish referee Cuneyt Cakir signalled the goal had been disallowed for an offside following video review - Guardiola fell to his knees, head in hands, in utter despair.

Yet even that night of drama was overshadowed by what followed in the last four.

Liverpool were presumed dead and buried after losing 3-0 to Barcelona but then, at a fervent Anfield, they were simply unstoppable as they swept aside the Spaniards 4-0 with two goals each for Divock Origi and Georginio Wijnaldum.

Then, incredibly, 24 hours later, came another astonishing comeback.

In Amsterdam, Ajax skipper Matthijs de Ligt's fifth-minute header and a superb 35th-minute effort by Hakim Ziyech put Ajax 3-0 up on aggregate against Spurs at halftime, seemingly securing their first final for 23 years.

Brazilian Lucas Moura, however, scored a second-half hat-trick, including the aggregate winner, six minutes into stoppage time, as Spurs went through on away goals.

It was perhaps inevitable that the final, won 2-0 by Liverpool in Madrid, felt something of a let-down, but fans of European football could hardly complain after a season which saw such extraordinary thrills.

UEFA's newest competition, the Nations League, proved to be a bigger success than most imagined and ended with Portugal beating the Netherlands 1-0 in the final in Porto.

REUTERS

## Arabs deserve their World Cup, says Qatari chief

DOHA

THERE is a catchphrase that world soccer's governing body FIFA frequently trots out when it discusses holding tournaments outside of the game's traditional strongholds in Europe and South America - "developing the game".

It is not, however, a phrase that appeals greatly to Hassan Al Thawadi, the man who heads Qatar's organising body for the 2022 World Cup, which will be held in the Gulf state.

"The concept of 'developing the game', I think, understates the penetration of football. Football is everywhere, it is in every corner of the world. Football really is the sport of the people and the Arab world is no different," he told Reuters in an interview.

The evidence for Al Thawadi's view, has been clear during the Club World Cup in Doha, which concludes on Saturday with the final between European champions Liverpool and South America's top team Flamengo of Brazil.

The semi-final clash between Premier League leaders Liverpool and Mexico's Monterrey, drew 45,000 fans to the Khalifa International stadium, with the crowd mostly made up of residents of the Gulf state and others from the Middle East who had made the short trip for the tournament.

Al Thawadi accepts there is much progress that needs to be made in Arab football but says there is no question of needing to convince the region's people of the appeal of the game.

"Developing the game - in terms of the level of professionalism, the engagement, ensuring that, just as in Europe and other places, it functions potentially as a job-creator and contributor to society, yes you can do that. But developing the passion for the game? I think the passion is already there," he said.

LITTLE SUCCESS

To prove his point, while praising the impact of Liverpool's Egypt forward Mohamed Salah, a hugely popular figure in the Middle East, Al Thawadi quickly rolls off a list of half a dozen Arab players of the past, who he clearly feels did not get the credit Salah now enjoys.

Behind those words, is perhaps a sense of frustration at how the idea of a Qatari World Cup has been received



Hassan Al Thawadi

in the established football nations, where many questioned the wisdom of playing a tournament in a small Gulf state with little record of success in the game.

Earlier this year, FIFA president Gianni Infantino looked into the possibility of changing the structure of the tournament, exploring the idea of an expanded 48-team event, with hosting shared by other countries in the region, an idea eventually ruled out on logistical grounds.

But Al Thawadi believes the tournament will, in any case, be the first World Cup that is accessible to the entire Arab world.

"The Arab nation is a football nation. That is clear. But not many people in this region have had the opportunity to attend a World Cup. This is a chance for us to experience it. It is a Middle Eastern World Cup," he said.

Nonetheless, if previous World Cups are any guidance, a large travelling contingent of fans is expected from Europe, South America and the United States. Qatar will add to its hotel capacity by bringing in cruise ships to accommodate the thousands of supporters who will flock to Doha.

QATAR CRITICS

Al Thawadi, who studied law at the University of Sheffield in England, has had to deal with plenty of criticism of the choice of Qatar since 2010 when the country was awarded the hosting rights.

Human rights and labour groups slammed Qatar's treatment of migrant workers, used to build new stadiums and infrastructure for the tournament and, while reforms have been welcomed by bodies such as the International Labour Organisation, Al Thawadi says the country is "always ready to improve".

The World Cup has also raised questions about

Qatar's alcohol laws, given that international fans would normally expect to be able to enjoy a beer or two and the country limits alcohol sales to a handful of hotels.

At the Club World Cup, beer has been on sale, at a lower price than in the hotels, at a special fanzone. Although there has been no decision on whether to allow beer sales at stadiums during the World Cup, that issue is under discussion.

"While alcohol is not part of our culture, hospitality is," said Al Thawadi.

The 41-year-old is quick to point out that visiting fans left the 2016 World Cup in Russia with changed views about the host country and hopes that spending time in the Gulf state will help challenge some negative views about the Arab world. "Football is not exclusive to one part of the world, to one culture, to one society, football is for all of us," he said.

"Forget ideologies, forget utopia, what it simply does is it breaks down stereotypes and I think in this day and age, we need to utilise more these opportunities, to break down stereotypes between people. I think that is essential".

REUTERS

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

English clubs triumph  
in Europe's year of  
comeback shocks

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

## Dar pool player to feature in 2020 International Masters final

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S pool player, Boniface Ndemwa, will represent the country at the 2020 One Belt, One Road Chinese Pool International Masters grand finale slated for this month in Hebei Province of Qinhuangdao City.

Ndemwa, a disabled athlete, said he qualified for the China event after excelling at a competition, dubbed Chinese 8 Ball East Africa, which was held in Kenya last month, and he is now in the process of finalizing his visa at the Chinese Embassy in Tanzania.

He said the 2020 One Belt, One Road Chinese Pool International Masters is set to take place from December 30 to January 8 next year and he is expected to depart for China three days before the start of the event.

The player disclosed that he will not travel to China early as the Chinese Embassy in Tanzania has scheduled him to fill his visa application forms on January 2.

Ndemwa said after his impressive performance in Kenya, Chinese 8 Ball East Africa tournament organizers offered him an opportunity to train in Nairobi for five days.

He disclosed he, though, has not yet travelled to Nairobi as he is busy in Tanzania seeking to get his visa.

He said he has sought help of the National Sports Council (NSC) so that they can help him contact the Chinese Embassy in Tanzania to reschedule his date of visa application to a nearest date with a view to seeing him meet his departure date.

"The event which I attended in Kenya was very competitive, but I managed to qualify and the organizers offered me the opportunity to train in Nairobi ahead of the China games," he noted.

"I, though, cannot go to Kenya now as I'm following my visa application, the plan by organizers was that I depart the country on December 27. When I went to the Chinese Embassy, they scheduled my day of visa application to January 2 next year."

"I have now sought the help of NSC so that the embassy should consider me to apply the visa on the nearest date."

An e-mail issued by organizers of the 2020 One Belt, One Road Chinese Pool International Masters, Qinhuangdao Joy Billiards Promotion Company Ltd, sent to Ndemwa and Tanzania Pool Table Association, confirmed the athlete's participation in the event.

"Highly appreciate for you to grant Amos Boniface Ndemwa to get a one single-entry visa to Republic of China so that he can prepare and attend the important event and matches of Qinhuangdao Joy Billiards Promotion Co Ltd smoothly" said part of the email.

The NSC Sports Development Officer Milinda Lutino Mahwa confirmed the development and said the council hopes the Chinese Embassy in Tanzania will consider the plea.

He said the problem was that the athlete was applying the visa on hardware, as he did not know that the Chinese Embassy in Tanzania only accepts online visa applications.

"Yes, in the first place he came to us and we helped him and the embassy gave him January 2 as his date for applying for the visa, this was not a good date as he is supposed to depart the country on December 27," Mahwa noted.

"He came back to us for help and now we are doing everything possible so that he goes to China on the agreed date and I'm happy that the Chinese Embassy in Tanzania has promised us that next week things will be sorted out and hopefully he can apply for his visa as soon as possible," he said.

## Company promises to back Para swimming promotion



Dar es Salaam swimming coach, Ramadhan Namkoveka (L), issues instructions to one of disabled swimmers at Nordic School's swimming pool recently. PHOTO: JOSEPH MCHEKADONA

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

DAR ES SALAAM-based firm, Desmi Africa Ltd Tanzania, has promised its continued support to the development of Para swimming in the country.

The company's Managing Director, Leslie Andrews, made the pledge at a closing ceremony for a five-day basic Para swimming coaching course which was held at Nordic School in Dar es Salaam.

Andrews' company

was one of the sponsors of the course. He said the firm is impressed with the training and is ready to sponsor another one especially a course which will involve women.

"We sponsored this course and we are pleased with what we saw, officials from Tanzania Paralympic Committee (TPC) have lamented that the number of women involved Paralympic

sports is very small," he disclosed.

"Let me assure you here that my company is ready to support the programs which will see many women, especially those disabled, are involved in sports," he said.

Andrews also said he is happy that out of 14 coaches who attended the course three are women.

He further said he believes his company's sponsorship will promote and develop Para swimming activities in Tanzania.

"When we received news that TPC is looking for sponsorship for the basic course we did not hesitate to support them," he disclosed.

"We are one of Denmark's oldest companies that has a long history of supplying goods and reliable solution. Our core products are development, manufacture, sales and services of marine and industrial process pumps."

"Our Sub-Sahara headquarters are in here in Tanzania hence the support. To us this support is aiming at giving back to the society."

Gwakisa Mwakabeta, TPC chairman, and Tuma Dandi, the committee's secretary general, thanked the company for the support.

The duo hailed the firm for its commitment to sponsor TPC activities, noting the move will attract many disabled women to Para sports.

"A few weeks ago, the International Paralympic Committee

(IPC) wrote us that for the country to earn a wild card at the coming 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games, we must have a good number of female athletes," Dandi noted.

"Unfortunately the country has no female Paralympic athletes, so the gesture by Desmi Africa Limited has come at a good time. We will make use of the sponsorship as our aim is to see to it that no disabled person is left out of sports," he noted.

National Sports Council (NSC)'s Sports Development Officer, Milinda Lutino, who graced the event, also thanked the company for the support and asked others to emulate the good gesture.

He promised Desmi Africa Limited that the government will support the company so as many disabled women can be involved in sports.

He noted that it is extremely pathetic that out of more than 55 million Tanzanians there is no female Paralympic swimmer.

"Let me thank Desmi Africa Limited for their commitment to support sports development in the country especially Paralympics. We are pleased that they have committed to develop the sport and we promise to help them so that many women are involved in sports," he said.

The course attracted 14 coaches, three of them are from Zanzibar. It was organized with a view to equip the coaches with knowledge on identifying, nurturing and training Paralympic athletes.

## Moro music band wows crowd in militia ceremony

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

MOROGORO-based music band entertained over 500 residents that attended a closing ceremony for militia reserve force, which took place at Kisaki Ward in the region early this week.

Head of Militia Reserve force in Tanzania, Major General Martin Busungu, presided over the closing ceremony for the training, which officially commenced on July 8 and climaxed on December 13.

The training, which took place for five months, had earlier recruited 730 youths constituting 672 men and 58 women.

Due to poor discipline shown by a section of the trainees, 192 youths were expelled.

Out of the expelled trainees, eight were dropped because of entertaining alcoholic behaviour and 44 had been suffering dis-



Morogoro District Commissioner, Regina Chonjo (front), dances with some of Kisaki Village's residents at a closing ceremony for militia reserves training, which took place in the region recently. Major General, Martin Busungu, graced the ceremony for the five-month training, which had over 400 trainees taking part in. Morogoro District Executive Director, Rehema Bwasi (in green kitenge dress), was as well one of the officials who attended the ceremony. PHOTO: MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

eases, bringing the number to 244.

Busungu pointed out 486 youths completed training. The group consisted of 442 men and 44 women.

The trainees, he disclosed, were confirmed as

new military reserve force given they managed to follow militia principles.

He congratulated Morogoro's district and regional trainers for embracing teamwork spirit, noting it was the first training that

had trainees displaying the best battle techniques and fitness.

The trainees put their physical fitness to show at a parade which brought together four platoons.

"That's great job, the

overall winner of all battle categories, Saidi Ngalambe, for example, demonstrated his ability to command all parades and platoons without any problem," Busungu disclosed.

"I promise to see to it refresher and leadership courses will take place in this region in coming days."

Busungu congratulated Morogoro District Commissioner, Regina Chonjo, for inviting him to be the ceremony's guest of honour.

He noted Regina deserved to grace the function but she appointed him for the task.

The district commissioner assured the militia she will oversee completion of construction of the latter's office building at Kisaki Village.

Busungu received 1,500,000/- presented by Kisaki Village residents as a gift for his willingness to be the guest of honour.

He said the cash will buy iron sheets as the government seeks to come up with ways on how to assist the village to complete the construction.

Regina revealed the militia offered immense contribution to development projects during the training.

The militia accomplished construction of two classrooms at Gomelo Village and clinic at Kichangani Village, they as well made bricks for the buildings.

"I congratulate you. The regional authorities have set out to ask the central government to hand over four percent out of 10 percent of cash, allocated for women, youth and people disabilities, in the form of capital," she disclosed.

Regina was adamant the residents should invest the capital in entrepreneurship, given they have skills in variety of activities, ranging from carpentry to gardening.

## Para swimming coaching course wins plaudits

By Guardian Correspondent

A five-day Para swimming coaching course ended in Dar es Salaam on Thursday, with organizers describing it as very successful.

One of the course's organizers, Ramadhan Namkomveka,

said the course has helped the country have many coaches with basic knowledge on how to train Para swimmers.

He also said the course was organized with the aim of having many qualified Para swimming coaches who will in turn

identify, nurture and train para swimmers.

He said he is hopeful that the coaches will use the knowledge gained to identify more Para swimmers who can be classified and recognized by International Paralympic Committee (IPC).

"We are finishing tomorrow but I can tell you it was very successful, it was more of interactive,"

"I'm sure the participants enjoyed it and they will use the knowledge gained to promote the sport in the country," he said.

This was the first time that the country was having a course for Para swimming coaches.

Namkomveka thanked Gold Star Paints and Desmi Africa Ltd for supporting the course, noting the support from the two companies helped them a lot.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

