



National Pg 3 New seed variety for tomato growers



National Pg 5 Elephant, rhino populations rebounding



National Pg 6 Kenya opens window for maize import



National Pg 7 2019 Global Volunteer Challenge



Majaliwa invites Egyptian leather market leaders to set up factories

State House 'uses charcoal' despite clean energy drive

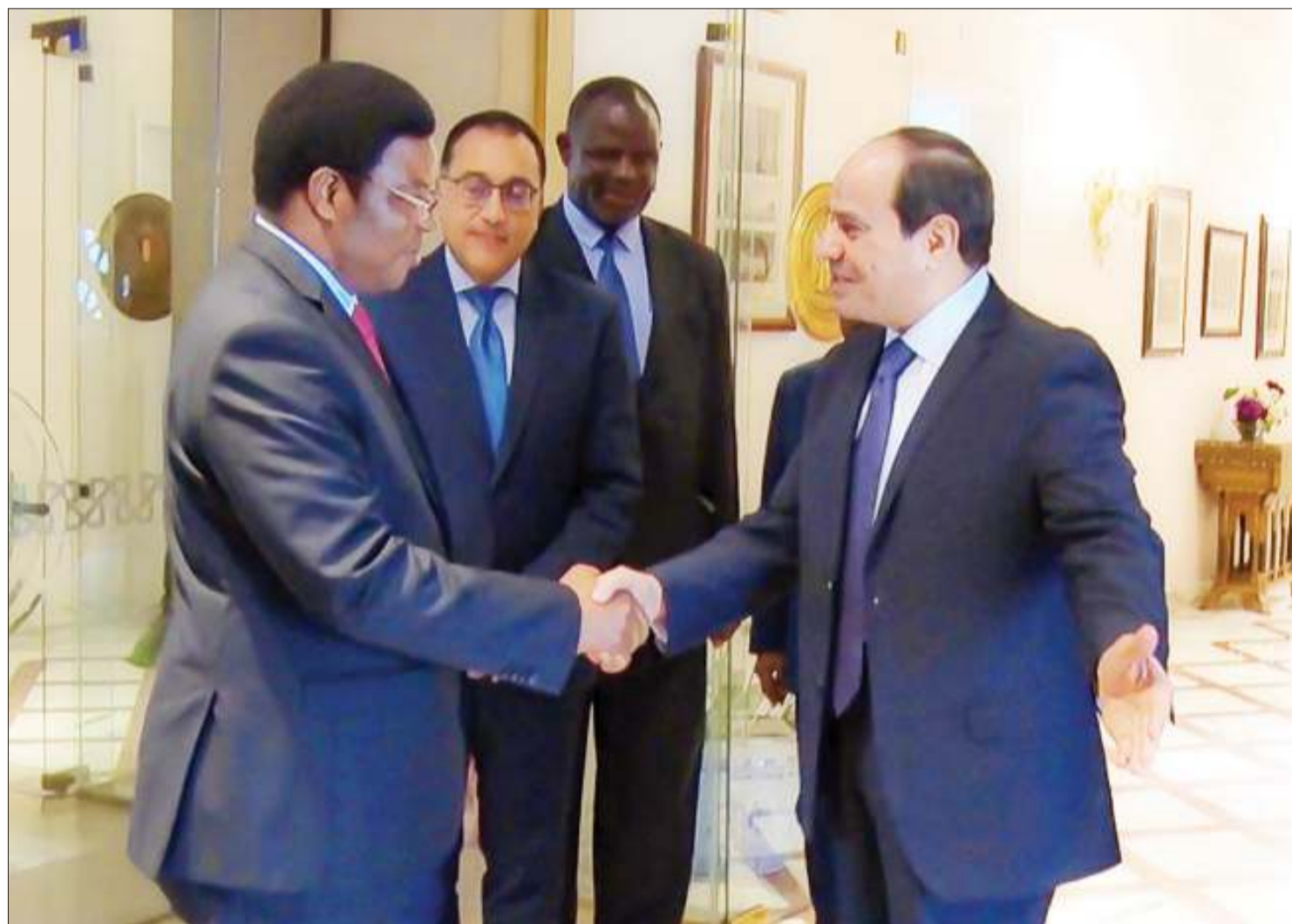
NAIROBI

A TENDER advertised by the Nairobi State House, inviting bids for the supply of charcoal has kicked off a storm amid sustained drive to promote use of clean energy.

The open tender, which also involves the supply of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), was advertised in Tuesday's dailies, giving the public a glimpse into President Uhuru Kenyatta's kitchen where, it turns out, charcoal is used.

This was widely seen as ironical considering the fact that the country's leadership has been encouraging citizens and institutions to shift from charcoal and firewood to clean energies such as LPG and biogas.

The tender notice stated that the charcoal supplier to State House would have to download prequalification documents from



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa greets Egypt President Abdel Fatah El Sisi at Cairo State House yesterday.

The chairman of Cairo for Investment and Development, which owns Robbiki leather factory, Yasser Mohamed Ahmed Al Maghraby said the company is interested in leather from Tanzania due to its quality

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has invited Egyptian companies leading in leather subsector to come and invest in the country, citing Tanzania's wealth in livestock and ongoing improvement in ease of doing business as key advantages.

A statement released yesterday by the Prime Minister's Office said the premier bade the welcome to the potential investors on Tuesday when he met them and visited their manufacturing plant.

The PM who is on official visit to Egypt held talks with Cairo for Investment and Development Company officials and visited Robbiki leather factory in the Sharkia region, the statement said.

"Prime Minister said that Tanzania has a lot of livestock and he appealed to the investors to come and invest in processing of livestock products including leather," the statement reads in part.

The PM stated that the government has made and is still making improvements in ease of doing business as well as accountability and discipline in the public service, making it one of the best places to invest in Sub-Saharan Africa, it also said.

The chairman of Cairo for Investment and Development, which owns Robbiki leather factory, Yasser Mohamed Ahmed Al Maghraby said the

UK slates 126bn/- for CSOs, media

By Aisia Rweyemamu

THE government of the United Kingdom yesterday announced a 126bn/- funding program to support civil society and media for a period of five years.

UK High Commissioner Sarah Cooke said yesterday that 7.8bn/- of the total amount will go into strengthening the media environment while the main part will be disbursed to civil society organisations (CSOs).

The support is provided through the UK's Accountability in Tanzania (AcT-2) program, a five year flagship governance and accountability programme funded by the Department for International Development (DFID), running from February 2018 to December 2022.

The goal of the programme is to increase



The goal of the programme is to increase access to entitlements, public goods and services, through increasing accountability of the government to society

access to entitlements, public goods and services, through increasing accountability of the government to society.

The remarks were made at a ceremony to wind up training for 250 journalists trained by UK experts via DFID, a training program that was part of the media environment support drive. More than 250 journalists were trained and equipped with skills to improve their journalistic professional capacity.

The High Commissioner stated that the mode of disbursing of the 7.8bn/- earmarked for accountability enhancement will be spelt out in the coming weeks.

Governments need to allow the media to do their job, she said, challenging journalists to be professional, impartial and balanced.

"If we let the media do their job of informing

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This was widely seen as ironical considering the fact that the country's leadership has been encouraging citizens and institutions to shift from charcoal and firewood to clean energies such as LPG and biogas

its website and register at the office of the head of supply chain management during office hours.

"Youth, women and the disabled should provide a valid certificate of registration for disadvantaged group. Pre-qualification documents duly completed should be submitted in plain sealed envelopes bearing appropriate category on the top of the envelope and deposited on the tender box," read the notice.

The Kenyan media report that the irony is compounded by an existing ban on logging, which Environment Cabinet Secretary Keriako Tobiko extended for another year in November 2018 as the country struggles to attain 10 percent forest cover by 2022.

The Tanzania government recently appealed to investors to put up a gas cylinder manufacturing plant as prohibitive cost of the container hinders the shift to clean energy, among the majority of Tanzanians.

Speaking at the official opening of the sixth LPG summit in Dar es Salaam last week, the Minister for Energy Dr Medard Kalemani said the price of LPG for domestic use is too high for low-income earners and the culprit is the

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Netherlands signs pact for aquaculture, poultry

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha



THE country's aquaculture and poultry sectors received a major boost yesterday following an agreement reached by the Tanzania government and the Netherlands.

Through the five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), the two countries agreed to empower Tanzanians engaged in the two sectors with a view of elevating them.

The Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, Abdallah Ulega (pictured) observed that the deal is set to greatly benefit Tanzanians specializing in fish farming and

raising domesticated birds such as chickens, ducks, turkeys and geese for the purpose of farming meat or eggs for food.

He asserted that the private sector will play a leading role in the process through public-private partnerships (PPPs), with state agencies of the two countries playing a facilitating role.

He stated that apart from opening up the local market, the agreement will address the high demand for protein, thus helping to reverse stunting among under-fives.

"There is a high demand for protein in the country as not so many Tanzanians eat enough

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company is interested in leather from Tanzania due to its quality.

Earlier, the PM visited a fish farming project and the second phase of expansion of the Suez Canal.

Livestock and Fisheries minister Luhaga Mpina said last month that Tanzania has 32.2 million cattle, 20 million goats, 5.5m sheep, 2 million pigs and 636,997 donkeys. He said there are also 79.1 million chickens of which 38.5 million are traditional chicken breeds and 40.6 million broilers.

Data from the Tanzania Dairy Board (TDB) indicate that the livestock sector contributes 7.4 percent to the gross domestic product (GDP) with 30 percent based on the dairy industry.

In March, Tanzania launched a 1.4trn/- (USD596 million) livestock master plan that will guide investments to develop the livestock sector over a period of five years.

The livestock master plan is a vision-driven road map with action plans to improve animal productivity and production as well as value addition in key livestock value chains.

The master plan was developed in consultation with livestock experts and stakeholders, who came up with relevant and realistic interventions to address livestock challenges Tanzania is facing and to find out how to take advantage of available opportunities.



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UK slates 126bn/- for CSOs, media

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the public, if we work with the media responsibly and proportionately, we will have a society built on trust," the envoy declared.

Cooke said the project will focus on giving civic groups a voice in decisions which affect them, supporting citizens to tackle corruption, supporting the inclusion of women, girls and people with disability and other vulnerable groups.

It will also focus on helping citizens to shape decisions on how Tanzania adapts to climate change and protects the environment, she pointed out.

By helping truth to prevail, a free, independent media can play a vital role to help Tanzania flourish and prosper. "A highly professional media is a vital to fight disinformation," she emphasized.

She said that last year was the worst year on record for violence and harassment against journalists worldwide, where 99 journalists were killed, over 300 detained and 60 held hostage.

A growing number of countries are increasingly using restrictive laws to stifle freedom of expression and prevent the functioning of an independent media, and only 10 per cent of the world's population enjoys a free press, she stated.

"That is why the UK Government and Canada are working together to tackle these issues both globally and here in Tanzania," the top diplomat intoned.

The High Commissioner said the two Commonwealth states have been making this effort as they understand that truth is the oxygen for a healthy society to breathe. "But truth is under attack by disinformation all around the world. That is why we need to improve the quality of journalism," she told the gathering.

She said free media aids the fight against corruption, noting that of the ten least corrupt nations in the world as ranked by Transparency International last year, seven appear in the top ten of the Press Freedom Index.

"We believe we must work together, government, journalists, civil society, academia and the public, to fight against disinformation and promote truth," Cooke stressed.

On her part, the Canada High Commissioner Pamela O'Donnell said Canada has long believed that the media play an essential role in defending and advancing the truth around the world.

"Journalists must be allowed to report facts freely and independently," O'Donnell said.

The UK and Canadian governments were concomitantly hosting a global conference on media freedom this week, bringing together over 1000 guests including the Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Prof Palamagamba Kabudi, to evaluate threats to independent media around the world.



Former Zanzibar President Amani Abeid Karume (wearing specs with hat) listens to Prisons Deputy Commissioner John Itambu during the 43rd Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair at Mwalimu Nyerere grounds along Kilwa Road in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent MirajimSala

State House 'uses charcoal' despite clean energy drive

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cost of the imported cylinders.

A survey conducted by The Guardian showed that a 15kg of LPG (gas and cylinder) retails at 100,000/- to 120,000/- while the 6kg cylinder goes for 55,000/- to 60,000/-. But for the refill-gas only—the costing halves to 50,000/- and 30,000/- respectively, as the cylinder gobbles up half the cost

for the initial purchase.

Dr Kalemami said the LPG price is high because of the cylinders which if they were manufactured in the country the prices would go down, hence save the nation from deforestation.

The minister said Dar es Salaam region alone uses about 500,000 bags of charcoal per year, about 15,000 tonnes.

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meat, fish or chicken," he said.

The deputy minister said Tanzania only harvests 350,000 tonnes of fish species every year compared to the actual demand which stands at 700,000 tonnes.

"This is a huge gap which we hope the five year project will help to bridge," he affirmed.

A recent report by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said that fish farming, considered by some economic experts as a lucrative venture in Tanzania is still largely a part-time activity.

Only 17,000 Tanzanians are involved in aquaculture, with 14,000 engaged in freshwater fish farming and the rest in seaweed farming.

Earlier on, the Netherlands Vice

Minister for Agriculture and Food Quality, Marjolijn Sonnema said the sectors are set to undergo major transformation through the PPP initiative.

She specified that a number of local private companies and a few from the Netherlands will be involved in the five years program.

"After long and fruitful discussions, we have both agreed to provide

adequate knowhow to poultry and aquaculture farmers on how they can improve on their yields," the vice minister elaborated.

Farmers will be trained on tailor-made skills on how to produce enough harvests, while the pact will also promote institutional cooperation in trade, investment and research on the two sectors, she added.

Netherlands signs pact for aquaculture, poultry



Livestock and Fishing Development Deputy minister Abdallah Ulega and Dutch Vice Minister for Agriculture, Nature, and Food Quality Marjolijn Sonnema exchange cooperation agreements to develop fishing and poultry sectors in the country. The event was held in Arusha region yesterday. Others are Netherland ambassador to Tanzania Jeroen Verheul (L) and Permanent Secretary in the ministry of Agriculture Methew Mtigumwe. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Uganda and DR Congo launch regional cargo tracking system

KAMPALA

TAX authorities of Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have launched a Regional Electronic Cargo Tracking System (RECTS) to reduce the risk of freight diversion between the place of origin and checkpoints.

Dickson Kateshumbwa, commissioner of customs at Uganda

Revenue Authority, said the DRC is a strategic market for Uganda and therefore the RECTS is important in regional trade facilitation.

"This system enables revenue authority officers to know the goods in transit, and the tracking of the cargo from Mombasa (Kenyan seaport) will be very easy and goods will be cleared at the border of Uganda and the DRC once," said

Kateshumbwa.

Aime Nzoyihera, country director of an aid-for-trade organization TradeMark East Africa (TMEA), which is implementing the project, said the RECTS will be implemented in three phases: the launch of the Uganda office, the opening of the Goma office in eastern DRC, and the launch of the Kinshasa command center.

"TMEA remains committed to facilitating reduced barriers to trade in the region, particularly through enhancement of digital infrastructure which will promote increased trade in the Eastern African region," Nzoyihera added.

The RECTS is now operational in four countries in the East African region, namely Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and the DRC.

Zimbabwe MP appears in court for vowing to overthrow govt

HARARE

A Zimbabwe opposition lawmaker was charged on Tuesday with subversion, his lawyer said, after a video surfaced where he purportedly said President Emmerson Mnangagwa would be overthrown before the next election in 2023.

Mnangagwa, 76, has promised to break with the past ways of his authoritarian predecessor Robert Mugabe, who was removed after a 2017 army coup, but critics say he has continued to use tough security laws against opponents.

Several government opponents face trial on charges of subverting the government after street protests over a fuel price hike turned deadly in January, leading to the death of more than a dozen people in a throwback to the Mugabe era.

We are going to take the fight to the doorsteps of Emmerson Mnangagwa, we are going to overthrow him before 2023, that is not a joke.

In a video circulating on social media from the weekend, Job Sikhala, deputy chairman of the main opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) and a member of parliament, appears to be seen and heard telling supporters at a rally: "We are going to take the fight to the doorsteps of Emmerson Mnangagwa, we are going to overthrow him before 2023, that is not a joke."

Reuters could not verify the authenticity of the video.

Sikhala's lawyer Obey Shava said the outspoken former student leader, who faces up to 20 years in jail if convicted, had been detained at a police station in central Harare and would appear in court on Wednesday.

World Bank launches youth business competition to tackle unemployment in Kenya

NAIROBI

A World Bank backed youth business competition to tackle unemployment was launched in Kenya, officials said on Wednesday.

Carlos Felipe Jaramillo, World Bank Country Director for Eritrea, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda, based in Nairobi, told journalists in Nairobi that his organization has set aside US\$13.5 million for the MbelenaBiz Business Plan Competition that will provide grants to 750 beneficiaries.

"MbelenaBiz does not target unemployed youth directly, it targets promising youth entrepreneurs who have a business idea or an existing business to support them with large business grants, with the ultimate objective to create jobs for other youth," Jaramillo said.

He observed that the competition which runs throughout the country and has special efforts to target women entrepreneurs who often shy

away from participating in business competitions.

Jaramillo added that the contest will award grants of between 8,755 dollars and 35,000 dollars to winners, noting that Kenya has witnessed progress in terms of youth employment in the past ten years.

According to the World Bank official, the number of formal jobs created are not enough to match the increasing working age population.

"About 800,000 youth enter the workforce each year but only about 100,000 formal jobs are created," he noted.

"As a result, a lot of youth are working a few hours a week, or they are working in low productivity jobs. None of these allow them to make a good living or contribute significantly to the economy," Jaramillo noted.

Jaramillo said that the business competition draws on similar business plan competitions like the YouWin competition that was done in Nigeria.



Shinyanga Regional Commissioner Zainab Terack talks with Inspector General of Police Simon Sirro (L) and Home Affairs Deputy Minister Hamad Masauni at her office after duo arrived in Shinyanga for official visit yesterday. Photo: MoHA

IITA develop technology for tracking better seeds

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

THE International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) has developed a technology for tracking better seeds for crops across the country by using a mobile application system that ensures timely delivery of seed to farmers.

Known as SeedTracker, offers the most cost-effective tool for seed marketing but also provides real-time information on seed variety, quantity, and availability.

Research associate at IITA Juma Yabeja told The Guardian exclusively recently in Dar es Salaam, that the technology has been developed by the institute in collaboration with the Tanzania Official Seed Certification (TOSCI) and Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA).

Yabeja said the technology will also help to remove unscrupulous seed companies that traded on profit maximization by using low standard seeds.

He said through the technology, farmers will be able to access the contacts and details of seed producers from any point in the country by using the coordinates of the map.

"All seed producers who have been listed in the technology have been certified and registered by the state-owned seed certification institute Tanzania Official Seed Certification (TOSCI)," he said.

According to the researcher, it is therefore expected that, once

SeedTracker is scaled out and becomes widely used by farmers and extension officers, it will expedite access to high-quality seed by farmers which will increase productivity and result in improved farmer incomes and livelihoods.

Yabeja added that they have started a pilot study for six months that was implemented in Lake Zone, coastal zone and in the southern zone, under 107 farms.

"We have decided to use the small and medium enterprises to take lead in the production of the seeds, mainly to empower them economically, rather than using foreign companies in the project," he explained.

"So far, the project covers several varieties of cassava seeds including Mkombozi, chereko, Mkuranga and Kiroba," he added.

According to Yabeja, the technology can help seed producers to greatly enhance the scale and the geographical reach of their cassava seed marketing, and likewise, it can enable existing and potential cassava growers to access the high quality certified seed.

"Furthermore, we will open up opportunities for mapping other Root, Tuber and Banana (RTB) crops as well as seed crops, such as maize, beans, and cotton," he said.

More than 80% of Tanzania's working population is involved in farming. We, therefore, think that SeedTracker can ultimately have a transformative impact on tens of millions of people in the country.

By Guardian Reporter, Iringa

New seed variety windfall for tomato cultivation in southern highlands

TOMATOES are currently what drive the edible part of horticultural products in Tanzania; as far as the country's local and overseas markets are concerned.

In relation with that, Bayer Crop Science through its vegetable arm of Seminis has introduced new tomato seed variety specifically engineered for horticulture farmers in the Southern Highland and which was launched in Iringa.

Identified as 'Firenze FI' the tomato seed, known locally as 'Nyanya Dum-Dum' has just been launched in Iringa region, by officials of Bayer Crop Science, at Ilula village, after undergoing initial tests onto the Tanangozi farms in the Southern Highlands.

Speaking during the launch, Bayer Crop Science representative, William Macha said all initial tests on the 'Nyanya Dum-Dum' seed variety have proved beyond doubt that, the kernels

will solve long existed problems that used to plague local growers.

Macha stated that the seed was disease resistant which now solves the problem of excessive chemical use onto farms, since the market now demands organically grown food.

"Even after harvest, the ripe tomatoes stay fresh longer, thus enabling farmers to have ample time to transport their produce to markets or even store the tomatoes until potential buyers come along without the vegetables going bad," revealed, Mr Macha.

Specifically engineered to withstand negative weather elements, as well as record bumper harvest from less than usual inputs, the 'Firenze FI' tomato seed variety complements the current wave of horticulture

industry development in the Southern Highlands.

The Chairperson of Horticulture Growers in the area Mr Mtokambali Mrisho, said farmers from Dodoma and Morogoro have been attending training sessions in Iringa on how to grow tomatoes and other vegetables.

Recently, the growers from those two regions who visited their exemplary farms in Iringa were astounded by the type of tomatoes that were on trials there.

"They have all been impressed by the quality products from the new seed variety, this is a revolution in vegetable farming, because the market trend for agricultural produce now seems to be focused towards horticulture," pointed

out Mr Mrisho.

According to experts, the climatic conditions in the southern highlands hold the highest long-term potential for horticulture in Tanzania but further development of existing infrastructure are required to make the zone a viable option for the country's horticulture exports.

Tomatoes, apparently, top the edible vegetable produce exports from Tanzania.

Horticulture is the fastest growing subsector within the agricultural sector with an annual average annual growth of 12 percent. The Horticulture sub-sector involves more than 2.5 million people, making it the leading employer within the country's agricultural sector.

Finland supports democracy and human rights work in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

THE Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland and The Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) have signed an agreement worth 1.5 million Euros for the core support to strengthen human rights and citizen participation in electoral processes. The project lasts for three years covering both the local elections 2019 and the general elections 2020.

With this project, Finland together with LHRC wants to contribute to establishing free and fair elections, and strengthen citizens' active participation focusing especially on women, youth and persons with disabilities. Finland supports the aim to make the electoral processes more inclusive and have more women, youth and disabled people actively participating both as voters and as candidates.

With this support, Finland contributes to strengthening of democracy and respect for human rights as well as enhances the rights and status of women and girls, which are both key priorities for Finland's development cooperation. LHRC's work supports greatly advancement of these priorities, as it is one of the prominent human rights defenders and actors

here in Tanzania.

The Legal and Human Rights Centre has a strong competence in human rights and electoral observation work. LHRC has defended and promoted human rights and good governance in Tanzania since 1995.

Together with Tanzania Civil Society

Consortium for Election Observation (TACCEO), which is coordinated by LHRC, it has vast knowledge and experience on the election monitoring and observation.

Good governance and rule of law are the founding elements of development and peace. LHRC with the support of the

Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland contributes to advancing human rights and citizen participation in electoral processes in Tanzania, which are the fundamental elements of good governance and development.

Finland's Country Strategy builds on the

Tanzania Development vision 2025 and on the targets that are outlined in Tanzania's Five year Development Plan II (2016-2021). The strategy focuses on two main areas, which are improving performance of the public sector, and increasing opportunities for employment and livelihoods.

Remembering O'Brien-Justee "The Great"

Rest In Peace
16 April 1997 - 11 July 2018

O'Brien Justee Mwiru

"A voice is still heard in Salasala, Weeping and loud Lamentation, Diana-Bape weeping for her only son, refusing to be comforted because he is no more"
I dearly miss you OB, I am empty without you, I am weak and have lost the sense of direction.

You are missed by your loving papa, uncles, aunts, cousin sisters and brothers, friends and neighbors. Till God reunites us sleep peaceful my son.

It is well with my soul Lord. In this trying moment of my life and as pains become severe in each day that returns to you, you the Merciful God will remain to be God the Lord. AMEN

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African states counselled to enhance internal capacities to counterattack terrorism

NAIROBI

AFRICAN states have been tasked to enhance internal capacities to deal with terrorism.

Kenyan President Uhuru made the call yesterday when opening a two-day African regional high-level conference on counter-terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism in Nairobi, said the continent has the means and the will to defeat terrorism, adding that a win against the vice will be a victory for humanity.

"International bodies, individual governments, civil society, the media, the religious sector and all relevant stakeholders must come together, act in concert and ensure that we channel the immense talents, energy and vigor of our youth to the betterment of the world and to advance the quest for the human race," he said.

The meeting brought together Heads of government and ministers of interior, security and foreign affairs, including UN secretary-general Antonio Guterres as well as heads of counter-terrorism agencies, in addition to international organizations, civil society and leading think tanks.

The regional conference will inform the next UN High-level Conference of heads of counter-terrorism agencies of member states to be held June 2020.

Kenyatta said more should be done by African governments to prevent incitement and recruitment to weaken terrorism.

He called on Africans to stand together and never cede any ground to terrorists, saying terror groups should not be allowed to hold any territory on the continent.

The Kenyan leader said multi-national military missions that deny

terrorists territory need to have strong mandates, appropriate force enablers and multipliers.

He said African countries need to have strong strategies to deal with violent extremism but must also engage capabilities to disengage, rehabilitate and reintegrate those who reject terrorist ideologies.

According to Kenyatta, terrorism is a Pan-African challenge and as such, governments must come up with joint responses and solutions.

"I call on the African Union to generate a powerful political consensus for confronting and defeating terrorism and all other forms of violent extremism conducive to terrorism," he said.

He said Africa must speak boldly and with one voice, "declaring to the enemies of freedom that we shall not relent and we shall prevail."

Kenyatta, whose country has suffered from terrorism, said the African Union, the UN and other conference participants should come up with strategies that deny terror groups the space to grow in Africa.

"Discussions and solutions should propose multi-faceted approaches to combating terrorism, extremism and radicalization that confront the vice on the battlefield, in places of worship, in market squares, in our schools and in our homes," he said.

He said such forces should be deployed alongside a comprehensive terrorism sanctions regime, and implemented together with a political strategy for stabilization and the delivery of services to the population if they are to be successful.

The president said Kenya has established anti-terrorism county action plans to reduce threats to the country.



National Insurance Corporation managing director Sam Kamanga (L) exchange greetings with Minister for Defence and National Service Dr Hussein Mwinyi at the NIC pavilion during the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair at Julius Nyerere grounds recently. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Embrace peace, our economy will thrive again: South Sudan president

JUBA

SOUTH Sudan's president Salva Kiir used the occasion of celebrating six years of independence to apologise for his government's mistakes, including the failure to pay public workers because of an ongoing economic crisis.

Kiir, who has been president of the world's youngest nation since its independence also appealed to his countrymen to "embrace peace".

"My fellow citizens, I want all of us

to encourage our sons and daughters to embrace peace and maintain the peace," Kiir said in a speech on Tuesday.

South Sudan slid into war in 2013 when Kiir accused his former deputy Riek Machar of plotting a coup.

A peace deal was signed with the opposition in 2018, but the UN says violence in one region has since intensified.

Under the peace accord, a unity government will be set up to enable Machar to return from abroad, but

the process has been hampered by quarrels.

Kiir, in a gesture to the opposition parties, thanked them "for their commitment to the peace agreement."

Economic crisis

With the oil-rich country struggling financially, Kiir's government has been unable to pay troops and civil servants for months, prompting parliament last month to block the budget in protest.

"I am fully aware that our people are angry because of the difficult living

conditions imposed up on them by insecurity and economic hardship," said Kiir. "I want to sincerely apologize to you my people on my own behalf and on behalf of my government."

The peace agreement was the key to the country's turnaround, he said.

"Security will return to South Sudan, our economy will thrive and we will be able to better deliver important services to our people such as schools, clean drinking water and create jobs for our people," he predicted.



Request for Proposals Consultancy Services To conduct Final external evaluation of BMZ Funded Project 18+ Ending Child Marriage in Geita Tanzania

- Plan International Tanzania is an International humanitarian child-centered development organization without religious, political or government affiliation. Plan's mission is to achieve lasting improvements in the quality of life of deprived children in developing countries through a process that unites people across cultures and adds meaning to their lives. Plan international in Tanzania is operating in Dar es Salaam, Coast, Morogoro, Geita, Rukwa, Dodoma, Kigoma and Mwanza regions.
- Plan International Tanzania has set aside funds to cover costs for conducting final external evaluation of BMZ Funded Project 18+ Ending Child Marriage in Geita Tanzania
- Interested eligible bidders must confirm their intention to bid indicating all relevant contact information including an email address to tenders@plan-international.org attn: Head of Procurement and Logistics. Bidding documents in the English language will be sent to interested bidders by email. Plan Tanzania will not be held responsible for any costs related to printing of the bid documents.
- Bidders are requested to submit Technical and Financial Proposals each be enclosed in a separate envelope and marked "Technical Proposal" and "Financial Proposal" respectively. The two envelopes shall then be enclosed in a single envelope.
- Bidders must submit the proposals in a sealed envelope by hand or post to: The Country Director, Plan International Tanzania, Plot no. 496 Mikocheni Light Industrial Area, P O Box 3517, Dar es Salaam before 11AM Wednesday 24th July 2019, **marked the respective RFP number**. Not to be opened before 11AM Wednesday 24th July 2019
- Electronic and Late bids will be rejected.

Tender Panel
Plan International Tanzania
Central Technologies House
Plot No. 96 Mikocheni Light Industrial Area
New Bagamoyo Road - Next to TBC1&NECTA
P O Box 3517 Dar es Salaam
Tel: + (255) 22 2773264/+ (255) 22 2773272/ 0767 773264

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Africa's small-scale fisheries critical to food security

TUNIS

AFRICA'S small-scale fisheries play a critical role in global food security and must be supported with greater research and investment, say international and African experts.

Industry, NGO, government and academic representatives attended Murdoch University's second Blue Economy Symposium in Tunis last week as part of the Africa Blue Economy Forum (ABEF) 2019 and Murdoch University's Third Commission, a research investigation focusing on issues of public concern in Africa.

Fish accounts for more than one-fifth of the protein intake of African south of the Sahara and provides a livelihood to millions of people.

Murdoch University Adjunct Professor, Dr. Jeremy Prince, who attended the symposium and is contributing to the work the Third Commission in this area, said the collective value of the small scale fisheries of Africa was too big to ignore.

"It is critical that we stabilise and rebuild these fisheries to ensure both food security and the future of the blue

economy," Dr Prince said. "The time to act is now."

Discussions at the Tunis symposium provided useful insights and contributions to the fine-tuning of the focus and narrative of the Blue Economy chapter of the Third Commission's report. A strong emphasis was placed on the need to highlight clear and innovative actions to effect lasting transformation of the blue economy in Africa.

Participants in the symposium called on all nations and international institutions to recognise the value and economic impact of small-scale fisheries in Africa. Their recommendations included:

Increasing investment to allow fishing communities to be more involved in the co-management of fisheries; and

Directly engaging with fishing communities to collect and share relevant data regarding the state and economic value of small-scale coastal fisheries.

In keeping with Murdoch University's commitment to quality research and teaching in public policy at both the national and international levels,

Murdoch Commissions are exercises in applied public policy informed by rigorous scholarly research and analytical thinking.

They bring together senior practitioners, international experts and thought leaders from Australia and around the world to work on pressing problems and issues of public concern.

The first Murdoch Commission, "Western Australia and the evolving regional order: challenges and opportunities" published its final report in November 2013 and the second Murdoch Commission, "Food security, trade and partnerships: Towards resilient regional food systems in Asia" released its report in December 2015.

Murdoch's Third Commission commenced in June of 2018 and is focused on six themes firmly rooted in the agenda for action identified by the Africa Progress Panel (APP) as being in need of more significant research attention, bolder policy innovation, faster implementation on the ground, enhanced political leadership and the conceptualisation and roll out of innovative research solutions.



British High Commissioner to Tanzania Sarah Cooke (L) talks to journalists on press freedom in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The UK government had trained 250 Tanzanian journalists so far. In the same vein, UK and Canada have both yesterday convened Media Freedom in London which is being attended by Foreign Affairs Minister, East Africa, Regional and International Cooperation Prof Palamagamba Kabudi. With her is Canadian High Commissioner to Tanzania Pamela O'Donnell. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya



Dar es Salaam Lord Mayor Isaya Mwita (R) hands over delivery equipment to Mnazi Mmoja Hospital senior nursing officer Magreth Komanya and hospital's medical officer Dr. Sophinias Ngonyani in Ilala district -Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Tourists visiting Eastern Arc Mountain forests on the increase, says official

By Correspondent John Ngunge, SAME

THE number of tourists visiting Eastern Arc Mountain forests has been increasing on yearly basis, thanks to the conservation initiatives made by different stakeholders.

Most of the visitors are interested to view the untapped countless tourist attractions the nature forest reserves, which are rich in biodiversity.

Principal conservation officer at Chome Nature Reserve, Sosthenes Rwamugira told reporters who visited the forest reserve recently that number of tourists who visited the forest has been increasing from six in 2002 to 426, this year.

He attributed the success as a result of partnership with the Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Environment Fund (EAMCEF) which so far has been donating 28m/- each year since 2012.

He said the money is useful for patrol, rehabilitating roads, promotion and for helping income generating projects for villagers living around the forest.

The conservator said Chome has many unique species thrives in the Eastern Arc, including over 500 plant species and 136 vertebrate species that are found nowhere else on earth of which 18 are found there.

He said apart from admiring the impressively large East African camphor trees, some reaching 30 meters high and two meters in diameter, visitors can enjoy its wilderness and biodiversity.

He pointed out a number of attractions in the reserve like excellent view of the reserve, Shengena peak which is the highest point in Pare Mountain, Mount Meru, Mkomazi National Park and Taita Hills.

Other excellent views are Kwesiga view point, Kalimawe dam, paddy irrigation scheme, forest birds, butterflies

varieties and flowers, just to mention a few.

He said by visiting responsibly one can support conservation efforts and learning about the fragile eco-system, which can be protected for the future generations.

According to fund's coordinator Margaret Victor, who is based in Muheza District, the money they donate helps in patron against illegal invaders in the forests, doing rehabilitation of reserve's roads and helping nearby villagers establish some income generating projects.

Another chief conservator from Magamba Nature Forest Reserve, Getruda Nganyagwa, admitted that the number of tourists visiting the reserve has started shooting up, giving a round of applause to EAMCEF for their support as they receive about 26m/- each year since 2012.

She cited some of the visitors being German tourists and most of them are attracted by some historical features in the area as it was used by the German colonist as their base.

She said for instance at one of the high peak of the forest there is a German cave believed to be dug out in 1914 - 1918 during their rule in Tanganyika.

It is believed that the cave is used for defense and bauxite mine searching.

Talking about why they support the communities, Margaret said, the purpose is to empower them economically something which would later on make them not interested to invade the forest in search for fire woods and trees for building materials.

She said through the support, the communities have now established projects like planting trees, horticulture, and cultivation of spices, wood efficient stoves and chicken keeping.

Parents urged to help nurture their children's talents

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIAN parents have been urged to help their children discover their talents outside academic fields.

Addressing participants in a workshop entitled 'The Power of Talent', Aisha Kingu, said children's lives could be ruined by not discovering their talents. They ought to nurturing talents which would make children

successful and self-reliant, she explained.

"Children have their own dreams in life. We have organised this workshop so that we can identify best ways of nurturing their talents and enable them realise their dreams and contribute positively to the national economy," Kingu told participants.

One of the participants, Dr Kingu Mtemi, the farther of Aisha, told

participants that nurturing children's talents was a tricky business. "It is a bit complicated. We had a hard time with Aisha because we had wanted her join the field of medicine. She refused. Finally we gave in; we let her realise her dreams. She wanted to be a poet."

Dr Mtemi said poetry opened his daughter's doors for she has met heads of state, including Russian President Putin and British Queen Elizabeth.

She has written poems about the life of retired President Jakaya Kikwete. Kingu is also a lawyer.

Elham Mwema congratulated workshop organisers, explaining that the workshop enabled participants realise that developed talents would lead to self-advancement. "We have realised that once your talent is developed it is easy to succeed socially and economically," she said.

USAID says happy with Rukwa traditional chiefs

By Correspondent Joseph Kithama

THE United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Tanzania held talks with a delegation of Fipa traditional chiefs from Rukwa region aimed at more involvement of traditional chiefs in USAID supported projects in the region.

The USAID/Tanzania's Mission Director, Andrew Karas, is reported to have said, informal traditional network of chiefs could be instrumental to USAID-supported projects in reaching the grass-root population in the region the eight persons delegation from Rukwa region, which included a representative of Rukwa Regional Commissioner is in Dar es Salaam at the invitation of the USAID/Tanzania's Mission Director Andrew Karas, to discuss the implementation of current and future USAID-funded activities in Rukwa region.

Representing traditional chiefs from Rukwa, chief Bonaventura Kasogela and chief Mtono Moses Sikazwe, have met the USAID's Mission director to explore venues of increased participation of traditional chiefs in supporting USAID supported projects in Rukwa.

USAID-funded NGOs in Rukwa region, include John Snow Institution, Pact Inc- and Save The Children Foundation- which conduct the programme of sustainable nutrition to children in Rukwa whereby the level of malnutrition is 56.4 per cent over and above the national malnutrition level of 34 per cent.

Recently, Rukwa Region has been categorised by the National Bureau of Statistics, under five most impoverished regions of Tanzanian mainland, with more than half of its population living in abject poverty.

Delivering a speech to the USAID, the delegation of Fipa traditional chiefs said traditional leaders have direct and enormous influential powers in their respective communities and that any community project supported by traditional leaders is prone to be successful by 99.5 per cent.

The traditional chiefs told the USAID that they were the think-tanks in cross-cutting societal cultural issues and that the Fipa traditional chiefs know drought-resistant plant species which could reduce deforestation without intensive care of planted trees.

Being opinion-leaders in their respective communities, traditional chiefs could promote peace and stability as well as advocating for development programmes before the country's socio-economic development.

"We chiefs are eager to participate in addressing health challenges, such as traditional birth control- with zero contraceptives based on traditional values, norms and customs", the explained

The Fipa traditional leaders have formed a dully-registered institution, known as Fipa Cultural Heritage Centre and Museum (FICUHEM), an arm of traditional chiefs in the region and Rukwa Development Forum (JUMARU).

The delegation has been supported by a number of cultural-stakeholders in the region as well as by the Regional Commissioner for Rukwa, Joachim Wangabo.

By Guardian Reporter

ELEPHANT and rhino populations in Tanzania have begun to rebound after the government crackdown dismantled organised criminal networks involved in industrial-scale poaching.

President John Magufuli revealed this on Tuesday when speaking at the official launch of the upgraded Burigi-Chatom National Park.

A prominent Chinese businesswoman dubbed the "Ivory Queen" was sentenced to 15 years in prison by a Tanzanian court in February for smuggling the tusks of more than 350 elephants to Asia, marking a major

Govt says elephant and rhino populations rebounding after anti-poaching crackdown

victory for the government.

"As a result of the work of a special task force launched in 2016 to fight wildlife poaching, elephant populations have increased from 43,330 in 2014 to over 60,000 presently," the presidency said in a statement late on Tuesday.

The number of rhinos, an endangered species, had increased from just 15 to 167 over the past four years, it said.

The elephant population in Tanzania,

famed for its wildlife reserves, shrank from 110,000 in 2009 to little more than 43,000 in 2014, according to a 2015 census, with conservation groups blaming rampant poaching.

Demand for ivory from Asian countries such as China and Vietnam, where it is turned into jewels and ornaments, has led to a surge in poaching across Africa.

Tourism is the main source of hard currency in Tanzania, best known for its

wildlife safaris, Indian Ocean beaches and Mount Kilimanjaro.

The presidency said revenues from tourism were \$2.5 billion last year, up from \$1.9 billion in 2015.

It said Tanzania had set aside 32 percent of its total land area for conservation activities and dismissed criticism from environmentalists about a \$3 billion hydropower dam project in the Selous Game Reserve, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

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QATAR AIRWAYS
GOING PLACES TOGETHER

CMSA embarks on initiatives to boost financial inclusion

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

THE level of financial inclusion and literacy among Tanzanians will soon improve, thanks to new initiatives taken by government.

Already the government through Capital Markets and Securities Authority (CMSA) has announced to increase awareness campaign on stock market related issues.

Speaking to this paper in an interview, the CMSA Public Relations Manager, Charles Shirima, said that in its endeavours to improve financial inclusion and literacy, the authority aims at reaching all population groups in the country, through public education campaigns.

Currently, some public education programmes are run in universities and other higher learning institutions countrywide.

One of such programs is a technology-based competition known as Capital Markets Universities and other Higher Learning Challenge (CMUHL), conducted countrywide annually.

"Under this competition, students participate by answering mobile phone-based questions and writing essay on a topic related to capital markets", he said.

The CMSA expects to extend the scope of its financial education programme to secondary schools and primary schools.

It was reported that the country was planning to prepare future leaders and investors mostly secondary school students on opportunities and benefits of participating in the capital markets.

The CMSA Chief Executive Officer Nikodemus Mkama was quoted as saying they plan to introduce awareness programme in secondary school dubbed as FLY Financial Literacy for the Youth)

In addition, participation in crowd pulling events, exhibitions, preparation of television and radio programmes targeting general public

and organising various seminars, workshops and office to office talks targeting specific user groups will remain among priority activities to enable CMSA attain the set target for increased capital markets inclusion under the national financial inclusion framework for 2018-2022.

Objectives of the Capital Markets University Challenge is to create awareness and enhance knowledge about capital markets and commodity exchanges among the students in universities and other higher learning institutions.

Another objective is to increase participation in the securities markets by encouraging a culture of savings and investments and to broaden the country's securities markets investor base by creating awareness among students and other potential investors.

He said the last is to leverage technology in reaching out to students in universities and other higher learning institutions countrywide using technology including mobile phones which have proven to be an effective medium of communication.

The CMSA is a Government agency which is responsible for among other things developing and regulating the capital markets in Tanzania.



Under this competition, students participate by answering mobile phone-based questions and writing essay on a topic related to capital markets



Westminster Cathedral Choir master of UK Matthew Wright (R) hands over optical coherence tomography (OCT) to Muhimbili National Hospital Managing managing director Prof. Lawrence Museru at a short ceremony held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Left is MNH surgery services director Dr. Sufiani Baruan.

Govt looks to service Kenya's 12.5m maize bags import window

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

TANZANIA has expressed interest in selling maize to Kenya in a three-month window to plug a deficit.

Tanzania's Agriculture minister Japhet Hasunga said Kenya had requested the country to allow direct sales to service the 12.5 million-bag import window.

"We are ready to grab the opportunity because we have surplus maize. In fact, Kenya requested us to

sell 1.2 million bags of maize to them. We have not reached an agreement because the request did not come with a price offer," he told media in the country.

The windfall is aimed at easing maize shortage on Kenya that has seen a price surge to Sh112 for a two-kilo packet of milled flour from February's Sh80.

The traders will in turn sell the same to millers and to the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB).

Hasunga added that once the deal

is sealed, Kenyan traders will have to obtain required permits and pay the relevant taxes.

Tanzania's bumper harvest has helped ease inflation in the country of 57 million people to a 40-year low with last season's harvest hitting 15.9 million bags against a demand of 13.3 million bags.

Kenya had said the planned 12.5 million bag maize import will comprise of 10 million white maize and the rest yellow type for animal feed

manufacturing.

Last year, Kenya's maize production rose 26 percent from 35.4 million bags in 2017 to 44.6 million bags in 2018, prompting a fall in maize imports from 119.7 million bags to 47.7 million.

Kenya consumes 52 million 90 kilo bags annually while last year's production of 47.7 million bags means the difference will have to be imported. The situation has got worse as farmers reluctantly release the grain citing low prices.



Director of Science at the Ifakara Health Institute (IHI), Dr. Fredros Okumu (L) briefs the Chargé d'Affaires of the US embassy in Tanzania, Dr. Inmi Patterson about mozzie mosquito repellent sandals when she visited the institute in Morogoro region on Tuesday. Mozzie sandals are produced at the Institute and can be used as protection gear against mosquito bites. Dr. Patterson is in the region to inspect US-funded programmes. Photo: Courtesy US embassy.

By Guardian Reporter

THE United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) is expected to carry out an 8-day training for 25 local radios in Zanzibar from today.

According to a statement issued yesterday in Dar es Salaam, the training is aimed at enhancing knowledge of local radio journalists in designing, producing and monitoring an interactive programme to enhance capacities of local radios journalists on gender sensitive and cultural appropriate radio programmes and news bulletins, contributing to inclusive development in Tanzania.

Specifically, the training will increase skills of local radios journalists and

UNESCO carries out 8-day training for 25 local radios journalists in Zanzibar

reporters on how to design, produce and broadcast quality gender sensitive and cultural appropriate programmes and news bulletins using UNESCO's Gender Sensitive indicators.

Through this training, UNESCO will also enhance capacity of these journalists on monitoring the quantity and quality of programmes and news bulletins related to gender and development.

Further to the training, all participating radios (25 CRs) will receive seeding funds from UNESCO

to facilitate quality and quantity media monitoring of the programmes and news bulletins on gender sensitive and appropriate reporting and monitoring for six month.

One of the UNESCO's major indicators is on increasing percentage of women's voices heard in programming (as interviewees, call-in public, experts, testimonies and sources) youth voices heard in programming (as interviewees, call in public, experts, testimonies and sources). This supports the main agenda of Sustainable Development

Goals, which insists on "leaving no one behind".

UNESCO through The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation funded project "Empowering Local Radios with ICTs for the Promotion of Rural Citizens' Participation in Democratic Discourse and Development", work in capacity building for local radios by improving and building knowledge and skills in applied journalism and with the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).

Climate change, inequality threatens unsteady SDG progress, UN reports

UNITED NATIONS

CLIMATE change and inequality are threatening the unsteady progress countries are making on the Sustainable Development Goals, U.N. experts warned on Tuesday.

With the exception of a few areas, the majority of the 17 global goals remain off-track for completion by their 2030 deadline, according to the United Nations' latest report on the SDGs.

"The goals are very ambitious – like reaching zero hunger, eliminating poverty – and it is really challenging to reach that target in a short period of time," Yongyi Min, chief of the Sustainable Development Goal Monitoring Section at the U.N. Department of Economic and Social Affairs, said in an interview with Devex.

"Climate change jeopardizes a lot of the progress already made if we do not take on this issue. The goals are all interlinked, climate change links to poverty, links to disaster, links to hunger, links to water scarcity, and biodiversity loss," Min continued.

Direct economic losses from disasters from 1998 to 2017 were estimated at almost \$3 trillion, with climate-related disasters accounting for 77% of the total, according to the report. Meanwhile, despite an increase of 17% in climate finance flows from 2013-2014 to 2015-2016, investment in fossil fuels continues to be higher than investment in climate activities.

The U.N. released its updated landscape of the 2030 sustainable development agenda on Tuesday, the first day of the annual High-level Political Forum on sustainable development. This year's two-week forum is set to highlight country progress on six SDGs, focused on education, economic growth, inequality, climate action, peaceful and inclusive societies, and global partnerships for sustainable development.

Significant progress has been made in some areas, such as a drop in the incidence of HIV among adults in sub-Saharan Africa, and a decrease in deaths of children under 5. Nine

out of 10 people worldwide now have access to electricity, placing targets of SDG 7 – affordable and clean energy – likely on track for completion by 2030, according to Min.

But the majority of the other goals have stagnated and, in some cases, reversed course.

"It is abundantly clear that a much deeper, faster, and more ambitious response is needed to unleash the social and economic transformation needed to achieve our 2030 goals," U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres said in a media statement.

The world is presently off-track to meet SDG 1, aiming to eliminate all forms of poverty.

Though global poverty rates have dropped from 36% in 1990 to 8.6% in 2018, conflict and climate change have slowed progress, according to the new report. Approximately 6% of the global population is anticipated to remain in poverty by 2030. Among the 735 million people who lived on less than \$1.90 a day in 2015, 413 million were in sub-Saharan Africa.

Inequality, as well as hunger and undernourishment, are also on the rise.

In more than half of the 92 countries with available data, an increasing share of income goes to the top 1% of the population, while the bottom 40% receives less than 25% of overall income, according to the report's findings.

An estimated 821 million people globally were undernourished in 2017, the same number as in 2010. And the number of undernourished people in sub-Saharan Africa increased from 195 million in 2014 to 237 million in 2017.

"There is still progress made in many of the economic and social aspects of those targets, although for many of them, progress has slowed down," Min said.

In many cases, poor data collection makes it difficult to accurately assess progress on the SDGs, Francesca Perucci, chief of the statistical services branch at U.N. DESA, said during a media briefing at the U.N. on Tuesday.

CEOrt proposes dialogue to devise strategies to bolster country's FDI

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

THE CEO Roundtable of Tanzania has proposed the need for effective dialogue on how to lift the country's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

Tanzania country senior partner for PricewaterhouseCoopers David Tarimo said the foreign investment in Tanzania has dropped in this year as compared to past years.

The World Bank's ease of doing business index currently ranks Tanzania as 144 out of 190 economies, losing seven positions compared to the previous report.

He made the statement on Tuesday in Dar es Salaam during the dinner meeting to discuss Tanzania's economic growth prospects that was organised by the CEO Roundtable.

Tarimo added that despite the fact that Tanzania economy has grown by 7 percent with agriculture and construction sector taking the lead in the economy, the foreign investment has decreased.

He said that the main reason for decrease of the investment in the country is that investors fear about stability policy as most of them don't have the assurance of the stability of economic policy in the country.

According to the African Development Bank's (AfDB), Tanzania has been slipping for the past few years with the current positioning down several points from 137 in 2018 and 125 in 2010.

"The decrease in the investment has not only occurred in Tanzania, but the entire East Africa region," he said.

Themed: "Tanzania's Economic Growth Prospects" the meeting that brought on board senior officials from African Development Bank (AfDB), government leaders, CEOs from the financial institutions and directors, presents an opportunity to analyse Tanzania's economic performance and the role of the government, private sector and development partners in supporting Tanzania's socio-economic development goals.

Tarimo proposed the best way to ensure that foreign investment goes up is by

engaging the private sectors in the effective and regular dialogue in order to chart the best approach for facilitating investment in the country.

He applauded the recent government's efforts to have audience with business community on how to facilitate business and investment environment in the country, the move needs to be sustainable.

The industry and trade minister Innocent Bashungwa assured members of the CEOrt that the ministry is working on the Blueprint implementation plan as a priority and that the government remains committed to ensuring a conducive business and investment climate through a predictable policy environment.

He added that the government is evaluating Tanzania's position before ratifying the agreement. Tanzania is also working on creating a platform for businesses to invest in Tanzania making it a production hub for the economic blocs market.

Bashungwa requested members of the CEOrt to contribute in devising strategies to boost investor confidence for increased investment in infrastructure along the Agricultural value chain to help reduce post harvest losses.

For his part chairman for CEO Round table of Tanzania Sanjay Rughani said the meeting focused on discussing the current state of economy in the country.

"We have seen a lot of development in the recent years of the fifth phase government, though the development has been contributed by few major sectors including transportation, digital, logistics and production sectors," he said.

Rughani who is also the CEO for Standard Chartered Bank Tanzania, said the private sector will be confident to invest in a country where the economic policy is stable and it provides friendly environment for business operation.

"The private sector under the umbrella of CEO together with the government needs to put together ideas and recommendations for improving ways of lifting the FDI in the country," he explained.



Improved cook stoves vendor Paulo Venance (L) of Kibaigwa, Kongwa district in Dodoma region attends to his customer Issa Abdallah yesterday. Most of the households in the country use improved cook stoves instead of gas. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

RB volunteers tackle hygiene issues in rural Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

FOR its 2019 Global Volunteer Challenge, RB partnered with Raleigh Tanzania to share skills and knowledge to drive positive changes in hygiene practices in rural Africa.

"When you take part in a project like this it makes you realise 'This is why I do my job; this is what it's all about.'"

That was the feedback from one of the 30 RB employees from 23 countries who recently took part in the company's two-week Global Volunteer Challenge. It's been running since 2007 and is one of the flagship events of RB's ongoing Give Time volunteering programme.

The challenge, to improve hygiene practices in villages in rural Tanzania, was devised in partnership with the sustainable development charity Raleigh International. Raleigh is expert at running volunteering programmes and has a background in working to improve access to clean water and sanitation, along with hygiene education - issues that connect directly with RB's business and its social impact strategy.

This year, for the first time, the challenge drew on RB employees' professional skills and brought

a mix of experience from across the business - ranging from R&D to sales - to offer fresh perspectives on initiatives.

Working in partnership to tackle the issues

Raleigh has been working in rural Tanzania since 2013; building toilet blocks in schools, running hand-washing initiatives and educating about clean water. But with people still getting sick from unsafe water and poor hygiene - leading to two million deaths a year globally - it was keen for new insights into how to improve the situation. The charity hoped that the 30 RB employees with their various professional skills, and working in partnership with Tanzanian youth volunteers, could develop an innovative approach to tackling this issue.

Working in groups of six, the teams were tasked with devising a new approach to help improve hygiene practices in local communities. As well as benefiting from the formative research carried out by the Tanzanian volunteers prior to RB's arrival, all the volunteers experienced what it was like to live in rural communities by staying in local homestays for four days. This proved to be vitally important as only then were they really able to experience the local culture and challenges.


On-the-ground experience

"When we were staying in the village, our homestay 'mama' and 'papa' made sure we had everything we might need, including meals and clean water," says Natalia Diaz, who's been with RB for five years and is brand manager in Chile.

"But it was clear that they have very limited access to water, which makes the practice of hygiene habits difficult. They have to walk miles to the well or river to get water, which is contaminated, so they either have to boil it or use tablets to purify it."

Following their time in the village, the teams returned to Morogoro training centre where they reviewed their findings and translated them into possible interventions. Each group prepared a pitch proposal on how to improve hygiene practices, including how their target audiences could help drive the changes and proposed activations. They also had to explain how they would measure the impact and success of their initiative.

The successful proposal (or proposals) will be piloted in communities before a live programme is launched by the end of the year, which RB will continue to support.



DODOMA CHRISTIAN MEDICAL CENTRE TRUST (DCMCT)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

GENERAL SURGEON

The Dodoma Christian Medical Centre Trust (DCMC Trust) is a registered non-governmental organization with Christian values governed by the Board of Trustees. DCMC main offices are located at Ntyuka, Dodoma Tanzania. The mission of DCMC Trust is to provide accessible and sustainable quality health care through a Tanzanian comprehensive health system which encompasses community based prevention and primary, secondary and selected specialized and super-specialized care. Dodoma Christian Medical Center (DCMC) has served thousands of patients through its dental and medical clinics and community health programs with a compassion and love of Jesus Christ in collaboration with other stake holders and in line with the Government policies.

Our state-of-the-art hospital seeks a **General Surgeon** with experience in a busy hospital setting to join our professional team. We have an established and growing patient volume that provides the successful candidate with immediate cases. The ideal candidate for this position has worked with patients of all ages, is proficient in performing in treating injury, disease, and deformity through operations and is committed to the highest quality of patient care. Those who are qualified and in search of a long-term career opportunity in a cutting edge practice are encouraged to submit an application.

Job reference Number:	DCMC-HQ-01
Position:	General Surgeon
Duty Station:	DCMC Dodoma
Reports to:	Director

Position Summary:
The incumbent is a medical specialist who performs surgery for a wide range of illnesses, educated and trained in the diagnosis, preoperative, operative and postoperative management of patient care. S/he will be treating injury, disease, and deformity through operations using a variety of instruments. The incumbent will correct physical deformities, repairs bone and tissue after injuries, or performs preventive surgeries on patients.

Qualifications and Experience:



- Holder of a Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree or MBChB or its equivalent from a recognized Institution.
- Holder of Masters of Medicine (MMed) in General Surgery from a recognized institution
- Must be registered by the Tanganyika Medical Council as a Surgeon
- At least two (2) years working experience as a General Surgeon from a reputable medical institution

MODE OF APPLICATION

- DCMC Trust is an equal opportunity employer offering stable and professional working environment with competitive remuneration and benefits.
- The Job Descriptions for the advertised positions will be obtained in DCMCT website. (<http://www.dcmct.or.tz/careers>)
- The job reference number should be clearly indicated on top of the envelope or e-mail Subject/headline
- All applications containing letter of application, copies of your academic certificates and a detailed CV with at least three referees, should be through post or e-mail (P O Box 658 Dodoma or E-mail: jobs@dcmct.or.tz).
- Closing date and time: Monday 22nd July 2019 at 16.30 hrs.
- Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interview
- No hand delivered applications will be processed for these positions

All Applications through Post should be addressed to

Director
Dodoma Christian Medical Centre Trust
P.O. Box 658
Dodoma

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

BACKGROUND

IntraHealth International, Inc. and its partners Tanzania Youth Alliance (TAYOA) and Afya Plus are implementing the Cooperative agreement for "Accelerating the Scale-up of Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC) for HIV Prevention for Maximum Public Health Impact in the United Republic of Tanzania funded by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)". This five-year project (2016-2021) named "Tohara Plus" is currently being implemented in thirty-three Sub National Units (SNUs) in Mwanza, Geita, Simiyu, Mara, Shinyanga, Kagera and Kigoma regions. The project supports the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MOHCDGEC)/National AIDS Control Program (NACP) and President's Office Regional Authorities and Local Government (PORALG) to strengthen and scale-up a comprehensive package of quality, safe VMMC services among adolescents and adult men 10-29 years to reach 80% prevalence in the targeted SNUs by 2020 and to integrate Early Infant Male Circumcision (EIMC) services in reproductive and child health (RCH) clinics for sustainability.

IntraHealth invites quote from eligible, registered companies to bid for the Items mentioned below;

1. Lot Number 1: Supply of T-Shirts and Caps 2019/29/07

No.	Description of Goods/Services	Unit of Measure	Quantity required	Delivery Place
1	*EIMC branded T-shirts for demand creation, service providers and clients Brand: Polo, Tommy, Sports or Manga (2000 with collar, 2000 round collar, 1000 V shaped collar) Size: S-1000, M-1500, L-1500, XXL-500, XXXL-500"	pcs	5000	Dar es Salaam Warehouse.
2	*VMMC branded T-shirts for demand creation, service providers and clients Brand: Polo, Tommy, Sports or Manga (5000 with collar, 14000 round collar, 1000 V shaped collar) Size: S-4000, M-6000, L-6000, XXL-3000, XXXL-1000"	pcs	20,000	Dar es Salaam Warehouse.
3	*Purchase VMMC branded caps Standard size"	pcs	10,000	Dar es Salaam Warehouse.

2. Lot Number 2: Supply of Underpants 2019/29/07

No	Description of Goods/Services	Unit of Measure	Quantity required	Delivery Place
1	Clean underpants large size (20 years and above), 100% cotton material midcut any colour except white.	pcs	120,000 pcs	Dar Warehouse.
2	Clean underpants medium size (15 to 20 years), 100% cotton material midcut any colour except white.	pcs	190,000 pcs	Dar Warehouse.
3	Clean underpants small (10 to 15 years), 100% cotton material midcut any colour except white.	pcs	190,000 pcs	Dar Warehouse.

3. Lot Number 3: Medical Equipment's 2019/29/07

No	Description of Goods/Services	Unit of Measure	Quantity required	Delivery Place
1	Medical Examination Bed: height from ground 98 CM, Length 6 feet, width 2 feet	Pcs	200	Dar Warehouse.
2	Tray Rolling Steel Trolley Double Post Medical Instrument Stand	Pcs	200	Dar Warehouse.
3	Digital timer	Pcs	200	Dar Warehouse.
4	Theatre Gown-Light Blue in color XL size	Pcs	300	Dar Warehouse.
5	Theatre Gown-Light Blue in color XXL size	Pcs	300	Dar Warehouse.
6	Analogy Bathroom Weighing scale	Pcs	100	Dar Warehouse.
7	Splash Surgical Safety Goggles Anti-Fog, with two clear Lens	Pcs	500	Dar Warehouse.

Interested bidder/vendor may get specification, artworks and further information & details through email Procurement-TZ@intrahealth.org during office hours (7:30 am to 4:00pm) Monday to Friday except on public holidays.

Interested and eligible vendor should submit their quotations in a sealed enclosed plain envelope and delivered to the address given below. The deadline for receiving quotes is July 29, 2019.

The Tender Committee Plot #443, Kawa Malakua area, Golf Street
P.O. Box 12007, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania
Tel: +255 22 2780383, Mob: + 255 767 538 219/754 282 763

All quotes must be in Tanzania Shillings and applications received after July 29, 2019 at 12:30 pm will not be considered.

Please Note:

- Late or Incomplete bid/quote will not be accepted
- Bidders must quote for all items and quantity specified in each lot.
- For Lot No 3(1 and 2) make sure you indicate the picture of the item and place of manufacturer and warranty
- Please submit all quotes on company letterhead and VRN, TIN, Valid Business License, Valid Tax Clearance Certificate. All quotes must be valid for a minimum of thirty 30 days.
- The request for quote does not constitute a contract commitment by IntraHealth
- IntraHealth has the right to disqualify any offer based on offeror failure to follow the solicitation instruction
- Offerors shall not be reimbursed for any costs incurred in connection with the preparation and submissions of quotes.
- If item quantity is not currently in stock, include expected date when the item quantity will be in stock (delivery time), brand name of the product /item and country of origin.
- All goods will be delivered at IntraHealth International- Dar es Salaam Warehouse.
- IntraHealth reserves the right to (a) reject any and all offers, in whole or in part, for any reason whatsoever, (b) waive immaterial requirements, and (c) pursue purchasing in a manner that is in the best interest of IntraHealth.

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There is positive and significant impact of women education on socio-economic growth

THE socio-economic impact of female education constitutes a significant area of research within international development. Increases in the amount of female education in Africa tends to correlate with high levels of development. Some of the effects are related to economic development. Women's education increases the income of women and leads to growth in GDP. Other effects are related to social development. Educating girls leads to a number of social benefits, including many related to women's empowerment.

Recent research in human development has established a strong link between women's education and international development. International development is an academic discipline concerned with the social and economic progress in impoverished regions. In particular, researchers seek to determine what factors explain differences in rates of development. Women's education is one of the major explanatory variables behind the rates of social and economic development, and has been shown to have a positive correlation with both. According to notable economist Lawrence Summers, "investment in the education of girls may well be the highest-return investment available in the developing world." Closing gender disparity is also one of the U.N. Sustainable Developmental Goals.

Both individuals and countries benefit from women's education. Individuals who invest in education receive a net monetary gain over the course of their lifetime. According to Harry Patrinos, lead education economist at the World Bank, "the profitability of education, according to estimates of private rate of return, is indisputable, universal, and global."

In addition to total economic growth, women's education also increases the equitability of the distribution of wealth in a society. Increased women's education is important for achieving this as it targets the impoverished women, a particularly disadvantaged group.

In the same vein, education stakeholders in the country have been called upon to support girl-child education, especially those from poor and challenging backgrounds without serious focus, such girls will be locked out of the education system and finally national development.

The stakeholders were speaking while officiating at the opening of a one day seminar organized by the Campaign for Female Education (CAMFED) for 248 who girls recently completed advanced secondary school education.

The group of young girls is those from the challenging backgrounds who managed to go to school through support of CAMFED, most of them looking forward to join higher learning institutions soon through the same support.

It is important that Higher Education Loans Board should also see how to give 100 per cent loans. The report from CAMFED is a clear indication that a lot more need to be done to see such girls attain their goals.

We commend CAMFED' education programme for operating in 454 secondary schools and 365 primary schools in the country whereby it has sponsored 48,954 secondary school girls to attain ordinary secondary education. It has also enabled 1320 girls from 178 schools get advanced secondary school education. She said the organization is supporting girls from poor backgrounds in public schools.

New Wildlife Policy should address problems and obstacles that have plagued management

THE Tanzania National Parks Authority commonly known as TANAPA is responsible for the management of Tanzania's national parks. It is governed by a number of instruments including the National Parks Act. TANAPA manages the nation's 19 national parks which covers approximately 15 per cent of the land area and has the mandate to conserve and manage the wildlife in Tanzania, and to enforce the related laws and regulations in this industry.

In 1999 the government adopted a new Wildlife Policy intended to better address the problems and obstacles that have plagued wildlife management in Tanzania. The new policy, however, retains state ownership and control of wildlife resources. Continued state ownership and control of wildlife resources perpetuates the wildlife-first philosophy of biodiversity conservation - the use of a protected area network as a principal management tool - and patron-client relationships that have marked government-community relations in wildlife and other natural resource management.

In the same vein, President John Magufuli yesterday lashed out at politicians who he said do not speak out against encroachment and consequent human activities in conservancies for fear of losing votes, accusing them of standing in the way of conservation efforts. Speaking at the launch of Burigi-Chato National Park in Chato District, Geita Region, the president said that elected leaders in areas surrounding protected areas exacerbate the problem through silence and inaction.

The government has in recent years been struggling to remove groups of intruders from protected areas where they undertake activities like farming, grazing and the ultimate threat to wildlife and the economy - poaching.

The president emphasized that this was an issue of national interest but it did not seem important to politicians in affected areas as they think not of the damage inflicted by the encroachment

but only possible reprisals by angry voters in the next election.

President Magufuli told elected leaders that the country was being held back by "politics of lies", politics of not telling one another the truth - which he described as the biggest enemy of development.

He said even Burigi, which has been elevated from a game reserve into a fully fledged national park, has not been spared the ever-worsening encroachment.

In July last year, Natural Resources and Tourism minister Dr Hamisi Kigwangalla said that foreigners from countries neighbouring Tanzania had invaded and settled in protected areas in Kigoma Region "under the watch of local government leaders".

Speaking during a visit there, Dr Kigwangalla said he had reliable information that the foreigners were conducting their activities undisturbed within the Moyowosi and Kigosi game reserves in Kibondo District and the Makere forest reserve in Kasulu District. He accused regional leaders of being lax in protecting the nation's natural resources by allowing invaders to inflict damage in the protected areas through activities like farming, animal husbandry and wildlife poaching.

Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr Hamis Kigwangalla recently expressed concern over the survival of the country's protected areas like national parks and game reserves, amid increasing population and consequent encroachment of conservancies.

Dr Kigwangalla made the remarks when opening an annual meeting with senior journalists and editors organized by Tanzania National Parks (Tanapa).

The minister said that the future of wildlife conservation is uncertain due to myriad challenges, including population pressure, suggesting comprehensive approaches to address the situation.

Experts put Tanzania's population is estimated at anywhere from 50 and 55 million and the country still has one of the fastest rates of population growth in the world,



Urban land reform: Start with informal settlements

By Lauren Royston and Tiffany Ebrahim

IN his State of the Nation Address, President Cyril Ramaphosa declared that faster economic growth requires accelerated land reform in rural and urban areas and a clear property rights regime. Until now land reform has been a rural programme. What does the inclusion of 'urban' mean for the millions of people living in our cities and towns without equitable access to land?

Informal settlements are the most visible manifestation of inequitable land access in urban areas. Urban informal settlements are the fastest-growing household sector in South African cities.

According to the Housing Development Agency, more than 4 million people or 1.25 million households currently live in urban informal settlements. The availability of affordable, well-located, serviced land remains a significant challenge and poses a major obstacle to the realisation of the constitutional right of access to adequate housing and access to land on an equitable basis.

The Socio-Economic Rights Institute of South Africa (SERI) launches a new informal settlement research series on Friday 5 July. SERI's in-depth qualitative research into the lived realities of informal settlement residents has some answers to the urban land reform question.

The site-based research occurred in Ratanang informal settlement in Klerksdorp (City of Matlosana), Marikana informal settlement in Philippi (City of Cape Town) and Siyanda informal settlement in KwaMashu (eThekweni Municipality) over two years.

Looking across the three sites the research confirms that informal settlements are not "informal" places to live. People organised themselves individually and collectively to secure access to land where the market, the economy and the state were failing. They organised their residential and economic land uses, they self-provisioned access to the most rudimentary services and imposed their own order on an environment that existed without formal recognition. They defended against eviction, often brutal, often on multiple occasions. Despite a shrinking economy and limited opportunities for productive income, they found ways to make a living using, among other strategies, social grants.

They made their voices heard in multiple spaces: the courts, the municipality when they could get an audience, ward committees, local representative committees. Their claims were both demands for land and to belonging - and they actively created a sense of community.



According to the Housing Development Agency, more than 4 million people or 1.25 million households currently live in urban informal settlements.

However, their claims were challenged at every turn. Despite their considerable agency, resilience and organisation, the occupiers confronted multiple contestations in their daily lives: a housing allocation system unable to cope with the scale of demand or the complexity associated with competing claims, their interactions with councillors, access to electricity from neighbouring areas, strategies and tactics between leaders, which residents legitimately "count" as the households in line for future development, over the right to housing and private property.

State agencies have been unwilling to acknowledge the role of informal settlements. They are often reduced to illegal places to live and neglected as a viable approach for people to build a home in the city and secure a livelihood. Informal settlements are often relatively well located in terms of access to economic opportunities, transportation and social facilities. They provide affordable rental accommodation or land for self-built shelter.

They are an entry point into an urban environment for urbanising households. Despite the critical functions informal settlements provide, the prevailing physical conditions often pose serious threats to the well-being of residents: inadequate access to safe water, sanitation, electricity and insecure tenure.

The Upgrading of Informal Settlements Programme provides a good policy framework for improving the lives of informal settlement residents. It has the potential to secure access to land and basic services. However, implementation according to

the in situ and participative intentions of the programme has not lived up to this potential.

Instead, the relocation of informal settlements to vacant land far from cities and work opportunities for greenfield development and "roll-over" upgrading remain common practices amongst municipalities. In the process, decades of community organisation are erased and relocated residents are often left worse off than they were before. SERI's research offers insights into an alternative approach to upgrading informal settlements.

As a starting point, municipal and provincial interventions should begin by recognising the local norms, practices and agency which already exist in informal settlements. This requires government officials to work closely with residents and local leadership structures to both identify and understand lived realities, existing practices and challenges. Securing their residential status is the main priority for residents. A street address and proof of residence are pre-requisites for interacting with society outside the settlement and with the formal economy.

Enumeration, local lists and shack numbering worked like local land records. Rules about newcomers and one home per household were widespread.

Land governance arrangements hold important clues for upgrading interventions. They provide markers for layout planning that build on what already exists. Existing activity routes, internal neighbourhood blocks, locally-designated land for social use, open space and economic activity should be the starting point for layout planning.

Household livelihoods are adversely affected by lack of access to basic services. Occupiers identified their urgent need for access to basic services to improve quality of life. The provision of basic services as an interim measure can significantly reduce the social, economic, health and financial burden on the residents of informal settlements.

It can also prevent the outbreak of disaster such as fire as well as public health risks. Other priorities were access to visible and effective policing to improve safety and security and opportunities for residents to participate in inclusive processes to meaningfully engage with the State about their settlements. Over and above the material needs for access to land and services, the research also found that achieving recognition and a sense of belonging were fundamental to residents.

In his State of the Nation Address, the President also acknowledged that "many South Africans still need land to build homes and earn livelihoods". In fact, many South Africans are doing what they can, where the market excludes and the state hasn't delivered. However, the livelihoods of informal settlement residents are constrained by their precarious residential circumstances and rudimentary access to services.

A major mind-shift is needed in government to recognise the agency of informal settlement residents and to ease the multiple contestations which place a heavy burden on millions of South Africans.

Upgrading informal settlements should be an urban land reform priority.

Dear finalist 7 things you must remember

IT'S time for the real world right? You've been in school for almost 17 years of your life and now it's time for a little break.

You final college exams are set to be a thing of the past in the coming days.

College wasn't a walk in the park, I know, I have been there.

It's quite a beautiful memory and is even more beautiful if you remain nostalgic about those moments as its a learning stage that comes just once in a lifetime.

While most of you may feel quite older because you are completing college and facing the world ahead of you, you are still so young - you just have a degree or a diploma remember.

At this point the possibilities are endless, the world is your oyster and you still have a lot more to accomplish in life.

Some are looking for internships and volunteering jobs at their dream organizations, some are entrepreneurs while some people are saving up and trying to travel the world before they settle down in their life after college. Ultimately,



the decision is up to you on where you go after you walk off that stage with either that diploma or degree in hand.

Do not freak out after that graduation ceremony.

Do not go around bumping into any job vacancy you come across. No

matter what, remain calm and keep a clear head. Not everything you want to happen right after graduation is going to happen. You've been in the same institution for like three years (or more) and now you're done with that chapter of your life. It's time for change, while that is scary, it's time literally!

Do not fear rejection

Graduating college and going out into the work force is intimidating and most of the professional community is not going to take you seriously. That is when it is time to take it into your own hands and make them take you seriously.

In the grand scheme of applying for jobs, you are not going to be offered every single one you apply for. You may not possess skills that certain jobs need. If they do not extend you a job offer, that's okay, still try for the next interview. Unfortunately, rejection is a part of life, but we need rejection so that it can lead us on to bigger and better things.

Never stop chasing your dreams

No matter how scary it seems still go after it and give it everything you got. People laughed at Bill Gates when he told them his dream and now he's one of the wealthiest people in the world because he never gave up. Find something that you are going to wake up every day and look forward to make it happen.

Never settle

Settling is one thing youth in this



country have a problem with. We settle for jobs that we aren't happy with, we settle in relationships that do not make us happy and we always seem to use the phrase "It's just easy." I'm here to tell you to stop. Life is going to get hard but don't settle on something because it's easy, go after what you want even if you will have to face various challenges and even if you don't get it, at least you learnt. Jump out of your comfort zone and make something valuable out of your life.

I will share what no one told me when I completed college:

Live for Yourself

Do not make life choices based on what parents, girlfriends, boyfriends or friends will judge you for doing or not doing. Be wary of people who tell you about regrets - they are projecting theirs onto you. At 24 it was far much harder for me to figure out how to live for myself but I probably hadn't yet discovered that I didn't know who I was.

Eventually I found out that living for myself depended on living with

and for others, but I needed to live for myself first to find that out.

The confusion you feel about what to do or where to go may never leave you, and that's OK. Don't wait around expecting it to resolve itself. Completing college does not guarantee clarity. Most people that are older don't know what to do with their lives either - why believe you should have it all figured out now? Certainly try, but know the odds. Make commitments and work for goals.

Those who put more in, get more out. If you can't find the job you want, make it. Do it for free, and do it better, hopefully someone might see that relentless spirit and offer you the job. It may not be easy to get what you want, but if you swallow your pride and put in more passion than what amount of money to take home, you'll be rewarded and not by people but by your hard work and persistence.

Never give up on yourself

You will be successful and if not now then later, Rome wasn't built in a day.

Africa's megacities a magnet for investors

UNITED NATIONS

MEGACITIES, cities with a population of at least 10 million, are sprouting everywhere in Africa. Cairo in Egypt, Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Lagos in Nigeria are already megacities, while Luanda in Angola, Dar es Salaam in Tanzania and Johannesburg in South Africa will attain the status by 2030, according to the United Nations.

Abidjan in Côte d'Ivoire and Nairobi in Kenya will surpass the 10 million threshold by 2040. And by 2050 Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso, Addis Ababa in Ethiopia, Bamako in Mali, Dakar in Senegal and Ibadan and Kano in Nigeria will join the ranks - bringing the total number of megacities in Africa to 14 in about 30 years.

The number of people living in urban areas in Africa will double to more than 1 billion by 2042, according to the World Bank.

The University of Toronto's Global Cities Institute, which monitors cities' population growth and socioeconomic development worldwide, forecasts that Lagos will be the largest city in the world by 2100, housing an astonishing 88 million people, up from 21 million currently.

In a 2016 paper titled African Urban Futures, published by the Institute for Security Studies, an African independent research organization that aims to enhance human security on the continent, researchers Julia Bello-Schünemann and Ciara Aucoin wrote: "The current speed of Africa's urbanisation is unprecedented in history. For some it is the 'single most important transformation' that is happening on the continent." They add that African "cities and towns will increasingly shape the lives of people living on the continent."

Africa's demographic transition, caused by the "youth bulge," an increase in the population of people between 15 and 29 years of age, will continue to fuel a move to the big cities because "young people are generally more prone to migrate to urban areas" than older people, according to Ms. Bello-Schünemann and Ms. Aucoin.

While millions of rural Africans move to cities in search of high-paying jobs and a better quality of life, these burgeoning metropolises also offer strong incentives to investors foreign and domestic.

Power of population

Lagos is a prime example of the economic power in Africa's megacities. From its technology hub ecosystem - Africa's largest - to its successful



banking sector and prosperous film industry, venture capitalists see many investment opportunities in Nigeria's commercial capital.

According to a report by the telecom trade body GSM Association, there are 31 tech hubs in Lagos, 29 in Cape Town and 25 in Nairobi. The value of innovative tech spaces to African economies is massive, as investors pump capital into start-ups and hence contribute to countries' GDPs.

In 2017 outgoing Lagos State Governor Akinwunmi Ambode announced that the state's GDP had reached \$136 billion, about a third of Nigeria's GDP (\$376 billion) and more than the combined GDPs of Ghana (\$47 billion) and Tanzania (\$52 billion).

Steve Cashin, founder and CEO of the private equity firm Pan African Capital Group, believes that investors are focusing on Africa's megacities because of market size.

"My firm does a lot of business in Liberia, and one of the main constraints to growing businesses and attracting investment there is the population size and density. When the entire country's population is just about 4 million, and you're likely only to reach a small fraction of that, it is

harder to make a compelling business case," says Cashin.

A single Lagos district can be a market the size of an entire country such as Botswana. Because people in Lagos are concentrated, companies can benefit from lower fixed costs and easier distribution. "The economics are just more attractive," he adds.

Overstretched infrastructure But highly populated cities have both positives and negatives. Rapid urbanization strains already overstretched infrastructure and creates complex problems for local governments.

For example, the population of Kinshasa is forecast to grow by 61 people every hour until 2030. People will have to look for jobs and use public transport and other social services.

Bello-Schünemann and Aucoin elaborate: "Most of Africa's urban residents live in informal settlements or slums, lack access to basic services, face precarious employment conditions and are vulnerable to various forms of urban violence."

They add: "Global climate and environmental changes, and pressure from water, food and energy insecurities, compound the challenges for

human development and the complexities of contemporary urban governance on the continent."

Around 75% of homes in Kinshasa are in slums, and Lagos has dozens of them: places like Somolu, Bariga and the floating slum of Makoko. If infrastructure growth fails to keep up with increasing population, more slums will develop, experts warn.

To address these problems, Africa's fast-growing cities require all-inclusive infrastructure development, advises Cashin. "The importance of deliberate and thoughtful urban planning cannot be understated, not only for the efficiency and productivity of these cities but also for the safety of its inhabitants."

He adds that "proper urban planning requires significant upfront investment" and that "local governments also need to harness the potential of these rapidly growing cities by making strides to formalise the economy."

Informal economies

In sub-Saharan Africa the informal economy - economic activities that are not regulated and therefore not taxed - represents up to 41% of GDP and provides 85.5% of total employ-

ment, reports the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the UN body that sets international labour standards and promotes social protection.

Without collecting enough taxes, cash-strapped city authorities cannot finance critical infrastructure such as roads, hospitals and power.

Some local administrations depend on foreign direct investment (FDI) or opt for the BOT system - build, operate, transfer - in which investors finance a project (such as a bridge) and recoup their investments by, for example, collecting tolls for a limited period.

Investors who are attracted to densely populated cities are also repelled by a lack of infrastructure and incompetent city authorities.

The State of African Cities 2018, a UN report, says that Johannesburg, Lagos and Nairobi are the leading FDI attractions in sub-Saharan Africa.

Private investors often accompany financing with technological know-how. For example, smart city projects across South Africa, such as Melrose Arch in Johannesburg, require a diverse range of talent not often found in that country. Foreign investors with expertise in this field can draw

on their own experience and contacts to put a skilled team in place.

In sum, the key to urban planning and attracting investors is to plan with an eye toward future population growth, notes Jonathan Hall, assistant professor at the University of Toronto's Department of Economics and Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy.

He adds that, "People will continue to move to the megacities until unemployment is so high, and the infrastructure is so overstretched, that their quality of life is roughly the same in the city and the countryside."

Authorities managing Africa's megacities have their work cut out for them. Investors who are attracted to densely populated cities are also repelled by a lack of infrastructure and incompetent city authorities.

"Cities need strong, competent and democratic governments [that can] work with their low-income populations, rather than, as all too often happens, evicting them," says David Satterthwaite, senior fellow with the Human Settlements Group at the think tank International Institute for Environment and Development.

Agencies

Climate change victims: What will you do next?

LONDON

CONTEMPORARY politics generates a lot of noise and smoke, with little attention devoted to understanding, analysing and fixing the causes of the noise and smoke. The global public discourse is dominated by statements made by politicians and aspirants to power, designed to shock, awe and draw support.

But the statements are rarely about real underpinning threats facing society: not on climate change, and not on the urgent need to generate employment in the face of increased mechanization.

Anger and resentment at the loss of jobs on account of shifts in manufacturing are dismissed as a design fault to be overcome through simple solutions: building walls, departing clubs like the EU, increasing tariffs on 'foreign produce' and keeping migrants out since they are apparently responsible for the failure of the economy to generate employment.

Irresponsible as that simplistic politics might be, it pales in comparison to how climate change is treated. The sheer abdication of governance is appalling and shameful, calling into question the essence of why governments are needed at critical times in human history.

While scientists have produced compelling evidence for decades, the recent impact of climate change is difficult to refute for even the least educated person. When Greta Thunberg called for urgent action she received adulation and patronage in equal measure, but none have yet been able to respond with the urgent action she called for.

Many in government around the world appear to accept the realities of climate justice, but see it as an issue for the future - unlikely to affect their time driven mandate of adhering to power.

In its Key Trends Report 2019, focussing on climate justice, Minority Rights Group (MRG) provides evidence of the impact



of climate change on the most vulnerable communities in society.

The overarching facts on climate change are not new: Lake Chad, a key water body in Africa has shrunk by 90 per cent since the 1960s, while the Arctic is currently warming twice as fast as anywhere else on earth. These stark facts, in the public realm for long, have not yet focussed on the impact on people.

The push for Canadian indigenous communities to leave their ancestral lands in the face of climate impact is mirrored by those in the Pacific in Tuvalu and Kiribati.

The degradation of forests around key water towers in Kenya, and their occupation for commercial use, impacts their traditional custodians, depriving them of their homes, and disrupting the flow of water across Africa, into the Nile and onwards into the Mediterranean.

As the desert eats into Chad,

pastoralists face a heightened crisis, stimulating migrant flows into Europe, while Nigeria is heading in a similar direction with tensions rising as pastoralists, faced with shrinking grazing areas, make incursions into others' territories.

Pastoralists and sedentary communities are also building up to a stand-off in Morocco as competition for land and water becomes acute.

The continued exploitation of natural wealth in the form of oil and gas by wealthy companies, despite stark warnings about the carbon economy, are creating devastating immediate consequences for the communities cursed with living in proximity to these.

This is as true in Kenya as in Ecuador, Thailand and Russia. In every case communities are forced to contend with pollution, dereliction of their environment,

impact on their livelihoods and

the eventual loss of their homes. That they were not consulted in any of the processes is a given, only exacerbated by the shocking governance failures over what ought to happen to them.

A new theme is also emerging that treats indigenous communities and forest dwellers in particular as inconvenient nuisances that through their very existence negatively impact the push towards climate conservation.

This phenomenon pits environmentalists against super marginalized communities, who appear to be considered as collateral for the few pitiful moves being made in the name of environmental protection. The argument being made appears to posit communities that have lived in a sustainable and traditional manner for centuries being tagged with responsibility for environmental damage.

This deeply flawed argument

goes against all evidence, making scapegoats out of subsistence driven communities, for activities that have been sustainable for centuries and create an overall negative carbon footprint.

It also facilitates the biggest polluters and corporate actors, who continue to reserve the right to make profits out of natural wealth in conjunction with governments, that no matter what property regime is used, do not belong to them.

Alongside each of these relatively 'new' phenomena, lies the time-honored discrimination that has erected structures over centuries that seek to maintain the hegemony of a small privileged elite in each society.

Thus, the plight of Black Americans in New Orleans affected by Hurricane Katrina lies in stark contrast to the urgent action taken in the face of the flooding experienced by Manhattan as a

result of Hurricane Sandy.

The Valladolid Controversy of 1550 was the first publicized debate concerning the rights of colonized peoples. Bartolomé de Las Casas argued that native Americans were human despite their 'unchristian' customs, while Juan Ginés de Sepúlveda believed they were barbarians rather than human, and therefore had to be suppressed. The dispute may seem like a historical footnote that captured the fatal attraction and insecurity towards Otherness.

Yet in this the most recent crisis facing humanity its echoes are alive and well. Climate change affects us all, of that there is little doubt. At what point this becomes survival critical for you is merely a reflection of the accident of birth.

Wealth and proximity to power may keep you insulated a while longer. Indigenous peoples and minorities the world over on the other hand, have continued to be treated as objects whose consent to anything is irrelevant and unnecessary, and therefore they form the frontline to the crisis.

Sane, scientifically validated well-informed voices have called for urgent action. MRG's Key Trends Report of 2019 provides evidence of the current impact of climate injustice on communities. If governments continue to abdicate responsibility to solving this problem, we need to sweep them away and bring in others who can respond to this need.

Each of us have a responsibility to hold our governments to account for issues that matter, while not being drawn into meaningless games that maintain the power of the few over the many. If climate change is not highest on your agenda it ought to be, and you must act politically and responsibly to make sure your voice counts.

If not for the indigenous and minority communities now, then for yourself and your own loved ones tomorrow.

Agencies

Industrial policy finally legitimate?

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia

FOR decades, the two Bretton Woods institutions have rejected the contribution of industrial policy (IP), or government investment and technology promotion efforts, in accelerating and sustaining growth, industrialization and structural transformation.

Finally, two International Monetary Fund (IMF) staff members, Reda Cherif and Fuad Hasanov, have broken the taboo. They embrace industrial policy, arguing against the current conventional wisdom that East Asian industrial policies cannot be successfully emulated by other developing countries.

Miracle economies not miraculous

They argue that IP has been key to East Asian 'miracles', offering valuable lessons for sustaining 'catch-up' growth. For them, appropriate IP interventions have been key to successful entry into more sophisticated industrial activities, early strong export orientation, and fierce competition with strict accountability.

For over half a century, especially following Asian and African decolonization after World War Two, developing countries have gone their separate ways with very mixed results, with all too many falling behind. Meanwhile, very few economies have caught up with some of the most advanced economies and firms.

Between 1960 and 2014, 16 out of the 182 economies they study achieved high-income status, underscoring the difficulties for middle-income countries reaching high-income status within two generations. They distinguish three types of countries which have 'succeeded', namely the East Asian miracles, those discovering considerable oil and gas, and those that benefited from joining the European Union.



Cherif and Hasanov insist on the key role of industrial policy in the Asian miracles, and for the US after the Civil War, Germany under Bismarck, and Japan after the Meiji Restoration. They argue that East Asian industrial policies have much in common despite their many differences.

The conventional growth formula - of improving macroeconomic stability (typically through anti-inflationary policies), strengthening property rights, and providing physical and social infrastructure and basic services to address government failures - was not enough.

Drawing useful lessons from varied country experiences is fraught with difficulty, especially considering the exogenous and conjunctural factors affecting growth, including luck. In contrast with the conventional empirical approach emphasizing

averages, their analysis of long-term cross-country growth experiences underscores the value of studying the 'tails' or exceptions instead.

Technology and innovation policy

Contrary to earlier formulations of industrial policy as primarily involving investment and technology, Cherif and Hasanov propose three key principles constituting 'true industrial policy', summarized as technology and innovation policy (TIP), namely:

- State interventions to overcome constraints to the early emergence of national producers in more sophisticated industries, beyond conventional notions of 'comparative advantage'.
- Export orientation, not import substituting industrialization (ISI); this contrasts with providing

effective protection in the national or regional market on condition of early export promotion to achieve export competitiveness.

- Ensuring both national and international competitiveness with strict accountability.

Hyundai vs Proton

Cherif and Hasanov also contrast the cases of Malaysia's Proton with South Korea's Hyundai in support of their three principles. They argue that Proton did not export enough, reflecting failure to build sufficient managerial and engineering skills as well as an innovative automotive cluster.

Hyundai, by contrast, has successfully created a global brand. Cherif and Hasanov insist that allowing several South Korean industrial conglomerates or chaebols to develop rival auto

industries and the push to export were key to its success.

Governments have directed capital and labour into industrial ventures that firms probably would not have undertaken without appropriate incentives, but market competition, market signals, and private sector accountability are also recognized as important.

Without conclusive evidence, Cherif and Hasanov claim that due to the government's push to export, Korean automakers 'moved first, then learnt and adjusted'. In exchange for very low real interest rate loans, Korean chaebols had to quickly secure foreign market shares, while accountability was enforced by firing senior managers who failed to reach export targets.

Pressure to compete and export forced Hyundai to increase its R&D effort and technology upgrading, producing its own engine in 1991, and later, its first electric car. Korean encouragement of several chaebols in the automotive industry later forced them to restructure, with few surviving.

But would fostering more than one automotive firm have ensured Proton's success in light of Malaysia's smaller domestic market and more modest industrial capabilities? And what were the economic costs of Korea's arguably wasteful automotive industry competition?

Three development policy options

Cherif and Hasanov emphasize the importance of government ambition, accountability and adaptability. Government ambition is seen in terms of a feasible or pragmatic level of sophistication of new sectors and domestic ownership of industrial technology.

Government policy implementation must be subject to accountability, not only for firms, but also policymakers and senior managers responsible. As conditions change and new knowledge becomes available, policy interventions

must adapt to continue to be effective and feasible.

* Low gear: The conventional approach to growth - of improving the investment environment, key institutions, infrastructure, macroeconomic stability, investments in education, and minimizing other government interventions - is likely to result in relatively slow 'snail's pace' growth.

Such policy interventions typically address government failures, but not necessarily market failures, especially to develop more technologically sophisticated sectors beyond conventional understandings of comparative advantage.

Middle gear: This approach mainly relies on attracting FDI into more technologically sophisticated industries to participate increasingly in global value chains, or by improving the technological level of existing industries. This may accelerate growth for middle-income countries, but is unlikely to lead to sustainable development or 'high-income status within two generations' owing to limited national capacities and capabilities.

High gear: The East Asian miracle economies are said to be using a 'moonshot approach' for governments to create competitive national firms in frontier technologies, and more sophisticated industries with homegrown technologies, creating conditions for high, sustained long-term growth.

The speed and extent of the leaps to more sophisticated industries and technologies created by national firms are crucial for sustaining long-term development. Countries that manage this process well have better chances of soon becoming relatively advanced economies.

Jomo Kwame Sundaram, a former economics professor, was United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, and received the Wassily Leontief Prize for Advancing the Frontiers of Economic Thought.



Parfait Onanga, the UN's Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa

African experts urge concerted efforts to tackle critical issues in manufacturing sector

ADDIS ABABA

African countries and pan African institutions this week urged concerted efforts to deal with critical issues in the manufacturing sector.

The urgent call was made by African experts and policymakers as they gathered to discuss on the operationalization phase of the imminent African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa on Monday, as

they described the continental free trade pact as a positive imperative to strengthen collaboration among African countries to tackle common challenges.

Parfait Onanga, the UN's Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa, who noted that the African continent "is still at the crossroads," urged African countries to work together if the continent is to successfully respond to the critical issues it has been facing, mainly in the manufacturing sector.

“We need boldness to deal with critical issues facing the continent,” the UN special envoy stressed, adding “We also need to realize that no country can overcome...”

“We need boldness to deal with critical issues facing the continent,” the UN special envoy stressed, adding “We also need to realize that no country can overcome challenges of 21st century alone. We need to work with each other through instruments like the AfCFTA and succeed together as a result.”

Onanga also stressed that Africa “needs a surge in diplomacy for peace in every part of the continent since most of our problems are governance related,” which he said is wrongly shaping Africa.

Onanga's call was also echoed by Ethiopia's Chief Trade Negotiator and Senior Advisor to the Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, Mamo Mihretu, who also reiterated the East African country's resolve towards deepening cooperation among African countries so as to fully harness the African continental free trade pact, which took effect on May 30.

“Ratification and implementation of the free trade agreement is an integral element of a coherent and consistent trade policy that Ethiopia is pursuing,” Ethiopia's chief trade negotiator told the high-level regional meeting that was hosted by the ECA.

“The AfCFTA helps us to realize the vision of an integrated Africa and creates market opportunities for the private sector,” Mihretu added.

Gertrude Mothibe, Chairperson of the Southern African Generic Medicine Association, also emphasized the need for the continent to push to grow and strengthen the industry sector, with particular emphasis given to the pharmaceutical sector, which is presently costing the continent due to African countries' over-dependence on imported medicines and other pharmaceutical outputs.

“Africans need to be bold to take and implement decisions they make about their continent without fear, especially industrialization. We have the skills and knowledge. All we need if an enabling environment and access to finance to succeed,” Mothibe said.

Ali Mufuruki, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Info-Tech Investment Group and Vice Chair of the Afro-Champions Club, also underscored that “it is critical that Africa develops its own manufacturing and research capacity.”

Mufuruki further noted that “the status quo for Africa is not sustainable, especially as pharmaceutical exports to the continent continue to enjoy significant and often trade-distorting government subsidies of up to 40 percent making it difficult for local producers to compete.”

According to the ECA, African countries “can greatly benefit” from the continental free trade pact to boost the continent's industry sector, mainly through effective investments in the pharmaceutical sector as donor programs currently account for 80 percent of all public health expenditures across Africa.

Mufuruki also stressed that the AfCFTA is designed to provide solutions that African nations need to deal with the challenges in the manufacturing and research sectors.

“The endorsement and ratification for the agreement by a growing number of African states will make it possible for the African private sector to seize the emerging significant investment opportunities that the manufacturing and research sectors offer,” he added.

Kenya, South Sudan ink deals to boost trade ties

NAIROBI

KENYA and South Sudan on Monday inked agreements aimed at deepening trade ties between the two neighboring countries.

The deals which were signed in Nairobi between visiting South Sudan President Salva Kiir and his host Kenya President Uhuru Kenyatta will also see the two countries set up a joint border commission for the management of the common border.

Under the agreements, Kenya will hold a trade expo in Juba in November to help deepen trade ties between the two nations and also work as a show of confidence in South Sudan's economy.

“The expo will not only showcase Kenyan products but also reciprocate by exposing South Sudan's products to Kenyan business people,” Kenyatta told a joint news conference after holding bilateral meeting with Kiir.

Kenyatta said his government has also agreed to allocate land for a dry port to South Sudan at the Naivasha Special Economic Zone and for a logistics hub near the new Lamu Port.

Kenyatta assured South Sudan that Kenya is fast tracking the completion of an ambitious Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (LAPPSET) corridor project, an economic and transport corridor that stretches from Kenya's coastal Lamu Port to South Sudan and Ethiopia, including transnational highways, oil pipeline and the Lamu Port, among others, to link the two countries.

“The first berth (of the Lamu Port) will be ready this August while Berths 2 and 3 are expected to be completed within the year 2020. I will invite Your Excellency, with other regional leaders, to inspect the Lamu Project in due course,” said Kenyatta.

He said Kenya and South Sudan will put more efforts in completing trans-national highways including Eldoret-Lokichoggio-Nadapal-Kapoeta-Torit-Juba Road.

Meanwhile, the Kenya Tourism Board (KTB) is seeking to attract high-yield tourist arrivals from Chinese big cities including Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, officials said on Monday.

“Using findings from an in-depth engagement with Chinese travel agencies, media as well as local travel partners, we have uncovered new insights on China's tourism trends that inform how we package our destination products and experiences to offer travelers more specialized and personalized experiences,” Betty Addero Radier, chief executive officer of KTB said in statement.

Last week in China, KTB organized the Kenya Trade Forum road show themed “Adventure Tour” that was attended by over 110 traders from key online travel agents including Ctrip.com, LY.com, and Tuniu and key traditional travel agencies and tailor-made travel agencies.

Radier said that the aim of the forum was to demystify the Chinese travel market perspective that Kenya is a seasonal safari destination and instead position Kenya as an ‘all year magic’ destination through intensive product training sessions to the Chinese travel agencies.

“China is an important source market for most destinations around the world given that it is the largest source market in terms of outbound numbers and spends. Countries in sub-Saharan Africa generally have a similar product offering which is the wildlife and beach product,” Radier said.

She noted that it is critical for Kenya to differentiate itself in order to attract high-value Chinese tourists throughout the year.

Kenyan government data indicated that in 2018 Kenya received 81,709 arrivals from China, representing a 4.03 percent growth from the previous year.

Radier revealed that the number of inbound Chinese tourists is projected to increase from initiatives such as the direct link between the city of Changsha and Nairobi by one of China's biggest airlines, the China Southern Airlines, who announced the deployment of its 330-200 Airbus twice per week to and from Changsha, with non-stop flights between Nairobi and Guangzhou on Monday and Friday.

US-Africa business summit successfully advances trade, investment and commercial partnership

MAPUTO

Heads of State, Vice Presidents, and Prime Ministers from nine African nations attended the Corporate Council on Africa's 12th U.S.-Africa Business Summit in Maputo, Mozambique on June 18-21. They were joined by Ministers of Finance, Foreign Affairs, Commerce, Economy, Public Works, and ICT from more than 25 countries across the continent. The Government of Mozambique was the Summit co-host, and the more than 1,000 Summit attendees including government and business leaders, investors and policy makers were welcomed to the Joaquim Chissano International Conference Center, Maputo by Filipe Nyusi, the President of Mozambique.

A high profile U.S. Government delegation to the Summit was led by U.S. Deputy Secretary of Commerce, Karen Dunn Kelley, and included the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator, Assistant Secretary of State for Africa, head of the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (TDA), Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) Senior VP for Africa, and Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Africa, among the more than 100 senior USG officials from 8 agencies.

In his welcome address, President Nyusi noted that the number of people present and the decision to host the event in an African capital reflects the continent's strategic importance and economic potential. President Nyusi urged delegates to take advantage of the investment and business opportunities that would be highlighted during the Summit. He went on to say that



Mozambique President Filipe Nyusi

the \$62 billion in investment between Africa and the U.S. last year was evidence of “a very encouraging picture of the growing trade and commercial relationship between the U.S. and African countries, and it is up to business owners on both sides of the continent to take advantage of them.” President Nyusi called on African businesses and governments to identify partners and overcome any challenges inhibiting the development of stronger economic ties between Africa and

the United States. He said, “Africans must continue to devise more assertive strategies to defend our interests and to negotiate as best as possible with our partners, creating the most appropriate conditions for the business environment, without forgetting the wealth of strategic partnerships that we can cement among us.”

In her keynote remarks, Deputy Secretary Kelley spoke of the U.S. commitment to ensure that trade between America and

Africa was mutually beneficial. “US exports to Africa have decreased by 32% from their 2014 high. And we want to work with you to better understand how to reverse this trend,” said Hon. Kelley. She announced the outline of a new U.S. Administration initiative - Prosper Africa - which was officially rolled out at the Summit. USAID Administrator Mark Green later provided Summit delegates with more details on Prosper Africa including its goal to expand U.S.-Africa trade, investment and commercial engagement by leveraging the resources and capabilities of many U.S. government agencies and creating deal teams supporting U.S. private sector investments in Africa.

Hon. Kelley pointed to Anadarko's \$25 billion LNG project as proof of how transformative investment in Africa can be. The Anadarko LNG project is the largest single foreign direct investment in African history.

Throughout the Summit, delegates focused on the Summit theme - “Advancing A Resilient and Sustainable U.S.-Africa Partnership” - by way of plenary sessions and panels that covered a range of sectors such as energy, health, infrastructure, consumer goods, and creative industries as well as topics including blended finance, franchising, sovereign wealth funds, and the business case for empowering women.

Taking place shortly after the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) began implementation, the Summit was an opportunity for U.S. and African CEOs, entrepreneurs and investors attending the Summit to begin exploring the continental market with \$2.5 trillion GDP and 1.2 billion people.

For the Corporate Council on Africa, the

Summit was designed to offer a unique platform for African and U.S. businesses and government leaders to network and explore practical ways to increase U.S.-Africa economic engagement. CCA President and CEO, Florizelle Liser remarked, “I encourage all delegates to use the Summit as a time to help shape the flourishing trade, investment and commercial partnership between the U.S. and Africa.” She also noted that African businesses could benefit from the Summit - taking advantage of the hundreds of U.S. companies rarely present in such large numbers at a conference focused on Africa. During the Summit, a number of deals and projects were finalized and announced, including in energy, agribusiness, and infrastructure.

The 2019 Summit is proudly sponsored by leading global businesses and organizations including Anadarko Petroleum Corporation; Chevron Corporation; CFM; Exxon Mobil Corporation; GK Investment Holding Group/ Gruppo San Donato; Absa Group Ltd; Acrow Bridge; AllAfrica Global Media; AGCO Corporation; BCI; The Boeing Company; Gilead Sciences; Millennium BIM; Pfizer Inc; Sasol Ltd; VISA Inc.; AGRA; Caterpillar Inc; Citi; Lockheed Martin International; MCNET; Procter and Gamble (P&G); Pan African Capital Group LLC; Standard Bank; Symbion Power; Universal Corporation; Afro Tourism West Africa Ltd; Barloworld Equipment (Pty) Ltd; Covington & Burling LLP; DAI; Development Finance International LLC; General Electric Company (GE); Good Governance Africa; Kudumba; Rabin Martin; Philip Morris International, Inc; USAID Southern Africa Trade and Investment Hub; Compal; and Ethiopian Airlines.

CSO's recommends strong action plan to ensure communities full engagement in SDG's implementation

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

THE Civil Society Organizations (CSO's) have analysed the achievements and challenges of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) saying in some areas the government has made significant strides that cannot be ignored, however, there are some challenges that need to be addressed even after the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) scheduled for early next week.

The CSO's also recommended that after the HLPF, there is a need to come out with strong action plan to ensure that all efforts that are underway are well coordinated from the national level to the grassroots level to ensure the communities are full engaged in this SDG' efforts.

They were speaking at the pre-high level political forum (HLPF) and Civil Society report dissemination session program in Dar es Salaam under the umbrella of Sustainable Development Platform. The meeting was organized by ForumCC, Haki Ardhi, in collaboration with PACJA implementing program: Strengthening partnerships for the effective implementation of the Agenda 2030 in East Africa supported by GIZ.

Citing an example of goal 4 that calls for nations to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, Executive Director for Haki-Elimu John Kallage said that positive trend in enrolment has been observed. However, he said that there is a need to improve teaching and learning environment to achieve inclusive and quality education.

He said that inequality of education between urban and rural is stark. There is a need for collaborative efforts between the government, private sector, and CSOs, towards reducing this inequality. About the national reports on education which are dominated by a strong focus on quantitative inputs and outputs, he said there is a need to shift focus from quantity to quality by focusing on learning outcomes. Efforts of revising curricula to meet the demands of a global society



Civil Society Organisations lead coordinators fields questions from participants during the meeting. Photo by Gerald Kitabu

are noted. However, the process needs to be improved.

"We need to make sure that learning is happening and ensure we put more emphasis on the quality. If we address that part, Tanzania will achieve the target that has been set for the goal four," he said.

Commenting on goal 13 that calls for all nations to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts, Executive Director for Sokoine Memorial Foundation, Fazal Issa said that climate change is a cross cutting issue that means it is an international process. Climate change processes moves beyond SDG's. Looking at the indicators at the national level already Tanzania has a system in place, for example the Paris Agreement protocol, there are agreed policies and laws, and climate change strategies. However, the issue is how to translate these national and international agreements into practice saying one of the challenges is the missing knowledge.

He said Tanzania is highly vulnerable and has been affected by impacts of climate change in economic sectors and livelihood of the people. About the sustainable, long-term financing and implementation of adaptation measures and contribute to mitigation efforts, Tanzania has already conducted a number of initiatives to address these challenges: they include signatory to multilateral environment agreements: UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol, Paris Agreement, National policies, plans and strategies, Programme and Projects.

The Civil Society organizations have also played a key role in implementation of climate change initiatives. He suggested that there is a need to accelerate integration of climate change issues into plans, strategies and budgets, especially at local government level for supportive environment to strengthen resilience. Strategically tap on international finance and innovatively mobilize on domestic resources and Ensure

multi-stakeholders approach

Commenting on the goal 17 which call for strengthening the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development, Senior Officer for Policy Forum Prisca Kowa said that from what is real seen from the national VNR process, the engagement of CSO's and different actors, the some sustainable development goals (SDG's) are not well known to some communities and even to some government officials. "So, if we are to achieve the goals by 2030 there should be deliberate initiative by all actors be it the government, CSO's, the private sector, the academia to make sure that no one is left behind with regard to the implementation of SDG's," she said.

"To achieve this I would real recommend that after the high level political forum, we should come out with strong action plans to ensure that all these efforts are well coordinated from the national level to the grassroots

level to ensure the communities are full engaged in this SDG' efforts," she added.

She also recommended that there is a need to enhance funding of national developmental plans, the government should progressively build strong institutions and systems with responsive, enforceable rules and regulations for sustained actions on tax revenue collections.

The government should ensure a fairer tax system for all and therefore it is important to guarantee that the existing taxation regime puts into account the negative multiplier effect of any approach that it uses and is proactive to adjusting accordingly where necessary. Registering new tax payers strategies must go along with ensuring retaining of the existing ones.

"We must also fast track the institutionalization of the coordination mechanism for sustainable development: anchored at the Prime Ministers' office should be fast tracked in order to sustain the 2019 VNR momentum, commitment and multi-stakeholders spirit demonstrated so far," she stressed.

Looking at goal 16 holistically which calls upon all nations to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, Tony Alfred from Hivos said that Tanzania has made progress that cannot be ignored but also there are also some concerns.

Giving an example, he said that one of the challenges is the type of statistics that can support the milestones that has been made to achieve the goal. Some sectors have been doing good such as the judiciary sector in some areas but in some areas, Tanzania need to do more. "There are noticeable milestones but we need to address issues such as fundamental freedom, rule of law, freedom of information etc," he said.

There is a need for collaboration and listening to each other between the government, CSO's and the private sec-

tor. This will help to set up and build strong Institutions saying this is the goal about institutions, the goal about framework; it is the goal that looks at what the constitution say. All these require dialogue, require consistence, and require patience.

"There is a need for the government of Tanzania to establish comprehensive National Legal Aid Schemes which is legally supported and guarantees independent, accessible and sustainable access to legal aid," he said.

Analyzing the goal 10 on reduced inequalities, Executive Director for Haki Ardhi Cathbert Thomito commended the government for the social and economic inclusion for all. Foreexample he said, the establishment of Tanzania Social Action Fund as one of its initiatives on poverty reduction, also the formation of Tanzania Rural and Urban Road Agency to improve rural and urban road networks, transport crops to market, REA etc.

About the law, policies and practices, he said that the government is facilitating gender institutionalization process in various sectors; land, health, security, etc,

However, there are still differences in income growth and household expenditures. For example, paid employees have the highest mean monthly income while the agricultural employees have the least mean income. Likewise, males earn more mean monthly income than females in all sectors.

He commended that the CSO's could play the role of policy analysis and advocacy, capacity building, awareness raising. There is a need for empowerment programs and initiatives for advancing equality and equitable development is not solely a government task. Legal and policy framework are a useful tool for advancing equality when their complimented with actual change in practice and social orientation. (Monitoring)

There has to be a significant investment on availability of statistics. In the absence of adequate and timely data, it is much easier for marginalized communities to remain forgotten.

Economics of terrorism in Lake Chad Basin

BY MALIK SAMUEL

IN the Lake Chad Basin region, which includes Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria, economic viability and control is as important to extremist groups' resilience as military tactics or ideology. Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP), a Boko Haram faction, is generating income from remote communities in exchange for a range of services to secure its position.

By occupying dozens of Lake Chad island villages, ISWAP has set up state-like structures in the Abadam, Kukawa, Guzamala, Marte and Monguno local government areas in Borno State, northeast Nigeria, community members and security sources say.

The indiscriminate targeting of civilians was a major point of disagreement contributing to Boko Haram's split into two factions in 2016. Since then, ISWAP has sought to distinguish itself strategically and operationally from the Abubakar Shekau-led Jam'at Ahl as-Sunnah lid-Da'wah wal-Jih d (JAS). ISWAP avoids harming civilians and focuses mainly on military and government targets.

ISWAP uses both state military responses that have resulted in a clampdown on civilians' livelihoods, and the absence of basic government services in remote areas, to try to win over Lake Chad Basin communities. The extremist group has elaborately sought to fill social service provision gaps and foster income-generation opportunities. Locals say ISWAP controls trade, imposes taxes and facilitates agricultural and piscicultural livelihoods to increase its support by providing services including security, public toilets, clinics and potable water through digging boreholes.

Military efforts to eliminate the group's funding source have had the unintended consequence of endangering civilian livelihoods. This has encouraged people to find creative ways to circumvent government controls, with the help of



Islamic State West Africa Province is proving its economic resilience by generating income from obliging local communities. File photo

ISWAP.

The five-year ban on using the Maiduguri-Monguno-Baga and Maiduguri-Gamboru-Ngala roads to transport fish in Borno State is one strategy to counter Boko Haram's dependence on fish trading. Both community and military sources have reported the seizure, burning and diversion of fish consignments by government forces along these routes. This has often been accompanied by the arrest and detention of fish traders on suspicion of supporting Boko Haram.

This approach has brought socioeconomic hardship to communities, exacerbated unemployment, and caused

increases in fish prices and broken homes. It has also not stopped the trade in fish. For decades fishing was a major livelihood, in addition to farming and trade. The blockade, coupled with ongoing insecurity, has negatively affected civilians and allowed ISWAP to position itself as the guarantor of security and badly needed services.

Realising the damage being caused to communities, ISWAP has worked for two years to secure trade routes to ease the transportation of fish from the islands. At the same time, it has encouraged the resumption of fishing and farming on the islands. This has attracted people, including older women from Maiduguri, to

the islands to provide paid farm labour. The Nigerian military's blockade has pushed traders to transport fish from the islands across international borders in order to reach Nigerian markets.

Farming activities and cattle rearing were also revived, as the routes under ISWAP control are considered safe by civilians. In exchange, ISWAP imposes taxes that people appear willing to pay. Secure trade routes mean that everyday commodities - the most important of which for ISWAP is fuel - can reach the islands.

In ISWAP-controlled areas, fishermen, fish dealers and cattle rearers are all expected to pay taxes. Fish dealers pay an average

of N1 000 (US\$2.8) for every carton of fish leaving the island daily. Individual fishermen using canoes each pay N5 000 (US\$13.8) for one-time fishing permits.

Cattle rearers pay according to the number of cows they have. Sources familiar with the tax system on the islands say there is no multiple taxation, which affects legitimate businesses in Nigeria. Cattle rearers don't worry about their cattle being rustled, and there is little to no harassment or abuse of civilians by ISWAP fighters.

As part of the group's facilitation of locals' livelihoods, farmers are not taxed, but those buying from the farmers for commercial purposes are expected to pay a

token depending on the quantity of farm produce they purchase. ISWAP also employs people to fish for it and work on its farms.

As it continues to exploit the service delivery gaps left by governments while endearing itself to the locals and boosting its revenues, ISWAP's economic strategy has made the group financially robust, according to security and civilian sources.

Improving basic government services could lessen popular support for the extremist group. Disentangling its complex web of economic resilience would also undermine ISWAP. But when targeting ISWAP's source of income and influence, governments need to craft solutions that don't harm locals' means of survival. Strategies must take account of what draws civilians to areas controlled by the group, and try to counter these factors.

Nigeria's government should consider allowing fishing activities to resume in Baga, which, as the country's Multinational Joint Task Force headquarters, should be safe for civilians. Government must re-evaluate policies that have negatively affected civilians and led to their resentment of it.

Security forces should take charge of safety in rural areas, and prioritise intelligence gathering to identify and target specific individuals involved in illicit activities that support and fund Boko Haram. This includes finding out how commodities get to areas under Boko Haram's control despite the presence of military checkpoints leading to these areas.

Undermining the economic resilience of violent extremist groups in the Lake Chad Basin is fundamental to effectively degrading them. However, this must be done without harming civilians' livelihoods.

Malik Samuel, Researcher, ISS Regional Office for West Africa, the Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin



Thursday 11 July, 2019

Vodacom, TPB Bank to allow M-Pesa customers access overdrafts at 1pc

By The Banker Reporter

IN the first of its kind in the market, Vodacom Tanzania Plc in partnership with TPB Bank Plc have introduced an overdraft facility for M-Pesa customers to replenish their e-wallets when in need.

The innovative facility which is termed, 'Songesha' allows M-Pesa customers to complete their transactions when they have insufficient funds in their accounts.

In remarks during the launch, Vodacom's Director of M-Commerce, Epimarck Mbeteni said with the introduction of the overdraft service, M-Pesa customers can now use the platform with ease and confidence because they have instant access to credit to enables them make money transfers, remit bills, purchase from merchants.

"Our desire to spur innovative mobile finance led us to keenly take note of our customers' repeated transactional hurdles due to shortage of funds in their wallets which inspired us to respond with an innovative solution - an overdraft facility that enables the customer to complete M-Pesa transactions," Mbeteni said.

Songesha is one amongst other M-commerce innovations rolled out this year which have enabled Vodacom to maintain market leadership in mobile and financial services in transaction volumes, market share and subscribers.

According to Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority's quarterly report for the year ended March 2019, M-Pesa increased its market share by 40



Vodacom's M-Commerce Director, Epimarck Mbeteni (2nd L) and TPB acting CEO, Moses Manyatta (2nd R) with other senior officials from the two companies congratulate each other after launching an overdraft facility for M-Pesa subscribers dubbed 'Songesha' in Dar es Salaam during the week. Photo: courtesy of Vodacom.

percent and advanced financial inclusion to over nine million subscribers who transact more than 4.1trn/- a month.

"The overdraft attracts an interest of 1percent per day with a facility term of up to 18 days and users

can make one request at a time, as long as it is within their overdraft limit, which will be dependent on their M-Pesa transaction score," the M-Commerce Director added.

In his remarks on behalf of TPB, acting CEO, Moses Manyatta said the

bank is promoting financial inclusion and empowering Tanzanians by helping them develop a saving culture and access to credit which is what Songesha is all about.

"With 24/7 access to credit via your phone, we are very proud of this

partnership and optimistic about the revolution this will bring in digital finance," Manyatta said. Vodacom M-Pesa will automatically deduct the amount due from funds deposited or received into a user's M-Pesa wallet until the overdraft is cleared in full

Acacia Mining says it's worth far more than Barrick offered

LONDON

Acacia Mining said it's worth a lot more than the takeover offer proposed by Barrick Gold, showing the African gold miner is digging in its heels in a long dispute with its top shareholder.

The company released a report by a consultant that put its "preferred value" at 271 pence a share. That's 38% more than Barrick's informal proposal to buy the company in an all-stock transaction currently worth 197 pence a share. Barrick said in a statement that it is reviewing the report against its own due diligence study of Acacia's assets.

Barrick also said its request to postpone making a firm offer until July 19 had been approved by the UK Takeover Panel. The extension drags out the contested takeover battle even longer and comes after Barrick was already granted a three-week delay. In an interview in June, chief executive officer Mark Bristow said he would use the time to lobby minority shareholders, but had no intention of raising the bid price.

The clock is ticking as Acacia, stuck in a public battle with Tanzania's government since 2017, has seen its shares collapse by more than 60%. Top officials in the East African country won't engage with Acacia in any way, Bristow said last month, raising the possibility the situation could get even worse.

Two years ago, Tanzania imposed an export ban on Acacia and handed the miner a \$190 billion tax bill, saying it falsely declared bullion sales abroad. Since then, Acacia's position in the country has deteriorated further, while its relationship with Toronto-based Barrick has become increasingly strained.

Thousands of women entrepreneurs loaned over 100bn/- by CRDB



CRDB Bank Plc, acting Director of Retail Banking, Farida Hamza (L) presenting a certificate of recognition to KCM Handcraft's Chairperson, Caren Charles who emerged as the Best Handcraft Exhibitor during an award giving ceremony for TWCC's members attending the 43rd Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair earlier this week. Photo: Beatrice Philemon.

By Beatrice Philemon

IN a bid to allow women entrepreneurs grow their businesses and graduate into small and medium size companies, CRDB Bank Plc has since 2012, disbursed more than 100bn/- in loans to more than 1,500.

CRDB Managing Director, Abdulmajid Nsekela said at the ongoing 43rd Dar es Salaam



For those of you who don't have an account with us, I invite you to open one and benefit from our myriad of products and services aimed at developing...

International Trade Fair after presenting awards to some outstanding exhibitors from Tanzania Women Chamber of Commerce, that the loans were given to individuals and groups as per their needs.

In a speech presented on Nsekela's behalf by CRDB's acting Director of Retail Banking, Farida Hamza, Nsekela said the beneficiaries were

involved in all sectors of the economy although dominated by agriculture, construction, education and the services industry.

"For many years, CRDB management has recognised the role which women entrepreneurs play in economic growth of the nation hence given them special status to access loans," the CRDB chief said.

Pledging to continue financing women owned or operated businesses, Nsekela urged women to venture into owning and running big businesses because the prevailing environment allows them to do so while CRDB provides the financing.

"For those of you who don't have an account with us, I invite you to open one and benefit from our myriad of products and services aimed at developing your businesses," he added noting that the bank has good working relations with TWCC for many years.

The bank has a special account dedicated to women called, 'Malkia Account,' which can be opened with a minimum balance of 17,000/-. "In addition to financing through loans, we have been sponsoring various exhibitions TWCC members every year within the country and overseas," he stated.

Hamza presented awards to Nabaki Mali who emerged as Best Innovative Exhibitor, Mama wa Shamba who was named as Best Customer Service and Matabita Food Products which won the position of Best Food Processing Exhibitor.

Selcom's shared agency banking, Qwikserv debuts in market

By The Banker Reporter

BANKS in the domestic market can now access Selcom's shared agent agency banking platform dubbed, 'Qwikserv' which was launched in Dar es Salaam during the week.

Selcom Tanzania's Executive Director, Sameer Hirji said during the launch that Qwikserv, has been designed for participating banks' customers to get quick and effortless access to touch points for essential banking services such as deposits, withdrawals, balance enquiry, mini-statement, funds transfer and instant account opening.

Hirji said with the recent focus on Tanzania's financial inclusion framework, the service is strategically aligned to enhance affordable reach and penetration to the underserved, underbanked and unbanked population of Tanzania.

"Our guiding principle is to promote financial inclusion in Tanzania. As a service provider, we continually aim to design solutions that assist our bank partners to grow. Qwikserv is specifically designed to create financial access in areas where it has historically been unviable for banks without the need to incur massive costs of establishment," the Selcom chief noted.

"Simultaneously, the shared float model in place for our thousands of agents, allows them to easily come onboard this service enhancing their working capital to be utilized more efficiently, resulting in higher returns per turnover cycle," he noted.

Leveraging the popularity of Selcom's network of over 18,000 agents, Qwikserv not only eliminates the need to acquire dedicated point of sale machines and associated costs of training, repair, but inherently makes the bank offerings more scalable without losing the impact of an offline customer service touchpoint for banks.

Selcom is successfully implementing this service with NMB Bank, CRDB Bank, NBC Bank, TPB Bank, Amana Bank, Access Bank and Letshego Bank. Six more banks are presently in pre-launch user-acceptance-testing phase and Selcom aims to cover over 35 banks in the next quarter.

As a recurring pain-point identified during the research, Selcom has also uniquely ensured the availability of float for all agents offering Qwikserv through a shared infrastructure model which enables agents to serve customers from multiple banks, the ED added.

Selcom is a leading cross-segment financial and payment services provider based in Tanzania with a growing footprint across Sub-Saharan Africa focusing on digital, card and cardless processing services.



Selcom's Executive Director, Sameer Hirji.

Lawmaker challenges Babati business community to seize favourable market opportunity

By The Banker Reporter, Babati

THE private sector in Babati district of Manyara region has been challenged to seize the favourable market conditions put in place by the government by acquire loans to grow their businesses.

Ruling party lawmaker for Babati Urban, Pauline Gekul urged small and medium size business owners and managers to exploit the available market following Treasury's abolition of several nuisance taxes paid to Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) including income tax before officially starting the business.

Speaking at a meeting organized by NMB Bank Plc for Manyara Region's NMB Business Club earlier this week, Gekul said business people should stop complaining and instead utilize the available opportunity to grow their businesses following major fiscal reforms done in 2019/20.

"I congratulate NMB Bank for organizing this platform with business people to sensitize them on how to grow their businesses, I believe you will regularly organise such forums in future to help Babati small and medium scale businesses graduate to companies," she added. Backing Gekul's observation, NMB Senior Relationship Manager Business Banking, Wogofya Mfalomagoha said the bank is ready to serve all level businesses through its network that is spread across the country with over 229 physical branches.

Mfalomagoha said NMB's strong network also incorporates 7,000 agents as and over 800 ATM machines plus internet banking all of which operate all throughout the day. "NMB has more than 200,000 business people throughout the country who have taken loans worth



NMB Senior Relationship Manager Business Banking, Wogofya Mfalomagoha speaking to Babati members of NMB Business Club during a financial literacy training organised by the bank in Manyara Region.

600bn/- through these business clubs that we use regularly to sensitize and give financial skills," he stated.

He advised business people not to focus on their collateral when they want to take loans but rather have a solid business idea that can bring them benefits as the bank does not want to sell the bond of its clients after defaulting on repayment.

The NMB Senior Relations Manager underscored that activities of small and medium size enterprises are very important in the development of the national economy of the country hence the bank's focus on such group. "The goal of meeting you is to ensure that you grow your capital, provide more jobs to more Tanzanians and contribute to economic

growth through taxes you pay to Treasury," he stressed.

Chairperson of the NMB Business Club in Manyara Region, Ally Msuya said they have developed good relations with the bank through such clubs. "These clubs have enabled us to solve the challenges that we face as business people with backing of NMB experts," Msuya said.

CBN gives reasons why Nigerians can't access loans from commercial banks

LAGOS

Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) on Monday said that many Nigerians are unable to access loans from commercial banks because they cannot distinguish between working and fixed capital.

The apex bank added that many Nigerians also cannot access its many initiatives as they don't have bank accounts. Director, Corporate Communications Department of CBN, Isaac Okorafor said this in Ilorin, the Kwara state capital at a two day fair organized by the bank.

The theme of the fair is "promoting sustainable economic development in the country." Mr. Okorafor revealed that many bank customers did not know their rights. He added that "some of the commercial banks allegedly make illegal deductions from their accounts."

Represented by Assistant Director in the department and National Coordinator of the fair, Samuel Okegbue. Mr. Okorafor added that CBN had returned billions of Naira to customers from illegal deductions by commercial banks. He attributed the proliferation of dirty and mutilated Naira notes in circulation to poor and improper handling of the national currency,

which he described as "the nation's pride."

Said he: "The fair is to sensitise our people on how to take records of what they have, as this will enable them know how to organize their businesses well. CBN is poised to make policies that are people's focused. CBN is monitoring to make sure that bank's customers do not get unwarranted charges from their banks."

"We want to have a detailed discussion about development finance initiatives of CBN. Many Nigerians do not know how to access initiatives as they don't have bank accounts." He said that before the introduction of the Anchor Borrowers scheme to Nigerian farmers the country was importing over one billion dollars worth of rice annually.

"By importing rice into the country we were sending our hard-earned money outside the country to improve the economies of others. By that time the exchange rate of the Naira also crashed.

"Today, the exchange rate has remained relatively stable in the last three years. When the exchange rate is stable, businesses can thrive. That stability makes businesses to have confidence. These are the things CBN has been doing," Mr. Okorafor added.

NBK staff face jobs loss after merger with KCB

NAIROBI

National Bank of Kenya (NBK) workers face the possibility of losing their jobs two years into the proposed merger with KCB Group, a shareholders' circular on the ongoing transaction has revealed.

The planned redundancies are intended to make the merged entity more efficient, NBK said in the letter sent Tuesday to its shareholders. NBK will operate independently for two years after the \$5.6 billion share swap transaction and then merge with KCB, at which point the reduction of NBK's staff count of 1,356 workers is set to start.

"KCB will among other things conduct a review of the organisational structure to improve the management and operations of NBK from an efficiency as well as product view point," said NBK in the circular. "The reorganisation will lead to an overall reduction of the workforce and optimisation of the distribution network."

NBK does not say how many jobs are expected to be lost in the merger. KCB is expected to make its own disclosures to its shareholders regarding the transaction, which will also disclose its staffing plans after its merger with NBK. KCB has a staff count of 6,220.

Besides the KCB/NBK merger, the tie-up of NIC Group and CBA Group is also expected to result in job losses. The Competition Authority of Kenya (CAK) offered CBA and NIC employees protection from sacking for one year after which the newly merged entity will be free to trim its workforce.

Mergers ordinarily come with overlaps of branch networks, technology, management and

support functions. The planned layoffs at NBK will build on the lender's recent retrenchments that were carried out in a bid to cut costs and enhance efficiencies.

NBK laid off a total of 112 employees who took up a voluntary early retirement offer last year, costing the lender Sh541.2 million. The retrenchments affected management ranks the most, with their number dropping to 721 from 791 in 2017. The number of clerical workers also declined to 432 from 494 while contract employees shrunk to 203 from 214.

“KCB will among other things conduct a review of the organisational structure to improve the management and operations of NBK from an efficiency as well as product view point,” said NBK in the circular.

The lender saw its cost-to-income ratio rise to 74 percent last year, one of the highest in the industry, from 67 percent the year before. KCB and NBK have branches close to each other in multiple locations.

NBK says the merger is intended to solve its weak capital position. The bank, which has fallen short of most of the minimum capital requirements, will end up with a 4.5 percent stake in KCB. KCB plans to invest up to Sh7.5 billion in NBK to shore up its capital and fund its growth ahead of the merger.

Inside Africa's bid for digital economy

KIGALI

NETWORK infrastructure and connectivity are backbone of a vibrant digital economy. Yet, there is still a big gap when it comes to linkages in transport, communications, energy, and water networks across the African continent.

This was observed on Tuesday at the 'Investment Forum' organised by the Rwanda Development Board (RDB) and Africa50, ahead of the latter's Annual General Shareholders' Meeting on Wednesday.

At the forum, experts from the banking sector, technology, and health, made a case for increased investment to bridge the gap in Africa's infrastructure connectivity, which they said will be realised through private and public partnerships.

Infrastructure funding gap in Africa is estimated to be around \$130-170 billion a year, according to the African Development Bank. To bridge such a gap, Diane Karusisi, the chief executive officer of Bank of Kigali, cited a case of Rwanda and the lead that Government took to lay out broadband infrastructure to enhance connectivity.

"Rwanda was a pioneer in laying the fibre optic backbone across the country to enable last-mile connectivity. This has helped businesses a lot – those in smart transportation and bankers like us – to ensure our customers easily transact on their mobile phones from wherever they are," she said.

The fibre optic backbone has also seen more people in Rwanda connect to the internet, and currently, internet penetration stands at about 50 per cent of the population. Harkirit Singh, the Global Head of Solutions for Tata Communications shared his experience working in Tanzania in the 1990's, and said connectivity drives many sectors and economies.

"My first job back in 1997 was to set up a first telephone link connecting Tanzania tea plantation farmers and Tanzania Telecom Corporation, and I have seen the



Bank of Kigali chief executive Diane Karusisi speaks at the Investment Forum in Kigali yesterday.

delight that people had than they had before," he said.

Digital strategy

Singh said that connectivity provides opportunities which drive economies, emphasising the need to create conducive frameworks for entrepreneurs and investors, something he said propelled his country, India, to develop fast.

"In India, we did not create innovation hubs or an innovation city, what we created is the enabling framework that allowed people to be sure that when they come up with some technology or innovations, they are going to be protected," he said.

That same framework [the National Digital Strategy], he said, also allowed people to receive support from financial institutions in terms of investment they are look-

ing to build, as well as support from academic institutions like Indian Institutes of Technology.

These institutions have enabled India's mobile digital revolution and have trained outstanding technologists and engineers who work for multinational corporations such as Google, Amazon and Facebook.

Most of these are companies that are building digital infrastructure, allowing millions of people to do business without relying on traditional infrastructure. Singh said it was, therefore, important for African governments to invest significant resources in educational institutes that are able to train the next generation of engineers and adopt innovative financing models for connectivity.

"We are working with Google and Facebook to promote open internet access and the model is innovative.

If today we set up Wi-Fi infrastructure on buses, railways and across the city in Kigali, the number of people using application on that platform, every time they click using that Wi-Fi infrastructure, Google and Facebook pays back," Singh says.

Such financing model is being adopted by big technology companies to expand their reach, especially in rural areas and this is helping bring connectivity access to people living in remote areas.

Bridging the gap

A recent report by the Global Infrastructure Hub which focused on ten African countries – Rwanda, Morocco, Ethiopia, Ivory Coast, Senegal, Egypt, Ghana, Tunisia, Benin, and Guinea – indicated that there was a huge financing gap.

To keep pace with success stories elsewhere such as Vietnam in terms of developing roads, railways, airports, sea ports, electricity, water and physical telecommunications infrastructure, these nations require investments of \$2 trillion through 2040.

Patrick Singa, a Medical Director at babyl – a startup that provides digital healthcare solutions by helping patients consult doctors using their mobile phones – said they are finding a way around physical infrastructure to bring innovative solutions to people in need.

"We are tapping into digital platforms that are affordable and accessible to offer services to people. We are now using USSD (a global system for mobile phones) to allow patients to consult doctors," he noted.

But Singa reckons that there is an urgent need to liberalise the digital space, especially to break the monopoly of services like data hosting and network provision offered by telecom companies and other big companies.

For Alex Ntare, the head of the ICT Chamber in Rwanda, connectivity services for basic needs like that provided by babyl and education should not be subjected to the same pricing as those that are entirely commercial in nature.

A landmark decision by the Court of Appeal on waiver appeals, any recourse?

By Frank Mughwai

On 12th June 2019, the Court of Appeal issued a landmark decision on waiver appeals. The judgment is in relation to the Civil Appeal No 121 of 2018, at the Court of Appeal between Panafrican Energy Tanzania Limited - the Appellant, and the Commissioner General (CG) - the Respondent.

The appeal, emanates from the refusal by the CG to grant the full waiver of the one third deposit required to be paid to the revenue authority, as per the Tax Administration Act, 2015 (TAA) when one is objecting to the CG's tax decision.

The TAA, requires a taxpayer to pay either the amount of tax not in dispute or one third of the assessed tax decision, whichever amount is greater before an objection is admitted for determination. The required deposit has to be paid within a period of thirty days, from the date of service of the tax decision.

The TAA, and its regulations allows a taxpayer to apply for the waiver of payment of the required deposit, and an application for the waiver has to be made within fifteen days before expiration of the thirty days limit for lodging an objection. The CG is required to make his decision on taxpayers' waiver application on or before the expiration of the objection time.

According to the TAA, the CG is allowed to waive the full amount of the required deposit or accept a lesser amount if he is satisfied that, there exists good reasons for him to warrant the waiver. This is to say, the CG's decision on waiver application is discretionary.

However, in the Tax Appeal No.9 of 2007, between Karibu Textile Mills

Limited and CG, the Tax Revenue Appeals Tribunal (the Tribunal) agreed with the counsel for the revenue authority that, the granting of the waiver is discretionary, but in exercising his discretionary power, the CG must act judiciously.

In the Panafrican Energy case, the Court of Appeal did not focus on the merit of the case, and rather, at the hearing, it raised a point of law, suo motu (on its own motion) regarding the competence of the waiver appeal before the Board, and thereafter before the Tribunal. The Appellant defended its position on the competence of its appeal before the Board and argued that, the denial of waiver falls under the term 'other decisions', in the relevant provision in the TAA and therefore the same is appealable to the Board.

My reading of the relevant provision of the TAA, indicates that, the appeal under the TAA has to be in accordance with the Tax Revenue Appeals Act, 2000 (TRAA), a position which the Court of Appeal emphasized and relied on to come up with the judgement. Unfortunately, the TRAA only refers to an "objection decision" when it comes to raising an appeal at the Board, and therefore the word "other decisions" has not explicitly been mentioned in the TRAA. Defending its position, the counsel for the Respondent issued a counterargument, arguing that, the decision of the CG on waiver is final and may only be questioned by way of judicial review.

In this case, the Appellant was issued with the tax decision in the form of assessments. The TAA under the dispute resolution section, allows the CG to make any tax decision including assessment or other decision on a matter left to the discretion, judgement, direction,

opinion, approval, consent, satisfaction or determination of the CG under a tax law that directly affects a person. These tax decisions are supposed to be objected directly to the CG under the TAA.

There are two school of thoughts that have emerged after the introduction of the TAA in 2015, when it comes to the treatment of the CG's decision on rejection of the waiver. There are those who believe that, the rejection of waiver qualifies as an objection decision and would prefer to lodge their appeals directly to the Board, and those who believe that, the rejection of waiver falls under the definition of a tax decision and would prefer to first raise an objection to the CG, and thereafter to the Board, and to the Tribunal if dissatisfied with the CG final decision.

By applying the strict interpretation of the law, which is the basis for the Panafrican Energy judgement, there is no doubt that, the principal legislation, TRAA, only refers to an objection decision, and other decisions by the CG are nowhere to be mentioned in that Act, except in the Tax Revenue Appeals Board Rules, 2018 under interpretation section, which has defined the word appealable decision as: "... objection decision, or other decision, or omission of the Commissioner General...of the Tax Administration Act".

This implies that, any tax decision that would be made by the CG on any tax matter, the same should first be objected to the CG, before escalating the matter to the Board level. Failure to follow this route, would be risking for the appeal to be viewed incompetent before the Board on the basis of this new ruling at the Court of Appeal.

Further, the Tax Revenue Appeals



The new Deutsche Bank might actually be better

FRANKFURT

One of Europe's largest financial institutions, Deutsche Bank, finally appears poised to do what the entire region's banking sector needs to do: get rid of bad assets and increase its capacity to absorb losses.

If the plan works, it will be a step in the right direction. That said, European authorities had better be ready to act if it doesn't. CEO Christian Sewing has announced the bank's most ambitious reorganisation to date—eliminating some 18 000 jobs, and largely abandoning the German giant's efforts to compete with US investment banks, particularly in equities trading. The new Deutsche Bank, if all goes well, will be much more focused on the expanding business of serving corporate clients.

There is no question that this decision comes with great personal pain. A lot of lives were upended this week. Still, this course is far more promising than the one Sewing was previously considering: merging Deutsche with crosstown competitor Commerzbank. That would have created a bigger entity with potentially bigger problems.

The new plan improves systemic safety in two ways. First, it will leave Deutsche Bank's balance sheet more than 200 billion euros smaller — a good thing, bearing in mind that Europe is still overbanked and needs to redistribute its banking capacity to better reflect demand. Second, the plan will help Deutsche handle future shocks. By 2022, the bank aims to have about 5 euros in loss-absorbing capital for each 100 euros in assets — a leverage ratio of 5%, up from 3.9% at the end of March. This will make a hitherto undercapitalized bank less of a weak link in the European financial system.

'Nigeria remains a top destination for foreign portfolio investments'

CHIEF Executive, Stanbic IBTC Stockbrokers Limited, Titi Ogungbesan, spoke to Global Banking and Finance on her firm's consistent leading performance at the Nigerian Stock Exchange, since 2006, in terms of recording the highest transaction value, plans for the future, the inroads made by the capital market, and the role of market operators in attracting more investments to the market, among other issues...

According to the latest broker performance report from 2 January, 2018 to 31 October, 2018, Stanbic IBTC Stockbrokers Limited (SISL) led the top 10 brokers' chart. SISL accounted for equities transaction valued at N419.021 billion, representing 19.66 percent of the total value of stock traded on the NSE in the 10 months period. To what will you attribute this impressive performance?

I would attribute this to clients' confidence in SISL's execution capabilities, sales, research and other efficient services in helping to achieve their investment objectives regarding trades on the Nigerian Stock Exchange and our ability to generate and match block flows. Adding value to clients is a top priority for us and this has helped us to generate and maintain very strong and lasting relationships with them and in turn, positioned us in good standing to get considerable portion of their trades.

Our affiliation with our parent company, Standard Bank group, with offices in different parts of the world is also an advantage as it creates for us a vast global network of relationships and clients for whom we execute trades.

Stanbic IBTC's reputation for big ticket financing deals in Nigeria, debt and infrastructure financing, is quite remarkable. Stanbic IBTC was involved in Dangote Cement's N150 billion commercial paper issuance, the federal government's oversubscribed Eurobond and similar deals. What would you say is behind the confidence corporates and even the federal government repose in Stanbic IBTC when it comes to debt or equity transactions in Nigeria?

I would attribute this to our reputation for

excellence, professionalism, expertise, quality service and integrity - all factors which are imperative for client confidence, enabling our client base both domestic and international investors, to entrust us with the big ticket transactions.

Your banking arm, Stanbic IBTC Bank, has for two years led other commercial banks in the country in terms of capital importation into the economy. This year, Stanbic IBTC Bank accounted for more than half of the total capital importation figure. Remarkably, of the three banks that led the pack, Stanbic IBTC is the only local or African bank. What in your opinion makes foreign investors trust you with their investments?

Across the group, we have key business units who deal with these international clients and are leaders in the various finance sub sectors. For example, our custodian business is the largest in the country, SISL is the leading brokerage firm and our Global markets desk is a top participant in the industry also. In addition, our investment banking team has facilitated large primary market transactions in the capital and money market spaces. We are therefore able to offer holistic solutions delivered with high level of efficiency and integrity to clients, which goes a long way in engendering confidence/ trust for repeat business and even referrals.

Still on the subject of foreign investment, as the year winds down and we take stock of the economic performance, how would you say the economy has fared compared to last year - specifically in terms of capital importation, whether as equity investment (FDI and portfolio investment) or directly into different economic sectors?

You would recall that the economy got out of recession in 2017 and there was a lot of optimism about the growth trajectory. However, this growth has been stifled by external and internal headwinds this year. For example, Nigeria was affected by the emerging market sell-offs, which highlighted the risks of investing in emerging and frontier markets



and caused foreign investors to be more cautious. The increase in the anchor rate by the Fed Reserve Bank also encouraged them to invest more in the US (considering safety). The risk aversion typically associated with pre-election years has also been a factor. Internally, the continued challenge with the farmers/herdsmen clashes, perceived private sector challenges with regulators and stifled consumer spending have also led to more caution and reduced foreign investment.

This year's Nigeria Economic Summit, the 24th edition was themed "Poverty to Prosperity: Making Governance and Institutions to Work". The theme clearly indicates a need for structural changes that would unlock Nigeria's capacity to attain her potential. As one of Nigeria's leading financial institutions, how are you contributing to the critical sectors and helping to position the Nigerian economy for sustainable growth and development?

SISL as a major player in the capital market carries out its business in an ethical way. This has helped boost a lot of confidence from investors both locally and internationally and helped in ensuring Nigeria remains a top destination for foreign portfolio investments. We are always working with stakeholders to ensure the promotion of savings culture among Nigerians.

Other emerging economies in Africa like South Africa and Ghana are giving Nigeria a run for her money in terms of attracting investors. As a key player and stakeholder in the nation's economy, what are you doing to raise investor confidence and what in your opinion, should we be doing now to attract investors?

As a company, we organize an annual flagship conference, the Standard Bank West Africa Investors' conference, which is a foremost conference in Nigeria designed to connect Nigerian corporates with investors, both foreign and domestic, with the intention of attracting investment into the country. Our parent group also organizes an annual Africa Conference, which Nigeria is a significant part of. Over the years, we have recorded considerable success with these and other initiatives we undertake in playing our part in the Nigerian project.

As a nation, we should continue to enact policies that will aid ease of doing business and encourage diversification of the economy.

What advice will you have for someone who wishes to invest in Nigeria now?

Without doubt, opportunities abound in Nigeria but proper due diligence should be undertaken before investment. Investors should seek to partner with credible local stakeholders that would assist them in achieving their objectives. With our experience which spans several decades, we are willing and able to hold our clients' and other prospective investors' hands to guide them through the process.

The recently concluded chief executive's innovation challenge was meant to address three business focus areas and subsidiaries, with strategic focus on digitisation, customer centricity within Stanbic IBTC Group and improved efficiencies in businesses, one of which is the stockbroking business. Coincidentally, the eventual winner was one that proffered a solution for SISL. What are your expectations regarding improving the customer trading experience through the creation of a simplified trading platform for your teeming stockbroking clients?

We are constantly working to improve our customers' experience. We have an online portal which provides direct market access to all our clients. This enables them view their portfolio positions and have online real time access to the trading portal. It affords them the opportunity to trade directly from the comfort of their homes and offices. The just concluded chief executive's innovation challenge is a testament to the fact that our industry is evolving and technology will play a major role in achieving customer satisfaction.

The latest World Bank Ease of Doing Business Index ranked Nigeria 146th out of 190 countries. In the 2017 edition of the report, Nigeria moved 24 places from its 2016 spot of 169 to 145. The federal government has set a target of being in the top 100 by 2020. Is this realistic or ambitious?

We believe this is achievable considering the successes that have been recorded already within the period of implementation. Although we slid by one place based on the latest ranking, we consider this just a temporary setback considering the will of the government in making sure that we realise the target.

How would you appraise the regulatory environment?

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) have always been relentless in improving capital market operations which has improved the practice. A lot is being done in the area of compliance with Know Your Customers (KYC), Anti Money Laundering / Combating Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT). More regulatory oversights are being upheld and there has been improved communication/information dissemination to all stakeholders. There has been more emphasis on investors' protection as well with initiatives like e-dividend crediting and direct cash settlement.

How significant would you say such reports like the World Bank Ease of Doing Business Index are in terms of how investors view the country in their decision-making process?

Quite significant as it sends a strong message to investors on the potential viability of their investments in Nigeria; it helps them to reappraise their expectations, plan and take decisions accordingly.

How effective was the capital market in helping government finance a huge budget deficit and how well can the market support government's financing efforts?

The capital market serves as an avenue to access funds utilized in closing the deficit in financing the budget. There has been a lot of initiatives by the current government in accessing funds through the capital market like Sukuk Bond issuance, FGN Savings Bond, Green Bonds and others.

SISL is the leading stockbroking firm in Nigeria. What goals and targets are you setting for yourself over the next two to three years?

We plan to maintain our leadership position in the industry by providing stellar service to our existing and potential clients. We are working with corporates and other stakeholders to encourage more participation in the capital market especially in the area of new listings such as IPO, Right Issues, Mergers & Acquisitions, etc. We will continue to collaborate with regulators in developing new initiatives and products. And also embrace technology to encourage financial inclusion.

WORLD

UK Tory contenders trade blows, Labour backs new Brexit vote

LONDON

THE two men vying to be Britain's next leader traded verbal blows in a televised debate on Tuesday about who is more likely to break the country's Brexit deadlock and lead the UK out of the European Union.

About 160,000 Conservative Party members are voting for a successor to Prime Minister Theresa May, who announced her resignation last month after failing repeatedly to get Parliament to back her divorce deal with the EU.

The two finalists, Boris Johnson and Jeremy Hunt, both used their only televised debate to argue that they were best placed to negotiate Britain's twice-postponed exit, currently scheduled for Oct 31.

Johnson, a populist former mayor of London whom polls suggest is the strong front-runner, argued that Britain leaving on schedule, with or without a divorce deal, is a "do or die" issue.

"Delay does not deliver a deal. A deadline will deliver a deal," Johnson said, adding that his "energy and opti-

mism" would help Britain "get back our mojo."

Hunt, a long-serving but lusterless senior minister who is currently foreign secretary, said he offered experience, realism and a broader appeal than the divisive Johnson.

"I'll be your prime minister whoever you vote for," he said.

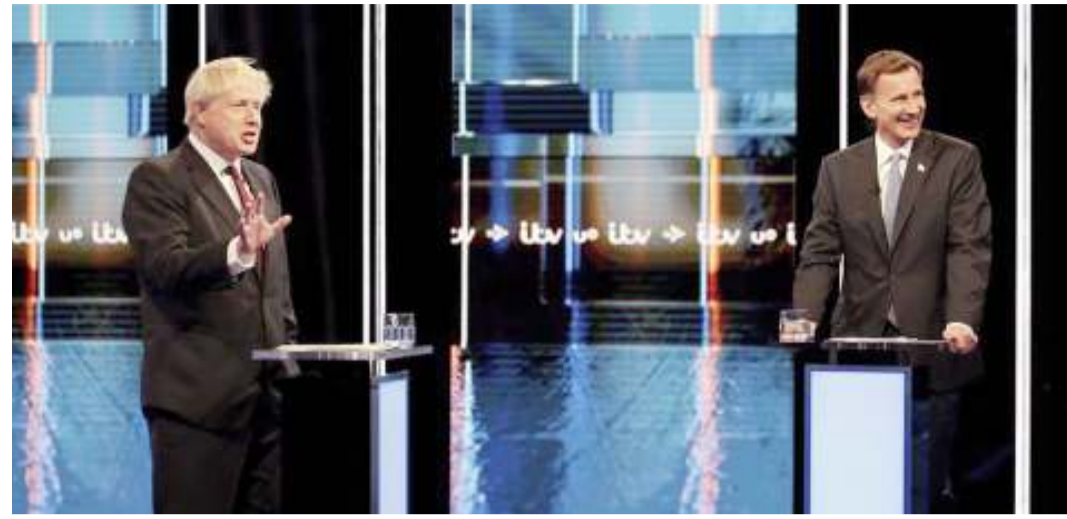
Unlike Johnson, Hunt said he would be prepared to delay Brexit for a short time in order to strike a deal with the EU.

That led Johnson to call Hunt "defeatist." Hunt accused Johnson of setting a "fake deadline" and asked whether he would resign if he failed to deliver on his promise to leave by Oct 31.

Johnson did not answer. "It's not do or die is it?" Hunt snapped back. "It's Boris in No 10 (Downing St) that matters."

Hunt and Johnson have both vowed to succeed where May failed and take Britain out of the EU – even if that means leaving without an agreement on divorce terms and future relations.

Most businesses and economists



Britain's Conservative Party leadership candidates Boris Johnson, left, and Jeremy Hunt, during a live head-to-head TV debate hosted by ITV at their studios in Salford, England on Tuesday. (AP)

think a no-deal Brexit would plunge Britain into recession as customs checks take effect at UK ports and tariffs are imposed on trade between the UK and the EU. But many Conservatives think embracing a no-deal Brexit may be the only way to win back voters from the upstart Brexit Party led by Nigel Farage.

Growing concern about the chance of a no-deal Brexit and signs that the British economy could be heading toward recession have weakened the pound, which fell Tuesday to US\$1.2440, near a two-year low.

For underdog Hunt, Tuesday's showdown offered a chance to turn the contest around, though it may be too late. Ballot papers have already gone out, and many Conservatives have made their choice.

The two candidates also faced questions about a fierce row over leaked cables from Britain's ambassador in Washington offering unflattering assessments of President Donald Trump's administration.

In the memos, Ambassador Kim Darroch called Trump's White House dysfunctional, inept and chaotic. The president let rip with tweets branding Darroch "very stupid" and "a pompous fool," and saying the administration would no longer deal with him.

Trump also renewed criticism of May's handling of Brexit. In contrast, he has spoken warmly of both Johnson and Hunt.

Hunt reprimanded Trump, saying he should not meddle in Britain's choice of ambassador.

"I have made it clear that if I am the next prime minister our ambassador in Washington stays," Hunt said.

Johnson would not commit to keeping Darroch in his post.

"I have a very good relationship with the White House," he said. "I think it's very important we should have a close partnership, a close friendship with the United States."

As the two Conservatives battled over who was the bigger champion of Brexit, Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn shifted his party's position, calling on May's successor to call a new referendum on Britain's EU membership, in which Labour would campaign to stay in the EU.

In a letter to party members, Corbyn said that the new prime minister "should have the confidence to put their deal, or no-deal, back to the people in a public vote."

"In those circumstances, I want to make it clear that Labour would campaign for Remain against either no-deal or a Tory deal that does not protect the economy and jobs," he said. **Agencies**

Africa's infrastructure gap poses challenge to success of continental free trade area - experts

KIGALI

INFRASTRUCTURE deficit gap in Africa poses a serious challenge to the success of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), experts said on Tuesday at the annual General Shareholders Meeting of Africa50, a pan-African infrastructure investment firm.

"The operational phase of the AfCFTA has been launched, but there is inadequate infrastructure development and connectivity in Africa to boost trade, growth and regional integration," said Alain Eboissie, chief executive officer of Africa50 while speaking at the meeting in the Rwandan capital Kigali.

The meeting that runs through

Wednesday aims to discuss investment opportunities, innovation, partnerships and the future of the Africa's infrastructure.

Africa50, which operates as a commercial financial institution headquartered in Morocco's Casablanca, has an investor base composed of 27 African countries, the African Development Bank, the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO) and the central bank of Morocco.

Africa needs to find disruptive technologies to close the infrastructural gap, said Eboissie (pictured).

According to him, poor state of infrastructure connectivity and development in the areas of internet, road, railways and airline trans-



port and energy poses a threat to efficient operationalization of the AfCFTA.

He emphasized infrastructure development is key to facilitating the AfCFTA and creating a single economic entity on the continent. Lack of well developed cross-

border roads and railways, international airports and ports, as well as poor internet connectivity remains a serious challenge to smooth flow of goods, people and information across the continent.

There is an urgent need to develop innovative financing solutions in Africa that would help in addressing infrastructure gap, said Nathalie Munyempera, managing director of Next Einstein Forum.

According to Carole Wainaina, chief operating officer of Africa50, to achieve effective implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area, there is a need to invest heavily in infrastructure development in Africa especially railways, roads and telecommunications. **Xinhua**

Moon warns biz to prepare for a prolonged fight with Japan

By Bloomberg

SOUTH Korean President Moon Jae-in warned top business leaders of an extended battle with Japan over its export controls on vital manufacturing materials, raising concerns their latest fight could disrupt global supply chains.

Yesterday, Moon told executives from about 30 companies including Samsung Electronics Co., SK Group, Hyundai Motor Co. and Lotte Group, that he saw Japan targeting South Korea's economy for political gains. Japan last week imposed curbs on highly specialized products needed to make semiconductors and computer displays, and could also remove its neighbor from a list of trusted buyers.

"Despite our diplomatic efforts, we cannot rule out the possibility

of this situation becoming prolonged," Moon said. "Our government is forming a response system demanding Japan to withdraw its unfair export limit measures with a sense of urgency," Moon said in Seoul, calling the current situation an "unprecedented emergency."

Japan has said it made the move to ensure proper security and questioned its trust of South Korea after courts there last year ruled that Japanese companies needed to pay compensation to Koreans conscripted to work at mines and factories during Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule over the Korean Peninsula. Tokyo said all claims were settled by a 1965 treaty and that it didn't see the court decisions as valid.

The dispute has moved into the economic arena what the two see as proper contrition for Japan's colonial rule. Past fights have



mostly kept industries on both sides out of the fray but the worry now is that tensions between the major trading partners and US allies could spiral out of control.

Moon yesterday proposed an "active support" from the government's end for companies to diversify importers and expand local production, adding that the export curbs would be reflected

in an upcoming extra budget bill proposal within the National Assembly.

The stakes are high for Moon, who has seen the economy stumble under his watch while the jobless rate has hit levels it hasn't seen in about a decade.

Tech sector pressures

While the stricter checks that took effect Thursday don't amount to a ban, exporters would be required to obtain a separate license each time they want to sell the materials to South Korea, causing delays.

Samsung Electronics' share rose as much as 2.2% as traders saw an output cut for flash memory-chips due to the restrictions, which could result in a price rise. Peer SK Hynix gained as much as 5%.

South Korea is taking its case over the expert measures to the

World Trade Organization. Its courts have ruled since late 2018 said the victims of forced labor weren't compensated for their emotional pain and suffering.

The new restrictions could hurt the profits of South Korean firms that rely on Japanese suppliers, such as Samsung Electronics and LG Display Co. Japan has 90% of the market for chips used in smartphone displays, as well as the etching gas used to make chips. Unless the dispute gets settled, South Korean firms will have to find alternative supplies from Taiwan and China, while Japanese manufacturers would need to divert their production.

Mark Mobius, an emerging-market guru, warned the simmering tensions between Seoul and Tokyo won't be quickly resolved and investors should be prepared. **Agencies**

Russian ambassador urges US to support Moscow's efforts against Nazi glorification

WASHINGTON

THE United States should support Russia's efforts within the UN framework, directed against glorification of Nazism, Russia's US ambassador, Anatoly Antonov, said in an article for the National Interest magazine.

The diplomat said that Russia annually submits a draft UN resolution against glorification of Nazism, but the United States and Ukraine keep voting against it.

"Every year Russia submits a United Nations resolution on the fight against the glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to the escalation of contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

In the entire international community there are only two countries that still vote against it: the United States and Ukraine. Canada found strength to reconsider its position, now it is Washington's turn," the ambassador said.

"It is deeply disappointing that neo-Nazi organizations 'hiding' behind the First Amendment in the United States freely operate and erect monuments to 'heroes' of ethnic cleansings, Nazi collaborators involved in the Holocaust," he added.

According to the Russian diplomat, "shared history should play a unifying role."

"We should never forget what our peoples fought together for during World War II, the memory of the victims of Nazism should forever stay in the hearts and minds of future generations," Antonov (pictured) said.

"Russia has always reacted strongly to attempts to rewrite history and glorify Nazism and will continue to do so," he went on. "In the twenty-first century, such a shameful phenomenon, such as marches of Nazis and their collaborators on the streets of European cities, cannot be allowed to exist. It is important to stop the demolition of monuments dedicated to anti-fascist warriors in Ukraine, the Baltic countries and Poland."

"The policy of tolerance towards neo-Nazis is unacceptable," the diplomat added.

Monument to Russian pilots in US

The ambassador expressed hope that the monument to Soviet pilots, who transported amphibious aircraft from the United States to the Soviet Union during WWII will eventually be installed in Elizabeth City, North Carolina.

"We hope that one day a monument to heroic pilots will be erected on the East Costin Elizabeth City, North Carolina as well. That was the place, from which American flying boats with mixed crews began their flight to the USSR," Antonov said.

Early last year, the city council of Elizabeth City voted 5-3 to reject a memorandum of understanding with the Russian Defense Ministry on the construction of monuments. The decision came as a surprise, because the previous council voted unanimously to approve the monument construction. **Agencies**

Turkey to employ S-400 systems in case of attack, says Erdogan

ANKARA

TURKEY plans to use the Russian-made S-400 missile systems if the country comes under attack, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told reporters on his way back from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"Some ask why are we buying [the S-400 systems] and making such an investment. If the need arises, we will have the right to use them. If someone attacks us, we will employ these air defense systems. This is why we are making such an investment," Erdogan said, as cited by the Hurriyet newspaper.

Erdogan reiterated Ankara's plans concerning the joint production of the S-400 systems. "As for joint production, we don't have any issues with Russia."

At the very beginning of our talks with President Putin, we reached an agreement on that. I hope that we will launch joint production, there are no problems at the moment. However, those who want us to abandon the S-400 purchase, continue to make speculations," the Turkish president pointed out.

Meanwhile, Russian Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on June 29 that the contract for the delivery of the S-400 systems to Turkey envisioned partial technology transfer.

S-400 deal

News about Russian-Turkish talks on the delivery of the S-400 systems first came in November 2016. In September 2017, Erdogan announced that Ankara had signed a contract with Moscow on purchasing the S-400 systems and made an advance payment.

Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar said later that Ankara would begin the deployment of the S-400 systems in October 2019. Russia's Rostec State Corporation Sergei Chemezov said in December 2017 that the deal was worth \$2.5 bln. **Agencies**

Venezuela creditors push back on Guaido's debt restructuring plan

CARACAS

CREDITORS holding Venezuelan debt on Tuesday pushed back on debt restructuring plans backed by opposition leader Juan Guaido, urging a "fair and effective" framework for talks and improved communications with investors holding defaulted bonds.

The main committee of Venezuela creditors said it opposed requests for a US executive order that would prevent asset seizures by investors and disagreed with a proposal to give different treatment to debts owed to Russia and China.

But the statement added that restructuring would not begin until the end of a "humanitarian crisis," in reference to the hyperinflationary collapse overseen by President Nicolas Maduro (pictured) that has fueled malnutrition and disease.

"A new government should work with creditor parties, such as the Committee, to agree on the design of the restructuring process and to negotiate the financial and other terms of the restructuring," according to the statement.

Guaido in January cited articles of the constitution to assume an interim presidency after calling Maduro's 2018



election a fraud, quickly winning recognition by more than 50 countries including the United States.

Maduro's government, which continues to exercise power thanks to the loyalty of the military, has failed to pay creditors some US\$11.4 billion in princi-

pal and interest since 2017, according to the creditors. Jose Ignacio Hernandez, Guaido's overseas legal representative, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

"TOO EARLY"

The proposal could help improve communication for a future restructuring, but any serious talks cannot take place until a new government assumes power, said Shamaila Khan, director of emerging market debt at AllianceBernstein in New York.

"It is too early to start discussing a restructuring considering (a new) govern-

ment is still not in place," said Khan in a telephone interview.

Investors say Maduro is not a serious negotiator because his government has few resources to offer in a restructuring and his promises likely cannot be trusted given the ruling Socialist Party's frequent disregard for property rights.

US sanctions also prevent most investors from dealing with him; state oil company Petróleos de Venezuela, SA, or PDVSA; and the central bank.

Maduro blames US sanctions and an opposition-led "economic war" for the country's problems.

The creditor committee opposed re-

quests by Guaido and his allies for an executive order by the White House that would block creditors from seizing US refiner Citgo Petroleum Corp, which is owned by PDVSA.

"An executive order issued by the US government that undermines good faith negotiations would not further the long-term interests of Venezuela or its stakeholders," according to the statement.

The group instead recommended that Venezuela pass a restructuring law that could be recognized under the US bankruptcy code, in order to "provide an effective mechanism for preventing disruptive litigation." **Agencies**



Delegates sit at the opening of the 41st session of the Human Rights Council, at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, June 24, 2019 (AP)

China, Africa champion human rights together at UN

GENEVA

CHINA and Africa joined together on Tuesday to discuss the Contribution of Development to the Enjoyment of all Human Rights at the European headquarters of the United Nations here.

"Development is an eternal quest of human society; it represents the basis of addressing all issues and holds the ultimate answer to them," China's Permanent Representative to the UN Office at Geneva (UNOG), Chen Xu, said in his opening remarks.

He was speaking at a side-event during the current 41st session of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC), co-sponsored by UNOG's African Group and the Permanent Mission of China.

Chen noted that while development benefits from economic growth and new technology, it remains globally "unbalanced, uncoordinated, and inadequate".

The international community needs to think hard about how to make progress together and to bring in more people to share development to promote and protect human rights, said Chen.

"What had happened around the world, particularly in developing countries like China and African countries, speaks to the truth that without development, there are no human rights to talk about," Chen stressed.

Liu Xinsheng, a member of the Advisory Committee of the HRC, who chairs a group working on a new UN report on the contribution of development to all human rights, spoke about advancing development and human rights.

"Development and human rights enjoyment are mutually reinforcing. Economic and social development is the foundation of the people's full enjoyment of all human rights, and human rights protection promotes economic and social development," said Liu.

The Cape Verde Ambassador in Geneva, Maria de Jesus Veiga Miranda, told Xinhua that her country is a good example of human rights and development working together.

"This is for us a mutually enforceable agenda. Indeed, it is one agenda. We need to advance both human rights and all the Sustainable Development Goals together for all persons so that people can realize their human dignity and freedom," she said.

South Africa's UNOG Ambassador, Nozipho Mxakato-Diseko, said in remarks from the floor that "this is a very important space for us to remember the indivisibility of human rights and the interdependence of human rights".

"We are reminded that human rights are interdependent," she commented, adding that without economic, social and cultural rights, civil and political rights will not be stable and "the one without the other is incomplete".

Angola's UNOG Ambassador, Margarida Rosa Da Silva Izata, noted in her speech at Tuesday's side-event that "for the developing countries, particularly in Africa, the right to development is not yet a reality, particularly due to limited financial resources and human capacity."

Agreeing that one of the problems with countries in Africa is the shortage of financial resources, Richard Kozul-Wright, Director of the Division on Globalization and Development Strategies at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, argued that China is playing a positive role in Africa by providing finance for infrastructure and development.

"We see that as a positive development in terms of building some of the necessary conditions for a more sustained growth process," he told Xinhua, adding that the sustained economy will again provide necessary conditions for stronger human rights enjoyment.

Xinhua



What had happened around the world, particularly in developing countries like China and African countries, speaks to the truth that without development, there are no human rights to talk about

Algeria ratifies BRI agreement with China

ALGIERS

ALGERIA has ratified the memorandum of understanding (MoU) on the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which the North African nation joined last September, APS news agency reported on Tuesday.

The ratification of this MoU was confirmed through a presidential decree signed by Algerian interim President Abdelkader Bensalah and published in the Official Gazette.

The decree said Algeria and Chi-

na shall cooperate in the framework of the MoU in the fields of policies coordination, infrastructure interdependence and other areas of cooperation agreed upon by the two sides.

On Sept. 4, 2018, on the sidelines of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in China's capital Beijing, Algeria and China signed an MoU on the North African nation joining the BRI.

Proposed by China in 2013, the BRI refers to the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road which are designed to build a trade and infrastructure network connecting Asia with Europe, Africa

and beyond.

Algeria has been constructing mega infrastructure projects that are likely to enable the country to take great profit from BRI.

China has been the major economic partner of Algeria in the last six years with an annual trade of some 9 billion U.S. dollars.

During the first five months of 2019, China remained the top supplier of Algeria with exports worth 3.5 billion dollars, according to official figures released by the Algerian Customs on Monday.

Xinhua



Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani

UN report: Climate change is undermining poverty eradication



A climate change activist waves a flag as police officers keep watch during the occupation of the road junction at Oxford Circus in central London on April 19, 2019. (File photo)

UNITED NATIONS

HUNGER is growing and the world is not on track to end extreme poverty by 2030 and meet other UN goals, mainly because progress is being undermined by the impact of climate change and increasing inequality, according to a UN report.

The report on progress toward achieving the 17 UN goals notes achievements in some areas, including a 49% fall in child mortality between 2000 and 2017 as well as electricity now reaching nearly 90% of the world's population.

But Liu Zhenmin, the UN undersecretary-general for economic and social affairs, said that despite some advances, "monumental challenges remain."

He said at a news conference the most urgent area for action is climate change, which "may impact the progress made over the last several decades" in reducing poverty and improving life for millions of people around the world.

According to the report, biodiversity loss is happening at an accelerated rate, and "the risk of species extinction has worsened by almost 10 percent over the last 25 years." Global temperatures have risen, ocean acidity has increased 26% since pre-industrial times and "investment in fossil fuels continues to be higher than investment in climate activities," it said.

Liu said the report also shows "inequality is rising and too many people

are left behind." He said that "is another big challenge for the world."

The first of the 17 goals adopted by world leaders in 2015 is to eliminate extreme poverty – people living on less than \$1.90 a day – and the second goal is to end hunger, achieve food security and promote sustainable agriculture. According to the report, neither goal is likely to be achieved by 2030.

While the number of people living in extreme poverty declined to 8.6% of the world's population in 2018, according to the report, the pace is slowing and projections suggest that 6% of people will still be living in extreme poverty by 2030 if current trends continue.

Francesca Perucci, chief statistician in the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, said an estimated 736 million people still living in extreme poverty globally, including 413 million in sub-Saharan Africa.

"Extreme poverty today is concentrated and overwhelmingly affects rural populations," reads the report. "Increasingly, it is exacerbated by violent conflicts and climate change."

While Liu said there has been "good progress" on 16 of the UN goals, he said that "there's been no good progress" on ending hunger, which he called "a tragedy for the international community." He said the most direct impact of climate change is on agricultural production, a key factor in increasing hunger.

According to the report, the number

of people going hungry has increased since 2014. "An estimated 821 million people were undernourished in 2017," up from 784 million in 2015 and the same number as in 2010, it said.

The worst hit region is sub-Saharan Africa, where the number of undernourished people increased from 195 million in 2014 to 237 million in 2017, according to the report.

On education, it warned that proficiency in reading and mathematics is "shockingly" low. "Globally, an estimated 617 million children and adolescents of primary and lower secondary school age – more than 55 percent of the global total – lacked minimum proficiency in reading and mathematics in 2015."

According to the report, women represent 39% of the workforce but hold only 27% of managerial positions. It said 785 million people had no access to clean drinking water in 2017 while 673 million lacked good sanitation systems, the majority of them in southern Asia.

Perucci said 80% of people worldwide are online, but only 45% of those living in developing countries and just 20% in the least developed countries have access to the internet.

"It is abundantly clear that a much deeper, faster and more ambitious response is needed to unleash the social and economic transformation needed to achieve our 2030 goals," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in the report's forward.

Agencies

Trump meets Qatar's Emir amid tensions with Iran

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump met with visiting Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani at the White House on Tuesday, as tensions with Iran continue to smolder.

Iran has raised the concentration of its enriched uranium to 4.5 percent, crossing the limit of 3.67 percent set by the landmark nuclear pact, further endangering the 2015 nuclear deal and escalating tensions in the region. "We're going to see what happens with Iran. Iran is doing a lot of bad things right now and they better be very careful," Trump told reporters during his meeting with the Qatari Emir.

It has been reported that the emir had offered to mediate between the United States and Iran as Doha is believed to have a relationship with Iran.

"I don't think it would be any sort of formal mediation role. But we might look to them to pass messages and convey the seriousness of the administration's attempt to de-escalate, and build some sort of path to dialogue," reported The Washington Post on Tuesday citing an anonymous U.S. official. The emir's visit to Washington also aims at strengthening security and economic ties with the United States, according to statements from the White House.

Trump told reporters at the White House that Qatar is investing heavily in the United States, buying military equipment and commercial planes.

On Monday, the Qatari Emir met with acting U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper at the Pentagon and attended a dinner banquet hosted by U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin.

A year after the U.S. unilateral exit from the nuclear deal, Iran withdrew from part of the nuclear deal on May 8 and threatened more actions in case its interests under the pact cannot be guaranteed.

Iran said earlier that the Europeans have failed to take "practical" steps to ensure Iran's economic interests under the deal.

Xinhua

Putin tells US filmmaker about agreements with Obama on Ukraine

MOSCOW/KIEV

THE United States have failed to fulfill some of agreements on Ukraine reached during a phone conversation between the leaders of Russia and the United States in 2014, Russian President Vladimir Putin told US filmmaker Oliver Stone in the Revealing Ukraine documentary.

In the documentary, presented during the Taormina film festival on Saturday, Stone asks Putin to comment on his phone conversation with then US President Barack Obama, which took place against the background of the 2014 mass rallies in Kiev, known as Maidan.

"As you know, Obama is not a president anymore, but there are still some things that we

[do not comment]," Putin said. "Anyway, I can only say that the agreements reached during this phone conversation, were not fulfilled by the US side."

"I will confine myself to saying that and I will not elaborate," Putin added.

On November 21, 2013, a week ahead of the anticipated signing of the association agreement between Ukraine and the European Union at an Eastern Partnership summit in Vilnius, the then Ukrainian government announced suspension of preparations for the signing.

It provoked mass riots in central Kiev that ultimately resulted in a three-month standoff, commonly known as 'Maidan,' on Kiev's central Independence Square, or Maidan Nezalezhnosti. Protesters seized a number of administrative buildings



and set up the so-called armed 'self-defense' forces, which plunged into open confrontation with law enforcement agencies. The protests peaked with a coup in which ex-President Viktor Yanukovich was toppled and fled Ukraine.

US election meddling
Speaking about Russian-US relations, Putin once again

stressed that Moscow has never tried to influence domestic policies in the United States.

"I did not interfere then, I don't want to interfere now and I'm not going to interfere in the future," he said.

The Russian leader added that incumbent President Donald Trump won the 2016 presidential election because he had a better understanding of the

voters' moods and expectations.

"The United States is a huge country, with huge population and with its own problems and views of what is good and what is bad.

They realized that in the past years - say, a decade - the wealth of the ruling class and the rich has grown rapidly, but at the same time nothing changed for the better for the middle class. Those who organized Trump's election campaign and Trump himself understood this. And he made use of this," Putin said.

Putin also agreed to Oliver Stone's suggestion that Ukraine's ex-President Pyotr Poroshenko and his administration threw in their lot with Trump's election rival Hillary Clinton.

"This is of no secret," Pu-

tin said. "They assumed that Clinton will win and were doing their best to demonstrate their loyalty to the future US administration, tried to create a favorable impression about themselves with the future president. That's why they made tough comments about Trump and supported the Democrats by all means."

Russian-Ukrainian perspectives

When asked about the perspectives of Russian-Ukrainian relations, Putin described the current ties as "difficult," mostly as a result of the 2014 state coup in Ukraine and subsequent "propaganda by Ukraine's incumbent authorities who blame Russia for all the tragic events that followed." However, he said that friend-

ly relations between the two nations will inevitably return.

"Rapprochement is inevitable. At least, creating normal, friendly and I would even say more than friendly - allied - relations is inevitable," Putin said.

New documentary
The Revealing Ukraine documentary was first revealed on July 6 at the Taormina Film Festival. It will premiere on Russia's Rossiya-1 TV channel on July 19.

It was made by Oliver Stone (executive producer and interviewer) and Igor Lopatenok (director). The film looks into the consequences of the Maidan events and features, among other officials, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian opposition leader Viktor Medvedchuk.

Agencies



Rapper Nicki Minaj pulls out of controversial Saudi Arabia concert

LOS ANGELES

U.S. rapper Nicki Minaj said on Tuesday that she was pulling out of a planned concert in Saudi Arabia next week, citing her support for the rights of women and the LGBTQ community.

Minaj, known for her raunchy outfits and provocative stage performances, was due to headline the Jeddah World Fest music festival on July 18, but her plan to appear was criticized last week on social media.

"While I want nothing more than to bring my show to fans in Saudi Arabia, after better educating myself on the issues, I believe it is important for me to make clear my support for the rights of women, the LGBTQ community and freedom of expression," the "Starships" singer said in a statement.

The New York-based Human Rights Foundation (HRF) last week urged Minaj to cancel her performance, saying her appearance would be at odds with the rapper's participation in festivities in New York marking Gay Pride month in June.

Homosexuality is banned in Saudi Arabia. On Tuesday, HRF Chief Executive Thor Halvorssen welcomed Minaj's change of heart, praising her "inspiring and thoughtful decision to reject the Saudi regime's transparent attempt at using her for a public relations stunt."

Saudi officials last week said the Jeddah World Fest would be the region's biggest ever

live musical event. Other announced performers include former One Direction British singer Liam Payne and American DJ Steve Aoki.

Halvorssen said on Tuesday he hoped Payne would follow Minaj and withdraw.

When the concert was announced last week, some Saudis expressed excitement about the latest in a string of performances by Western artists, including Mariah Carey, DJ Tiesto and the Black Eyed Peas.

However others were irritated by Minaj's revealing stage outfits. Saudi women are bound to an extremely conservative dress code.

Around a dozen Saudi women activists have been detained for the past year on charges related to human rights work and contacts with foreign journalists and diplomats in a case that has drawn global attention after last year's murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul.

Some Saudis on Tuesday expressed dismay at Minaj's withdrawal. "You say you've educated yourself on the issues but clearly that's not true. Good job on disappointing whatever fans you had here," tweeted Jeddah-based Jamil Baabdullah.

"I am your biggest fan and I was dying just waiting to see you in Jeddah but you disappointed me thank you," a user called Mohammed al7 posted on Twitter.

REUTERS

Jay-Z goes into the marijuana business

LOS ANGELES

BILLIONAIRE rapper Jay-Z is entering the fast-growing cannabis industry, taking a role with California company Caliva as a strategist.

Privately owned Caliva, formed in San Jose in 2015, said on Tuesday that Jay-Z had entered a long-term partnership in which he will focus on outreach and the creative direction of the company.

The rapper, whose formal title with Caliva will be chief brand strategist, will also further his social justice efforts by increasing job training for former prisoners as well as fostering quality and fairness in the development of the legal marijuana industry, the company said in a statement.

"We want to create something amazing, have fun in the process, do good and bring people along the way," the rapper said in a statement.

Jay-Z earlier this year helped to launch a criminal justice group called the Reform Alliance with a goal of helping to get 1 million Americans out of jail and on probation or parole in the next five years.

Jay-Z, 49, who is married to R&B artist Beyoncé, was named by Forbes magazine in June as the first hip-hop artist to become a billionaire thanks to investments in clothing, champagne, ride-hailing service Uber and his Roc Nation entertainment company.

He is the latest celebrity to get into the marijuana business as its legalization for recreational use has spread to 11 U.S. states, including California.

Rapper Snoop Dogg has his own brand, Leafs by Snoop, and actress Whoopi Goldberg in 2016 launched a line of medical marijuana products aimed at providing relief from menstrual cramps.

REUTERS



Serena Williams of the U.S. and Britain's Andy Murray in action during their second round mixed doubles match against France's Fabrice Martin and Raquel Atawo of the U.S. at All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in London, Britain on Tuesday. REUTERS

Serena thrills as 'Dream Team' turn mean machine at Wimbledon

LONDON

WIMBLEDON's Centre Court is the property of the All England Club, but on Tuesday it belonged to Serena Williams.

After reaching her 37th Grand Slam singles semi-final, the American returned with Britain's Andy Murray in a fist-pumping, high-fiving, forehead-slapping frenzy as the mixed doubles 'Dream Team' put on a show for the thousands of fans who had hung around into the evening to watch.

'SerAndy' or 'Murrena', as the multiple Grand Slam-winning duo have been dubbed, eased into the third round with a 7-5 6-3 win over America's Raquel Atawo and France's Fabrice Martin.

Having beaten compatriot Alison Riske in three sets in the singles quarter-finals earlier in the day, Williams looked like she wanted to be anywhere but out on court again.

Not in a sulky sort of way. Far from it. She was in a fired-up frenzy to get off court as fast as possible as the evening drew in,

smashing winners left and right, roaring, fist-pumping and prouetting in celebration as each one flew off her racket.

"I am having a blast," she said. "Obviously it has been a great atmosphere playing out there with Andy, so it is great."

Any doubt over whether Williams would be in the mood for the mixed doubles was dispelled in the first game as she smashed a volley straight at Martin, apologising profusely after the ball cannoned off his body.

Playing with home favourite Murray, a twice Wimbledon singles champion, means Williams had the Centre Court crowd firmly in her corner and they loudly roared their approval throughout as she fired a string of superb return winners.

"I do not expect that to ever happen again. I'm convinced that was once in a lifetime. I just never hit returns like that in my life," said Williams.

The result of the match was never really in doubt, even if the first set was tight - but this partnership was never meant to be just about results.

Both players are using the mixed doubles as an opportunity to play matches in an effort to return from injuries, with Williams feeling her way back after a niggling knee problem and Murray feeling his way after hip surgery.

Williams' focus will return to her main task on Thursday when the 11th seeded American faces unseeded Czech Barbora Strycova in the semi-finals as she bids to claim a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam singles title.

Murray, however, is playing the long game, having made no immediate decision about when he will be ready to battle again with the likes of Novak Djokovic, Rafa Nadal and Roger Federer.

A truer test of their doubles credentials will come in the next round when they face top seeds Brazilian Bruno Soares and American Nicole Melichar.

Soares won Grand Slam doubles titles with Andy's older brother Jamie at the U.S. and Australian Opens in 2016.

REUTERS

What next for Gauff as world goes Coco-crazy?

LONDON

A QUICK glance at Cori Gauff's Twitter account shows what a difference a week makes in the life of a 15-year-old tennis phenomenon.

The giggling teenager, who likes to be called Coco, came to Wimbledon with a following of around 4,000 on Twitter. By the time her sensational run had ended on Monday, those numbers had risen to over 125,000 and included a number of celebrities.

Not bad for a player who is ranked 313 in the world and one who has yet to win a main-tour tournament.

But then again, there is nothing ordinary about a high school student who manages to pass a science test in the midst of qualifying for Wimbledon, then jettisons five-times champion Venus Williams in the first round before storming back from a set and two match points down to reach the second week of the most famous tennis tournament.

The tennis world had gone Coco-crazy for Gauff but when her remarkable run was finally ended by Simona Halep in the fourth round, Wimbledon's most prolific champion had some words of advice.

"I just hope she backs off after the tournament and takes a breath," said American great Billie Jean King, the winner of



20 titles at the All England Club across singles and doubles.

"I would say 'remember how blessed you are to be in this position... take care of yourself and always stay humble. Right now you can get full of yourself very quickly because everyone's around you'.

"The most important things for her now is to recalibrate and stay focused on her goals. We're going to know her as a human being and not just a tennis player, and that's what people are interested in."

What fans do not want to see is a repetition of Jennifer Capriati's sorry teenaged saga.

At 13, she was a six-million-dollar girl, showered with endorsement contracts even before she played her first professional match in March 1990.

SUPPORT NETWORK In 1991, she became the youngest Wimbledon semi-finalist aged 15. But within two years

Capriati had tired of the game and was arrested for shoplifting and for possession of marijuana.

The support network around Gauff, which includes Roger Federer's agent Tony Godwick, suggests she is well protected from such pitfalls or the temptation to chase every sponsorship dollar thrown her way.

"I've heard they've had over 400 (sponsorship) offers and lots more are going to come her way," said former world number one Tracy Austin, who was also a teenage prodigy.

"It's very important that she's got that veteran agent to know how to deal with it all. She's got to stay humble and be choosy because at 15, she's got a long career ahead of her, there will be plenty of money in the future."

Although she is expected to shoot into the world's top 140 when the new WTA rankings are released next Monday, Gauff will need to plan the rest of her year

more judiciously. A WTA rule introduced after Capriati's downfall means that she is allowed to play only five more tournaments before her 16th birthday next March - even if she wins them all.

One of those events will almost certainly be the U.S. Open in August because as John McEnroe commented, organisers at Flushing Meadows will be clamouring to sign her up as "she sells tickets, people love her and she's got it all."

That was certainly true at Wimbledon.

Among all the players who had made it into round four - Gauff was one of only six - along with Roger Federer, Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal, Serena Williams and British number one Jo Konta - who had played all their matches on Wimbledon's two main show courts.

Rather than getting big headed about all the hoopla surrounding her, Gauff simply said: "I'm really thankful for this experience... I'm just happy that people believe in me."

If Gauff eventually pens her autobiography, she may well divide it into two sections - Before and After Wimbledon 2019.

The chapters in the first section have already been well documented but the tennis world will wait with bated breath to see how the rest of AW2019 pans out.

REUTERS



VAR to be used from Africa Cup of Nations

CAIRO

THE Video Assistant Referee (VAR) system will be introduced from the quarter-final stage of the Africa Cup of Nations, increasing the possibility of drama in a tournament traditionally filled with refereeing controversy but this year rather muted.

It was originally planned to use VAR from the semi-final stage but it will now be brought in from the last-eight games.

Several marginally offside calls and an erroneous handball decision, which Ghana felt might have contributed to their early exit from the tournament, have been the extent of controversy in Egypt this year in a triumph for the battered reputation of African referees.

VAR has not been extensively used on the continent but it has produced situations which have tarnished the game's image and been part of the administrative malaise that caused FIFA to step in and take over the running of the Confederation of African Football from next month.

The second leg of the African Champions League final was abandoned in May in a row over the absence of the technology when it had been scheduled to be used.

When the referee disallowed an effort by Wydad Casablanca, they stormed off in protest that VAR had not been consulted, even though they had been told before the game that the system was not operational.

The referee of the first leg was banned for six months after he made controversial calls after consulting VAR. This was deemed, however, to be a knee-jerk reaction by CAF and the suspension of Gehad Grisha was later lifted.

CAF president Ahmad Ahmad said not using the VAR system in the opening rounds was a "measure of prudence".

"Those countries that use VAR did not rush into it from the start. It's a technology that a lot of people don't completely use yet," he told reporters before the tournament.

REUTERS

Solskjaer tells Pogba: United 'don't need to sell'

PERTH, AUSTRALIA

OLE Gunnar Solskjaer has told Paul Pogba that Manchester United "do not need to sell players" after the midfielder and his agent publicly said he wants to leave Old Trafford this summer.

Pogba has declared his intention to seek a "new challenge" while agent Mino Raiola has backed up the claims by insisting he hopes to "find a solution" before the close of the transfer window.

The 26-year-old, wanted by Real Madrid and Juventus, is in Australia with the United squad for the first leg of their preseason tour and speaking for the first time this summer. Solskjaer said the club are under no pressure to sell a player who still has three years left on his contract, and in any case are yet to receive a bid.

"We're Man United and we don't need to sell our players," Solskjaer told a news conference at the WACA cricket ground.

"We don't have any bids for our players. Paul has never put himself out of the team, he's always given his best and I can't report anything but that."

"There is agent talk all the time and as I said we've not had any bids, that's all I can say for this matter."

Raiola raised the possibility that Pogba may not have travelled with the squad to Australia ahead of games against Perth Glory and Leeds United as he tried to engineer a move.

However, Solskjaer said the World Cup winner had been "professional" since linking with his teammates after a summer off, playing down reports that he had been involved in a spat with Jesse Lingard during a walk through Perth on Monday.

"Paul, it looks like it's going to be a

media... I don't want to call it an agenda against Paul," said Solskjaer.

"He's a great great professional and has a heart of gold. Jesse [Lingard] and Paul yesterday walking around and it's portrayed as a fight between them. I know you're here to sell papers and stories but they're all professional."

Pogba's future is just one of a number of issues facing Solskjaer this summer. Romelu Lukaku is keen to move to Inter Milan while Victor Lindelof's agent, Hasan Cetinkaya, has said the centre-back could be tempted by a move to Barcelona.

The Norwegian is also looking to bolster his squad with at least two new signings before the start of the Premier League season but he had more positive news about David De Gea's new contract and the injury picked up by Alexis Sanchez during the Copa America.

"We're still in the market looking to do some business but we're patient," said Solskjaer.

"We're Man United and we don't have to sell and don't have to overpay. You have to have the right players at the right price and if you look at the squad we've got now there are so many good players."

"I don't think Alexis' injury was too bad. When he's due back in three weeks I would expect him to be fit to train straight away."

"David has had a summer where he's been negotiating and we hope we're going to get it sorted."

"I'm positive. Of course with David I've said many times how lucky I am and happy we are to have him in goal."

(Agencies)

Neymar 'annoyed,' will return on Monday - father

RIO DE JANEIRO

will report to Paris Saint-Germain's preseason training on Monday, something the French club had been informed of weeks ago, according to the player's father and agent.

PSG announced they would take "appropriate action" against the Brazil forward after he failed to turn up for the first day of training on Monday, a move that Neymar Sr. laments.

"We had commercial and institutional commitments [on Friday, Saturday] set," Neymar Sr. told Fox Sports Brasil. "For the past five years, [Neymar's] institute takes part in those."

"PSG, with the presence of president Nasser [Al-Khelaifi] included, took part in those events. I don't understand the reason for this arbitrariness. We are annoyed by this but PSG knew about this situation."

Instituto Neymar Jr. is a "non-profit civil society organisation dedicated to

social causes and serving thousands of children, adolescents and their families," according to NR Sports, the company that manages the ex-Barcelona man's career and image rights. PSG sporting director Leonardo said those dates "were not agreed with PSG" and added that Neymar would face the same consequences as "any other employee" for his unapproved absence.

Neymar has been strongly linked with former club Barcelona in recent months, and Leonardo said Neymar can leave the club this summer if the right offer comes along.

Meanwhile, sources at Barcelona have told ESPN FC that Leonardo's comments will not speed up any potential transfer. The club has already acknowledged publicly that Neymar wants to return, although president Josep Maria Bartomeu had said PSG did not want to sell the player.

(Agencies)

Madagascar tongue-twisters tackle Tunisia for semi-finals place

CAIRO

BEFORE the Africa Cup of Nations kicked off in Egypt last month, Madagascar were best known for the tongue-twisting surnames of players such as Anicet Andrianantenaina and Charles Andriamahitsinoro.

Now, 20 days into the biennial tournament, the Indian Ocean islanders have stunned three-time champions Nigeria and are preparing to face Tunisia today in the last quarter-final. While France-born coach Nicolas Dupuis insists "the team is the star", midfielder Andrianantenaina and forward Andriamahitsinoro have caught the eye.

Bulgaria-based Andrianantenaina was among the 11 footballers chosen by a Confederation of African Football (CAF) panel as the best in the 36-match group phase.

Andriamahitsinoro, who plays for a Saudi Arabian club, made the substitutes' list in the group 'dream team', and his two goals have put him in contention for the Golden Boot award.

"The coach is correct to say the team is the star and, sometimes, an individual will stand out when we need him to. That is our strength," explained Andriamahitsinoro.

He stands out on the field because he has blond dyed hair and is tall in a squad of mostly medium-height footballers.

Tunisia coach Alain Giresse says his first target of a last-eight place has been



Madagascar forward Charles Andriamahitsinoro (B) tussles for possession with Democratic Republic of Congo midfielder Jacques Maghoma during an Africa Cup of Nations last-16 match in Egypt (AFP Photo)

achieved, adding: "We are capable of lifting the trophy 15 years after doing so for the first time."

Here, AFP Sport looks at today's last-eight matches as Algeria face the Ivory Coast in a clash of former champions before Madagascar meet 2004 winners Tunisia.

Madagascar v Tunisia

The countries have met competitively

only twice with Tunisia winning 1-0 at home and 2-0 away in 2002 World Cup qualifying.

Since then, Tunisia hosted and won a Cup of Nations while Madagascar became so weak that the Democratic Republic of Congo went to Antananarivo three years ago and won a qualifier 6-1.

But while unimpressive Tunisia reached the quarter-finals with four

straight draws -- a penalty shootout win over Ghana was officially classified as a draw -- Madagascar blossomed.

Apart from the 2-0 triumph over African powerhouses Nigeria, they defeated fellow debutants Burundi and held Guinea and DR Congo playing eye-pleasing football.

Should Madagascar eliminate vastly more experienced Tunisia, they will become the first Cup of Nations debutants since South Africa in 1996 to reach the semi-finals.

Algeria v Ivory Coast

This clash extends one of the great rivalries in the tournament with the Ivorian Elephants winning three and the Algerian Desert Foxes two of seven previous meetings.

When they last met, in a 2015 quarter-final, Ivory Coast triumphed 3-1 with Serey Die part of the winning team while the losing line-up included Riyad Mahrez.

The midfielders, who have contrasting roles with Die primarily a destroyer and Mahrez a creator, captain the teams in Suez four years later. Algeria coach Djamel Belmadi believes his team, the only survivors with a 100 per cent record in Egypt, can go all the way, saying: "It does not cost anything to be ambitious."

Rival coach Ibrahim Kamara is saying little during this Cup of Nations while a side boasting star attackers like Nicolas Pepe, Jonathan Kodjia and Wilfried Zaha has yet to sparkle.

AFP

Serey Die: Unsung hero of Ivory Coast's post-Golden Generation

CAIRO, EGYPT

IT was June 19, 2014, when Geoffroy Serey Die truly introduced himself to a broader footballing audience, although he didn't make his mark due to his on-field qualities.

The event was Ivory Coast's second World Cup Group C match against Colombia, and Serey Die claimed the headlines when the Elephants lined up to sing their national anthem L'Abidjanaise -- a canticle to fraternity -- in Brasilia.

Serey Die was completely overcome with emotion -- sobbing, then weeping -- as he and his teammates sang of pride, of liberty, of setting an example to those back home, and of dignity.

At times, he was barely able to get the words out as he fought back the tears, but it was clear that he felt, he lived, every single syllable.

The midfielder later explained that his response to the anthem was a result of the testing path he'd taken to reach this stage with the national side, and the hardships he'd overcome.

"My life has always been difficult," he said, frankly, honestly, after the match. "I thought about my father, who died in 2004, and my tough life. I didn't think that one day I would be here, playing. This emotion overwhelmed me and I am a very emotional person. I fought [the tears] but I couldn't."

Kolo Toure also attempted to explain his teammate's visceral response to the patriotic national hymn, and also alluded to a quality that makes Serey Die -- still, five years later -- such a compelling character within African football.

"He really loves his country," Toure said. "We don't see that in football."

To casual observers of the continent's game, that was Serey Die's contribution: He was the guy who wore his heart on his sleeve on the grandest stage of all, and made international news as a result.

However, his was a story that endured beyond the tears -- and the Elephants' eventual first-round exit in Brazil -- as he subsequently blossomed into one of the elder statesmen of this Ivorian side.

Serey Die was something of a peripheral figure during the heyday of the national side's "Golden Generation" -- the moniker applied to the remarkable squad of players headlined by Didier Drogba, the Toure brothers, Didier Zokora, Salomon Kalou, Wilfried Bony, Gervinho and others who took the West Africans to three consecutive World Cups and transformed them into a true continental giant.

He made his debut only in 2013, aged 28, and had just seven caps to his name before the 2014 World Cup.

His career to that point had been mottled by controversy, with 'emotion'



Geoffroy Serey Die became the face of Ivory Coast at the FIFA World Cup in Brazil. (Agencies)

-- that ephemeral quality that would later make the player such a cult hero -- cited as a key factor for his troubles.

He was banned for eight games after slapping a 13-year-old ballboy in the face while playing for Swiss club FC Sion, and for four months after walking out on ES Setif in Algeria; he was also accused of match-fixing in Switzerland, but the Swiss prosecutor informed a fortnight later that it would not press charges due to a lack of evidence.

However, from such ominous origins -- he once received five red cards during a 14-month spell -- has blossomed the emotional centrepiece of this current Ivorian side, among the primary contenders for the Africa Cup of Nations title in Egypt.

As he was once one of the less heralded, less glamorous, less celebrated elements of the Golden Generation, so too, today, he stands in the shadow of the squad's superstars.

Bony was once Africa's most expensive player; Jean Michael Seri was once on the brink of moving to Barcelona, both Wilfried Zaha and Jean-Philippe

Gbamin are reportedly being eyed by Arsenal, and Serge Aurier was a UEFA Champions League finalist with Tottenham Hotspur.

Yet Serey Die, who continues to command a starting berth alongside AC Milan's Franck Kessie in midfield, is coming off the back of a season on loan with Neuchatel Xamax, after being deemed surplus to requirements by parent club FC Basel.

The 34-year-old capped that loan spell by scoring the winning penalty in the Swiss Super League relegation playoff as Xamax beat the drop, having come back from 4-0 down against Aarau in the first leg to draw 4-0 away -- Die scored the opener -- to take the double-header to a shootout.

Even when no one is looking, this man was made for heroics!

Yet despite not being feted at club level, he remains a lynchpin of the national side -- one of the seven veterans of the Afcon-winning campaign of 2015 -- and will be a key figure if Ibrahim Kamara's side are to win a third continental crown.

Against Namibia, in Ivory Coast's final

group game, Serey Die delivered one of his finest performances in an Elephants shirt. His thunderous 58th-minute goal from 40 yards stole much of the attention, much as this was an indefatigable display that demonstrated why his legacy must extend beyond the peripheral antics that have threatened to define him.

With 62 touches and 44 completed passes, no one saw more of the ball than Die; he was an effective destructive presence in the middle of the park, too, weighing in with four tackles and two interceptions. No Ivorian completed more than his three dribbles, and Die's effective long balls also were a key weapon for the Elephants all game.

He ought to have had an assist as well when he looked up and picked out Zaha down the left channel with a delicious weighted pass, which once again highlighted an in-game intelligence that can be neglected by detractors, but the Crystal Palace man spurned the opportunity.

Critically, particularly as the Ivorians progress to the challenges to come, Die is a player who can prompt more from, and generate an improvement in, his stuttering teammates.

"When he plays, he gives 100%," Zaha told ESPN. "And when you've got someone giving 100% like that, it forces you to give the same as that as well. He adds a lot to the team, you can trust in him, you want to work hard for him, so I'm happy I'm by his side on the pitch."

Bony also outlined the midfielder's value after the 4-1 triumph over Namibia.

"Geoffroy was enormous," Bony told ESPN. "I tip my hat to him. It was a massive work of generosity in the midfield from him. He has the lungs of a dog, as you could say, but that's his work."

(Agencies)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Madagascar tongue-twisters tackle Tunisia for semi-finals place

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Kawata to lead Mauritius at COSAFA Women Championship

PORT LOUIS

MAURITIUS return to the COSAFA Women's Championship this year and have big ambitions under coach Kofi Kawata for the regional showpiece event that will be staged in Nelson Mandela Bay from July 31-August 11.

The Indian Ocean islanders, who missed last year's competition at the same venue, have been drawn in Group B along with Zambia, Namibia and Botswana.

Kawata, who hails from the Democratic Republic of Congo, was recently installed as coach of Lady Club M, having previously worked in the Mauritius Super League with ASPL 2000.

"It's a big challenge but it's exciting at the same time," he told Express Mauritius, saying he has engineered a complete overhaul of the squad as the team looks to build for future challenges.

"We will work with confidence. We are not put under pressure and we will work with an eye on the future. We've started all over again and the girls know it's not going to be easy."

Kawata, who is also coach of the women's Under-17 team that will compete at the COSAFA Under-17 Championships in Mauritius in September, will be looking to improve on Mauritius' last appearance at the senior championship.

They were on debut at the tournament that year and proved a tough outing where many lessons were no doubt learned.

After an opening 3-0 loss to Eswatini, they were humbled 11-0 by East Africa guest nation Kenya and then lost 3-0 to Mozambique.

It was a steep learning curve for the side, but one they will hope to use as motivation to do better in this year's tournament after they skipped the 2018 edition.

Women's football in Mauritius had been slow to take hold, with the country only playing their first international in 2012, a 3-0 loss to Reunion. The defeat to Kenya remains their biggest to date.

They will open their 2019 COSAFA Women's Championship campaign against Zambia at the Wolfson Stadium on August 1 (kick-off 12h45), before a clash with Botswana two days later at the same time and venue.

Their final Group B match will be played at the Gelvandale Stadium on August 6 (15h30).

Only the top team in each pool advances to the semi-finals, along with the best-placed runner-up.

In another development, the Eswatini squad that will compete at the 2019 COSAFA Women's Championship is in camp as they prepare for the regional showpiece even to be staged in Nelson Mandela Bay from July 31-August 11.

The side will be led by coach Anthony Mdluli, who has also overseen the senior men's side in the recent past. The team started training at the country's technical center on Monday and will be hard at work in the build-up to the competition.

Mdluli has named 21 players for the camp, including many of those that competed last year.

Eswatini have been drawn in Group C at the regional championship and will take on Mozambique in their opener at the Wolfson Stadium on August 1.

They are up against Angola in their second match on August 3, before round out their pool play against Zimbabwe two days later.

Eswatini featured in the early days of the COSAFA Women's Championships and have been regulars ever since. They claimed a 3-0 win over Botswana in their second match in 2002, but also lost out to Mozambique (0-2) and South Africa (0-4) to end third in their pool.

They were back at the finals in 2016, but this time lost to Namibia (0-6) and Zambia (0-7) in what was a difficult campaign.

They skipped the 2011 tournament but returned for the 2017 finals in Zimbabwe, where a 3-0 win over Mauritius was followed by a 2-2 draw with Mozambique.

They were denied a first ever place in the semifinals though after a 1-0 loss to East Africa guest nation Kenya.

In 2018 they suffered a narrow 4-3 defeat to East African guest nation Uganda in their first game, before going down 3-0 to Zimbabwe and 4-1 to Namibia.

The side has not been able to enter a team for the qualifiers for the Women's World Cup and African Women's Championships since the late 1990s.

TFF set to unveil Taifa Stars' interim coach

rian tactician Emmanuel Amunike who parted ways with TFF four days ago.

The federation disclosed in Dar es Salaam yesterday the interim coach's immediate task will be to prepare the team for the CHAN qualifiers' match against Kenya slated for the end of this month at the National Stadium.

Cliford Ndimbo, TFF information officer, said the committee is, after its meeting, expected to name the interim coach today.

"The TFF Emergency Committee will meet on Wednesday (yesterday) to name the coach who will guide the national team in CHAN qualifiers, the immediate task will be a game against Kenya on July 27 of this month at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam and return leg in Kenya a week later," he said.

A source within the committee, who opted for anonymity, said it is likely that Hemed Morocco, who was an assistant to head coach Amunike, will be appointed to take charge on an acting capacity while TFF is looking for an expatriate trainer.

He said the federation's idea to have Morocco as an interim coach has come about as the body wants continuity in the national



Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) information officer, Clifford Ndimbo

team, adding time factor has also influenced the decision.

"I had a conversation with one of my friends who is a member of the committee...we said due to time factor and continuity the best person is Morocco as he is also experienced, but that was my opinion, the committee will come with a name of the right

person," he said.

The biannual CHAN finals will take place in Cameroon early next year. TFF parted ways with Amunike due to the senior national team's poor performance at the ongoing African Cup of Nations tournament in Egypt.

Stars were in Group C alongside Senegal, Algeria and Kenya

and the Tanzania squad lost all of its matches.

The domestic soccer governing body invested a lot in ensuring the coach has all he needed to turn Taifa Stars' fortunes around. However the coach failed to take Taifa Stars to the round of 16 in the Africa Cup of Nations tournament.

KMC FC ropes in Rwanda midfielder

By Guardian Reporter



Jean-Baptiste Mugiraneza

MAINLAND Premier League outfit, Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC, have kept on reinforcing their squad by recruiting midfielder, Jean-Baptiste Mugiraneza, who had, as of late, been featuring for Rwanda's APR FC.

The Dar es Salaam club, which is competing in the ongoing CECAFA Kagame Cup in Kigali, said in a statement yesterday the outfit's head coach, Jackson Mayanja, was impressed by the experienced Rwandan midfielder.

Mugiraneza has entered a one-year contract with KMC FC, the squad noted in the statement.

The defensive midfielder, who can as well play as a central defender, will be a third foreign player to seal a contract with KMC FC this season, as the side prepares for the 2019/2020 Mainland Premier League, Federation Cup and

the CAF Confederation Cup.

Congolese fullback, Janvier Bokungu, and his compatriot Melly Mongorale have also entered contracts with the Dar es Salaam side.

Mongorale will be making his debut appearance in the domestic top flight tournament, whereas Mugiraneza and Bokungu are no strangers to the competition, as they had plied their trade in the competition a few years back.

Mugiraneza turned out for Azam FC and Bokungu played for Simba SC.

The outfit disclosed in the statement their head coach is continuing to strengthen his squad given he brings in experienced players and their younger counterparts in an effort to see the squad excel in domestic tournaments, namely Mainland Premier League and Federation Cup, together with CAF Confederation Cup.

In the ongoing Kagame Cup, KMC FC, competing in Group A, has recorded a draw and a defeat. They notched a 1-1 draw at Atbara of South Sudan in the opening match last Sunday and thereafter went down 1-0 to Democratic Republic of Congo football big guns TP Mazembe on Tuesday.

The Dar es Salaam club is making its debut appearance in the regional competition, with Mayanja using the event to implement his game approach and work on his players' weaknesses, so they can make a good account of themselves in this season's competitions.

With KMC FC having so far managed a point in the tournament, they will have to play their hearys out in the remaining match against Rayon Sport to be played on Saturday if the former should harbour hopes of cruising to the last eight.



Vodacom Tanzania Central Zone Head of Sales, Grace Chambua (4th R), and other runners prepare for the Capital City Marathon held in Dodoma recently. The cellular giant sponsored 51 students from various universities in the country's capital and 35 members of the firm's staff in a bid to cultivate a habit of doing physical exercises to improve their health. PHOTO: GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT

Flexibles by David Chikoko

