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## World leaders pay tribute to Robert Mugabe

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

A CROSS section of African heads of state and other top leaders across the world have paid tributes following the death of the former long-serving president of Zimbabwe Robert Mugabe who died in Singapore early yesterday at the age of 95.

Through their social media accounts, the officials showed how the continent had lost a true icon and Pan-African leader.

Reports shows that Mugabe had been travelling regularly to Singapore for treatment and died after a long battle with illness, his family said.

In his statement posted to twitter, the current president Emmerson Mnangagwa said: "It is with the utmost sadness that I announce the passing on of Zimbabwe's founding father and former President, Cde Robert Mugabe."

"Cde Mugabe was an icon of liberation, a pan-Africanist who dedicated his life to the emancipation and empowerment of his people. His contribution to the history of our nation and continent will never be forgotten. May his soul rest in eternal peace."



**Tanzania's President John Magufuli tweeted "Africa has lost one of its bravest and Pan-Africanist leaders, who led by example in opposing colonialism... Many his soul rest in peace."**

Tanzania's President John Magufuli tweeted "Africa has lost one of its bravest and Pan-Africanist leaders, who led by example in opposing colonialism... Many his soul rest in peace."

South African president Cyril Ramaphos tweeted "South Africans join the people and government of Zimbabwe in mourning the passing of a liberation fighter and champion of Africa's cause against colonialism."

"Under President Mugabe's leadership, Zimbabwe's sustained and valiant struggle against colonialism inspired our own struggle against apartheid and built in us the hope that one day South Africa too would be free."

Kenyan president Uhuru Kenyatta said: "In this moment of sorrow, my thoughts and prayers go out to his family, his relatives and the people of Zimbabwe who, for many years, he served with commitment and dedication."

Zambian president Edgar Lungu remembered Mugabe as a hero, tweeting: "I am sad"

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# JPM, Museveni to roll back trade obstacles



President John Magufuli and his Ugandan counterpart, Yoweri Museveni, visit exhibition pavilions shortly before addressing the inaugural Tanzania-Uganda Business forum at the Julius Nyerere International Conference Centre in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House

**IN** his remarks, President Museveni said low business volumes between the two countries are because of the fact that Uganda produces little for commercial purposes

By Henry Mwangonde

**P**RESIDENT John Magufuli and his Ugandan counterpart Yoweri Museveni yesterday outlined a number of bottlenecks that hinder business between the two countries and proposed initiatives to remove them.

Speaking at first Tanzania-Uganda Business Forum in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the two leaders named bureaucracy, poor transport infrastructure underpinning the underperformance of the central corridor and dependence on costly road haulage to transport goods between the two countries as among reasons for the low trade levels between the two neighbors.

"We should ask ourselves why trade volumes between the two countries remain low despite having a long political linkage with

## Stop issuing non-biometric lines, telcom firms advised

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

MILLIONS of Tanzanians could end up without mobile phone communication if a recommendation by a parliamentary committee to the regulator to bar telecom companies from issuing sim cards that are not biometrically registered is implemented.

Reading recommendations of the parliamentary committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs yesterday, committee member Asha Abdallah Juma said that the



**According to the committee, the punishment proposed in the law could be too harsh for ordinary Tanzanians, the majority of whom live in rural areas and have little understanding of the Sim card registration procedure**

move would shield citizens from legal trouble ahead of the total ban on unregistered sim cards towards the end of the year.

She was presenting the committee's views on the review of the Electronic and Postal Communications Act of 2010.

This is a U-turn from the position of the august House when the matter was first announced back in April when lawmakers questioning its practicability since many Tanzanians do not have national IDs.

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## 'Smuggled gold' brothers handed 15 years jail term

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

MWANZA Resident Magistrate's court yesterday convicted owners of 35.34 kilogrammes of smuggled gold worth 2bn/- which was returned by Kenyan authorities in July this year of economic sabotage.

In the judgment read by Principal Resident Magistrate Rodha Ngimilanga on case number 8 of 2018, the court also forfeited the gold to the state.



**The sentence was handed down after the duo pleaded guilty of the charges, magistrate Ngimilanga said.**

The owners who are brothers, Charles Warioba and Warioba Marwa, proprietors of Nyamaswa Investments Company were found guilty on all three counts of leading organized crime, illegal

transportation of gold and money laundering.

The convicts were sentenced to pay 5m/- each for the first offence or five-year jail term, for the second offence they were fined 10m/- each or 10 years in jail and for the third offence, they were sentenced 100m/- each or 15 years in prison. The convicts were returned to prison and it was not clear if they managed to mobilise

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**According to President Magufuli trade between Tanzania and Uganda in 2017 was 116.7bn/- but grew by 207 per cent to 388bn/- in 2018.**

Uganda. There are various challenges and I believe we have no better time to address them than now," Dr Magufuli said.

He cited data that trade between Tanzania and Uganda in 2017 stood at 116.7bn/- but grew by 207 per cent to 388bn/- in 2018, a remarkable achievement.

He said Uganda's investment in Tanzania stood at \$143 million where only 22 Ugandan companies are registered to have invested in the country.

He however, highlighted a number of initiatives the government was taking to address the situation, pointing at the establishment of a ministerial portfolio to deal with investment.

Other initiatives are the renovation and construction of various transport infrastructures such as the Standard Gauge Railway and establishment of one-stop centres at various border posts.

The forum brought together leading members of the Ugandan and Tanzanian business communities, cabinet ministers and senior government officials.

Other initiatives include the implementation of the blueprint that facilitated the merging of the roles of the Tanzania Food and Drug

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## Leaders globally pay tribute to late Mugabe

FROM PAGE 1

dened at the passing of a Pan-Africanist and Zimbabwe's founding father, Cde Robert Mugabe. He will be remembered for his fight for Africa's liberation and fearlessly defending the continent. His place in the annals of Africa's history is assured. We mourn with Zimbabwe."

Zimbabwean opposition senator and human rights lawyer David Coltart said on Twitter: "He was a colossus on the Zimbabwean stage and his enduring positive legacy will be his role in ending white minority rule and expanding quality education to all Zimbabweans."

Robert Mugabe ruled Zimbabwe for nearly four decades since independence from Britain. The former strongman, who was ousted in a military coup almost two years ago, reportedly passed away in hospital in Singapore, where he had been receiving medical treatment since April.

During his later years in power, Mugabe made several medical trips to Singapore and Mnangagwa said in November last year that he was no longer able to walk.

His leadership tenure is widely remembered for his crushing of political dissent, and policies that ruined the economy.

The former political prisoner turned guerrilla leader swept to power in the 1980 elections after a growing insurgency and economic sanctions forced the Rhodesian government to the negotiating table.

In office, he initially won international plaudits for his declared policy of racial reconciliation and for extending improved education and health services to the black majority.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa shares a light moment with Iramba West legislator Mwigulu Nchemba (L) and Agriculture deputy minister Hussein Bashe (C) during one of the sessions held in the National Assembly in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: PMO

## 'Smuggled gold' brothers handed 15 years jail term

FROM PAGE 1

the fine money by press time.

The sentence was handed down after the duo pleaded guilty of the charges, magistrate Ngimilanga said.

The case had a total of 14 suspects but 10 were set free after the Director of Public Prosecutions Biswalo Mganga entered nolle prosequi while two were released when President John Magufuli visited Bugando Prison here in July.

During the impromptu visit, convicts as well as the accused persons remanded at one of Tanzania's biggest correctional facilities grabbed the rare opportunity to meet the Head of State, appealed for his intervention in their quest for justice and the two suspects were among the beneficiaries.

Prosecution in the case was staffed by state attorneys Shadrack Kimaro, Jacqueline Nyantori, Georgina Kinabo and Castus Ndamugoba while the defence team comprised of advocates Mwaya Mabela, Makete Masato and Wilbert Kilomi.

During the handing over of the gold by a high level Kenyan delegation, President Magufuli promised to issue a reward to police officers and other security agencies involved in the impounding of the gold, transported from Mwanza Airport to the Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA) and then to the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) where it was seized by Kenyan law enforcers.

The 22 pieces of gold were brought to Dar es Salaam by Foreign Affairs Cabinet Secretary Dr Monica Juma, accompanied by the Director of Public Prosecutions Noordin Haji, Attorney General Paul Kihara, Director of Criminal Investigations George Kinoti and the Director of the Asset Recovery Agency.

The high-powered delegation also discussed other issues with the president and high ranking government officials, including purchasing a large quantity of maize as well as putting in place plans to build a natural gas pipeline from Dar es Salaam to Mombasa.

## JPM, Museveni to roll back trade obstacles

FROM PAGE 1

Agency (TFDA) and the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), the president noted.

"We are very late. This was supposed to be done years back. We are all the same - these borders cannot separate us. Let's use this platform to do business and transform the lives of our people," he urged.

In his remarks, President Museveni said low business volumes

between the two countries arise from the fact that Uganda produces little for commercial purposes. "Trade between Uganda and Tanzania will remain the same if the current situation where 68-percent of Ugandans are practicing subsistence farming continues. We need to wake them up to improve the trade volumes," he said.

Most civil servants know little about business and in the process

they end up frustrating commercial endeavors through unnecessary bureaucracy, he stated.

Earlier, the two countries signed agreements on areas of cooperation of Agriculture, Immigration and Correctional services.

Uganda's foreign affairs Minister Sam Kutesa said his government believes in empowerment of the private sector in all issues related to business.

"We have launched a joint permanent commission which will be meeting every two years to follow-up on the agreed matters," he said.

Earlier, Tanzania private sector said it was ready to work with Ugandan counterparts on ventures, and that the forum was a new chapter towards improving the ease of doing business between the two East African countries.

President Magufuli revisited the Tanzania-Uganda oil pipeline project, requested his counterpart to ensure it moves ahead, considering the benefits that it has to the people of the two countries.

President Museveni responded by saying the government of Uganda was working on the matter and that it would not be found wanting.



An estimated 300 trucks lie stuck in a queue yesterday while waiting for their turns to get into Dar es Salaam Port to collect or offload cargo, with some drivers complaining that they had been stranded there for as many as four days. Photo: John Badi

## Stop issuing non-biometric lines, telcom firms advised

FROM PAGE 1

The queries came up after the Minister for Home Affairs, Kangi Lugola told the House that 19,934,708 out of the targeted 24,295,468 people had so far been registered for the IDs by the National Identification Authority (NIDA), noting that 11,133,095 ID numbers have been issued with 4,850,742 cards printed and just 2,503,769 distributed to holders.

But yesterday, Juma said that the committee recommends that the government must also take stern measures to operators who will be found

selling unregistered sim-cards.

"The government should now invest much of its efforts in the technology to shutdown all unregistered sim-cards, work hard to educate the public on the negative of impacts of using devices that are not registered with the biometric system," the committee emphasized.

The committee said punishment proposed in the law could be too harsh for ordinary Tanzanians, the majority of whom live in rural areas and have little understanding of the sim card registration process.

The Special Seats MP (CCM) further urged the government to improve the process of issuing National Identification Cards (IDs) so that everyone is reached.

Earlier, tabling the recommendations of the draft bill to review the Tanzania Electronic and Postal Communications Act in Parliament yesterday, Attorney General Dr Adelardus Kilangi said that the proposed amendments were vital for public welfare.

He said the proposed amendments seek to make it mandatory for subscribers

to have detachable and built-in Sim cards registered using verified information and documents for security purposes.

"Any person who knowingly uses an unregistered Sim card or built-in Sim card, or in any manner misuses a Sim card or commits an offence shall be liable on conviction to a fine of not less than 5m/- or imprisonment for a term of 12 months or both," says the Bill, which seeks amendment of seven pieces of legislation.

Presenting views of the opposition camp, Special Seats MP (Chadema)

Latifah Chande asserted that telecommunication operators are the ones who should be held responsible if unregistered sim-card are found in the market.

Tanzania is currently conducting biometric registration of all Sim cards, with national identity cards being used as proof of identity.

Considering the fact that not all people have been issued with national IDs, the government announced earlier in the year that the registration which started on May 31 would be extended to December 31.

## Zimbabweans have mixed reaction Mugabe's death

HARARE

"Our President has died," Ernet Sibanda said in response to waking up to the news that Zimbabwe's longtime leader Robert Mugabe had died while undergoing treatment in Singapore.

"He's still our president, but I have mixed feelings. He's the first leader I knew from the time I was born and I formed an attachment to him as a child, but as I grew up I started to see the mess the country was in because of him ... but the country is in an even bigger mess," the 35-year-old wedding photographer said.

Mugabe ruled Zimbabwe since liberation from white colonial rule in 1980 until he was overthrown in a de facto coup in November 2017.

His protege and longtime ally, Emmerson Mnangagwa, succeeded Mugabe as the president with the blessings of the military.

ZANU-PF party, which led the liberation movement against the white colonial government, revoked Mugabe's leadership and moved to impeach him, forcing him to tender his resignation.



## Lawyers root for arbitration court for investment disputes

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

LEGAL EXPERTS gathering in Arusha have recommended the establishment of court of arbitration in Tanzania to settle investments related disputes.

Contributing an expert paper presented by Advocate Ally Kileo during the 'Continuous Legal Education,' sessions of the ongoing Tanganyika Law Society half annual general meeting taking place here, the learned friends called for a wider approach to dispute settlement mechanism in the current amendments for the Tanzania Investment Act.

Ally Kileo of the advocate of MDM law group who also serves as an advocate of the High Court of Tanzania and subordinate courts, presented a paper on 'Corporate incentives to foreign direct investments and investors in context of relevant legislation worth lawyers' attention, to facilitate risks mitigation and enhancement of abidance by investors.

Co-presented with Professor Josephat Kanywanyi, from the University of Dar-es-Salaam's School of Law, the paper had also endorsed the alignment of the new Tanzania Investment Act with other Financial Acts specifically the Value Added Tax Act, the Tanzania Revenue Authority Act; the Income Tax Act, Vocational Educational and Training Authority Act, and the East African Community Customs Management Act.

"That should be done with a view of removing inconsistencies that render the domestic investment climate unattractive to especially strategic or major Foreign Direct Investments," pointed out advocate Kileo, adding that inconsistencies in the law and frequent legislative changes especially on the tax regimes affect investments predictable environments stipulated under the Tanzania Investment Act.

"The Tanzania Investments Act provides that, whenever there is a contradiction between the provisions of the Act and provisions of any other written law in matters relating to investment, the TIA provisions should prevail," stated the Lawyer.

One of the TLS meeting delegates, Patrick Maleu chipped in the importance of 'Land Banks' that should be plots set aside for the sole purpose of investments instead of the current situation where sometimes land is grabbed from ordinary citizens to be provided to investors.

But coming up strongly was the joint recommendation by lawyers, following the presentation that a law needs to be formulated in provision of allowing investments dispute settlements in two statutory forms.

Providing room for innovation and use of the mechanism of dispute settlement, such as conciliation and mediation in one hand as well as the establishment and the use of local court of arbitration, proposed to be known as the Tanzania Court of Arbitration (TCA).

They also called for ensured predictability and consistency in doing business to the Multinational Corporations (MNCs) or multinational business enterprises and Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) by not derogating the fiscal and non-fiscal incentives and other benefits offered under the



Sweden's Ambassador to Tanzania, Anders Sjöberg, addresses journalists in Zanzibar yesterday at an event held in commemoration of the controversial killing of TV journalist Daudi Mwangosi at Nyololo village in Mufindi District, Iringa Region, on September 2, 2012. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

## Local contractors decry corruption in tendering

By Correspondent James Kando

TANZANIAN contractors get only 30 per cent of the total projects procured in the country out of which at least 10 per cent is won through corrupt means, a stakeholders meeting has heard.

A joint annual consultative meeting of architects, quantity surveyors, engineers and building contrac-

tors in Dar es Salaam yesterday noted corruption in the construction sector affect costs as well as timely delivery of works.

In his presentation, Dr Moses Mkonyi said that corruption in tendering for public works has made possible for only few connected companies and individuals to win tenders.

The architect mentioned factors attributing to corruption as lack of skills

among them and inefficient procurement system.

He said corruption has caused a decrease in value for money for means of domestic government funded projects.

"We need to build capacity of our local contractors and consultants to enable them to compete in the tenders," he said.

Dr Mkonyi applauded the government effort to end the problem by creating

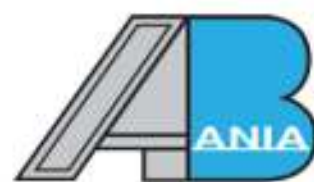
mechanism for country project financing and accountability.

He however said the process had negative impacts such as constraints of government project in the market. Furthermore, it had threatened the closure of private contractors and constructing firms including bureaucracy in decision making.

Speaking recently at the construction sector trans-

parency initiative annual general meeting, held in Dar es Salaam, the Internal Auditor General of the government, Mohamed Mtonga, said that while the construction sector has over the years witnessed a remarkable growth powered by large scale investments in the development of infrastructure and in other areas, it continues to face numerous challenges arising from corruption.

IN THE DISTRICT LAND AND HOUSING TRIBUNAL  
FOR: KINONDONI DISTRICT  
AT: MWANANYAMALA  
MISC. APPLICATION NO. 558 OF 2019  
(Arising from Application No. 422 of 2019, Kinondoni District Land and Housing Tribunal)  
THE REGISTERED TRUSTEES OF THE AMANI TRUST.....APPLICANT  
VERSUS  
ON TARGET COMMUNICATIONS (T) LTD.....1ST RESPONDENT  
ROGERS BUCHANAN.....2ND RESPONDENT  
**SUMMONS/NOTICE**  
TO: ON TARGET COMMUNICATIONS (T) LTD.....1ST RESPONDENT  
ROGERS BUCHANAN.....2ND RESPONDENT  
Take notice that the above matter is coming for mention on 30th day September, 2019 before the Honourable R. Chanya - Chairman of the Tribunal. You are hereby commanded to appear at 9:00am when the case will be mentioned/heard.  
Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal this 5th day of September, 2019.



**AZANIA BANK LTD**  
The One Stop Financial Centre

### NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

Notice is hereby given that the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of Azania Bank Limited will be held at Mawasiliano Towers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Conference Room, Sam Nujoma Road in Dar es Salaam on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 starting from 2.00pm with the following agenda:

- 1. Notice of Meeting**  
Notice of the meeting to be taken as read.
- 2. Confirmation of Minutes**  
To confirm minutes of 25th Annual General Meeting held on 21st September, 2018.
- 3. Report on Matters Arising**  
To receive a report on the matters arising from the 25th Annual General Meeting
- 4. Confirmation of the minutes.**  
To confirm minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting held on 18th December, 2018
- 5. Report on Matters Arising.**  
To receive a report on matters arising from Extraordinary Meeting held on 18th December, 2018
- 6. Directors Report**  
To Receive Directors Report through Chairman's Statement.

- 7. Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December, 2018**  
To receive and approve the Audited Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December, 2018
- 8. Dividend for the year ended 31st December, 2018**  
To approve payment of Dividend to shareholders for the year ended 31st December, 2018
- 9. Remuneration of Directors**  
To approve Directors Remunerations for the year 2019
- 10. Appointment of External Auditor**  
To appoint the External Auditors for the year 2018
- 11. Any Other Business**

Any shareholder entitled to attend and vote at the meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote on his behalf. The proxy should reach the registered office of the Company not less than 24 hours before the time of the meeting. Holders of proxies are required to bring with them acknowledgements of receipt of delivery of proxy forms and identification card for registration purposes.

By Order of the Board  
Charles Mugila  
Company Secretary  
5<sup>th</sup> September, 2019

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The One Stop Financial Centre



## Parents return dowry in botched child marriage

By Guardian Correspondent,

Shinyanga

PARENTS of a 17 years girl in Kishapu district, Shinyanga region have decided to give back dowry of five cattle which they had received to commit their child into an early marriage.

The girl's father Lyuba Seif said that they decided to return the dowry after being sensitized and dissuaded by volunteers from Paralegal Centre Shinyanga (PACESH)

According to him, they came with a decision to marry their daughter after she failed the Primary School Leaving Examination in 2017 thus being unable also to continue with further studies.

"After failing her examinations, I decided to find her a suitable husband whereby all marriage procedure were followed including bringing dowry. We received the dowry in June, this year...My major fear was for my daughter to get pregnant while at home, this is why I saw it better she get someone to marry," Seif said.

According to him, parents in the area usually do everything to rescue their daughters from getting pregnant while still at home which

include finding husbands to marry them for the parents to get cattle and money.

"Getting pregnant before marriage is bad lucky for the whole family... this also bans the family from getting required dowry once the girl marries another man," he said.

He further called on well-off people to support him to send his girl to school due to his poor financial situation.

The girl, on her part said that after being informed by the parents that they had found a husband for her she refused to marry because her education dreams were yet to be fulfilled.

"My ambition to become a good clothes designer, so if someone will support me I will be ready to go to a tailoring mart," she said.

A paralegal from PACESH Fatuma Katabalo said they were notified by a Good Samaritan concerning the marriage of the adolescent girl thus decided to come and speak to the parents on the impacts of early marriage.

John Shija, project's manager from PACESH hailed the parents for returning the dowry where he promised to take the girl to a tailoring school.



India's Deputy High Commissioner to Tanzania, Chandramouli Ramachandran (L), receives ignition keys for a Suzuki Ertiga from CFAO Motors director of sales and marketing, Tharaia Ahmed, at a ceremony held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## NGOs ask SADC chair JPM to act on SA violence

By Aisia Rweyemamu

THE Southern Africa Human Rights Non Governmental Organisations Network (SAHRNGON) Tanzania chapter, Action for Change (ACHA) and The Right Way (TRW) have jointly called on Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) chairman President John Magufuli to take urgent action on the xenophobic violence going on in South Africa.

Addressing reporterS yesterday

in Dar es Salaam, the SAHRNGON national coordinator Martina Kabisama said the new wave attacks against people perceived as "foreigners" have not happened in SA alone, but recently have taken their position in various states in the region.

"For example in Kenya recently when a Member of Parliament dared to issue a canning statement over what called 'he ermed' foreigners", Kabisama cited an example.

She explained that the nation-

alism that has been instituted by African countries founders and fathers of Africa has been invaded to a narrowing nationalism space.

"It is a matter of great alarm that African countries have jointly come together to further explore the causes of the emerging Xenophobia in our region", she stated.

Kabisama added: the NGOs understand that Tanzania is currently the chairperson state of SADC, while the episode has

happening, they take it as an opportunity to spearhead the rehabilitation process.

Kabisama said they believe it will be not a hard task for Tanzania since the country is historically experienced in championing the liberation movements of their neighboring countries.

"We have great confidence in diplomatic capacity of our current president and we would like to take this privilege to request him to take the move", the NGO requested.

They have jointly called for possible strategies to break the shackles of that social inclusion and discrimination that have shown signs of African disintegration and not African integration.

She explained that what happening in SA and other parts of the continent is the historical one where the psychosis of violence has not been addressed by the concerned.

Speaking at the press conference the ACHA chairperson Jus-

tina Shauri said the democratic governments within African continent should feel ashamed of the incidents, which leave sisters and brothers in deep sufferings.

The current nature of these recent waves of attacks leaves a room for disunity and further alarming development, indicating an increase level of non-nationals.

Shauri said African leaders and their governments must stop and end the racist Xen-

phobia that is being expressed through the ongoing violence.

For his part TRL chairman Sebastian Masaki said SA is a signatory to a number of international conventions and treaties, for example international convention on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination (ICERD), asked where in that international law in SA?

"While calling on the break of all these shackles of discrimination and inclusion, we also call for African people to stand firm



VectorWorks' Waziri Nyoni (R) presents a recognition certificate to Winfred Mwafongo (L), a manager with the National Malaria Control Programme, at an event held in Bagamoyo yesterday. VectorWorks has been distributing long-lasting insecticide-treated bed nets in Tanzania as part of a malaria elimination project funded by USAID through the US President's Malaria Initiative. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Council worker gets three-year jail term for 8,000/- bribe

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

AN public official with the Igunga township council, Tabora region Steven Nsomba has been sentenced to three years in prison after he was found guilty of demanding and receiving a 8,000/- bribe from a rice farmer.

The sentence was issued at the Igunga Resident Magistrate Court by the magistrate Lydia Ilunda.

Prosecutor from the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) PCCB

in Igunga Mazengo Joseph told the court that Nsomba (43) committed the offence on July 7, this year.

"On July 7, 2018 during morning, along Mwanzugi road, the convict who was serving as a collector of crops levy demanded a bribe of 8,000/- from Issa Mahomna, a farmer from Mwanzugi village," he said.

According to the prosecutor, the suspect demanded the funds after the farmer was transporting 21 bags of rice without paying tax and required levies.

The prosecutor said that, the suspect committed the crime against article 15 (1) of the PCCB Act no 11 of 2007.

Despite the convict pleading not guilty of the offence, the prosecutor's side brought five witnesses to the court to prove the charges.

Reading the sentence, Magistrate Ilunda said that "after listening to both sides' explanations and evidence, the court has found the convict guilty and sentenced him to three years in prison or pay a 500,000/- fine."

The convict however managed to pay the fine and was left free.

The 2019 report by Transparency International's (TI) Global Corruption Barometer Africa cited Tanzania to be among the nations that are excelling in the fight against the vice.

According to the report, 71 per cent of the Tanzanian population thinks their government is doing a good job of tackling corruption, with the remaining 23 per cent still in doubt.

Since President Magufuli as-

sumed the top seat in 2015, the nation has been in a concerted war against corruption, misconduct of officials who abuse their offices and institutions that oppress citizens while infringing their rights.

According to the report, among 35 nations in Africa, Tanzania has taken a lead on how her citizens perceive the government's positive progress in tackling matters of corruption; other countries being Sierra Leone, Lesotho, Nigeria, and Ghana.

## Treated nets project ends as malaria drops to 7 per cent

By Guardian Reporter, Bagamoyo

The VectorWorks project which has been implementing a five-year Insecticide Treated Nets (LLINs) programme has come to end, contributing to the drop of malaria infections from 15 per cent in 2015 to 7 per cent in 2018.

The programme has jointly been implemented by VectorWorks Project funded by USAID through the US President's Malaria Initiative (PMI).

Speaking in Bagamoyo yesterday during an event to mark the end of the project, the malaria control unit manager from the President's Office - Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) - TAMISEMI Stella Kajange said that the distribution of long lasting insecticide treated nets (LLINs) by VectorWorks project a been key in factor which has led the drop of malaria infections.

She said the government has been working very closely with other stakeholders including USAID and PMI. "Tanzania is doing well in part of fighting against malaria. However, despite the successful drop of the Malaria, the disease remains very dangerous and especially to children below five years. We will continue putting efforts to make sure that malaria continues to drop in the country, Kajange said.

The government's policy of 2007 clearly states that the country is committed in making sure that all Tanzanians remain with good condition so that they participates in daily activities of building our nation. "To do this, we have been working with different developing partners for the importance of our people", Kajange said.

The National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP) Winfred Mwafongo said that malaria disease is most dangerous to children aged below 5 years and expectant mothers. NMCP is partnership with VectorWorks program has been implementing various pro-

jects which has resulted to drop of the disease in the country.

Mwafongo named some the programmes as distribution of long lasting Insecticide Treated Nets (LLINs), spraying of insecticides and cutting grass around homesteads.

On his part, the chief of VectorWorks project Waziri Nyoni said that the project has lasted for five years with the main aim of issuing long lasting Insecticide Treated Nets (LLINs). "This month marks the end of our project, we appreciate our partners and especially the government for the good working partnership. This had led to a very successful projects we have reached every part of the country", Nyoni said.

Speaking about the distribution of the long lasting Insecticide Treated Nets (LLINs), Waziri Nyoni said they initiated the special programme of distribution nets through health centres and schools without any challenges.

In addition, we have been used the Medical Stores Department (MSD) in our distribution and as for, the MSD has the capacity to continue distributing the said nets on its own.

He said that the VectorWorks has been investing in three main areas of advising the government on policy implementation of malaria, distribution of the long lasting Insecticide Treated Nets (LLINs) and carried out different researches on malaria in the country.



**This month marks the end of our project, we appreciate our partners and especially the government for the good working partnership.**





NMB Bank northern zone manager Aikansia Muro (2nd-L) presents an appreciation certificate to Usangi Secondary School headmistress Delfina Kombe, whose school emerged Kilimanjaro Region's Second Best in this year's Form Six national examinations. This was at a Teachers Day event organised by the bank at regional level on Thursday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Pope urges Mozambique to nurture 'delicate flower of peace'

MAPUTO

POPE Francis yesterday told Mozambicans they need to nurture peace to make it last.

The pontiff was speaking on the first full day of his visit to Mozambique, where a recent peace accord formally ended years of civil war.

"Peace must be the norm and reconciliation the best way to face the country's difficulties," the Pope said.

He said peace was like "a delicate flower" and it struggled to blossom on "the stony ground of violence".

For lasting peace, the Pope said the country's leaders needed to discourage any form of fanaticism and strive to give equal opportunities to all - to do otherwise would risk instability.

"Without equal opportunities, the different forms of aggression and conflict will find a fertile terrain for growth and eventually explode," he said.

Later, when the pontiff met interfaith youth groups in the capital, Maputo, he told them:

"Many of you were born at a time of peace, a hard-won peace that was not always easy to achieve and took time to build."

"Peace is a process that you too are called to advance, by being ever ready to reach out to those experiencing hardship."

Mozambique's president and the leader of Renamo, a former rebel movement-turned-opposition party, signed a peace accord last month to end armed hostilities.

Thousands of Renamo's remaining fighters are disarming just weeks before a visit by Pope Francis and a national election scheduled for mid-October that will test the now-political rivals' new resolve.

President Filipe Nyusi and Renamo leader Ossufo Momade shook hands and embraced after the signing on Thursday.

In an address to parliament on Wednesday, where he announced that the signing ceremony would take place at Renamo's remote military base in the Gorongosa mountains, Nyusi said: "The agreement that we will sign marks the official end of the conflict between Renamo armed men and the defence and security forces, and allow for the long-lasting peace that all Mozambicans have so longed for."

The signing brings an end to a long peace negotiation process initiated by Renamo's former leader, Alfonso Dhlakama, who died in May last year.

## Indonesian envoy wants more efforts for promotion of trade

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

INDONESIAN government has said it is not satisfied with the trade figures between Jakarta and Tanzania urging more promotion among two countries.

Speaking yesterday in Dar es Salaam during the 3rd appreciation Night for Indonesia's business partners, the Indonesian ambassador to Tanzania, Prof Ratlan Parderde, said that trade volume between two countries has been increasing exponentially.

From 303.4million USD in 2017 to 334.7 million USD in 2018, there is an increase of 10 per cent.

Indonesia's main exports to Tanzania are edible crude palm oil, machinery parts, chemical products, paper and garments.

He said on the other hand, Indonesia's main imports from Tanzania are cloves, cotton, tobacco, cocoa and copper.

However, we are still not satisfied with the figures, as it does not reflect the true potentials of Indonesia and Tanzania. Indonesia and Tanzania should promote more direct trade since most of the products are coming from third countries.

He added that, Indonesia with the population of 267million, GDP of 1.04 trillion USD and member of G20 would encourage Tanzania to embark on a new page of trade cooperation through the establishment of preferential trade agreement.

"I believe the establishment of preferential trade agreement between Indonesia and Tanzania will open up more opportunities for both countries", he said.

The trade agreement will also eventually reduce barrier and expose more good quality product with affordable price for both Indonesian and Tanzanian.

He said in 2017, during the presentation of his credential before President John Magufuli, he prom-

ised that he would try my best to bring investors from Indonesia to Tanzania.

This year there will be two companies from Indonesia that will open up their factories, one in Dar es Salaam for soap and body lotion and cloves leaves oil in Pemba.

According to envoy this year also marks a new beginning of Indonesia's significance in Tanzania through the agreement between Indonesia Exim Bank, PT. WIKA and ZURA to construct the liquid gas terminal in Zanzibar that worth approximately 190 million USD.

I am proud to say that this year the relations between Indonesia and Tanzania made a significance progress, he added.

This would only possible with all your supports, prayers and hard works from all of us. As such, it is correct that both of our presidents underline the importance of 'Hapa Kazi Tu'.

Next year, he said the embassy will work even harder to bridge more business opportunities between Indonesia and Tanzania.

He said among many potential sectors in Tanzania, they have pointed out gas, seaweed, cotton processing, palm oil processing and plant-based fabrics cultivation are the sectors they would like to pursue in Tanzania.

In November, this year the embassy will convene the Indonesia-Tanzania industrialization forum to better promote the economic potential between Indonesia and Tanzania in advancing our industry capabilities through cooperation.

He also said this year, the Indonesian government will convene 34th Trade Expo Indonesia, from October 16-20, 2019.

"This is a very good chance for traders to look for good quality products ranging from foodstuffs, cosmetics, tyre, agricultural machinery, garments, furniture to sanitary products," the envoy explained.

He said: "This is a good chance to expand your business networks. This is a very good chance to seek for beneficial partnership with likeminded Indonesian companies".

This is the third time the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia convenes this event, honouring all your supports in enhancing business relations between Indonesia and Tanzania.

He said that, the Embassy will make this gathering as an annual event to maintain our cordial relations with the business community in Tanzania.

Prof Parderde noted that Indonesia is putting more efforts in catching up with other countries to make sure that they will take part in Africa's economic development just like they contributed in the African countries independence through the Asia-African conference in 1955.

Last August 2019, Indonesia convened the Indonesia-Africa Infrastructure Dialogue as a medium for Indonesia and African countries to work together in developing their infrastructure as well as lending a helping hand to drive forward their industries.

Tanzania was represented with the presence of Mohamed Ramia Abdawawa, Minister of Finance and Planning of Zanzibar and Amina Salum Ali, Minister of Trade, Industry and Marketing of Zanzibar at the event.

Indonesia and African countries reached 822 million USD worth of business deals in which four came from Tanzania. Port Liquid Terminal in Zanzibar, cloves leave oil distillation factory, pharmaceutical trade and cooperation are among the sectors that were part of the deals.

As such, with these achievements, Indonesia has left with a small mark in Tanzania that has the potential for us to work together to transform that small mark into a legacy.

Speaking at the event, the Minister for Industry and Trade, Innocent Bashungwa thanked the Indonesian government for its commitment to support local traders.

## US congress team assesses system of health delivery

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

A TEAM of representatives from United States Congress has visited Tanzania to examine health delivery systems with focus on HIV and Tuberculosis on children in order to strengthen maternal and child health services.

The trip follows the improvement of referrals services to the community extended to district hospitals and improvement of health laboratory services.

Speaking to reporters during the visit recently in Dar es Salaam, programme manager for education at BRAC Tanzania Suzan Bipa said the visit provides opportunity for the government to share and receive ideas and insights from US on how to improve health provision systems in the country to prevent the life of mother and child.

The US staffs visited BRAC play lab centre located in Temeke district, Dar es Salaam where the organization implements the Play lab project, an initiative designed to elevate the importance of learning through play in local communities and families.

The project is geared towards establishing educational programme for children aged three to five years.

Bipa said the US officials were very concerned with the health and upbringing of children, and promise to continue supporting different initiatives taken to help the child.

"They also met with clients who have been impacted by the programme together with health workers executing the programme in order to assess health provision systems within and outside the country," Bipa said.

According to Bipa, all Play Lab centres stationed at Temeke district and others in Mbeya region, are having various health services provided to children and to parents particularly on better feeding for children.

The visitors were motivated by the model used by BRAC Tanzania to help children in the centre by using games in an open space to give children freedom to play that keeps their minds good.

Among others, the visitors were interested in having a detailed progress for prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) (maternal and child health), pediatric treatment, pediatric TB, women empowerment, education and nutrition.

For her part associate director, global policy and government affairs at RESULTS and RESULTS Educational Fund, Crickett Nicovich said they are happy to visit the center that provides key skills to children for their better growing.

"We are here to see what the government is doing to improve the health sector to both children and mothers, in order to support them," she said.

"This is because we believe that if women are healthy enough, the children will also have better health, thus making stronger Tanzania free from disease," she added.

The officials applauded the organization for devoting their time and invest in supporting the children with education and skills that provides opportunities for better upbringing.

She promises that the US will continue supporting the health services to mother and children in order to give space for children to meet and achieve their dreams in life.

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## Bugando earns 3 billion/- per month after installing electronic-health system

By Correspondent James Kandoya

BUGANDO Referral hospital - the biggest medical facility in the Lake and Western regions of Tanzania has managed to collect 3bn/- per month after shifting to e-health care services system.

The hospital Managing Director Prof Abel Makubi disclosed that to head of communications units under the Ministry for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children the success achieved in a period of four years commenced 2015.

Some of the institutes under the Ministry for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children were the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF), The Government Chemist Laboratory, Muhimbili Orthopedic Institute (MOI), Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH), The Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac INSTITUTE (JKCI) and the few.

Prof Makubi said initially before installing the e-services, the hospital received 800m/- per months.

"E-services has simplified the delivery of healthcare services contrary to how it was before where there was too much complaints from patients caused by file lost," he said.

He said the hospital had procured CT-Scan machines worth 1.7bn/- from its domestic source of revenues and therefore be able to improve diagnose services.

"We have also improved laboratories services by procuring new equipment and therefore reduce delaying from 12 hours to three hours. Initially patients went out of the hospital to get some screening services," he added.

Furthermore Prof Makubi said in improving services, the hospital had built new facility worth 800m/- accommodating all specialists and accepting National Health Insurance services (NHIF).

The heads of communication under the responsible ministry are on tour to see success achieved by government in improving healthcare services to its people since it assumed power in 2015

**We have also improved laboratories services by procuring new equipment and therefore reduce delaying from 12 hours to three hours. Initially patients**



Bugando Referral Hospital director general Prof Abel Makubi (gesturing) addresses communications personnel from institutions under the Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children ministry who toured the Mwanza-based medical facility yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Elizabeth Faustine

## South Africa closes embassy in Nigeria after xenophobic violence

ABUJA

SOUTH Africa has temporarily closed its diplomatic missions in Nigeria following reprisal attacks by Nigerians triggered by xenophobic violence in South Africa.

Between Sunday and Wednesday, mobs looted and destroyed shops, many of them foreign-owned, in South Africa's commercial hub, Johannesburg.

Nigeria's government has been outspoken in its condemnation of the violence.

Police say the unrest has subsided and more than 420 arrests have been made.

South Africa's Foreign Minister, Naledi Pandor, called the violence an embarrassment for her country.

"Our government regrets all violence against foreign-owned stores or Africans from other countries who are resident in South Africa," she was quoted as saying by national broadcaster SABC.

She ordered the closure of the country's high commission in

the Nigerian capital, Abuja, and its mission in Lagos, following threats made to the diplomatic staff.

Videos and images that have been shared on social media purporting to show Nigerians being attacked and killed have inflamed tensions.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, South African-owned businesses were targeted by protesters in several Nigerian cities, and the looters said the attacks were reprisals for the killing of Nigerians in South Africa. South Africa

can telecoms giant MTN closed its shops as a precaution.

In response to the violence in Johannesburg, two of Nigeria's top musicians, Burna Boy and Tiwa Savage, announced they were boycotting South Africa.

At least 10 people have been killed in the trouble in South Africa, including two foreign nationals, the South African government says, but none of the victims have been identified as Nigerian.

On Wednesday, Nigerian Foreign Minister Geoffrey Onyeama

told journalists: "There are a lot of stories going around of Nigerians being killed, jumping off buildings and being burnt. This is not the case."

While the government believes Nigerian businesses have been targeted in South Africa, he added, it has no evidence that Nigerians have died.

Onyeama also urged people to stop attacking South African businesses in Nigeria, saying that President Muhammadu Buhari was "particularly distraught at the acts of vandalism".

Despite disputing the accounts of Nigerians dying in South Africa, the Nigerian government has been forceful in its condemnation of events there.

On Wednesday, it announced it was boycotting the World Economic Forum on Africa that is currently taking place in Cape Town in protest at the violence.

"The government believes that we have to take the moral high ground on this matter," Onyeama said.

The president has also sent an envoy to South Africa to "ex-

press Nigeria's displeasure over the treatment of her citizens".

Nigerians often criticise the authorities for being slow to respond to domestic crises and the government is keen to be seen to be taking action over attacks in South Africa, said the BBC's Nigeria correspondent, Mayeni Jones.

On Thursday, demonstrators in the Democratic Republic of Congo's second city, Lubumbashi, broke the windows of South Africa's consulate, AFP news agency reports.

## AfDB signs agreements set to promote fertiliser market across Tanzania

By Friday Simbaya and ADB Bank

THE African Development Bank and the African Fertiliser and Agribusiness Partnership (AFAP) have signed two grant agreements for the implementation of fertiliser trade credit guarantee projects in Nigeria and Tanzania.

The signing ceremony was scheduled to take place on the sidelines of the African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) 2019 in Accra, Ghana on 5 September 2019.

The agreement aims to officially launch the two Africa Fertiliser Financing Mechanism (AFFM) trade credit guarantee projects in Nigeria and Tanzania respectively. The African Fertiliser and Agribusiness Partnership will be the implementing partner operating in the two countries on behalf of the Africa Fertiliser Financing Mechanism, a special fund administered by the African Development Bank to unlock the financing of the fertiliser value chain in Africa.

The agreement was signed by: Dr. Jennifer Blanke, Vice President for Agriculture, Human and Social Development, African Development Bank Group Jason Scarpone, CEO, African Fertiliser and Agribusiness Partnership.

Under a two-year implementation plan, the projects will lead to the enhancement of Tanzania's and Nigeria's fertiliser importation and distribution capacity and will target 10 importers, 5 blenders/manufacturers, and 37 hub agro-dealers as direct beneficiaries, 520 retail agro-dealers as indirect beneficiaries and 700,000 smallholder farmers as final beneficiaries.

The projects will also contribute to achieving the objectives of the Bank's Feed Africa Strategy in the two countries.

Fertilisers contain chemical elements such as manure or mixture of nitrates that improves the growth of plants. They give nutrition to the crops. When added to soil or water, plants can develop tolerance against pests like weeds, insects and diseases.

The system of agriculture industry in Tanzania promotes the reliance on agrochemicals, both synthetic fertilisers and pesticides. Agriculture, which includes horticulture, continues to play a predominant role in Tanzanian economy since it contributes about over 45 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), generates about 60 per cent of the total export earnings and employs about 80 per cent of the labour force.



Implementation of the Dar es Salaam rapid transit bus infrastructural project has begun in earnest along the city's Kilwa Road, as found at Mabagala Kizuiani yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

By Guardian Correspondent

THE condition of seven of the 11 Morogoro Municipality fuel tanker explosion survivors who are undergoing treatment at the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) has improved.

The Acting Head of Informa-

tion and Communication Unit at MNH Sophia Mtakasimba has yesterday told The Guardian that four others are in the intensive care unit (ICU), continuing with the treatment and seven continue with the exercise.

She explained that, one victim who was in ICU was released

## Tanker blast victims doing well - MNH

yesterday and taken to a normal ward after his health improved and he now continues with physical activities.

He said doctors are tirelessly

continuing with efforts to ensure the health of four victims at ICU improves and going back to their daily routine.

These were among 47 survi-

vors receiving treatment at the hospital.

Victims were drawn mainly from those who were trying to collect leaking petrol from an

overturned fuel tanker but it later exploded.

The explosion was triggered when a man tried to retrieve the truck's battery, creating sparks

that ignited the fuel, police officials asserted.

Many of the victims were motorbike taxi drivers who rushed to the scene to try to siphon off leaking petrol.

The blast, took place on August 10 this year, until yesterday the death toll had reached 104.



# District hospital in Iringa Region lands equipment

By Correspondent Friday

Simbaya, Iringa

THE African Foundation for Local and International Internships (AFLII) has donated some core medical equipment to Frelimo District hospital in Iringa Municipality, Iringa Region.

AFLII which is involved in a variety of development activities including coordinating and facilitating recruitment of local and international professionals and volunteers has provided medical equipment to improve community health care delivery.

Speaking recently AFLII Foundation Tanzania Country Coordinator, Shedrack Mukta stated that the main purpose of coordinating such volunteer activities is to assist government and other development partners in improving social services including health, environment, education, tourism, and economic empowerment.

He said that they recognised the challenges in health care especially in the maternal and child care unit, and by recognising the great efforts that the government is making in improving health care, which is why they have introduced a volunteer programme.

In addition the AFLII Foundation started its operations in 2016 and later gained official registration in 2017 working in the regions of Mtwara, Arusha, Kagera, Zanzibar and finally in Iringa.

He said that in 2017 the foundation has managed to secure three midwives volunteers including Cornelia Antonia Block from Germany, who

volunteered at the hospital.

The second midwife is Anna Fahringer, an Austrian citizen who was practicing as a midwife returned to volunteering after completing her studies and the other is Lisa Volker who is pursuing her studies in Germany.

In further comments the three volunteers have made concerted efforts to raise money from friends and relatives and have donated medical supplies worth over 22m/-.

"This programme has seen positive responses to three young people among those who have volunteered at Frelimo Hospital have been able to raise money and buy medical supplies for Frelimo Hospital," Mukuta said.

In addition, he said that despite the success of the foundation, they still face certain challenges in obtaining short-term and long-term permits for its volunteers, for example volunteers are required to pay an annual fee of \$ 250 every three months.

So, they have the government to see how it can help them in resolving that kind of issue to lower the fee to at least 50 dollars.

Another hurdle is the bureaucracy at government institutions and sometimes they delay getting letters and permits on time and sometimes they don't know what procedures they should follow.

According to the Medical Officer in charge at Frelimo Hospital, Dr Pillila Zambzi thanked the AFLII Foundation for providing medical supplies and adding that the equipment will help alleviate some of the challenges in the



Arumeru district commissioner Jerry Muro (3rd-R) pictured on Thursday presenting drinking water, paint, hotpots, foodstuffs and various other items to Arumeru residents with spinal cord problems. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

hospital.

He said yesterday that the hospital is facing a shortage of medical equipment such as biochemistry, centrifuge, ultrasound, hematology, viral load analyzer, and X-ray and Electrocardiograph (ECG) equipment.

Dr Zambzi added that the Frelimo hospital is facing a shortage of some wards for men, women, children and the intensive care unit (ICU) respectively.

Other buildings include infectious ward, general surgery, sterilization unit, mortuary, automatic generator, waste disposal (incineration), storage, garage,

hospital fence and staff houses.

The hospital has a total of 112 staff, 01 gynecologist, 04 doctors, auxiliary doctors 09, 08 medical officer, assistant physician 02, dentist 01, 50 nurses, 11 laboratory technicians, 21 health workers, pharmaceutical technologist 01, supply chain officer 01, health secretary 01 and accountant 01.

He said that the actual staffing requirement was 200 after the hospital was completed so there would be a shortage of 88 staff.

However, Dr Zambzi added that in conjunction with the Iringa Municipal council they are planning

to apply for 1.1 billion shillings to complete the construction of said wards and to completely eliminate the congestion of patients at the Regional Referral Hospital.

The construction of Frelimo Hospital was officially started in 2008 with the building of an administrative block, an outpatient unit (OPD) as well as toilets and officially opened in 2012.

The hospital serves a total of 160,800 residents of Iringa municipal council as well as neighboring districts like Kilolo and Iringa DC.

# 'More youth, women go for self-employment'

By Francis Kajubi

INITIATIVES made by both the public and private sector in bridging the production, skills and employment gaps among graduates and non-graduates through entrepreneurship programs are said to contribute much in influencing youth and women entrepreneurs to engage in self-employment.

TechnoServe Tanzania Country Manager, George Kaishozi, said in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the briefing session of the progress of ongoing projects by the

organisation that capacity building programmes have boosted self-employment and has made young employees engage in personal businesses while they are still employed.

"Entrepreneurship and capacity building programmes to youth has played a major role in transforming the informal sector by engaging it in economic activities hence contribution to the tax base," said Kaishozi.

According to him, in a move to empower entrepreneurs and manufacturers, TechnoServe Tanzania had for the past three

years introduced several programmes that have impacted positively the employment and production sectors.

He pointed out that the programmes were introduced for the same purpose most of which lasts until next December. One of the programmes is Pan African Youth Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development (PAYED). The programme is dedicated to the retail sector especially improvement of local shops to smart shops so as they look as mini-super markets.

"The programme targets Dar

es Salaam. Financed by CITI Foundation with US\$250,000 it started last year and ends next year. The purpose is training shop owners to improve the way of doing their business and renovating their shops. Majority of Tanzanians rely to Mangis' shops in their neighbourhoods for shopping so it is necessary to put them in an attractive way," he said.

The programme aims at reaching 400 shop owners in the city and had already reached 300. About 50 shop owners are targeted from each district of the

city. The programme has been implemented in three countries Tanzania, Kenya and Ivory Coast with a US\$1million total funding.

The other programme is Business Women Connect that focus on women entrepreneurs at a grass root level such as vegetable sellers. They are trained on how to keep records of their businesses, saving behavior and how to do proper investments of their businesses.

About 70 per cent of Tanzania's residents live in rural areas, work primarily in the agricultural sector and lack access to

information, technology and markets.

"Funded by ExxonMobil. The programme ends this year as it started in 2017. It is implemented in Mwanza, Dodoma and Mbeya with the target of training 1200 women. They are being linked to different platforms such as M-Power for acquiring direct soft loans they need," said Kaishozi.

For more than 20 years, TechnoServe has been working in Tanzania with farmers, cooperatives, suppliers and processors to strategically develop competitive industries around key

crops, including cash crops such as cocoa and coffee and staples such as maize and rice.

It works in supporting the diversification of Tanzania's economy through entrepreneurship programmes that empower men and women to create thriving small- and medium-sized businesses in a variety of sectors.

It also helps farmers make the transition from subsistence to commercial production, assisting processors to improve operations and identifying opportunities for investment in agriculture.

## Robert Mugabe's most famous quotes

HARARE

ROBERT Mugabe, who has died aged 95, was Zimbabwe's president for 37 years.

He had a long history of making colourful or controversial remarks during his nearly four decades.

He was ousted in a military coup in November 2017.

Here are some of them:

**On staying in office**

2014: "Some are saying 'Mr Mugabe is old, so he should step down'... No! When my time comes, I will tell you."

2008: "Only God who appointed me will remove me - not the MDC (opposition), not the British."

**On Independence**

Mugabe's speech when Zimbabwe won independence was more conciliatory.

1980: "It could never be a correct justification that because the whites oppressed us yesterday when they had power, the blacks must oppress them today."

**On seizing farms from whites**

2000: "You are now our enemies because you really have behaved as enemies of Zimbabwe. We are full of anger. Our entire community is angry and that is why we now have the war veterans seizing land."

2002: "Our party must continue to strike fear in the heart of the white man, our real enemy."

**On Britain, former colonial ruler**

2001: "The British were brought up as a violent people, liars, scoundrels

and crooks... I am told that (former British PM Tony) Blair was a troublesome little boy at school."

On homosexuality and gay marriages

2010: "Worse than pigs and dogs... Those who do it, we will say, they are wayward. It is just madness, insanity."

2013: "(President Barack) Obama came to Africa saying Africa must allow gay marriages... God destroyed the Earth because of these sins. Weddings are for a man and a woman."

**On Nelson Mandela**

2013: "Mandela has gone a bit too far in doing good to the non-black communities, really in some cases at the expense of (blacks)... That's being too saintly, too good."

**On Hitler**

2003: "I am still the Hitler of the time. This Hitler has only one objective, justice for his own people, sovereignty for his people, recognition of the independence of his people."

"If that is Hitler, then let me be a Hitler tenfold."

**On Trump**

2017: "May I say to the United States President, Mr Trump, please blow your trumpet. Blow your trumpet in a musical way towards the values of unity, peace, cooperation, togetherness, dialogue, which we have always stood for."

On the economy

2007: "Our economy is a hundred times better, than the average African economy. Outside South Africa, what country is [as good as] Zimbabwe? ... What is lacking now are goods on the shelves - that is all."



Toys put up for sale at a makeshift open-air 'market' along the Ilala Boma stretch of Dar es Salaam's Uhuru Street, as found yesterday. Photo: John Badi



## Charitable organisations should help people in absolute poverty

THE INTERNATIONAL Day of Charity is observed annually on 5 September. It was declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012. The prime purpose of the International Day of Charity is to raise awareness and provide a common platform for charity related activities all over the world for individuals, charitable, philanthropic and volunteer organizations for their own purposes on the local, national, regional and international level.

The International Day of Charity was conceived as a Hungarian civil society initiative supported by the Hungarian Parliament and Government in 2011, to enhance visibility, organize special events, and in this way to increase solidarity, social responsibility and public support for charity running in the streets for money.

September 5 was chosen in order to commemorate the anniversary of the passing away of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 "for work undertaken in the struggle to overcome poverty and distress, which also constitute a threat to peace."

Mary Teresa Bojaxhiu (born Anjezë Gonxhe Bojaxhiu, Albanian: 26 August 1910 - 5 September 1997), commonly known as Mother Teresa and honoured in the Roman Catholic Church as Saint Teresa of Calcutta, was an Albanian-Indian Roman Catholic nun and missionary. She was born in Skopje (now the capital of North Macedonia), then part of the Kosovo Vilayet of the Ottoman Empire. After living in Skopje for eighteen years, she moved to Ireland and then to India, where she lived for most of her life.

In 1950, Teresa founded the Missionaries of Charity, a Roman Catholic religious congregation that had over 4,500 nuns and was active in 133 countries in 2012.

On 17 December 2012, in response to a proposal by Hungary, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution by consensus to designate

5 September as the International Day of Charity. The resolution was co-sponsored by 44 UN member states (Albania, Angola, Australia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Chile, Croatia, Dominican Republic, Eritrea, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malta, Montenegro, Pakistan, Poland, Republic of Cyprus, Republic of Korea, Romania, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine) representing all five Regional Groups of the United Nations.

In its resolution, the General Assembly invited Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, stakeholders, as well as NGOs of the civil society, to commemorate the International Day of Charity in an appropriate manner, by encouraging charity, including through education and public awareness-raising activities.

On 5 September 2013, the Permanent Mission of Hungary to the United Nations, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Foundation and with the support of the United Nations Department of Information, marked the first commemoration of the International Day of Charity at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The commemoration started with keynote speeches by Assistant Secretary-General Robert C. Orr, Kathy Calvin, President and CEO of the UN Foundation and Hugh Evans, CEO of the Global Poverty Project. Two panel discussions moderated by Matthew Bishop from The Economist and Ruma Bose, author of Mother Teresa CEO, explored the role of charity in poverty alleviation and in promoting access to clean water and sanitation. Speakers represented leading organizations in the field of philanthropy, including charity: water, WaterAid, The Resource Alliance, the Foundation Center and

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# Obituary: Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe's first post-independence leader

## HARARE

AS independent Zimbabwe's first prime minister, and later its president, Robert Mugabe promised democracy and reconciliation.

But the hope that accompanied independence in 1980 dissolved into violence, corruption and economic disaster.

President Mugabe became an outspoken critic of the West, most notably the United Kingdom, the former colonial power, which he denounced as an "enemy country". Despite his brutal treatment of political opponents, and his economic mismanagement of a once prosperous country, he continued to attract the support of other African leaders who saw him as a hero of the fight against colonial rule.

Robert Gabriel Mugabe was born in what was then Rhodesia on 21 February 1924, the son of a carpenter and one of the majority Shona-speaking people in a country then run by the white minority. Educated at Roman Catholic mission schools, he qualified as a teacher.

Winning a scholarship to Fort Hare University in South Africa, he took the first of his seven academic degrees before teaching in Ghana, where he was greatly influenced by the pan-Africanist ideas of Ghana's post-independence leader Kwame Nkrumah. His first wife Sally was Ghanaian. In 1960, Mugabe returned to Rhodesia. At first he worked for the African nationalist cause with Joshua Nkomo, before breaking away to become a founder member of the Zimbabwe African National Union (Zanu).

In 1964, after making a speech in which he called Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith and his government "cowboys", Mugabe was arrested and detained without trial for a decade.

His baby son died while he was still in prison and he was refused permission to attend the funeral.

In 1973, while still in detention, he was chosen as president of Zanu. After his release, he went to Mozambique and directed guerrilla raids into Rhodesia. His Zanu organisation formed a loose alliance with Nkomo's Zimbabwe African People's Union (Zapu).

During the tortuous negotiations on independence for Rhodesia, he was seen as the most militant of the black leaders, and the most uncompromising in his



demands. On a 1976 visit to London, he declared that the only solution to the Rhodesian problem would come out of the barrel of a gun.

### Conciliatory

But his negotiating skills earned him the respect of many of his former critics. The press hailed him as "the thinking man's guerrilla". The Lancaster House agreement of 1979 set up a constitution for the new Republic of Zimbabwe, as Rhodesia was to be called, and set February 1980 for the first elections which would be open to the black majority.

Fighting the election on a separate platform from Nkomo, Mugabe scored an overwhelming and, to most outside observers, unexpected victory. Zanu secured a comfortable majority, although the polls were marred by accusations of vote-rigging and intimidation from both sides.

A self-confessed Marxist, Mugabe's victory initially had many white people packing their bags ready to leave Rhodesia,

while his supporters danced in the streets.

However, the moderate, conciliatory tone of his early statements reassured many of his opponents. He promised a broad-based government, with no victimisation and no nationalisation of private property. His theme, he told them, would be

Later that year he outlined his economic policy, which mixed private enterprise with public investment.

He launched a programme to massively expand access to healthcare and education for black Zimbabweans, who had been marginalised under white-minority rule.

With the prime minister frequently advocating one-party rule, the rift between Mugabe and Nkomo widened.

After the discovery of a huge cache of arms at Zapu-owned properties, Nkomo, recently demoted in a cabinet reshuffle, was dismissed from government.

While paying lip service to democracy, Mugabe gradually stifled political opposition. The

mid-1980s saw the massacre of thousands of ethnic Ndebeles seen as Nkomo's supporters in his home region of Matabeleland.

### Confiscation

Mugabe was implicated in the killings, committed by the Zimbabwean army's North Korean-trained 5th Brigade, but never brought to trial.

Under intense pressure, Nkomo agreed for his Zapu to be merged with - or taken over by - Zanu to become the virtually unchallenged Zanu-PF.

After abolishing the office of prime minister, Mugabe became president in 1987 and was elected for a third term in 1996. The same year, he married Grace Marufu, after his first wife had died from cancer. Mugabe already had two children with Grace, 40 years his junior. A third was born when the president was 73.

Image copyright AFP Image caption Farms were occupied by Zanu-PF supporters.

He did have some success in building a non-racial society, but in 1992 introduced the Land Acquisition Act, permitting the confiscation of land without appeal.

The plan was to redistribute land at the expense of more than 4,500 white farmers, who still owned the bulk of the country's best land.

In early 2000, with his presidency under serious threat from the newly formed Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), led by former trade union leader Morgan Tsvangirai, Mugabe lashed out against the farmers, seen as MDC backers.

His supporters, the so-called "war veterans", occupied white-owned farms and a number of farmers and their black workers were killed.

## Literacy is critical to economic development as well as individual, community well-being

LITERACY is traditionally defined by dictionaries as the ability to read and write. In the modern world, this is one way of interpreting literacy. One more broad interpretation sees literacy as knowledge and competence in a specific area. The concept of literacy has evolved in meaning. The modern term's meaning has been expanded to include the ability to use language, numbers, images, computers, and other basic means to understand, communicate, gain useful knowledge, solve mathematical problems and use the dominant symbol systems of a culture. The concept of literacy is expanding across OECD countries to include skills to access knowledge through technology and ability to assess complex contexts. A person who travels and resides in a foreign country but is unable to read or write in the language of the host country would be regarded by the locals as illiterate.

The key to literacy is reading development, a progression of skills which begins with the ability to understand spoken words and decode written words, and which culminates in the deep understanding of text. Reading development involves a range of complex language-underpinnings including awareness of speech sounds (phonology), spelling patterns (orthography), word meaning (semantics), grammar (syntax) and patterns of word formation (morphology), all of which provide a necessary platform for reading fluency and comprehension.

Once these skills are acquired, a reader can attain full language literacy, which includes the abilities to apply to printed material critical analysis, inference and synthesis; to write with

accuracy and coherence; and to use information and insights from text as the basis for informed decisions and creative thought. The inability to do so is called "illiteracy" or "analphabeticism".

Experts at a UNESCO meeting have proposed defining literacy as the "ability to identify, understand, interpret, create, communicate and compute, using printed and written materials associated with varying contexts". The experts note: "Literacy involves a continuum of learning in enabling individuals to achieve their goals, to develop their knowledge and potential, and to participate fully in their community and wider society".

Literacy data published by UNESCO displays that since 1950, the adult literacy rate at the world level has increased by 5 percentage points every decade on average, from 55.7 per cent in 1950 to 86.2 per cent in 2015. However, for four decades, the population growth was so rapid that the number of illiterate adults kept increasing, rising from 700 million in 1950 to 878 million in 1990. Since then, the number has fallen markedly to 745 million in 2015, although it remains higher than in 1950 despite decades of universal education policies, literacy interventions and the spread of print material and information and communications technology (ICT). However, these trends have been far from uniform across regions.

8 September was declared international literacy day by UNESCO on 26 October 1966 at 14th session of UNESCO's General conference. It was celebrated for the first time in 1967. Its aim is to highlight the importance of literacy to individuals, communities and societies. Celebrations take place in several countries.



# Renewable natural resources for Africa's sustainable socio-economic development

By Kelvin Mugisha Mutagwaba

**T**HE future is most certainly African. World Economic Forum statistics tell it all: one in five people in the world will be African by 2030, which comes to some 54 per cent of the global population.

African economies are also on the rise, with a rapidly expanding gross domestic product (GDP) of between 5 and 10 per cent per annum.

If anything, these numbers are alerting us on the need to think forward, as the rise in population would mean more economic activities and energy consumption - which is bad news in that our resources will be outstripped by the increase in demand.

Africa will need to opt for sustainable solutions and build an economy that is mindful of the rapidly growing population if it is to cater for future generations.

I believe the best way our continent can achieve this is by tapping its untapped renewable natural resources such as solar, wind, geothermal and biomass. The all-important question, though, is how Africa would promote the sustainable use of resources that has just recently started gaining momentum?

If I were accorded the honour of being a leader in Africa, I would embark on a number of measures. My first order of business would be to incorporate, prioritise and incentivise renewable natural resources in my own country's long-term economic and social blueprint.

Let's face it, a handful of our current crop of leaders are usually hell-bent on meeting the demands of the current population with murky presumably sustainable long-term plans driven by political ambitions - sadly, this coming at the expense of the dreams and hopes of future generations.

As a leader, I would push for pieces of legislation and regulatory frameworks that support the promotion of the sustainable use of renewable natural resources.

China, the world's top consumer of coal, has made a deliberate shift in their energy policy and opted for sustainable energy solutions that have helped elevate it into the world's leading producer of renewable energy.

I would borrow a leaf from the model by setting up a transparent legal and policy framework meant to enable renewable natural resources to flourish by focusing on a reduction in the number of risks associated with the private sector and leveraging financing.

The objective would be to have a robust foundation for the growth and development of renewable natural resources. This is primarily because I



**Former South African President Thabo Mbeki presents a certificate to Kelvin Mutagwaba for emerging 'Second Best' in this year's edition of the UONGOZI Essay Competition. The event was held at a Dar es Salaam hotel last Thursday - August 29. Photo: Guardian Correspondent**

stand convinced that without political commitment, will-power and support, the use of renewable natural resources will be sluggish, at best.

In my capacity as a leader, I would also strive to build collaborative partnerships. We shouldn't be oblivious of the fact that Africa comprises developing economies with limited budgets heavily very reliant on external sources.

I would endeavour to maximise the contribution of private capital investments in renewable natural resource development projects.

I would also re-engage the private sector through private-public partnerships as way of not only seeking and sharing funds for financing projects but also as an opportunity of sharing knowledge and technological experience.

In part thanks to the existence of development banks, the odds are already in our favour as there has been a policy shift in financing renewable energies.

For instance, the World Bank alone has approved more than US\$1.5 billion in the sector, while the African Development Bank (AfDB) has a sustainable energy fund for Africa with commitments to the tune of \$95 million from various donors. These are windows of opportunity that I believe should be much more fully exploited to ensure the growth of renewable natural resources.

I would also push for the creation of a specialised renewable natural resource research agency that would be

responsible for identifying areas where renewable natural resources could be put to gainful purpose. It would also oversee the planning and implementation of projects relating to the tapping of renewable resources and relevant technologies.

Further, I would integrate the entire fabric of renewable natural resources into the country's education system. I sincerely believe that renewable natural resources are the future of the continent and that it is crucial to facilitate early learning of the topic to in schools across the country so that our children can appreciate it at a very early stage in their lives.

I know that Africa is faced with an acute shortage of experts in this field. As a leader, I would seek to tackle this by establishing fully funded academic exchange programmes for students at graduate and post-graduate levels to pursue studies abroad so they can acquire the necessary skills.

Secondly, I would establish a specific academic course on renewable natural resources in institutions of higher learning institutions - which the country currently lacks. Accordingly, I would call in professionals from outside the country to teach in these fields at different levels.

It is also of fundamental importance for our own people to be adequately "exposed" to the renewable and other natural resources our country is blessed

with so they become conscious of, and concerned with, how those resources are used and understand how could be exploited on a sustainable basis.

I would undertake an ambitious communications campaign to raise public awareness on the importance of these resources and the part they can play in our country's development because the truth of the matter is that many African people have very little knowledge on renewable and other resources.

Lastly, I would support start-ups, youth entrepreneurs and innovative Tanzanians with respect to the utilisation of renewable and other natural resources.

Most African governments are known to show little interest in supporting youth-owned and youth-run enterprises. For instance, in my native Tanzania there is a saying about these startups that goes thus: "Here today, gone tomorrow."

As a leader, I would support all such initiatives as much as humanly possible, including by helping them access the capital they would need to implement their ideas. That could be through loans issued straight from the government or through lobbying financial institutions to deliberately lower interest rates and thus allow the respective enterprises to grow.

I would also incentivise them into being more innovative by frequently or-

ganising a range of competitions and "challenges", chiefly to facilitate the growth of small scale businesses from the micro to the macro level.

I know that having in place an eco-system of youth-driven innovative ideas in the SME sub-sector would lead to the creation of a pipeline, as it were, for the promotion of the use of renewable energy.

It is undisputed that the promotion of the use of renewable natural resources is overwhelmingly crucial for Africa's social and economic development. For one thing, these resources call for relatively cheap running costs because the energy harnessed for the purpose is usually free.

According to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the costs of solar power have dropped by nearly 75 per cent since 2010 while other renewable resources like wind and geothermal have proved cheaper than power generated from fossil fuels.

African countries would reap huge benefits from savings resulting from these types of resources. It is undeniable that renewable natural resources are a relatively new industry, which making them an important source for job creation.

IRENA reports that hundreds of thousands of people have landed employment in this sub-sector, many as coordinators, managers, technicians.

Even more importantly, renewable natural resources have emerged clear winners in fighting the adverse effects of climate change that have taken shape in recent years, with solar, wind, biomass all standing as clean energies that minimise waste and pollution.

I am confident that if the aforementioned strategies are accorded the attention they deserve and are implemented in an inclusive multi-sectoral manner, Africa will use the renewable natural resources it is blessed with to become a globally acknowledged paragon of sustainable social and economic development.

Of course, it will not be as easy as it sounds on paper. I know that, to steal from Nelson Mandela: "Everything seems possible until when it is done."

My native Tanzania has three times the landmass of Germany and enjoys three times more hours of sunshine yearly than Germany, yet Germany's solar power (which constitutes only 6.9 per cent of the total energy used) is 42,339 Megawatts while the corresponding figure for Tanzania is 1,357MW - and most of it is sourced from non-renewable resources like natural gas.

Honestly, I find this not only shameful but also tragic. Africans in general and Tanzanians in particular owe it to future generations to take corrective and other measures NOW. Posterity will thank us profusely for having acted as circumstances demanded, no matter the odds.

**In a note e-mailed exclusively to The Guardian alongside this article, which we have subjected to slight editing, Kelvin has said he is a Tanzanian citizen currently communications serving as an intern with the World Bank in Tanzania. The piece emerged 'Second Best' in the 2019 UONGOZI Essay competition that the bank says attracted over 2,000 submissions from across Africa. "The topic was on prioritising renewable natural resources for sustainable development, which I am very passionate about," Kelvin wrote, adding: "I would love it if your very reputable newspaper were to publish it so that people would at least get an understanding of the topic." The winning essay was from Zimbabwe, while the other two winning entries were from Ivory Coast and Nigeria. - Editor.**

## Tanzania performs well in implementing SDGs

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

**T**ANZANIA, as part of the global community, has adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as one of the social contracts it has between the government and citizens in delivering quality services.

It also considers the SDGs, as a window for investment opportunities (a trillion-dollar opportunity in the long run).

The country enjoys all the necessary conditions that offer unique investment opportunities for accelerating the achievements of the SDGs such as: abundant natural wealth, security, political stability, peace and tranquility.

A strategic geographical location; arable land; mineral deposits and raw materials supply, among others.

Speaking over the weekend in Dar es Salaam a discussant during Policy Forum's Breakfast Debate whose theme was Policy to Action Frameworks: How can Agenda 2030 for SDGs be Achieved in Tanzania?, Director for Population Census and Social Statistics from the National Bureau of Statistics Ms. Ruth Minja, said that the government has done tremendous efforts to implement SDGs.

"There is a strong nation-wide partnership and commitment to implementation, monitoring, tracking and reporting SDGs, backed by a strong political will, collective ownership, integrated planning, and supportive legal frameworks. Adding:

A "whole-of-society" approach has been adopted, and a robust national SDGs coordination and monitoring framework, supported by national statistical offices is being developed," she explained.

Ms. Minja further noted that "SDGs have been integrated into and are implemented through national medium-term



**Discussant to Policy Forum Breakfast Debate held over the weekend in Dar es Salaam, Director for Population Census and Social Statistics from the National Bureau of Statistics Ms. Ruth Minja insists on a point on SDGs. Photo: Courtesy of Policy Forum.**

plans, namely, the National Five-Year Development Plan 2016/17 - 2020/21 in the Mainland and the Zanzibar Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty 2016-2020, which also adheres to the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environment).

She further emphasized "Tanzania was doing reasonably well in goals 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 16. Goals 7, 9, 11, 12 are likely to be achieved with stepped-up efforts.

While, goals 1, 13, 14, 15 17 will need significant local efforts and international support to achieve.

Assessment of thematic goals shows that in delivering quality education, strong partnerships among the government, non-state actors, and development partners exist.

Budgetary allocation for quality education delivery, especially training of teach-

ers, has been increased.

Local government authorities (LGAs) are allocating 10 per cent of their revenues for youth and women empowerment.

Private sector programmes have enhanced women entrepreneurship skills, thus reducing gender-related income inequalities.

Climate action interventions include setting up national carbon monitoring centres, and monitoring environmental outcomes, -including strengthening weather, climate and hydrological monitoring capabilities.

Civil society organisations (CSOs) have been active in reaching smallholder farmers, pastoralists and fishermen, increasing their capacity to make informed decisions in response to climate change.

Efforts to promote peace, justice and strong institutions include strengthening legal institutions and law enforcement, as well as promotion of effective governance and rule of law.

These have resulted into considerable reduction in corruption and promotion of peace and justice, thereby making Tanzania an important peace negotiator and peace maker in the region.

In terms of partnerships for the goals, reforms on the business environment and investment climate have expanded the scope for improving financing mechanisms, and opened innovative means of resource mobilisation.

However, the main challenges in implementing SDGs revolve around data constraints for some indicators and insufficient technical and financial resources to tackle all hurdles that inhibit the implementation of SDGs.

Solving these challenges entails: forging new partnerships for mobilising innovative sources of financing; capacity build-

ing in resource mobilisation and data management.

Strengthening national statistical capacity; and support for building appropriate technological capability (diffusion of new technologies, linking generators of innovations and users and providing technology based equipment for reporting on the environment).

For his part, presenting the Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) progress of the implementation of the SDGs in New York in July this year, the Minister for Finance and Planning Dr. Philip Isidor Mpango said that, the government as a signatory to the 2030 Development Agenda, has committed to the agreed processes including periodically undertaking VNR of progress.

This report presents reviews of SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17 in line with the proposed guideline for 2019 which is the theme of "Empowering People and Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality."

He said that the social services sector, enrolment has continued to expand at all levels of education delivery, while health facilities have reached village level.

That review covered the following Goals in line with the global theme of reporting for 2019: as Quality Education (4); Decent Work and Economic Growth (8); Reduced Inequalities (10); Protecting the Planet (13); Peace and Justice (16); and Partnership for the Goals (17).

He further noted that the various reforms that the country has been implementing over the past three years or so, have led to remarkable achievements, such as increasing the proportion of domestic budget financed by domestic taxes from below 50 to around 60 per cent.

Innovative resource mobilisation and financing mechanisms are other areas where efforts have been directed.

Substantial improvements have been made in road infrastructure and general transportation system thus promoting tourism, agro-processing and agricultural sector development to support the SDGs' implementation.

The Government, in partnership with the private sector and Civil Society Organisations has continued to provide quality inclusive education; and has achieved rapid expansion in the enrolment.

Budgetary allocation for school infrastructure; training of teachers and school management committees has been increased in order to ensure quality education delivery.

The private sector-led "Girls Retention and Transition Initiative" and the "Girls Empowerment Project" are being implemented to promote access to education among girls.



## Battered and bloodied, Cyril Ramaphosa fails to match courage and determination of SA women

By Ferial Haffajee

ON Thursday 5 September, President Cyril Ramaphosa cut out of the elite gathering of the World Economic Forum (WEF) to meet militant and angry women and men who staged an #EnoughIsEnough protest outside Parliament that spread out as far as the eye could see in the Cape Town CBD.

Activists say it is the largest march against the war on women in recent memory, the movement catalysed by the rape and murder of Uinene Mrwetyana, the student murdered by a Post Office employee who allegedly lured her into the Claremont mail room and raped and bludgeoned her to death with a scale.

He had previous charges against him which were not picked up by his state employer.

Last weekend, an off-duty policeman shot his boxer girlfriend, Leighandre "Baby Lee" Jegels, in the face, killing her instantly even though she had a protection order against him and he should not have been in possession of a gun.

Thursday was the second day of protest. On Wednesday 4 September, protesters almost brought down the house as they pushed against the barricades outside the WEF meeting which draws diplomats and business leaders from around the world.

Meant to be a showcase of Ramaphosa's reform initiative, it became an elite glasshouse as protesters staged sortie after sortie to make their point and demanded the president address them.

Later, police opened water cannon on the protesters and used stun grenades against them; in Johannesburg, where looters and arsonists targeted migrant traders, there was no such



People gather during a gender-based violence demonstration outside Parliament, following the rape and murder of a UCT student. Cape Town on Thursday. South African President Cyril Ramaphosa skipped the World Economic Forum to address thousands of Capetonians most dressed in black, where he said laws were to be changed with regards to violence and rape. (Photo by Gallo Images/Brenton Geach)

policing.

### #AmINext and #EnoughIsEnough

Ahead of Ramaphosa's visit on Thursday, the fence of the Houses of Parliament was pinned with posters reading #AmINext, the slogan of a new movement fighting violence against women.

A woman is murdered every three hours in South Africa, according to Africa Check, and in 2018, 49,900 sexual offences were reported to the police, most of which are violence against women.

"I don't want to die with my arms up or my legs open," said another slogan that signifies a new stage in the war against violence against women.

This week, an older (and arguably more patient) generation gave ground to activists and students who brook no

political speech.

"Boo!" shouted the crowd as Ramaphosa tried to calm them on Wednesday afternoon with the rallying cry to women of "Malibongwe".

"Death penalty, death penalty," shouted some in the crowd. Ramaphosa promised a national address in an hour and then took five hours more to deliver it. When he did, the president was obviously exhausted.

The SABC broadcast an earlier prerecording in which he fluffed and had to recompose himself, showing the strain. Perhaps that is why Ramaphosa did not seize the moment.

(SABC later apologised for airing a wrong version of the address - Ed)

### Words - eloquent; actions - insufficient

Ramaphosa said the right things: he said that he spoke as the President, as a husband and a father to his daughters, he called it a "war" against women, a sign that he understands the serious crisis of fear and violence that is normative for South African women.

"Women have every right to expect that they be free from harassment and violence on the streets, in schools and campuses, on buses, taxis and trains, at places of work and worship, and in their homes," he said.

Deflecting from calls for a state of emergency, Ramaphosa said he had heard the calls but downgraded emergency to urgency.

"I will, therefore, be asking Parliament to discuss and identify urgent interventions that can be implemented without delay."

He called it a crime.

"It is a crime against our common humanity."

But when it came to outlining the crucial "what", he did not use his power to seed far-reaching ideas and added a few deliverables with timelines. Instead, he presented a lukewarm plate of leftovers that have not worked already, such as an updated and modernised sexual offenders' list (the state has not been able to draw up one that is accurate); to introduce harsher minimum sentences (an old idea that is sometimes implemented and sometimes not); that the state should oppose bail and parole applications (a new idea); rehabilitation programmes; to strengthen emergency rapid response teams as well as other criminal justice measures such as more specialised courts and care centres, which have been on the agenda for over two decades but which have never been quite delivered at the speed, or scale, commensurate with the urgency of war response.

The president said old and questionable sexual violence cases would be reopened, but with the National Prosecuting Authority gutted by State Capture, this feels like a promise that can't be met in the short, medium, or any term.

Ramaphosa said he would ask Minister of Finance Tito Mboweni to allocate more funds to these measures, but with a near-bankrupt fiscus, political analyst Karima Brown said on news channel, eNCA, that she wanted to see where the money would come from and how much would be allocated. Ultimately, the address fizzled because it

may have had heart, but it did not have the power the moment demanded.

### A bloody week

This week, Ramaphosa was meant to have celebrated 100 days in office. His team had planned to unveil a number of big reveals at the WEF meeting of how his reform agenda is working.

Instead, it turned hellish on Sunday night when looters started a bloody trail of arson and looting in Malvern, the run-down residential and business suburb on the eastern flanks of Johannesburg. By Monday, it had spread to eight areas where migrants (and South Africans) run small retail operations.

By Tuesday, the East Rand was flaming; by Wednesday, Alexandra and Katlehong were part of the trail of destruction. Gauteng and Johannesburg, the economic heartbeat of the country, and Ramaphosa's key constituencies, were out of control.

The international opprobrium from the African Union (which put out the first stern release against the attacks on migrant traders), the United Nations (which voiced strong opposition), from Nigeria (where President Muhammadu Buhari called a demarche on the South African high commissioner Bobby Moroe and despatched a special envoy to South Africa) must have cut Ramaphosa, who is an internationally renowned statesman.

In Nigeria, both South Africa's high commission in Abuja and its consul office in Lagos are still shut after threats. MTN, Shoprite and MultiChoice have had to close offices in Nigeria and Zambia after threats and attacks. For a leader who is seen as business-friendly, this is not a liability Ramaphosa wants to own.

## Achieving global consensus on how to slow down loss of land

NEW DELHI

EXPECTATIONS are high, perhaps too high, as the 14th Conference of the Parties (CoP 14) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), now into the third day of its two-week session, is being held outside the smog-filled Indian capital of New Delhi.

At the inauguration on Monday, India's minister for environment, forests and climate change, Prakash Javadekar, soon after ceremonies to mark his taking over as president of the Convention for the next two years, said he would be happy if CoP 14 could achieve consensus on such difficult issues as drought management and land tenure.

Other issues on the agenda of CoP14, themed 'Restore land, Sustain future' and located in Greater Noida, in northern Uttar Pradesh state, include negotiations over consumption and production flows that have a bearing on agriculture and urbanisation, restoration of ecosystems and dealing with climate change.

According to Ibrahim Thiaw, executive secretary of the Convention, CoP14 negotiations would be guided by, its own scientific papers as well as the Special Report on Climate Change and Land of the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), released in August.

The IPCC report covered inter-linked, overlapping issues that are at the core of CoP14 deliberations - climate, change, desertification, and degradation, sustainable land management, food security and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems.

"Sustainable land management can contribute to reducing the negative impacts of multiple stressors, including climate change, on ecosystems and societies," the IPCC report said. It also identified land use change as the largest driver of biodiversity loss and as having the greatest impact on the environment.

Javadekar said he saw hope in the fact that of the 196 parties to the Convention 122, including some of the most populous like Brazil, China, India, Nigeria, Russia and South Africa have agreed to make the U.N. Sustainable Development Goal of achieving land degradation neutrality (LDN)



targets by 2030 as national objectives.

But the difficulty of seeing results on the ground can be gauged from India's own difficult situation. Nearly 30 percent of India's 328 million hectares, supporting 1.3 billion people, has become degraded through deforestation, over-cultivation, soil-erosion and wetland depletion, according to a satellite survey conducted in 2016 by the Indian Space Research Organisation.

A study, conducted last year by The Energy and Resource Institute (TERI), an independent think-tank based in New Delhi, estimates India's losses from land degradation and change in land use to be worth 47 billion dollars in 2014-2015.

The question before CoP14 is how participating countries can slow down loss of land and along with it biodiversity threatening to impact 3.2 billion people across the world. "Three out

India's minister for environment, forests and climate change, Prakash Javadekar (left), said he would be happy if CoP 14 could achieve consensus on such difficult issues as drought management and land tenure. Courtesy: Ranjit Devraj

of every four hectares have been altered from their natural states and the productivity of one every four hectares of land has been declining," according to UNCCD.

Running in parallel to CoP14 is the 14th session of UNCCD's committee on science and technology (CST14), a subsidiary body with stated objectives - estimating soil organic carbon lost as a result of land degradation, addressing the 'land-drought nexus' through land-based interventions and translating available science into policy options for participating countries.

On Tuesday, as CoP14 launched into substantive business, the participants at the CST and other subsidiary bodies began to voice real apprehensions and demands.

Bhutan representing the Asia Pacific group, highlighted the need for cooperation at all levels to disseminate and translate identified technologies and knowledge into direct benefits for local land users.

Bangladesh pointed out that LDN targets are sometimes linked to transboundary water resources and also called for mobilising additional resources for capacity building.

Colombia, speaking for the Latin America and Caribbean group, appreciated the value of research by the scientific panels, but urged introduction of improved technologies and mitigation strategies to reduce the direct impacts of drought on ecosystems, starting with soil degradation.

Russia, on behalf of Central

and Eastern Europe, mooted the establishment of technical centres in the region to support the generation of scientific evidence to prevent and manage droughts, sustainable use of forests and peatlands and monitoring of sand and dust storms.

Civil society organisations, led by the Cape Town-based Environmental Monitoring Group, were also critical of the UNCCD for putting too much emphasis on LDN and demanded optimisation of land use through practical solutions that would ensure that carbon is retained in the soil.

"Retaining carbon in the soil is of particular value to India and its neighbouring countries, which presently have the world's greatest rainwater runoffs into the sea," says Himanshu Thakkar,

coordinator, South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People (SAN-DRP), a New Delhi based NGO, working on the water and environment sectors.

"What South Asian countries need to do urgently is to improve the rainwater harvesting so as to recharge groundwater aquifers and local water bodies in a given catchment so that water is available in the post-monsoon period that increasingly see severe droughts," Thakkar tells IPS. "This is where governments can be supportive."

Benefits such as preventing soil degradation and consequent landslides that have become a common feature in South India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

A study published in May said half of the area around 16 of India's 24 major river basins is facing droughts due to lowered soil moisture levels while at least a third of its 18 river basins has become non-resilient to vegetation droughts.

Responding to the suggestions and demands the Secretariat highlighted recommendations to ensure mainstreaming of LDN targets in national strategies and action programmes, partnerships on science-policy to increase awareness and understanding of LDN and collaborations to assess finance and capacity development needs.

In all, the delegates, who include 90 ministers and more than 7,000 participants drawn from among government officials, civil society and the scientific community from the 197 parties will thrash out 30 decision texts and draw up action plans to strengthen land-use policies and address emerging threats such as droughts, forest fires, dust storms and forced migration.

"The agenda shows that governments have come to CoP14 ready to find solutions to many difficult, knotty and emerging policy issues," said Thiaw at the inaugural session. The conference ends with the parties signing a 'New Delhi Declaration' outlining actions to meet UNCCD goals for 2018-2030.

IPS



## 'South Africans need to face some harsh truths'

SOUTH Africans need to take a long, hard look at themselves and stop blaming foreigners for their country's woes, says South African journalist Shaaazia Ebrahim.

The photos and videos of widespread looting and burning of stores and businesses owned by foreign nationals in South Africa look like scenes out of an apocalyptic film.

At least seven people have been killed in this latest mayhem, while hundreds have been arrested in connection with the violence.

All the while, we South Africans hang our heads in shame, with #SayNoToXenophobia and other related hashtags trending in the country in the past days.

South Africa no stranger to xenophobia

In 2008, the world watched in horror as more than 60 people were killed in an outburst of attacks against foreigners in South Africa. It has proved not to be an isolated incident: Xenophobia has lurked in the country over the past decade, rearing its ugly head every couple of years.

The most recent spate of violence occurred just this week. It began on Sunday evening in Jeppestown, a suburb in Johannesburg. Reports say the violence sparked in reaction to the deaths of at least two people killed in a building fire.

The attacks then spread to other parts of Johannesburg, including its central business district, Malvern, Tembisa, Katlehong and Alexandra – all typically working class areas that house and employ foreign nationals.

Whereas President Cyril Ramaphosa has been criticized for dragging his feet in responding to previous instances of violence, he condemned it relatively quickly this time.

"There can be no justification for any South African to attack people from other countries," he said in a video posted to Twitter on Tuesday. Ramaphosa said the attacks on businesses owned by "foreign nationals is something totally unacceptable, something that we cannot allow to happen in South Africa."

"I want it to stop immediately," he added.

This wasn't good enough for the Uber driver giving me a lift home of Wednesday, though.

"If this had happened while Zuma was a president," he said, referring to former South African and ANC politician Jacob Zuma, "he would have spoken to us in person, or at least on national TV."

Africans elsewhere outraged by attacks

From Zambian students marching to the South African High Commission, to the South African Embassy in Nigeria being temporarily closed following protests, the rest of Africa is not happy.

Radio stations stopped playing South African music, and the Zambian football association canceled a friendly against Bafana Bafana, the South African national team.

Nigerian artists Tiwa Savage and Burna Boy have also instituted a cultural boycott of South Africa.

South African businesses have been shut down in Zambia and Nigeria. Nigerian Airlines is offering free flights back home to Nigerian nationals living in South Africa.

The Nigerian government has boycotted the World Economic Forum currently underway in Cape Town.

It's an embarrassing, shameful situation for us South Africans to find ourselves in.

The national conversation is somber. News about the xenophobia is inescapable. It's in the papers, on TV, on social media and in water-cooler conversations at work and schools.

Even WhatsApp groups are filled with disturbing imagery of the violence, including safety alerts about areas to avoid because of the violence.

For South Africans, there is nowhere to turn. We are sad and angry. Neither South Africans, nor foreign nationals, feel safe in the current socio-political climate.

Lauded the world over for our peaceful defeat of apartheid and progressive constitution, we



are not nearly as beloved on the African continent itself.

The way we treat African foreign nationals is our own fault, starting with the government and ending with ordinary citizens.

From mayors to opposition party leaders, department officials, and even the Zulu king, South African politicians have been known to spout xenophobic rhetoric.

We South Africans are still waiting for strong condemnations of the xenophobic violence from leaders who either don't seem to understand how powerful their words are in influencing public opinion, or don't care enough about the state of the nation.

Foreign nationals are often used as a scapegoat for the South African government's failings. The country is gripped by a harsh economic climate marked by slow economic growth, high unemployment and an ever-increasing chasm between the haves and have-

nots.

The rhetoric filters down into the mouths of ordinary South Africans, who, 25 years after apartheid ended, are still struggling to put food in the bellies of their families.

"They steal our jobs and our women" is the common narrative painted by South Africans as the reason for xenophobia. Foreign nationals are often accused of being criminals and drug dealers, undercutting South Africans for work, burdening what are already limited social services, and wooing South African women.

"It's very bad. What do they want? They say us foreigners are stealing their jobs. But some of them, they don't want to work ... We say, 'Come there's a shop that opened looking for workers,' but they don't want to work, they just want money," 26-year-old Lindi Ndebele from Zimbabwe said.

Ndebele, whose name has been changed

because she fears for her safety, works for a South African family as domestic help.

A 2015 study found that around a third of foreign nationals in South Africa are employed in the informal sector as traders, domestic workers or car guards.

These workers don't own land, have access to the means of production and capital, or places in our higher education institutes. Often, they are just as desperate as the people attacking them.

In a country where 29% of the employable population doesn't have a job, the xenophobic attacks are evidence that desperation among poor South Africans is mounting.

We South Africans have to face some harsh truths. And the truth is that when the violence subsides, we'll be left with the bare bones of reality: a failing government with a leadership vacuum and non-existent jobs in a motionless economy. **AGENCIES**

## AU Security Council calls for Kenya-Somalia dialogue to resolve sea row

NAIROBI

THE African Union Peace and Security Council (AU-PSC) on Thursday tasked the AU Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki to reactivate engagements between Kenya and Somalia in a bid to resolve the maritime boundary dispute between the two nations.

The resolution was made at the end of the 873rd Council meeting in Addis Ababa where Kenya's Permanent Representative to the AU, Amb Catherine Mwangi, and Somali's State Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Abdulkadir Ahmed-Kheir Abdi, made presentations on the dispute that has threatened diplomatic relations between the two

countries.

"The AU-PSC requests the Chairperson of the AU Commission to urgently make use of his good offices, either personally or through the appointment of a special envoy to engage with the parties towards finding an amicable and sustainable settlement, in consultation and collaboration with the relevant regional mechanisms," a communique issued at the end of the Council meeting read in part.

The Council also urged Kenya and Somalia to refrain from any actions that may lead to the escalation of tension.

"AU-PSC Strongly calls on the Federal Republic of Somalia and the Republic of Kenya to pursue and intensify their engagements with a view to finding an

amicable and sustainable solution to their maritime boundary dispute; in this regard, calls upon the parties to refrain from any action that may threaten the existing good neighbourliness between the two countries," the six-point document outlined.

The decision of the 15-member organ to which Kenya was re-elected on February 8 for another three-year term came even as the International Court of Justice (ICJ) announced a two-month postponement of scheduled oral submissions that were initially slated for Monday, September 9.

ICJ will now convene on November 4, the court registrar Philippe Gautier wrote in a letter to Attorney General Kihara Kariuki on Thursday.

Kariuki had written to the

court on Tuesday seeking for a 12-month postponement to allow him to recruit a defence team. ICJ had on July 23 published a week-long schedule for the hearing of two rounds of oral submissions, scheduling the first round between September 9 and September 11 with the second round slated to run from September 12 to September 13.

Somalia filed the boundary delimitation dispute on August 28, 2014, staking a claim on an estimated 62,000 square miles oil-rich triangle in the Indian Ocean. The contested area has four of the 24 oil blocks that have traditionally been under Kenya's Exclusive Economic Zone until Somalia's legal challenge in 2014.

Mogadishu's case is premised on Article 15 of the Convention of

the Law of Sea adopted in 1982. Kenya saying the disputed area was in fact under its jurisdiction before the convention was enacted.

Somalia country wants the sea boarder extended along the land boarder; a plea which if granted could limit Kenya's access to high seas on its Indian Ocean shore technically rendering the country landlocked.

Counsel representing Somalia had been given until June 18, 2018 to file their written submissions with Kenya required to file responses by December 18 of the same year.

Kenya's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation has however insisted on a negotiated solution to the dispute, accusing Somalia of acting

in bad faith when it filed the suit despite there being an active mediation process.

Kenya had challenged the admissibility of Somalia's case at the ICJ in September 2016 on grounds that the court lacked jurisdiction to entertain the application. ICJ however dismissed the objection in February 2017 clearing the way for submissions by the two parties.

An attempt by Somalia in February to auction four oil blocs in the contested maritime area resulted into a dramatic escalation of tension between Kenya and Somalia with MFA summoning its diplomat in Mogadishu while referring Somalia's envoy back to Mogadishu for "urgent consultations".

The apparent selling of oil

blocks in the disputed area at a London-auction in February 7 for prospective exploration angered Nairobi, the Foreign Affairs Principal Secretary Macharia Kamau terming the move "unparalleled affront and illegal grab at the resources of Kenya."

"This outrageous and provocative auction deserves and will be met with a unanimous and resounding rejection by all Kenyans as well as all people of goodwill who believe in the maintenance of international law and order and the peaceful and legal resolution of disputes," he had said adding that Somalia's actions were "tantamount to an act of aggression against the people of Kenya and their resources."

**AGENCIES**



## Robert Mugabe remembered as Africa's hero

By Sarah Nanjala

KENYAN leaders have paid tributes to Robert Mugabe following his death at the age of 95, announced on Friday.

Mugabe was Zimbabwe's first president after independence and ruled the country for 37 years before he was ousted in a military

coup two years ago.

President Uhuru Kenyatta in his condolence messages said Mugabe would be remembered as a man of courage who was never afraid to fight for what he believed in even when it was not popular.

"In this moment of sorrow, my thoughts and prayers go out to his family,

his relatives and the people of Zimbabwe who, for many years, he served with commitment and dedication," a statement by President Kenyatta reads.

"Words cannot convey the magnitude of the loss as former President Mugabe was an elder statesman, a freedom fighter and a Pan-Africanist who played a

major role in shaping the interests of the African continent," he added.

Mr Kenyatta ordered that the national flag flies half-mast from Saturday to Monday as "a mark of respect for the memory of this African hero and friend of our country."

Former president Mwai Kibaki termed the demise

of Mugabe as the end of an era in Africa.

"It closes the chapter of Africa's founding presidents whose commitment to the emancipation of the people of Africa remains enduringly remarkable. His share of downsides aside, Mugabe, no doubt, stood for the greater good of Africa," he said.

## Tribute to ex-President Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara as leader of peace

By Roi Rosenblit

"THE idea of settling conflicts between peoples by peaceful means applies to all countries, in the Middle East as in Vietnam" said Prime Minister of the Gambia, Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara in Jerusalem in October 1966, after signing a Treaty of Friendship between the Gambia and Israel with Prime Minister Levy Eshkol.

That was Sir Dawda's third visit to Jerusalem. Israel was his first foreign destination after being elected Prime Minister of the Gambia for the first time in 1962. Foreign Minister Golda Meir reciprocated, by being the first world leader to recognize The Gambia in a message to Sir Dawda, upon receiving independence in 1965. These special relations continued after Sir Dawda was elected first President of the Gambia in 1970.

It is not by chance, that Sir Dawda's second name, after "King David" or "en-Nabi (Prophet) Dawood", was Kairaba - "Peace" in the Mandinka language. Sir Dawda was among those rare statesmen who strived to lead their nation and their people to a better future and to prosperity, by seeking peace, cooperation, joining hands and building capacities together. In one of the pictures of those days, Sir Dawda is seen exploring Israel's National Library in Jerusalem. In another, he is the keynote speaker in a conference on development in Israel.

Sir Dawda, father of the Senegambia unity idea, saw clearly what brought together our two young nations, Israel and the Gambia - both struggling with difficult economic and geo-political conditions, both keen to share knowledge and to make the world better. He



signed in Israel agreements on cooperation in agriculture, irrigation, healthcare, training and education.

In May this year, I had the great honor of meeting Sir Dawda at his home in Fajara, a few days after his 95th birthday. "I had the luck to meet so many prominent Israeli leaders in favorable terms", he told me and thanked me warmly for my visit. I answered that we are doing all that we can to continue walking the path he paved for us, revitalizing those agreements and reinforcing our friendship.

The agreements Sir Dawda signed with Israel may be more than 50 years old, but their spirit lives on. Gambian children in Mansakonko are getting better education today thanks to an Israeli-Gambian project. Eleven Gambian graduate students in agriculture, six men and five women, just started a one-year paid training program in Israel in advanced agro technologies for the first time.

The Gambia and the world were blessed with the great leadership of Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara. May his heritage of peace, prosperity and cooperation continue to lead us all.

My deepest, heartfelt condolences to President Adama Barrow, to the family of Sir Dawda and to all the Gambian people. May his soul rest in peace.



## Studying abroad really brings out your independent nature

By Muharram Macatta

**T**HE word 'education' is often used to refer solely to formal education but education not only comes from books and school teachers, but also from knowledge and experience by socialization. Family members and society have a strong influence on the informal education of the individual.

Education is one of those crucial topics raised by people - whether politicians, bureaucrats, academics or industrialists - as having the potential to transform people, nation and the world.

Education is vital process of social life. Without education human race would be no better than animal race. Eating, drinking, sleeping and sexual life are common to both animals and men. It is only knowledge and education, where they differ.

The one thing that separates man from animals is the ability to advance knowledge and expertise from one generation to the next. It is widely accepted that the process of education begins at birth and continues throughout life.

Some believe that education begins even earlier than this, as evidenced by some parents' playing music or reading to the baby in the womb in the hope it will influence the child's development.

Experts estimate that a Class VII student is at the same level as a Class III student in math abilities or a Class II student from International School when it comes to reading skills.

One look at local education system leaves you more with remorse than hope, with many unable to read at all. What causes disparity in education levels of different countries?

Is education system and policy at fault? Does poverty and overpopulation reduce educational attainment? Is it collective conscience of nation that disrespects education?

Although we have discussed about education in website and Facebook pages in various articles, today we devote entire article to education looking at the enormity of the subject.

Human life is the best creation of evolution and it has got two aspects: the biological and the socio-cultural. Biological aspect is found in plant and



animal life.

But the socio-cultural aspect is the rare distinction of human life alone. Our life in the complex world is governed not only by the biological process, but also by a social process.

While the functioning of the organism is the biological heredity, education is his social heredity. With biological heredity alone, he would be nothing better than an animal. But he has social heredity that makes him a man who is now capable of governing this world.

As shown herein that in its broad sense, education refers to any act or experience that has a formative effect on the mind, character, or physical ability of an individual. One of the greatest problems of our time is that many are schooled but few are educated.

In its technical sense education is the process by which society, through schools, colleges, universities, and other institutions, deliberately transmits its cultural heritage-its accumulated knowledge, values, and skills from one generation to another.

In most of our African developing countries, such as our own; for those in school, the quality of their education is questionable. We often use attendance as an indication of progress, but unfortunately that's not the whole story.

In places like villages in some districts, for instance, a rapid increase in enrolment has led to a lacking of classrooms, textbooks, and trained teachers. Case in point: we have noted children are still not able to read or write distinctly by the time they reach Grade 1.

Of all those major deficiencies this one bothers us a lot many schools lack clean water and clean safe toilets. For

girls, this is especially troubling. According to UNESCO, one in ten girls miss school when they have their period because facilities don't exist to cater to them, eventually causing them to drop out as a result.

We need to focus our efforts on girls. Educating girls improves a country's social and economic well-being. In fact, evidence shows that countries with less gender disparity have higher economic growth.

In Africa, for instance, 1 in 10 girls misses classes or drops out entirely due to their period. We need to address these barriers. Girls that receive just one year more of education see major payoffs.

They'll see an increase of up to 25% in future earnings and their children will be twice as likely to survive past the age of 5. For families living in poverty, these numbers have huge implications.

Girls who are educated have more control over their bodies. They are 3 times less likely to contract HIV, and less likely to have unwanted pregnancies; needless to elaborate more in this most crucial topic.

Children who aren't in school all too often end up performing dangerous jobs to support their families or are forced into slavery or early marriages. According to the modern point of view, one third of girls in developing countries marry before the age of 18. School could change that.

Children and teens that are educated are less vulnerable to being manipulated by extremist ideology. Not only do they have the ability to think for themselves, but youth who attend school have less time to get into trouble.

Therefore; education donations are easy to track and we know where the money goes. Donations fund infra-

structure, teacher salaries, school materials and equipment, running water and sanitation.

The Global Partnership for Education is also diligent about requiring donor countries to set quantitative goals and milestones to ensure that money is spent wisely and responsibly.

There is nothing quite like being on your own in a foreign country. You might find that studying abroad really brings out your independent nature. Students who study abroad become explorers of their new nation and really discover the curiosity and excitement that they harbour.

A benefit to studying abroad is the opportunity to discover you while gaining an understanding of a different culture. Being in a new place by yourself can be overwhelming at times, and it tests your ability to adapt to diverse situations while being able to solve problems.

Studying abroad may well change the way you view all kinds of things which you'd previously taken for granted. Studying abroad provides an opportunity to expand one's field of view and helps one to understand and analyze problems and phenomena from a longer-term, worldwide perspective.

Moreover, long-term experience in other cultures has a tendency to help one think objectively about oneself and one's home country, tolerate differences, and recognize and appreciate diversity.

Students are more open to new knowledge and expertise when abroad, and that knowledge is often more easily applicable and adaptable to situations requiring international interaction; thus one can expect to be more competitive in today's era of globalization.

Employers are looking to graduates to have international experience either by studying or working abroad. Anyone who is able to put on their CV that they studied abroad is at a great advantage in terms of impressing future employers.

At a very basic level it will give you something to talk about in an interview. But much more importantly it will prove to your potential employer that you have the ability to stand on your own two feet, that you can fit in when placed in different environments, and that you are resourceful and have initiative.



One of the Gupta brothers

## The barren Sahara: A lesson in money laundering

By Susan Comrie for amaBhungane

**S**AHARA Computers was always the Gup-tas' flagship company - the one the family cited to show they ran a legitimate business, not dependent on their political connections.<sup>2</sup>

Except, of course, it was neither of those things.

Court papers recently filed by the Transnet Second Defined Benefit Fund (TSDBF) include documents showing that more than 98% of Sahara's profits for the month of June 2015 came from a series of illicit payments extracted from Transnet.

The payments - totalling R122-million exactly - came from Albatime, a now defunct company that made its fortune by introducing Salim Essa, the Gup-tas' business partner, to Regiments Capital, a financial services firm at the centre of State Capture allegations.

The payments were made under the guise of a bogus IT contract which promised Albatime - a one-man show based in a tiny Rivonia, Johannesburg office - basic computer support services for two years at a cost of R122-million.

But a spreadsheet, sourced from the #GuptaLeaks and included in TSDBF's court papers, shows that Sahara recorded the costs of the contract at just R167 - leading to an astonishing profit of R121,999,833.

The bogus contract dwarfs any other business Sahara conducted that month. The second largest amount came from the Gupta-owned Annex Distribution (R20.9-million, but loss-making) and Edcon (R12.5-million), followed by a number of smaller payments of less than R3-million from Russells, Morkels, Joshua Doore and OK Furniture.

But none achieved the near-100% profit margin of the Albatime contract, and several were recorded as loss-making.

Altogether, Sahara recorded R187.85-million in turnover that month, of which R123.46-million was profit. Put differently, without the R122-million Transnet money

laundered to it via Albatime, Sahara was hardly a profitable business at all.

An earlier amaBhungane investigation identified Transnet as the likely source of the payment.

On 3 June 2015, Regiments issued an invoice to Transnet for R166-million, ostensibly for helping Transnet to secure funding from China Development Bank (CDB).

Regiments did not deserve the fees.

Transnet former treasurer Mathane Makgatho told the Zondo Commission how she had been pressured to accept the CDB loan, even though the terms were unfavourable.

She told the commission that Regiments was inserted as an unnecessary adviser despite the fact that Transnet treasury was more than capable of raising the funding.

After Makgatho resigned, her replacement, Phetolo Ramosebudi, signed off on the loan as well as Regiments' fee.

Documents leaked to amaBhungane showed that Ramosebudi had been receiving unexplained payments from Regiments for years.

But the R166-million was not Regiments' alone to keep.

Instead, soon after Transnet paid Regiments R166-million, Regiments received an invoice from Albatime - the one-man company in Rivonia - for R124.5-million.

The original Albatime invoice described the services as "CDB" but it was later replaced by a duplicated invoice that described the services as "IT sales and support".

"Albatime has never been engaged in any IT Sales or Support activities. This invoice was an out and out fraud designed to provide cover for a laundering arrangement with the Gupta family IT company Sahara Computers," Piet Maritz, the principal officer of the Transnet pension fund told the Johannesburg High Court in an affidavit filed on Monday 2 September.

The fund highlighted this payment in its papers to demonstrate that Regiments director Eric Wood had been involved in a scheme to help Essa and the Gup-tas extract and launder alleged kick-backs from state-owned entities. **DM**

## Will South Africa fight for the SADC Tribunal's revival?

BY PETER FABRICIUS

**I**S there any chance that the short-lived Southern African Development Community (SADC) Tribunal that was so disgracefully terminated in 2014 could be resurrected? That would be a great victory for regional justice.

South Africa's Constitutional Court last year reversed former president Jacob Zuma's signature of the protocol that had effectively killed the tribunal. The apex court's ruling has evidently inspired a campaign across the region to revive the tribunal in its original fully empowered form.

The Windhoek-based tribunal, which was theoretically founded in 1992 but only began operations in 2005, once had the power to hear complaints from individual SADC citizens against their own and other governments. But then it ruled in 2007 and 2008 that the seizure of white-owned farms by then Zimbabwean president Robert Mugabe's government was illegal.

A furious Mugabe retaliated by launching a regional campaign to have the tribunal shut down. In 2010 Zuma and all the SADC leaders - none of whom no doubt relished the prospect of being on the receiving end of judgments - decided to suspend it.

And then in 2014, they terminated its power to adjudicate human rights cases brought by SADC citizens. The tribunal's mandate was reduced to merely dealing with inter-state disputes. But SADC hasn't managed even that. The tribunal, though legally still extant, is now effectively extinct, with no judges or other staff. Several SADC states haven't even ratified the protocol.

Then, at the behest of civil society activists, South Africa's High Court and Constitutional Court ruled last year that the suspension of the tribunal and Zuma's signing of the 2014



protocol was 'unconstitutional, unlawful and irrational.' It directed Zuma's successor, Cyril Ramaphosa, to withdraw South Africa's signature from the 2014 protocol, which he duly did at last month's SADC summit in Dar es Salaam.

Similarly, the Tanzanian High Court recently ruled that the Tanzanian government had violated its obligations under the SADC Treaty. It did so by participating in the suspension of the tribunal and replacing it with the new 2014 protocol which the court said was contrary to the SADC Treaty.

A Southern Africa Civil Society Forum meeting on the sidelines of the SADC summit in Dar es Salaam was evidently inspired by the decisions of both courts. It called for a 'reinstated SADC Tribunal with its original mandates and competences' and has now launched a regional campaign to this end.

Kaajal Ramjathan-Keogh, Executive Director of the South Africa-based Southern Africa Litigation Centre, which supported the legal cases against Zuma, has applauded Ramaphosa for withdrawing South Africa from the 2014 protocol.

In a statement on the centre's website, she said he should 'exercise his leadership in calling for the reinstatement of the SADC Tribunal to its original mandate which would permit SADC citizens and residents to access the court and to challenge human rights

**Despite pressing domestic problems, Ramaphosa might just challenge his peers on this key regional body. File photo**

violations.'

Ramjathan-Keogh said the Tanzanian High Court's ruling reinforced the view that decisions of the SADC summit 'must be founded in law.' She noted that for the original tribunal to be revived, any other SADC member states that had signed the 2014 protocol would also have to withdraw their signatures.

But is South Africa up for such a bold move, which would require Ramaphosa to challenge his peers across the region? Or will Ramaphosa, having fulfilled his legal obligation by withdrawing South Africa's signature from the 2014 protocol, be content to leave it at that, given all his other pressing problems?

His timidity on several big domestic challenges suggests he will follow the latter course. Although one senior Pretoria official who wished to remain anonymous told ISS Today that the government might assess the possibility of reviving the tribunal with all its original powers. He went as far as saying that the Department of International Relations and Cooperation had already asked the Department of Justice to engage its SADC counterparts to begin the process.

Ramjathan-Keogh told ISS Today that the Southern Africa Litigation Centre strongly believed that 'South Africa can leverage its counterparts to understand that they conspired to jointly and

illegally suspend the tribunal.'

'So the Constitutional Court decision must be used as a yardstick for [the international relations department], justice department and the Presidency to take the lead on a process for the reopening of the tribunal.' She said South Africa should work jointly with Tanzania, which should also be following up on its High Court decision that the suspension of the tribunal was unconstitutional. She said it was likely that Botswana would support this effort.

And Pretoria could, one might add, introduce an element of regional competitiveness into such a campaign. West Africa is showing up Southern Africa because the equivalent court of the Economic Community of West African States still enjoys the powers that the SADC Tribunal lost, to provide justice to individual citizens when such justice has been denied them by their own governments.

The best approach would be for the governments that illegally signed the 2014 protocol to follow South Africa's good example by voluntarily 'unsigning' it. We know that at least some of them - such as Zimbabwe, which was responsible for the original bad decision - will no doubt be very reluctant to reverse course.

But if they don't do it voluntarily, then their courts may have to instruct them to do so, as South Africa's did. It emerged at the civil society conference in Dar es Salaam last month that regional non-governmental organisations are girding themselves to take the legal fight right across the region, one country at a time.

One would certainly hope so. The death of the SADC Tribunal was a great defeat for justice in this region. The route proposed by civil society organisations might not be the shortest or easiest, but it would certainly help.

Peter Fabricius, ISS Consultant



## BUSINESS

## EMPOWERMENT

## Energy 4 Impact project empowers women entrepreneurs in Kigoma

By Guardian Reporter &amp; Africa.com

**E**ighty-two women entrepreneurs in Kigoma, Tanzania have received business, technology and financial management training and now enjoy enhanced entrepreneurship, leadership skills and business acumen thanks to a year-long economic empowerment project run by Energy 4 Impact.

The Productive and Empowered Women Entrepreneurs in Kigoma project which was funded by UN Women, ran between May 2018 and July 2019 backed by a US\$121,200 (over 2728.5m/-).

The project was part of a wider UN initiative that aimed to improve socio-economic conditions, promote rural development and eradicate poverty in Kigoma, one of the poorest regions in Tanzania where 49 percent of the population lives below the poverty line. It focused on women as they are poorly represented in the economy, and have little access to market information and capital.

The year-long project has provided support to 82 women who own micro enterprises in Kigoma to boost their productivity, income, create jobs and increase livelihood and food security in the region. The women were engaged in productive sectors such as agro-processing (mills, palm oil extraction, cassava flour, groundnuts, rice de-husking and grading, etc.), services (food vend-



A combo photo of Kigoma women entrepreneurs who have benefited from UN Women funded Energy 4 Impact Project. Photo: Africa.com

ing, hair cutting/beauty salons, stationery/photocopying, phone charging/repairs, etc), trading (shops, kiosks, etc) and crop growing.

Over the year, Energy 4 Impact experts worked with the women to enhance their skills and develop and run their businesses more efficiently and profitably with greater productivity through: Training to improve their business skills (business plan, record keeping, marketing, sales, access to new markets, etc.), self-confidence, leadership skills, motivation

and commitment in their businesses so to increase chances of business survival and success;

Technology training and access to electric tools and appliances, such as refrigerators and freezers, blenders, popcorn making machine, sewing machine, electric motors for sewing machines, TVs, hair clippers and printers;

Helping them access capital to purchase electric appliances and to reinvest in their business' expansion and diversification; Helping build

sustainable markets by forging partnerships with equipment suppliers, banks, technology distributors and consumers; Supporting business registration and formalisation, important for improving their market position and earning contracts.

All training activities were organised close to entrepreneurs' homes to ensure they were not away for many hours. The trainings deployed a participatory approach and methodology in order to overcome the challenges around low

literacy, confidence and self-esteem, which are common among women in the project areas.

"Women entrepreneurs face greater challenges in accessing capital, in running productive businesses, in accessing education, skills and vocational training. We focused on supporting micro enterprises operating in rural areas where there are high levels of poverty to help them grow their businesses and increase productivity."

Turn to page 14



Mr Price CEO Stuart Bird.

## REMUNERATION

## Incoming Mr Price's CEO earned a cool million Rand for three-month work

## DURBAN

Mr Price Group's remuneration policy faced stiff opposition from shareholders, with many voting against it at this week's Annual General Meeting. Results of the meeting held on Wednesday show that investors representing more than a third of the shareholding in the company voted against the remuneration policy.

"Mr Price Group is disappointed at the overall result of the voting on these resolutions, particularly given the positive results of the remuneration resolutions at the 2018 AGM and the policy and implementation adjustments that have been made over the course of the 2019 financial year," the company said in a statement.

The Durban-based company said it would engage dissatisfied shareholders to hear "their reasons for their dissenting votes" on the matter. Its annual report shows that former CEO Stuart Bird, who retired at the end of last year, received total remuneration of around R23 million

for the year, which was R6 million lower than the previous year.

His performance bonus, which was linked to profit and strategic targets, fell from R11 million to less than R4 million. In the year to end-March, Mr Price's revenue grew by 5.8% to R22.6bn, with headline earnings up 6.2%.

The new incoming CEO (and former chief financial officer), Mark Blair, earned more than R7 million in his first three months on the job (January to end-March) - including a performance bonus of almost R2 million. In total he received R20.3 million for the past year (which included nine months as chief financial officer).

The share price of Mr Price Group, which includes stores such as MRP Home, MRP Sport, Sheet Street and Miladys, has fallen by a third over the past year. Last week, the company warned that sales at its core Mr Price clothing stores fell by more than 5% over the past four months. Group sales were 2.5% lower.

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP

## Kenyan youth tapping art for economic gain



A 'Maasai' market in Nairobi.

## NAIROBI

Hurdled under the shade of a tree at the August 7 Memorial Park in Nairobi, a group of artists attending a meeting called by Naftali Momanyi, Chairperson of the Kenya National Visual Artists Association in Nairobi on May 19, 2019, could not agree more with his opening statement: "With millions engaged in stable self-reliant jobs in the visual arts, the sector managed well, can become one of the major economic contributors to the

country's GDP."

Economy and art are closely linked. In the previous article in this series, the authorship deliberated on the fleeting existence of local art galleries in Kenya, some of which have since closed down permanently. Factors responsible for this occurrence were pegged on lack of funding and an unsustainable local art market.

In this article we direct thought to the relationship between easing accessibility to the arts and the potential positive impact on economic

returns as well as shaping of national and individual identities.

Arts tourism and global economy Arts build tourism which is a key driver of the global economy. Because tourism is all about seeking new and authentic cultural experiences, of which art is core, a well archived creative history can evolve road maps to empower national prosperity for posterity.

What Kenya lacks is a central place where wider publics can access this history and heritage, such as a national

art gallery. National art galleries across the world are recognised as top tourist hubs and revenue generators especially in major cities.

Hence, being tied to a major global earner such as tourism, the importance of arts is not difficult to justify; arts have a social impact, in bringing people together and improving social cohesion. Arts have for a long time been used as a form of therapy and thus could be said to improve health care.

Arts drive sustainable development by creating inclusive job opportunities. Arts are beneficial to local merchants as they are behind the growth of significant enterprises such as the jua kali craft market popularly known as the Maasai Market. Regionally, arts are an export industry and dominate the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (Comesa). Last but not least, art is the root of all creativity and innovation.

No wonder the current wealth creation foundation in the remodelled Competence Based School Curriculum is laying its weight on the arts and its application through innovative thinking and problem solving. The need to harness Kenyan art and ease public access through establishments such as a national art gallery serves to awaken the sleeping economic giant there is in the creative visual arts industry in Kenya within a global setting.

## COMPETITIVENESS

## Free trade in Africa will need more than an agreement - WEF panel

## CAPE TOWN

When it comes to successfully implementing a free trade plan across Africa, it will take more than just having heads of state sign an agreement, delegates at the World Economic Forum on Africa heard.

The forum, which launched on Wednesday, sees business leaders from across the continent converge in Cape Town over three days to hold discussions on economy-related matters.

A key topic under discussion is the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCTDA), which aims to create the world's largest free trade area once

operational. It will establish a single continental market for goods and services, allow the free movement of business travellers and investments, and possibly quicken the establishment a continental customs union.

At a panel discussion held on the free trade plan for the continent, the African Union's Commissioner for Trade and Industry, Albert Muchanga, shared his views on why the free trade plan has come into focus alongside a global rise in populism.

Historically, when African countries came to independence, following an era of colonialism, the various nations' economies were very fragmented,

small and uncompetitive, Chumanga said. Leaders who founded the AU then established a vision for a common market for Africa.

## Trade difficult between neighbours

The free trade plan opens up possibilities of large economies of scale which is attractive to businesses, he added.

But to make free trade possible means the agreement must actually be implemented and that is not so simple, according to another panel participant - Arancha Gonzales Laya, executive director of the International Trade Centre. "It is easier for Africa to trade with

the rest of the world than to trade with its neighbour. This cannot be," she said.

"You need more ingredients than just a trade agreement," she said, adding that some countries just stop after having reached an agreement. Africa needs to consider what else it needs to do besides just having the agreement, she argued.

For example, countries need to work on developing entrepreneurship skills, as this will be necessary for creating value-added goods. Entrepreneurs, in turn, need access to credit and capital. Countries should also consider the digital economy, which must be connected to the free trade agreement, according

to Gonzales Laya.

Gonzales Laya believes the agreement is "perfectly implementable." "We now have leaders of 54 countries putting their necks on the line for the agreement," she said. Leaders have publicly signed the agreement, which means if they do not take it forward, they will lose credibility among investors, she said. "There is now more political energy today than there has ever been for integration in Africa."

Patrick Dlamini, CEO of the Development Bank of South Africa, believes that for regional integration to happen successfully, the continent must facilitate trade through infrastructure. "Network

infrastructure is needed to ensure easy facilitation of the movement of goods and people [across borders]," he said.

Martyn Davies, Deloitte's managing director of emerging markets, told Fin24 during an interview on the sidelines of the forum that for the free trade agreement to work successfully, governments should create an enabling environment for businesses to thrive.

"Countries don't trade, companies trade. Companies will move the needle," he said. It is up to each country to see how best to enable free trade and having multinationals in their country should be integral in their strategy, he noted.



## Energy 4 Impact project empowers women entrepreneurs in Kigoma

From page 13

said Elly Furahini, Project Coordinator, Energy 4 Impact.

"This project targeted women and so it was designed to take into consideration specific gender issues affecting women, such as family roles and responsibilities and literacy", explained Furahini.

"Some affirmative actions were taken to make sure that the women entrepreneurs could participate in the project effectively, for example by engaging their spouses during the identification of entrepreneurs and the initial trainings in order to ensure that they understood the project and supported their

wives' participation," he added.

Results show big impact In the short period of implementation of the project, lives of the supported women have significantly changed. Twenty-nine women entrepreneurs accessed 25 business loans which provided some 44m/- to invest in their businesses as working capital or acquisition of assets. A total 60 percent was used to purchase new appliances and equipment while 40 percent was utilised as operational capital, mainly in purchasing stock and improving business premises.

Overall the enterprises have acquired 32 new electrical equipment and appliance items that

have been integrated into production activities which has made their work more valuable, efficient and less hard.

Four fifths (80 percent) of enterprises have increased their sales by at least 10 percent during the year of intervention. On average, monthly profits have grown by 115 percent which means that the average entrepreneur has an additional US\$ 2.87 per day in her pocket. This additional income improves the living standards of the entire household.

Up to 58 women have formalised or are in the process of formalising their businesses and acquiring a registration certificate. The business formalisation is

enabling the enterprises to operate freely without fear of being harassed by the law enforcement agents. Further the enterprises are now able to compete for government tenders and other formal organisations.

All the entrepreneurs developed business plans as important tools to guide their future business development. The business plans cover a period of up to 3 years, which helps increase the chances for their long-term sustainability.

Benefits beyond profits

But the impact goes beyond profits. The community dialogues and empowered entrepreneur training achieved a significant impact on the women. The entre-

preneurs demonstrated higher entrepreneurial abilities, motivation and self-esteem, which is attributable to their participation in this project. No female-led enterprises left their husbands to make business-related decisions for them, as was the case previously for 5 percent of the entrepreneurs at the start of the programme.

Having access to productive resources and being able to provide for themselves and their families has the benefit of reducing gender inequalities and accelerating social and economic development. Increased income means better livelihoods, and better chances for families for the future, such as being able

to pay school fees for their children.

"The programme has brought big benefits for everyone in the region," said Energy 4 Impact's East Africa Director, Godfrey Sanga. Better services offering increased opportunities, and increased local food production leading to better food security."

"It has empowered women, helped reduce gender inequality in addition to contributing to the reduction of poverty. The project was also able to provide greater food and employment security in the region, thus supporting efforts by the government towards the achievement of several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)," he said.

## Boost for film industry as scriptwriters bag Sh2m in contest

NAIROBI

The grand ballroom at the Sarova Stanley was packed last Thursday night as people representing all aspects of Kenya's burgeoning film industry were on hand to witness the country's inaugural National Scriptwriting Competition gala night.

It was definitely a "milestone moment" for the local film industry as no one had ever seen such a productive collaboration as the one that orchestrated this 'first' in Kenyan film. Never before had the Kenya Film Commission (KFC) teamed up with Kenya Film School and the ministry of Information, Communication and Technology to establish such a scriptwriting competition. A fundraiser was able to net Sh2 million in prize money for the winning scripts.

The competition itself was announced early this year, attracting a total of 549 submissions from all over the country. Judged by a jury of seven, all of whom are active participants in the film industry, (either as lecturers, producers, screen writers or cinematographers), the shortlisting whittled the number to 20.

It was those 20 who were given VIP seating at the Stanley on August 29 as no one had leaked who the winners would ultimately be. What was known beforehand was that the winner would receive a cool Sh1 million, the first runner-up Sh500,000 and the second runner up Sh300,000.

The government, represented that night by the ICT Cabinet Secretary Joe Mucheru, was clearly behind the project. Announcing the winners of the competition was Victoria Goro, Deputy Director of the Kenya Film School.

Second runner up was Ken Nderitu for his film Crossing the Tsavo while the first runner-up was Cyrus Kilavu for 'Ndundi'. Kenya's first million-shilling winning scriptwriter was Benjamin Odiwour for Dust in my Eyes.

## Airtel Africa chief appoints two top executives for Tanzania, EA region

By Guardian Reporter

AIRTEL Africa's CEO, Raghunath Mandava has appointed George Mathen as Airtel Tanzania Plc's Managing Director and former Vodacom Tanzania Plc's Managing Director, Ian Ferrao as Regional Director for East Africa.

In a statement yesterday, Mandava said will take over from Sunil Colaso on October 1st this year while Ferrao starts performing his duties immediately.

"George will be responsible for the profitable growth of the business and help Airtel be the preferred telecom brand to bridge the digital divide and preferred partner to grow financial inclusion," Mandava said in the statement.

"I would also wish to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Sunil Colaso, the outgoing Managing Director, who is leaving after 13 years of dedicated service to Airtel, including the last 6 years' as Managing Director for Airtel Tanzania PLC. We wish him the very best as he starts a new chapter in his life," he added.

Mathen has more than 20 years' of experience in senior management roles, with experience in the telecommunications sector. Prior to joining Airtel Africa, he was CEO for Homes at Bharti Airtel in India where he designed and implemented the Airtel Home strategy.

Prior to taking up the role, he has also been the CEO of various circles within the India business. Before joining Bharti Airtel, the new Airtel Tanzania chief spent ten years' in Coca-Cola India in several capacities including Area General Manager and Sales Manager across various regions. He holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree and has done his Masters in Business Administration.

As for Ferrao, the Airtel Africa CEO said, "We are excited to welcome Ian as Regional Director for East Africa, which includes Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia and Rwanda. He brings a wealth of relevant telecommunications and mobile money experience within the region and will be an asset to the business."

"He will be part of the Africa's executive committee based in Nairobi and will focus on driving growth across voice, data and mobile money in East Africa," Mandava added.



Airtel Tanzania Plc managing director George Mathen.

## Africa PropTech Forum to disrupt Africa's real estate sector

JOHANNESBURG

The Africa PropTech Forum is scheduled to take place here next month, co-hosted by PropTech Africa and the continent's leading real estate gathering - the 10th annual Africa Property Investment (API) Summit.

PropTech attracts significant attention from private and institutional investors, funding for it having grown from \$20 million in 2008 to an average of \$12 billion annually since 2016 with the number startups and seed funding rising each year.

This is according to PropTech Africa co-founders Sean Godoy and noted African real estate advisor Kevin Teevoorengadam.

This year's Africa PropTech Forum is expected to provide select startups with an opportunity to pitch their business models to Africa's most high-profile real estate investors and developers.

Godoy says the opportunity to 'pitch' to a high-profile and diverse gathering of capital players is fundamental to the growth of this emerging sector, especially as more and more venture capital funds look to Africa's

growing markets for the next big rare and highly valued privately held startup firm.

"There is more capital available, and this year we will have a number of investors attending and our keynote speakers include Clive Butkow of Kalon Partners and Ashwin Ravichandran, the Managing Director of African tech incubator MEST," said Godoy.

Both have recently had closing significant seed funds transactions - with Kalon investing \$660,000 in Flow, a South African PropTech Firm, and MEST confirming that 11 African startups will receive US\$100,000,000 in funding by what is one of Africa's influential tech incubators.

Defined as the use of information technology (IT) to help individuals and companies research, buy, sell and manage real estate, PropTech is still emerging in Africa, says Godoy.

But with 6,000 PropTech firms registered globally, according to event partner Unnisi, this new frontier is expected to play a key role across every aspect of real estate on the continent.

Notes Godoy: "A number of startups espe-

cially in Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana, South Africa and Botswana are pioneering the use of digital technology to leapfrog ahead and overcome traditional market challenges such as land titles, mortgages, leasing and tenants, while also providing greater improved data and transparency for investors seeking to invest in new markets and assets."

The improvement in data collection for the API Summit's Kfir Rusin is important as "it mitigates one of the continent's historical pain points, while also showcasing the scale of opportunity and value for investors considering investing in PropTech".

The annual Forum is widely seen as a perfect addition to Africa's most significant real estate gathering of property stakeholders from 32 countries and 285 companies.

"PropTech is growing exponentially. We've created a unique platform where startups focused on Africa can pitch and meet with our investors, all of whom have access to deeper pools of capital," says Rusin.

"PropTech in Africa represents a significant billion-dollar opportunity from one of the world's most transformative and high-profile

startups," he adds.

The event will feature presentations by acknowledged industry thought leaders from across Africa's most technologically savvy markets, including MEST's Ashwin Ravichandran, Estate Intel's Dolapo Omidire of Nigeria, Sethebe Manake of Botswana, Prof Francois Viruly of the University of Cape Town, Kevin Teevoorengadam, and Clive Butkow of Kalon Partners.

According to Godoy, these speakers will detail how PropTech will disrupt the entire property ecosystem, the "world's most valuable but conservative asset class".

The rampant proliferation of PropTech coupled with subsequent investment is due to the inherent 'vertical' integration opportunity between real estate and technology across the entire value chain, says Godoy.

As Butkow, one of Africa's most seasoned VCs, perspective is that PropTech Startups have to "disrupt the current legacy property sector, being leases or buying and positively impact the customer experience", and simply automating current or liquidated industry practice.

### LIFE-TIPS

## Being optimistic may help you to live longer, new study suggests

MASSACHUSETTS

There are two types of people in this world: the glass half-full people and the glass half-empty people. And which end of the scale you sit at could determine how long you live, according to new research.

A team of researchers from Boston University School of Medicine found that optimists live longer, having a better chance of reaching 85 or older. While previous studies have found that people of an upbeat disposition are less likely to suffer heart conditions or face premature death, this is the first time positivity has been linked to longer life.

"A lot of evidence suggests that exceptional longevity is usually accompanied by a longer span of good health and living without disability, so our findings raise an exciting possibility that we may be able to promote healthy and resilient ageing by cultivating psychosocial assets such as optimism," said Lewina Lee, lead author of the study.

The results were gathered by looking at the data from two previous long-term studies; one that focused on a group of 1,429 male participants from the Veterans Affairs Normative Aging Study (NAS), and one that focused on 69,744 women from the Nurse's Health Study (NHS). The nurses, who had an average age of 70, were fol-

lowed for 10 years between 2004 and 2014, and assessed for levels of optimism. The men, with an average age of 62, were assessed for optimism in 1986 and followed until 2016, with researchers tracking any deaths during the period.

The results found that of the women, those who fell into the most optimistic category had a lifespan that was on average 15 per cent longer than those in the least optimistic category. For men, those in the most optimistic category were living an average of 11 per cent longer than those in the lowest category.

The study took into account factors including age, sex, race, education, depression and other health conditions present at the outset. It also looked at levels of exercise, diet, smoking and alcohol consumption, as researchers concluded that more optimistic participants may lead healthier lives. Even when these factors were considered, results were still pronounced.

"Optimistic individuals tend to have goals and the confidence to reach them; thus, optimism may foster health-promoting habits and bolster resistance of unhealthy impulses through greater engagement with one's goals, more efficacious problem-solving, and adjustment of goals when they become unattainable," the study said.



CLARIFICATION

# Dubai theme park says fans misunderstood free flights offer

DUBAI

Theme park visitors who say they lost out on a free-flights promotion misunderstood the offer, the park said. The IMG Worlds of Adventure promotion allowed customers who bought an admission ticket for Dh299 to receive a guaranteed, free round-trip flight for a number of destinations.

Hundreds signed up, but not everyone was able to cash in their free flight after struggling to navigate the terms in the offer. The park said customers failed to follow instructions or read the deal's terms to receive a voucher to exchange for an airline ticket.

"There are a number of terms and conditions that must strictly be followed to redeem a flight ticket," said Lennard Otto, chief executive of IMG Worlds of Adventure.

"Where a customer does not follow the correct processes, issues can arise.

"Our third-party partner and our own team at IMG are working hard to help guide any customers where needed and resolve any issues." Some of the terms and conditions included travellers being unable to choose their specific destination, the flight time or the airline. Instead, they were sent a link where they had to choose three possible destinations from 21 options.

The offer could only be redeemed once the buyer had indicated their preferred dates and they had to do this within 48 hours of being sent the registration link. Free economy flights were limited to two per customer, but if four tickets were bought a discount of 50 per cent applied.

Airport fees and taxes still had to be paid, but were capped at Dh99 and no



IMG Worlds of Adventure chief executive Lennard Otto

changes could be made after an offer had been accepted. One disgruntled customer spent almost Dh600 on tickets, but said that after following the offer's detailed online instructions, he found his flight deal had expired. Others encountered similar problems, but IMG said it had contacted each customer experiencing difficulties to solve their issues.

"My friends said it was too good to be true, and guess what, it was," one customer said on Facebook. "I was told I had 48 hours to accept [the flight] and book after receiving the email. I opened the message 12 hours after receiving the flight offer, clicked the link provided but the offer had expired."

The offer was heavily promoted online, on billboards in Dubai and on local radio from July 14 throughout August. Destinations including Beirut, Manila, Kiev and Cairo were made available under the offer.

The most popular free flight tickets requested were to Athens, Istanbul, Baku, Colombo and Mumbai, IMG said. The company said hundreds of customers had already booked free flights, and those experiencing problems were in the minority. The promotion was offered by a European third-party company specialising in airline deals.

"Our partner has done similar programmes successfully with some of the top companies in the UAE, Europe and other parts of the world," Mr Otto said. "As specified on the IMG website, the offer is provided by the service provider who has the requisite processes to service the redemption of tickets. "There have been many successful redemptions of flight tickets." IMG Worlds of Adventure, on Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Road near Arabian Ranches, opened in 2016.



Eileen and IM Pei at the Musee du Louvre in 2009/2010. They were married for 72 years.

LEGACY

## Famed architect IM Pei's \$25million art collection to go under the hammer

PARIS

The art collection of one of the greatest architects of the twentieth century, IM Pei, will go on the auction block with Christie's this autumn, a few months after he died at the age of 102.

Pei balanced the clean lines of Modernism with a monumentality and gravitas that lent a stately air to the museum, commercial, and university buildings he realised. His most famous project remains that of the glass pyramids that reimagined the entrance to the Musee du Louvre in Paris; but he also designed the Bank of China Tower in Hong Kong, the Museum of Islamic Art in Doha and the east wing of the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC.

Based in the US from 1935 onwards, after he travelled from China to study at the University of Pennsylvania, Pei built up a major collection of paintings and sculptures with his wife Eileen Pei. Eileen Pei died in 2014.

The couple held particularly strong collections in Abstract Expressionism, having been friends with many of the artists in that movement. The collection includes such luminaries

as Barnett Newman, Franz Kline, and Willem de Kooning, as well as Isamu Noguchi, Pierre Matisse and Henry Moore.

The Peis also collected modern and contemporary Asian artists such as Zao Wou-Ki and Li Keran. In total the works are expected to fetch \$25 (Dh92m) million, and will be auctioned off across Christie's outposts in Hong Kong, London and Paris.

In a statement, Liane Pei, one of the Peis' three children, said that her parents frequently received artists such as Caro, Noguchi, and Matisse at their home in New York.

"My parents cherished these friendships," Liane Pei said. "Even when these friends were far away, however, it never felt like that. We lived with their art every day and so they were always present. In that respect, I believe my parents could not have been happier, as they found inspiration in, and were always surrounded by, their treasured friends."

Many of the Abstract Expressionist paintings are museum-quality. Two Untitled paintings from 1950 by Barnett Newman, for example, come from a series of six explorations of the vertical

axis that Newman painted in 1950; three others are in the museum collections of MoMA, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Menil Collection, Houston. These two were given to the Peis by Annalee Newman herself, whom Liane Pei says she adored "as a grandmother", and are now expected to fetch \$5m and \$8m in New York.

Other works include a De Kooning painting, Brown and White, circa 1947, and Jean Dubuffet's oil canvas La Brouette (The Wheelbarrow), an oil of a wheelbarrow. The painting is part of the famous Hourloupe cycle, which Dubuffet, also a close friend of the Peis, worked on from 1962 to 1974, elevating everyday objects to the status of fine art.

The Asian works in the collection will be auctioned in Christie's Hong Kong, such as the moody abstract painting 27.3.70 (1970) by Zao, that has a high estimate of \$6.1 million, or the brush-and-ink painting Pine by Li Keran. The Peis were married for 72 years, and their collection is noted not only for its historical significance but also for its personal relevance, documenting the pair's extraordinary life.



**ISIDINGO** MONDAY - FRIDAY  
STARTING 7:30 PM

ITV PGM SCHEDULE

SUNDAY 01 Sept

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 HABARI  
6:40 Kumekucha  
7:00 Habari  
8:00 Al Jazeera  
09:00 Watoto Wetu  
10:00 Isidingo  
11:45 Aibu Yako  
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt  
12:50 Bongo Movie rpt: Hazard  
14:00 Tamasha la Michezo  
15:00 Mwangaza  
16:00 Mr Tanzania  
16:45 Igizo: Ahadi  
17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo  
18:00 Jiji Letu  
18:15 Mapishi  
18:30 Mizengwe rpt  
18:45 Matukio ya wiki  
19:30 Igizo: Mtego  
20:00 Habari  
21:05 Biko  
21:10 Mizengwe  
21:30 Mjue Zaidi  
22:15 Bongo Movie: Mrembo Kikojozi  
Series rpt: Iris

MONDAY 02 Sept

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 Habari  
6:40 Kumekucha  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo  
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo  
9:30 Isidingo  
9:55 Habari za saa  
10:00 Watoto wetu  
10:30 Igizo: Ahadi  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 Kimya Milele  
11:55 Habari za saa  
12:00 Al Jazeera  
12:30 Jungu kuu rpt  
12:55 Habari za saa  
13:00 Mjue Zaidi  
13:55 Habari za saa  
14:00 Series: Iris  
14:55 Habari za saa  
15:00 Meza Huru  
16:30 Watoto Wetu  
16:30 Watoto Wetu  
17:00 The Base  
18:00 Jiji Letu  
18:10 Aibu yako rpt  
18:15 Mapishi rpt  
18:30 Kesho Leo  
19:00 Aifa ya Jamii  
19:30 Isidingo  
20:00 Habari  
21:05 Dakika 45  
22:00 Insta Bet  
22:15 Series: The Slingshot  
23:00 Habari  
23:30 The Base  
00:30 Al Jazeera  
02:00 CNN International

TUESDAY 03 Sept

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi  
6:00 Habari  
6:40 Kumekucha  
7:30 HABARI  
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo  
8:55 Habari za saa  
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo  
9:30 Isidingo  
9:55 Habari za saa

10:00 Watoto wetu  
10:30 Shamsham za pwani  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 Shamsham za pwani  
11:25 Igizo: Mtego  
11:55 Habari za saa  
12:00 Al Jazeera  
12:30 Aifa ya jamii rpt  
12:55 Habari za saa  
13:00 Uchumi na biashara  
13:30 Kipindi Maalum: Tafakari rpt  
13:55 Habari za saa  
14:00 Series rpt: The Slingshot  
14:55 Habari za saa  
15:00 Meza Huru  
16:30 Watoto wetu  
17:00 The Base  
18:00 Jiji Letu  
18:15 Korean Drama: The Great queen Seonduk  
18:55 Jarida la wanawake  
19:25 Kipindi Maalum: Innovex  
19:30 Isidingo  
20:00 Habari  
21:00 Tanzania yetu  
21:30 St Patrick School  
21:35 Chetu ni chetu  
22:15 Series: The Slingshot  
23:00 Habari  
23:30 The Base  
00:30 CNN International

10:00 Watoto wetu  
10:30 Shamsham za pwani  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 Igizo: Kivuko  
11:15 Kipindi maalum rpt: Uongozi  
11:55 Habari za saa  
12:00 Al Jazeera  
12:30 Ijue Sheria  
12:55 Habari za saa  
13:00 Sanaa na wasanii  
13:30 Tanzania yetu  
13:55 Habari za saa  
14:00 Mr Tanzania Rpt  
14:55 Habari za saa  
15:00 Meza Huru  
16:30 Watoto Wetu  
17:00 The Base  
18:00 Jiji Letu  
18:15 Mapishi  
18:30 Jagina  
19:00 Usafiri wako  
19:30 Isidingo  
20:00 Habari  
21:00 Malumbano ya hoja  
23:00 Habari  
23:30 The Base  
00:30 CNN International

10:00 Watoto wetu  
10:30 Shamsham za pwani  
10:55 Habari za saa  
11:00 Igizo: Kivuko  
11:15 Kipindi maalum rpt: Uongozi  
11:55 Habari za saa  
12:00 Al Jazeera  
12:30 Ijue Sheria  
12:55 Habari za saa  
13:00 Sanaa na wasanii  
13:30 Tanzania yetu  
13:55 Habari za saa  
14:00 Mr Tanzania Rpt  
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15:00 Meza Huru  
16:30 Watoto Wetu  
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11:55 Habari za saa  
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12:30 Ijue Sheria  
12:55 Habari za saa  
13:00 Sanaa na wasanii  
13:30 Tanzania yetu  
13:55 Habari za saa  
14:00 Mr Tanzania Rpt  
14:55 Habari za saa  
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16:30 Watoto Wetu  
17:00 The Base  
18:00 Jiji Letu  
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## WORLD

## Boris Johnson rules out resigning, UK opp in poll huddle

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson said yesterday he was not willing to contemplate resigning.

"I'll go to Brussels, I'll get a deal and we'll make sure we come out on October 31, that's what we've got to do," Johnson said.

When asked if he would resign if he could not deliver that, he said: "That is not a hypothesis I'm willing to contemplate."

After a turbulent week in British politics, opposition parties were grappling Friday with a big decision: whether to back Boris Johnson's call for an election, or try to put more pressure on the embattled prime minister first.

Jeremy Corbyn, who heads the main opposition Labour Party, was holding talks with other party leaders about a vote scheduled for next week in Parliament on calling an October election.

Johnson has lost one such vote but plans to try again Monday, saying an election is the only way to break the country's deadlock over Brexit.

But the opposition wants to be sure that Johnson – who says he would "rather be dead in a ditch" than delay Brexit – can't take Britain out of the European Union on Oct 31 without a divorce agreement.

Parliament is in the midst of passing an opposition-backed law that would compel the Conservative government to seek a Brexit postponement if no deal is agreed by late October.

The bill is likely to become law Monday, and many pro-EU lawmakers want to hold off on triggering an election until it is set in stone, fearing Johnson will try to wriggle out of the commitment.

Labour foreign affairs spokeswoman Emily Thornberry said Johnson was "as slippery as can be" and could not be trusted.



Pro Brexit placards and EU flags are pictured outside the Houses of Parliament, in London, on Thursday. (AP)

Johnson's spokeswoman said British lawmakers should consider whether they will face up to a national election after they passed legislation to force the prime minister to seek a Brexit postponement and frustrate his plans for an Oct 31 departure.

"Members of Parliament should consider over the weekend whether they are prepared to face up to the consequences of their actions from this week in passing a bill that wrecks our negotiations," the spokeswoman said.

"They must take responsibility for their actions and face the general public in an election." Johnson's push to leave the EU by Halloween, with or without a divorce deal to smooth the way, is facing stiff opposition, both in Parliament and in the courts.

Yesterday, Britain's High Court rejected a claim that Johnson is acting unlawfully in suspending Parliament for several weeks ahead of the country's scheduled departure from the EU.

Johnson enraged his opponents by announcing he would send lawmakers home at some point next week until Oct 14, just over two weeks before Britain is due to leave the EU. Critics accused him of subverting democracy and carrying out a "coup."

Transparency campaigner Gina Miller took the government to court, arguing the suspension was an "unlawful abuse of power."

A panel of three High Court judges ruled against her, but said the case can be appealed to the Supreme Court, which has set a hearing for Sept 17. Outside court, Miller said she was disappointed with the ruling but "pleased that the judges have given us permission to appeal to the Supreme Court."

"To give up now would be a dereliction of our responsibility," she said. "We need to protect our institutions. It is not right that they should be shut down or bullied, especially at this momentous time in our history." **Agencies**

## Russia, China to discuss foreign media interference in domestic affairs

VLADIVOSTOK



RUSSIA and China plan to hold consultations between the press services of both countries' foreign ministries in order to discuss the interference of foreign media in their domestic affairs, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said in an interview with TASS on the sidelines of the Eastern Economic Forum (EEF).

"We have just planned them," she said. "I think they will take place this fall. We have to agree on the dates."

Zakharova (pictured) did not rule out that the delegations would discuss foreign interference in the domestic affairs of Russia and China. "Of course, we will discuss the issues of interference in the domestic affairs of the states and the role of the media, namely foreign media, in these processes," she explained.

"You know that there has been a discussion of it during the EEF. Chinese colleagues and reporters expressed active interest in this issue."

Earlier, China claimed that the US attempted to interfere in the situation in Hong Kong, where mass protests are taking place against the law on extradition to China.

Russia pointed out attempts of foreign media to interfere in the upcoming election to the Moscow City Duma.

**Agencies**

## Hurricane death toll in Bahamas at 30 as aid begins to land

ABACO

CARRYING possessions in plastic bags, some weary Bahamians whose homes were smashed by Hurricane Dorian waited on Thursday for a flight out of the disaster zone as an international humanitarian effort to help the Caribbean country gained momentum. The death toll rose to 30.

A few hundred people gathered at the partly flooded Leonard M Thompson airport on Abaco island in hopes of getting a seat on one of the small planes picking up the most vulnerable survivors, including the sick and the elderly.

However, the evacuation was slow and there was frustration for some who said they had nowhere to go after the Category 5 hurricane tore through the area, shattering whole neighborhoods.

"They told us that the babies, the pregnant people and the elderly people were supposed to be first preference," said Lukya Thompson, a 23-year-old bartender. But many were still waiting, she said.

Despite hardship and uncertainty, those at the airport were mostly calm. The Bahamian health ministry said helicopters and boats were on the way to help people in affected areas, though warned of delays because of severe flooding and limited access.

At least 30 people died in the hurricane and the number could be "significantly higher," Bahamian health minister Duane Sands told The Associated Press in a telephone interview Thursday night. The victims are from Abaco and Grand Bahama islands and include some who had been injured and flown to New Providence island, he said.

The hurricane hit Abaco on Sunday and then hovered over Grand Bahama for a day and a half.

On Thursday, emergency officials fanned out across stricken areas to track down people who were missing or in distress. Crews began clearing streets and setting up aid distribution centers.

The United Nations announced the purchase of eight tons of ready-to-eat meals and said it will provide satellite communications equipment and airlift storage units, generators and prefab offices to set up logistics hubs. UN humanitarian chief Mark Lowcock said about 70,000 people "are in immediate need of life-saving assistance" on Grand Bahama and Abaco.

A British Royal Navy ship docked at Abaco and distributed supplies to hurricane survivors. On Grand Bahama, a Royal Caribbean cruise ship dropped off 10,000 meals, 10,000 bottles of water and more than 180 generators, as well as diapers and flashlights.

American Airlines said it flew a Boeing 737 from Miami to Nassau to drop off 14,000 pounds of relief supplies. The airline is also giving frequent-flyer points to customers who donate at least US\$25 to the Red Cross. **Agencies**



The extensive damage and destruction in the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian is seen in The Mudd, Great Abaco, Bahamas, on Thursday. (AP)

## Gender-based violence placed on agenda of WEF on Africa

CAPE TOWN

DELEGATES attending the World Economic Forum (WEF) on Africa added their voices to the call for urgent action against gender-based violence in Africa on Thursday.

This came after thousands of protesters took to the streets in Cape Town in protest against growing gender-based violence in South Africa.

A protest also took place outside the Cape Town International Conference Center where the 28th WEF on Africa was underway.

The protest almost disrupted the forum agenda. South African President Cyril Ramaphosa cancelled his plan to address the plenary session due to his en-

agement with protesters outside Parliament. Finance Minister Tito Mboweni addressed the session on behalf of Ramaphosa.

Ramaphosa (pictured) vows commitment to make financial resources available to put in place measures to keep women and children safe.

"We as government agree that enough is enough and we will act," he told a crowd of protesters.

In recent days, South Africans have been shocked by violent murders of several women and girls, including 19-year-old Yinyin Mrwetyana, a Cape Town University Student, Leighandre Jegels, South African boxing champion, and 14-year-old Janika Mallo, whose body was found in her grandmother's back yard in Cape Town after



being raped and murdered.

All the murders happened in August as South Africans celebrated the Women's Month dedicated to the protection of women.

More than 30 women died in the hands of their partners in August alone, according to Wits University in Johannesburg.

Calls have emerged for a national shutdown to force the government to take urgent measures in fighting gender-based violence.

Over 300,000 South Africans have signed a petition calling for the death penalty to be reinstated.

Speaking at the WEF forum, Mnikhi-Mangaliso, director of African Monitor, said: "I'm dumbfounded by the idea that we can continue with business as usual."

She urged technology companies to take the lead in delivering solutions.

"It would take a click of a finger for a tech company to say we are going to deploy a software that can assist us with an emergency response system for poor women in South Africa free of charge," said

Mnikhi-Mangaliso (pictured).

The broader business community, she said, should back a gender-based fund to address the deep-rooted problems behind the rising tide of physical and sexual assaults.

Hafsat Abiola-Costello, president and CEO of the Women in Africa Initiative, said Africa could learn from China, where decisive action was taken to ban harmful practices like foot binding and polygamy.

African governments, by contrast, too often fail to enforce bans on polygamy or genital mutilation, thereby reinforcing a culture of discrimination against women that becomes embedded from childhood, Abiola-Costello said.

**Xinhua**

## President Xi calls for efforts to boost Sino-Arab ties

CHINA hopes to explore more ways to enhance development of the strategic partnership with Arab states, President Xi Jinping said on Thursday.

He made the remark in a congratulatory letter to the 4th China-Arab States Expo, which opened on Thursday in Yinchuan, the Ningxia Hui autonomous region.

Xi said the expo will offer a beneficial platform for the two sides to deepen pragmatic cooperation and push forward high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative.

Following the trend of the times and respective development needs, China and Arab states have in recent years made joint efforts in advancing the construction of the Belt and Road and achieved fruitful results, Xi said in the letter.

Both sides should use the expo as an opportunity to better benefit people from both sides, he said. The biennial expo was initiated in 2013.

During the eighth ministerial meet-



Participants in the Fourth China-Arab States Expo talk before the event's opening ceremony in Yinchuan, the Ningxia Hui autonomous region, on Thursday.

ing of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum held in Beijing in July last year, the two sides agreed to establish a future-oriented strategic partnership of comprehensive cooperation and common development.

The expo, which runs through Sunday, features trade fairs and forums on infrastructure, healthcare, high tech-

nology, modern agriculture, logistics, tourism, digital economy and industrial cooperation, said Liu Kewei, vice-chairman of the Ningxia regional government.

Boosted by growth momentum such as BRI development and intensified commercial and

people-to-people exchanges, trade between China and the Arab states totaled US\$244.3 billion in 2018, up 28 percent year-on-year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

In addition to jointly supporting multilateralism, China has conducted several rounds of free trade negotiations with members of the Gulf Cooperation Council and completed the first round of talks with Palestine in January on developing a free trade zone in Ramallah, said Qian Keming, vice-minister of commerce.

He said China and Arab countries such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have also set up specialized work groups to promote trade liberalization and resolve other economic issues in a timely manner.

Apart from growing trade

activities, Saudi Aramco announced in February that it would invest US\$10 billion to develop a fully integrated petrochemical complex in Panjin, Liaoning province.

The project will include a 300,000-barrel per day capacity refinery with a 1.5-million-metric ton per year ethylene cracker. The company will supply up to 70 percent of the crude feedstock for the complex, which is expected to be operational in 2024.

Sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce, the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade and the Ningxia regional government, this year's event brought together around 12,600 participants from regional organizations, chambers of commerce, associations and companies from 89 countries and regions. **Xinhua**

## China's expanding opening up indicates responsibility of major country

CHINA, responding to external uncertainties by continuous efforts to expand opening-up amid the US-provoked trade frictions, is contributing Chinese wisdom and schemes to safeguarding free trade and building an open world economy.

The high frequency of the country's recent issuance of new opening-up measures attracted wide attention from the international society. Foreign media reported that the measures indicated China's firm determination to open wider regardless of the escalating China-US trade war, and the country is sending a

signal to other countries including its neighbors that China is open to foreign businesses.

Just take a look at the strong opening-up measures the country adopted over the past month.

Shenzhen started building itself into a pilot demonstration area of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and the Lingang expansion of the Shanghai free trade zone (FTZ) was officially unveiled.

Besides, six Chinese provincial-level regions including Shandong, Jiangsu, Guangxi, Hebei, Yunnan and Heilongjiang inaugurated their re-

spective FTZs.

At the fifth meeting of the Central Committee for Financial and Economic Affairs, it was stressed that more support is needed to strengthen opening-up and collaboration, in a bid to establish strategic industrial chains with more resilience, innovation and higher added value. The State Council also mulled combined measures to boost consumption and accelerate circulation.

These measures, which aim at expanding development space and releasing development potential, demonstrate China's determination

to further share opportunities with the world.

China's opening efforts have received positive response from the world.

According to China's Ministry of Commerce, the country saw more than 24,000 new foreign-invested enterprises established in the first seven months of this year, and foreign direct investment inflows in actual value exceeded 530 billion yuan (\$74.86 billion), up 7.3 percent over the same period of last year.

The actual input value from Germany, South Korea, Japan and Neth-

erlands increased by 72.4%, 69.7%, 12.6% and 14.3% respectively year on year.

The actual investment amount from the EU increased by 18.3% year on year, and that from the countries along the Belt and Road routes by 5%.

These figures indicate the trust and support of the global countries in China's opening-up, as well as their intention to work hand in hand with China.

As it is described by The Atlantic, the US government keeps pushing the rest of the world away and into

China's corner.

Reform and opening-up is a game-changing move in making China what it is today.

China will unswervingly expand opening-up and continue to deepen win-win cooperation with the world. Such spirit of a major country demonstrates China's confidence and firm determination to safeguard its right to develop.

China will never stop its efforts to pursue higher-quality opening-up and to build an open world economy.

**People's Daily**





WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION



## China keeps its promise to follow WTO rules

THE US has seriously violated the rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and undermined the international rule of law and trade order as it provoked and escalated economic and trade frictions with other countries.

However, some US officials, who completely ignored the principles of the multilateral trading system, constantly distorted reality and accused China of breaking the WTO rules.

Facts are the most convincing proof. The arbitrary acts of certain people in the US have drawn widespread criticism from the international community and even all walks of life in the US.

China has always supported the multilateral trading system and opposed unilateralism and protectionism. It is widely acknowledged by the global society as a strong protector and builder of international rule of law.

No one can deny the fact that China has comprehensively fulfilled its WTO accession commitments.

The country has been a strong advocate of free trade since its accession to the WTO in 2001. It has substantially opened its market to the world, enhanced the transparency of its opening-up policies and honored its commitments on protecting intellectual property rights, shouldering its responsibility as a major country.

As of 2010, China had fulfilled all of its tariff reduction commitments, reducing the average tariff level from 15.3 percent in 2001 to 9.8 percent.

It cut the average tariff rate of agricultural products to 15.2 percent, far lower than that imposed by the WTO's developed members (39 percent).

China aimed at further opening up the market. In 2018, the overall tariff level dropped to 7.5 percent. The country has shared its development dividends with the rest of the world, with the scale of foreign direct investment into China ranking first among developing countries for 26 consecutive years since 1992.

People's Daily

## Iran 'inching' toward place where talks could be held

LONDON

US Defense Secretary Mark Esper said yesterday that it appeared Iran was inching toward a place where talks could be held, days after US President Donald Trump left the door open to a possible meeting with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani at the upcoming UN General Assembly in New York.

"It seems in some ways that Iran is inching toward that place where we could have talks and hopefully it'll play out that way," Esper said at the Royal United Services Institute think-tank in London.

Friction between the two countries has grown since Trump last year withdrew from a 2015 international accord under which Iran had agreed to rein in its atomic program in exchange for relief from economic sanctions.

Washington has since renewed and intensified its sanctions, slashing Iran's crude oil sales by more than 80%.

Rouhani on Wednesday said Iran would take another step away from the 2015 deal by starting to develop centrifuges to speed up its uranium enrichment, but he also gave European powers two more months to try to save the multilateral pact.

Separately, the US refused to ease its economic sanctions on Iran, imposed fresh ones designed to choke off the smuggling of Iranian oil and rebuffed, but did not rule out, a French plan to give Tehran a US\$15 billion credit line.

Agencies

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ing up the market. In 2018, the overall tariff level dropped to 7.5 percent. The country has shared its development dividends with the rest of the world, with the scale of foreign direct investment into China ranking first among developing countries for 26 consecutive years since 1992.

China has firmly observed and upheld the WTO rules, winning general recognition from the international community.

Since it joined the WTO, China has actively promoted trade and investment liberalization

and facilitation, safeguarded the dispute settlement mechanism, and fully participated in the review of trade policies.

It has vigorously supported the integration of developing members into the multilateral trading system and firmly opposed unilateralism and protectionism.

China has followed the WTO rules and supported the multilateral trading system as promised through practical actions. Roberto Azevedo, Director-General of WTO, said that China's role in the system had in-

creased a lot since it joined the WTO.

Certain American politicians need to realize their incompetence in complying with the WTO rules, as the US always places domestic law above the international rules.

The US received 154 WTO complaints altogether, yet it failed to abide by the rulings made by the organization in 53 cases, legal experts pointed out. The country didn't fulfill its obligations in more than half of the 11 cases where it was required to amend the federal law

## 'End of discussion': Putin emphasises 1945 as benchmark for Kurils as part of Russia

VLADIVOSTOK

RUSSIA sets 1945 as the starting reference point in determining the nationhood of the southern Kuril Islands because it is precisely in that year that these islands were ceded to the Soviet Union, Russian President Vladimir Putin said at a meeting with members of the Russian Far East community on the sidelines of the fifth Eastern Economic Forum (EEF).

During that gathering, head of the Seven Oceans naval training center Anatoly Shtanko mentioned the expedition to Japan conducted by the



19th-century Russian admiral and diplomat, Yevfimiy Putyatin.

The Russian president clarified: "Was it him who ceded the islands to Japan?"

Putin was talking about the 1855 Treaty of Shimoda, which established that Japan then gained control over a part of the Kuril Islands.

Shtanko replied that history has many significant dates and that "judging by the 1945 outcome, there can be no questions about the Kuril Islands whatsoever."

"Let's rely on this, and on this starting point. Papa (Stalin) took everything and that was that, end of discussion. He was The Father of Nations," Putin said smiling, referring to Joseph Stalin who led the Soviet Union at that time.

Agencies

## Sudan PM names first Cabinet since removal of al-Bashir

CAIRO

SUDAN'S newly appointed prime minister on Thursday announced his Cabinet, the first since the military ousted autocratic President Omar al-Bashir in April.

The new members include Sudan's first woman foreign minister and a former World Bank economist.

The Cabinet is part of a power-sharing agreement between the military and pro-democracy demonstrators, following pressure from the United States and its Arab allies amid growing concerns the political crisis could ignite a civil war.

The agreement, which capped months of negotiations, also included a joint military-civilian sovereign council and a legislative body. Both bodies along with the Cabinet are to govern Sudan for little more than three years until elections can be held.

"A new stage in Sudan's history starts today," Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok said at a news conference in the capital, Khartoum. "We are seeking an end to the war and (want to) achieve sustainable peace."

He said the Cabinet would "immediately" go to work on the top challenges facing the transitional administration, which include overhauling the ailing economy and achieving peace with armed groups.

Achieving peace would sharply reduce military spending, which takes up as much as 80% of the state budget, Hamdok said.

"If we could put an end to this (military spending), it would go to health and education," he said.

Mass demonstrations that led to al-Bashir's military ouster initially erupted in December over Sudan's dire economic conditions, but protests quickly turned into calls for him to step down after three decades in power.

The Cabinet includes four women, in an apparent acknowledgement of Sudanese women's participation in the uprising.

The body was supposed to have been announced late last month but internal negotiations within the pro-democracy movement delayed its for-



Sudan's new Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok speaks during a press conference in Khartoum, Sudan. (File photo)

mation.

Hamdok picked Asmaa Abdalla as the first woman to serve as foreign minister in Sudanese history. He also picked women to lead the Sports and Youth Ministry, the High Education Ministry, and the Labor and Social Development Ministry.

The prime minister, a respected former official with the UN Economic Commission for Africa, picked Ibrahim Elbadawi, a former World Bank economist, to be finance minister. Elbadawi holds a doctorate in economics and statistics from North Carolina State and Northwestern universities in the US.

The power-sharing deal stipulates that the military members on the Sovereign Council would choose the defense and interior ministers.

The military nominated Lt Gen Gamal Omar, who was a member of the disbanded military council that took over power after al-Bashir's ouster, as defense minister. It named al-Traifi Idri as interior minister.

Hamdok said he was still negotiating with the pro-democracy movement on the remaining two positions to complete his 20-member Cabinet.

He also called on the United States to end Sudan's international pariah status.

"We hope ... that the US administration removes Sudan from its list of state sponsors of terrorism. This is a main

key. Sudan is not a threat to anybody," Hamdok said.

The US named Sudan a state sponsor of terrorism in 1993, and the designation stuck through the al-Bashir regime. As one of the last acts of the Obama administration, the United States began a formal process to de-list Sudan in January 2017, but this was put on hold when Sudan's mass protests began in December and is awaiting the country's political situation to stabilize.

Al-Bashir, who rose to power in an Islamist-backed military coup in 1989, failed to keep the peace in religiously and ethnically diverse Sudan, losing three quarters of the country's oil wealth when the mainly animist and Christian south seceded in 2011 following a referendum. The loss of oil revenue plunged the economy into a protracted crisis that continues.

Sudan has also been convulsed by rebellions in its far-flung provinces for decades. While a rebel alliance joined the pro-democracy coalition, it said last month that it should be represented in the transitional government.

The power-sharing deal calls for the government to reach a peace agreement with the rebels within six months. Hamdok has said peace with armed groups is one of the top priorities during the transition.

Agencies

## African youth honored in China funded technical skills contest

NAIROBI

AFRICAN youth have been honored in a technical skills contest funded by China's AVIC International Holding Corporation.

The sixth edition of the Africa Tech Challenge (ATC) was held in Nairobi and drew participants from across eight African countries. All 48 students and 16 advisors have shown dedication to the five-week CNC (Computer Numerical Control) Lathe training and had a fierce two-day CNC

Lathe contest.

During the closing ceremony of ATC on Thursday evening, two institutions from Kenya and Tanzania signed manufacturing contracts worth about 10 million shillings (about 100,000 US dollars) with AVIC International to export made-in-Africa parts to China while three students won full scholarships to study in China.

Zhao Xiyuan, minister counselor, at the Chinese embassy in Kenya said that the ATC program is an example of technology transfer between Ken-

ya and China and is of common interest to both countries.

Zhao said that the program serves as platform for youth to be empowered and master advanced skills to enable them get jobs.

The beneficiaries of the ATC are expected to better serve the needs of their local communities as well as play a role in the industrialization of Kenya.

The ATC is a corporate social responsibility project sponsored by AVIC International Holding Corpora-



## South Africa tries to contain 'Afrophobia' fallout as riots upstage summit

CAPE TOWN

SOUTH Africa promised on Thursday to tackle the prejudice fuelling a wave of deadly riots and xenophobic attacks, as international anger over the violence overshadowed a pan-African economic conference in Cape Town.

President Cyril Ramaphosa said at least ten people had been killed during the past week, of whom two were foreigners.

"Our country has been deeply traumatised ... by acts of violence and criminality," he said in a televised address. "There can be no excuse for attacks on homes and businesses of foreign nationals ... (or) xenophobia."

Ramaphosa had hoped the three-day World Economic Forum would serve as a shop window for his efforts to revive South Africa's ailing economy and boost intra-African trade.

But the violence, which has also led to hundreds of arrests and which government officials had until now largely blamed on criminals, has all but eclipsed those proceedings.

While the foreign victims' nationalities have not been made public, the rioting - and reprisal attacks - have above all exposed tensions between the host country and Nigeria, the continent's two biggest economies.

On Thursday Jim Ovia, chairman of Nigeria's Zenith Bank and a co-chair of the whole Cape Town event, withdrew, citing the "hypersensitivity of the issues surrounding the lives and well-being of Nigerian citizens living in South Africa." Nigeria, whose vice president had boycotted the summit on Wednesday, also recalled its High Commissioner to South Africa.

Earlier in the day, Ramaphosa cancelled a scheduled appearance at a WEF plenary session to address a crowd protesting for a second day about violence against women.

He did address the summit in the afternoon but, flanked by several other African presidents, did not mention the anti-immigrant attacks, highlighting instead the need to root out corruption and strengthen institutions.

Xinhua

or state law.

Some people in the US have always applied the international law in a selective way. They wasted time and energy making up lies to fool both themselves and others, but their attempts are doomed to fail.

They might as well face the reality and return to the right track to solve problems in a down-to-earth manner.

Knowing others is intelligence; knowing yourself is true wisdom. China has always kept its promise to observe the WTO rules. In this respect, the US really needs to face itself and introspect a lot.

People's Daily





Bianca Andreescu

## 'It's going to be fun': Andreescu relishes US Open date with Serena

NEW YORK

CANADIAN teenager Bianca Andreescu is eagerly awaiting Saturday's US Open title showdown with 23-time Grand Slam champion Serena Williams, in a rematch of last month's Toronto final that was cut short by injury.

The 19-year-old Andreescu, playing at just her fourth Grand Slam and making her US Open main draw debut, has enjoyed a rapid rise over the past nine months after finishing 2018 ranked 178th in the world.

She became just the second Canadian woman -- after Eugenie Bouchard at Wimbledon in 2014 -- to reach a Grand Slam final following Thursday's 7-6 (7/3), 7-5 win over Swiss 13th seed Belinda Bencic.

Andreescu will on Saturday face a record-chasing Williams, who won her first major title at the 1999 US Open before Andreescu was even born.

The pair recently met at the Rogers Cup in Toronto, but it was a brief encounter, with Williams retiring while trailing 3-1 in the final due to a back injury.

"I've wanted to play her. I remember always telling my team I would have always wanted to play her right before she retires. I'm really looking forward to it. She's an amazing champion on and off the court. It's going to be fun," Andreescu said.

"A lot of emotions are running through my body right now. A lot of thoughts, too. But right now I'm just trying to take in the victory of tonight."

"Hopefully I can just keep the momentum going for the finals. Hopefully I can play a little bit better than I did today."

Andreescu is the second teenage Grand Slam finalist this year -- after French Open runner-up Marketa Vondrousova -- and will bid to become the first teen Grand Slam champion since Maria Sharapova won at

Flushing Meadows in 2006.

- Back against the wall - "If someone told me a year ago I would be in the US Open final this year, I'd tell them they were crazy," Andreescu said.

"I don't think I would have believed them. I was ranked, like, outside of the 150. I think. It's just crazy what a year can do. If someone would have said that a couple weeks ago, I think I would have believed them."

Andreescu saved a set point in the opening set against fellow first-time Grand Slam semi-finalist Bencic before edging the tie-break.

She then trailed by a double break at 5-2 in the second set but reeled off the final five games to close out the match.

"I think when I'm down, I play my best tennis. Whenever my back is against the wall, I think I'm just extra focused in those moments," Andreescu said.

"I remember I told myself at 5-2 that I didn't want to go in three sets. So I think just that switched my mindset. I was just really, really focused."

Andreescu owned just two Grand Slam main draw victories coming into this Flushing Meadows fortnight, and had fallen in the first round of US Open qualifying the past two years.

"I wasn't going through a good period in my life at that point," she said, asked for her memories of a first-round loss to Olga Danilovic in 2018 qualifying.

"I was having problems with some relationships in my life, with my body, and even my mind, too. I was playing 25Ks, I remember, 60Ks in Canada before the qualifiers of the US Open."

"But I'm glad I went through it because at one point you have to. I think I just learned a lot."

AFP

## Williams' path to Grand Slam record blocked by teenager

NEW YORK

A CLASH of generations will decide the U.S. Open today with Serena Williams taking a fourth crack at Grand Slam history against teenager Bianca Andreescu, who was not even born when the American lifted her first Flushing Meadows trophy.

One short of equalling Margaret Court's record of 24 singles Grand Slam titles, Williams will be hoping that the fourth time is the charm after three agonizing near misses since returning to action following the birth of her first child.

Already the oldest Grand Slam finalist in the Open era, Williams will celebrate her 38th birthday in three weeks while her 19-year-old Canadian opponent will not be able to celebrate a victory with a drink at New York City bar for two more years.

"It is just surreal I don't know what to say it is a dream come true to play Serena in the finals of the U.S. Open," said Andreescu following her 7-6(3) 7-5 semi-final win over Swiss Belinda Bencic on Thursday. "It's crazy."

At the end of last year Andreescu sat an anonymous 178th in the world rankings and lost in the first round of U.S. Open qualifying.

Today she will step out onto Arthur Ashe Stadium tipped by many as the heir to Williams' crown as the queen of women's tennis.

Just the second Canadian woman after Eugenie Bouchard to play in a Grand Slam final, Andreescu has rarely looked out of place on the big stage.

Her breakout season has seen her already win two of the WTA Tour's elite events in Indian Wells and Toronto while her run to the U.S. Open final has only confirmed her status as the next big thing.

More remarkably the 19-year-old is playing in just her fourth main draw at a Grand Slam having never before ventured beyond the second round.

The final will pit power against power with Andreescu having demonstrated she is well equipped to go toe-to-toe with the game's big hitters and few in the history of the sport have delivered more punishment from the baseline than Williams.

The two have met just once before in the final of the Rogers Cup in August but there is little to be gleaned from the encounter with



Serena Williams of the United States serves against Elina Svitolina of Ukraine (not pictured) in a semifinal match on day eleven of the 2019 US Open tennis tournament at USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York, USA on Wednesday. (Agencies)

Williams quitting with back spasms while down 3-1 in the opening set.

"She really knows how to mix up the game and play different shots in different ways," said Williams assessing her opponent. "She's a great player."

"You never know what is going to come from her."

"She serves well, moves well, has a ton of power. She's very exciting to watch."

The atmosphere inside Arthur Ashe Stadium on Saturday is sure to be supercharged with memories of last year's chaotic and controversial final, that saw Naomi Osaka's victory overshadowed by an explosive confrontation between chair umpire Carlos Ramos and an enraged Williams, hanging in the air.

That match saw Williams deducted a point and later a game for her behavior, which included a smashed racket and calling Ramos a "liar" and "thief".

Williams has done her best to pretend last year's events never happened.

At her first press conference Williams said she did not know a Carlos Ramos and on Thursday, when asked if she had learned any lessons from last year, batted the question answering: "It hasn't really crossed my mind."

Meanwhile, twenty years after an improbable run at the age of

17 to her maiden U.S. Open victory, Serena Williams is running out of records to break.

Tantalizingly close to tying Margaret Court's record 24 Grand Slam titles, Williams is already tennis' undisputed GOAT (Greatest of All Time) in the eyes of her legions of adoring fans, with an ever-growing, odds-defying career and trophy case.

Of course, winning on Arthur Ashe Stadium on Saturday would also mean breaking Chris Evert's record of 101 U.S. Open wins, and her record of six U.S. Open title championships.

"At 17 I thought for sure I'd be retired at 28, 29, living my life," said Williams after defeating fifth-seeded Elina Svitolina in straight sets under the lights of Arthur Ashe Stadium in the semi-final.

"The game has just changed. I think there's so much more depth," said Williams. "I think when I first started, you could win a lot of easy matches, then you're in the quarterfinals, that's when it starts to get a little more tough."

"Now, like, there's no easy match. Everyone's playing great. Everyone's just doing a lot better."

Her return also holds significance in light of Williams' controversy-fueled final last year against upstart Naomi Osaka,

which prompted vociferous debate and promises of introspection from tournament organisers.

Asked by reporters about the 2018 bout, however, a laser-focused Williams responded that it "hasn't really crossed my mind".

The mindset is reflective of her renewed concentration, with the six-times U.S. Open champion reiterating throughout the tournament the Spartan-like preparations she underwent to prepare for the stout talent at Flushing Meadows.

After losing in straight sets at the Wimbledon final to Simona Halep, Williams said she "knew I need to work harder, just do better".

"I put a lot of time in the gym after Wimbledon, like I said, getting ready for Canada. Yeah, I put a ton of time in. Worked a lot on my fitness," said Williams. "It always feels good to train without pain."

After dismantling erstwhile rival Maria Sharapova in their highly anticipated first round, Williams has romped through the competition, save for a brief scare in her fourth-round match against Petra Martic, when she tweaked her right ankle.

REUTERS



Greece's Giannis Antetokounmpo gestures during the Basketball World Cup Group F game between Greece and New Zealand in Nanjing on September 5, 2019. (Photo: AFP)

## MVP vs. USA: Americans to face Antetokounmpo at World Cup

SHENZHEN, CHINA

THE U.S. men's basketball team figured that it would eventually cross paths with Giannis Antetokounmpo at this World Cup.

And the Americans were right.

For the first time, a reigning NBA MVP will play against the U.S. on a major international stage. Antetokounmpo and Greece (2-1) will be the opponent when the U.S. (3-0) opens second-round play on Saturday night, in what's essentially a must-win game for the Greeks in their quest to reach next week's quarterfinals.

"Oh, he's going to come out to kill us. There's no question,"

said U.S. center Brook Lopez, Antetokounmpo's teammate with the Milwaukee Bucks. "He'll try to tear our heads off. I wouldn't expect anything otherwise."

Greece has already survived one must-win game in this World Cup, beating New Zealand 103-97 on Thursday night to clinch the 16th and final available spot in the second round. Had they lost, the Greeks were going to the classification round and relegated to no better than a 17th-place finish in the 32 team tournament.

Instead, they get the U.S. in a game that's sure to command major attention.

"For us, we go as far as Giannis goes," Greece's Nick Calathes said. "Not just offensively because he can score, he can pass. But defensively, he's a big impact for us. We'll be ready to go. We're not afraid of anybody. Obviously, USA is the best team in the tournament right now so we'll be prepared and have the right mindset coming in."

All second-round teams play two games before the quarterfinal field is set. The U.S. will play Brazil in the second-round finale Monday, while Greece will play the Czech Republic.

There is no mystery about what this event means to Antetokounmpo. "To represent my country,

it's an unbelievable feeling," Antetokounmpo said. "You really cannot explain it. But one thing I'll say is when you play for the national team, you don't only play for yourself. You represent every single Greek person."

He said in the weeks leading up to the tournament that he would trade the MVP award for the World Cup crown.

If only it were that easy. Greece will face a U.S. team that is coming off a 53-point romp against Japan to finish first-round play.

"Our opinion has been all along that all these players from overseas that play in the NBA are obviously

good players or they wouldn't be there, and Giannis is pretty special as far as good players are concerned," U.S. coach Gregg Popovich said. "But when they play for their countries, we like to say that they become superheroes."

Greece will probably need Antetokounmpo to find his superhero cape if this upset is going to happen.

He averaged 15.7 points so far in three games in China, shooting 50 percent from the floor and only 17 percent from 3-point range. The Greeks have been careful with his minutes and his best game of the World Cup, by far, was Thursday when he logged 30 minutes and scored 24

points, grabbed 10 rebounds and handed out six assists.

Greece coach Thanasis Skourtopoulos likely won't be cautious with his star's minutes Saturday.

"Giannis is the superstar of the team and everybody knows what he can do," Skourtopoulos said.

The Americans struggled at times in their opener against the Czech Republic, nearly lost to Turkey in their second game and arrived in China last week a few days removed from a loss in Australia. All that has led to plenty of questions about their vulnerability.

AP



## Madagascar latest to cancel South Africa fixture over riots

JOHANNESBURG

MADAGASCAR have become the second team in the last three days to pull out of an international friendly against South Africa over concerns around the deadly riots and xenophobic attacks that have shaken the country.

Zambia were originally due to host South Africa in Lusaka on Saturday, but pulled out of the match in protest on Tuesday, citing security concerns following the violent attacks on foreign-owned shops in Johannesburg and Pretoria.

Madagascar were lined up as replacement opponents, with the fixture to be staged in Johannesburg, but the country's soccer federation said it will not send the team.

The Malagasy Football Federation said in a statement that it originally agreed to the fixture as it saw the match as an interesting opportunity to prepare the team for different competitions.

"However, after having agreed with Malagasy national institutions, in particular regarding the security of the delegation of Madagascar and Malagasy nationals in South Africa, it was found necessary and judicious to decline the invitation," the statement added.

The latest wave of unrest in

South Africa has raised fears of a recurrence of the violence aimed at foreigners in 2015 in which at least seven people were killed. Some 60 people were killed in a wave of unrest around the country in 2008.

South Africa Football Association president Danny Jordaan called on Thursday for an end to the violence. He said South Africa risked becoming a pariah on the continent, reminiscent of the sports boycotts under apartheid.

"The reality is both the Zambia and Madagascar games were called off against South Africa as a result of the violence," he said.

"As a football association, country and people, we need to confront this. What we can never do is extract ourselves from the African continent. Our destiny and our future are bound to the continent."

The weekend fixture was due to be South Africa's first under new coach Molefi Ntseki, but it now looks likely his debut will have to wait until the October international window.

"The coach will have to deal with the fact that the players flew in from local and overseas-based clubs, they have been training and there must be a sense of disappointment that we could not see this team under the new coach," Jordaan said.

REUTERS

## Lowly-ranked Somalia earn first ever World Cup win

CAPE TOWN

RAMADAN Agab notched a hat-trick as Sudan beat Chad 3-1 away in a World Cup qualifier on Thursday but it was lowly-ranked Somalia who stole the spotlight by defeating Zimbabwe 1-0 to record their first ever World Cup win.

Ranked 202nd in the world, Somalia halted a run of 19 successive defeats stretching back eight years to secure their first qualifying win as Anwar Sid Ali Shakunda scored an 87th-minute winner in Djibouti.

Zimbabwe, who played in the Africa Cup of Nations finals two months ago and are 90 places higher in the FIFA rankings, had been expected to easily win a game played on neutral territory because of the unstable security situation in Somalia.

They had several scares, however, before Shakunda rose to head home at the back post and earn Somalia a first win in a major tournament preliminary since beating Kenya in Cup of Nations qualification in 1984.

Somalia, with seven debutants among a number of new players from immigrant communities in Europe and north America, still have to get through 90 minutes of

Tuesday's return match in Harare if they are to advance to the group stage.

Agab's hat-trick ensured a handy lead for Sudan to take home for the second leg.

He opened the scoring early in Ndjamena and extended the lead when Chad goalkeeper goalkeeper Adoum Defallah hit his goal kick straight at Agab who needed no second invitation to put the ball in the net after 67 minutes.

He completed his treble with a close-range finish six minutes later. Chad's consolation goal came from an 85th-minute penalty converted by captain Ezechiel N'Douassel.

Two goals in four minutes helped Rwanda to a comfortable 3-0 away win over the Seychelles in their first-round first-leg qualifier in Victoria.

Muhadjiri Hakizimana opened the scoring just after the half hour and Yannick Mukunzi soon doubled the lead.

Meddy Kagare made sure of the biggest winning margin of the African qualifiers so far with the third goal 10 minutes from time.

Rwanda host the return leg in Kigali on Tuesday.

REUTERS

## As coach I wouldn't have wanted Neymar back, says del Bosque

MADRID

FORMER Spain manager Vicente del Bosque has said he would not have brought Neymar back to La Liga had he been coach of Barcelona or Real Madrid, even though he recognises the Brazilian's outstanding qualities as a player.

Barcelona held several meetings with Paris St Germain to bring the Brazilian back to the Camp Nou two years after he walked out on them to join the French side for a world record fee of 222 million euros (about \$245 million).

But the two clubs failed to strike a deal before the transfer window closed on Sept. 2, with PSG's sporting director Leonardo claiming that the Spanish champions had failed to meet his side's asking price.

Leonardo also acknowledged that his club had spoken to Real Madrid about the forward.

Neymar has scored 51 goals for PSG but both of his seasons in France have been marred by

serious injuries at key stages in the campaign.

He also had an on-field dispute with team mate Edinson Cavani over penalty taking duties.

"I think it would have been good for the Spanish league if he had come back but if I was a coach of a club I wouldn't have brought him back," Del Bosque told Spanish television network Estudio Estadio.

"Whilst I'll say he is a brilliant player, I don't think very highly of him for other reasons."

Del Bosque, who won the 2010 World Cup and Euro 2012 as Spain coach plus two Champions League titles as coach of Real, also criticised Neymar for the manner in which he left Barcelona in 2017.

"With Barcelona he did not behave well, in fact he behaved badly, very badly," he added.

"If you surveyed Barcelona fans I'm sure that more than half of them wouldn't want him back. There's a reason for that."

REUTERS

# Barcelona didn't buy Neymar, but he still cost them

BY SID LOWE, ESPN SPAIN WRITER

AT the end of a very long, very hot summer in which it felt like every day was Groundhog Day, another performance played out in public and in the press as if they were all unstruck in Punnxutawney.

FC Barcelona didn't buy Neymar, but he still cost them.

Again. Two years after Neymar walked out, mere days following vice-president Jordi Mestre saying he was staying "200 percent," president Josep Maria Bartomeu insisting he was "relaxed" about it and Gerard Piqué announcing "se queda" -- words so famous and so wrong they became a meme that needs no translation -- he decided that he wanted to walk back in again. And so, Barcelona, who'd been made to look silly once before, and who are due in court against him in 22 days' time, decided to help him do just that. Or did they?

The headlines provided a timeline to a story that never ended even when, at last, it did, to the satisfaction of pretty much no one. Take the Catalan daily Sport: "FINAL MOVE FOR NEYMAR," its front cover shouted. We could go back months and months but we've all got things to do, so let's cut to the chase, expressed like a cartoon strip across their covers.

The above line was printed on July 31 and it was followed by an "ULTIMATE MOVE FOR NEYMAR" -- on Aug. 12, two weeks later. So it can't have been that final a move and it can't have been that much of an ultimatum because it didn't end there. But the next day Neymar was pressing to go now! Well, maybe not now exactly but he was closer, they said the day after that.

Closer, but not close enough. A week later, he was in the same place he'd always been. He was, though, MORE OPTIMISTIC. That was Aug. 21 and two days later, there was a "FINAL MOVE FOR NEYMAR" (stop us if you've heard that one before) that wasn't exactly final either.

Neymar was "ON THE VERGE" of signing on Aug. 28. And so, Aug. 29 was "NEYMAR DAY" unlike all those other days, eh. Only, it wasn't of course. The next day was "FRENETIC." The day after they were "ON THE LIMIT." And then, well... then it was over.

Or not. On the morning of deadline day, Sport (and everyone else) announced that while it was over, it wasn't completely over: Neymar could come in 2020 instead, which means we get to do it all over again.

At least Barcelona's players could forget it for a moment. They'd all been sick of it. Ernesto Valverde had admitted a few days before that he was desperate for Sept. 2 to come and leave it all behind. Asked how tired he was of it all on a scale of 0 to 10,

## Gareth Bale says he is 'stronger' after Real Madrid uncertainty

LONDON

GARETH Bale has broken his silence on his difficult summer at Real Madrid, saying he feels stronger than ever after almost leaving the 13-time European champions.

Wales captain Bale looked set for a big-money move to China in the summer transfer window only for the deal to collapse at the last minute, and while the 30-year-old admitted the situation was not ideal, he said "it didn't impact on me too much".

"I don't listen to them (the critics) because they don't really know what they are on about," he said.

"I know most people don't know the situation, don't understand the situation.

"Coming back to pre-season, I just kept my head down and worked hard in training. I feel good, probably stronger than ever at the moment.

"The things that happened will stay private with the club. If you want answers, maybe you need to ask Real Madrid."

Bale, speaking to the press in Cardiff ahead of Wales' Euro 2020 qualifier at home to Azerbaijan on Friday, was frozen out by Real manager Zinedine Zidane at the end of last season.

The situation came to a head in July when Zidane said he hoped a deal for Bale could be struck soon



Neymar

he replied: "nine and a half." The only real surprise was that half that wasn't sick of it all.

All that drama and in the end, they hadn't even got him. The dream of an absurdly good forward line -- we'll work out where to actually put them all later -- was gone.

And that probably isn't even the worst part.

The next day, Sport ran a cover of Neymar, head down, looking sad. "Sunk," it said. He wasn't the only one affected and it's worth asking what damage this might have done, and what damage it may still do.

In the midst of it all, with Neymar dominating everything -- plans, ideas, the mental space they inhabited and, let's not be naïve here, team selection too -- Barcelona had dropped five points. That can't be attributed solely to Neymar, but it can't have helped either, and those points aren't coming back. Sure, Valverde was joking. Sort of. But many a true word said in jest and all that.

Neymar's departure had thrown his plans upon arrival. Valverde adapted the Barca squad, rebuilt it and won -- it is worth reminding people how unexpected that was at the time -- but two years on, Neymar appeared again, plans in the air once more. He could have done with Neymar then; he could have done without Neymar now.

Meanwhile, Barcelona hadn't come out of this looking good just as they didn't two years ago, when they emerged as weak, powerless and unable to exercise control. In 2019, they played this out publicly: those headlines are not about sport, easy though it is to giggle at them; they are about the clubs, about Neymar, about the game. The media knew which flights Barcelona were on, which hotels they were in and what time their meetings were. At least in part, because that's the way Barcelona wanted it.

There was something exaggerated

about it all: a show, a charade even, like they wanted it to look like they were trying: especially, it has been suggested, to Neymar and to Lionel Messi, who really wanted his friend back. His friend and, let's not forget, possibly the best player he has played with. Even if maybe they actually weren't trying.

PSG had always suspected Barcelona didn't have the means to make this happen. There was no place to put Neymar and no money to pay for him, but Barca had to be seen to try. And the truth is that in the end, they might have quite enjoyed leaving him stuck. "Sunk?" That might have made some at Barcelona smile. So, this guy who left us in the lurch, made us look stupid, took us to court and then begged to return is unhappy? Good. So PSG are lumbered with him, having publicly said they wanted to sell, with the fans against him and everyone hating him after he effectively let it be known that he screwed up two years ago and wishes he had never left, making him the bad guy, not us? Even better.

The idea has been floated on these pages before: what if this was a brilliantly clever, Machiavellian act of cold, cold revenge on Barcelona's part? It's a neat idea, but it suggests a level of cunning that, honestly, it doesn't seem realistic to concede.

If there was something in it to start with, if the pursuit was a little half-hearted -- we know it wasn't originally planned as you don't sign Antoine Griezmann if you're actually going for Neymar -- the risk of Madrid getting him, a risk probably engineered by his camp, changed the game a little. And even if the outcome may actually be quite good and even what they wanted most deep down -- he stays in Paris, unhappier than ever, doesn't join Madrid and is prepared to try again in the future when Barcelona ready for it -- the cost is high.

If it was a plan, it was not without its losses.

Neymar coming might have been a problem; Neymar not coming, having pursued him, is a problem too. Even if it was a plan, Barcelona haven't come out of this looking good. "We're close," one director said, but they weren't. They made offers they couldn't make, with money they didn't have, and they didn't get their man. A man, it is worth noting, if only because it seems to get overlooked so readily, even gleefully, who is still a hell of a footballer. Not having him costs. More than just the absence. They have paid no money, but Barcelona might yet pay a heavy price.

Barcelona have also irritated those that wanted Neymar to come and those that didn't. Rebuilding some of those bridges may not be easy.

"Neymar did everything he could to return," said Luis Suárez. Perhaps

it's a stretch but it's not difficult to read implicit in those words: the club, on the other hand, didn't. Suárez and Messi wanted him, as did other dressing room heavyweights; they have been let down. That Barcelona pursued him underlines this unhappiness, which in itself can't be an easy idea for Griezmann to digest. Think about it: you arrive as a star and they're agitating for someone else to arrive who plays where you do?

It's an even more difficult idea for Ousmane Dembele, the player Bartomeu said was better than Neymar and then tried to get to leave to bring Neymar back. He now knows he's expendable, that the president's word is worthless, that no-one stood up for him, no-one defended him and no-one fought for him to continue. Just as Philippe Coutinho was expendable, even without Neymar eventually arriving. That's almost €300 million of footballers they tried to shift out on the cheap. The very same ones they brought to replace Neymar.

So how do you mend that? Barcelona offered PSG players without even asking those players first. Then they set about trying to push them to the door.

A club is not just players, it is people.

All the while, other clubs watch. They hear PSG claim that in reality, Barcelona never made an offer until Aug. 27. They know that when it comes to dealing with you. Messi watches too: does he suspect? Does he trust? And Neymar watches: does he truly believe you'll be back, do everything to make it happen next summer? Can you bring him back? Can you wind the clocks to 2017? And what have you lost in the meantime?

Time itself for a start. The two men who were hurriedly brought in to replace Neymar, all that money gone, were the first you wanted out. What does that say about the planning? What position does that put you in? Where does it leave you that you tried to go back, pretend it never happened?

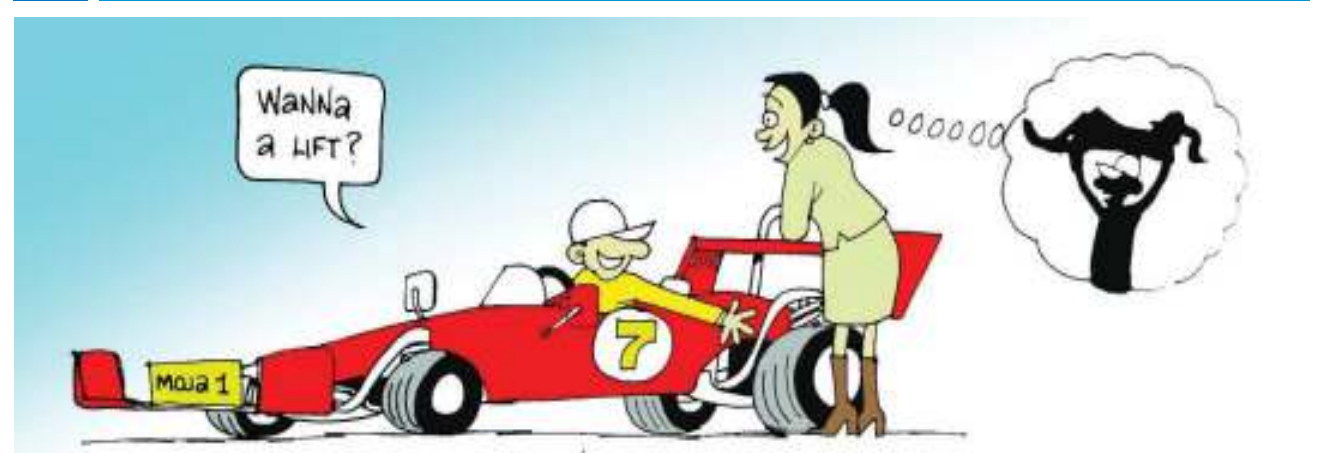
PSG would have liked to pretend too; Neymar certainly would. They lost, too, although at this point it is worth challenging the idea that he has been awful in France. He hasn't; in fact he has mostly been brilliant. He has also been injured. Ultimately, everyone agreed on one thing: they just wanted this to end. Go back, try again. Buy Neymar with the players that were bought to replace him.

There could be no greater portrait of the lack of direction at Barcelona, no more perfect definition of two years wasted, than this summer's mess with Neymar in the middle. Two years in which, apart from the agents who made a fortune and the father that got very rich, no one really won.

Except Liverpool.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

Barcelona didn't buy Neymar, but he still cost them

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**TONIGHT @ 21:00**

**UJENZI**

**MONDAY**

11:00 DADAZ (LIVE)  
15:00 FUNGUKA  
16:00 UTAKE  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 SSELEKT  
17:55 KURASA  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 MUSIC  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
19:30 MJADALA  
21:00 UJENZI  
21:30 SPORTS LIVE  
22:30 BONGO HITS

**eastafrica RADIO**

05:00 EA Breakfast  
09:00 Supamix  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM**  
DAR ES SALAAM

## Tanzanians should attend East Africa festival in big number - call

By Correspondent Renatha Msungu, Dodoma

TANZANIANS should turn up in big number at the East Africa culture and arts festival, known as Jama, slated for September 21-29 at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam, Deputy Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Juliana Shonza, has disclosed.

The event will take place alongside a festival known as Urithi Festival, which had earlier taken place last year, in an effort to promote tourism.

Juliana noted 2000 stakeholders have confirmed to take part in the coming festival and out of the mentioned number, Tanzanians total 700.

She disclosed preparations for the festival, which has national appeal, are in top gear considering several stakeholders are full cooperating with the government to host the festival smoothly.

She appealed to stakeholders that include visual artists, fashion designers and others to attend the event and put their works to show.

She further requested the private sector to invest in the Urithi Festival which will next year be hosted by her ministry in cooperation with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism.

"I'm happy to see a good response from the stakeholders. Almost 2000 stakeholders have confirmed to participate in the festival," she disclosed.

She was adamant the society should attend the event, which will play an important part in boosting tourism in the country.

She noted the Urithi Festival organizers are eager to make the event a success, considering it will be held in the country for the first time.

Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Constantine Kanyasu, disclosed he congratulates a committee which oversees preparations for the Jama Festival which will take place alongside Urithi Festival.

He noted his ministry last year organized Urithi Festival to motivate regions to as well host events to promote tourist sites.

He disclosed the regions failed to live up to expectations, noting he now appeals to the regions to attend Urithi Festival that will take place for a month. The Jama Festival will be a weeklong event.

He pointed out Urithi Festival will first be held in Dar es Salaam and will thereafter be held in nine regions.

He disclosed each of the regions will have to make the most of the festival to promote tourist sites in their respective areas.

Mtwara, Iringa, Mbeya and Kigoma, he noted, are a section of regions which will host Urithi Festival after the first event, noting the festival will climax in Mwanza.

## Young Muslims cricketers seek win over Gujrat Lions in GP Gymkhana Shield

will confront Gujrat Lions in Group A game.

It will be a chance for Young Muslims to snatch a second victory in this season's tournament and end their campaign respectfully.

Young Muslims, making their maiden appearance in the competition, so far have notched one win and they will, for that matter, need to post a second win to avoid finishing at the bottom of the group.

With qualification for the knockout stage already out of their reach, they are expected to field all of their best players in an effort to come out with a win.

They had opened their campaign on a frustrating note, losing to Kanbis and the former, thereafter, regrouped and register victory over Tamil Nadu Cricket Club (TNCC).

Young Muslims, mostly made up of players that turn out for Aces Cricket Club, put their batting prowess to show against TNCC to post the convincing victory.

Raza Baloch was the top run getter for the eventual winners, notching a 33-ball 68.

Fellow batters Ejaz Aziz and Jaffary Kanyita had a good day at the crease nailing 30 runs and 38 runs respectively.

Jaffary put his aggressiveness to show, blasting two sixes and seven boundaries.

Experienced member of the outfit, Azim Thakur, chipped in with a 12-ball 19, which included three boundaries.



Young Muslims cricket outfit's Emmanuel puts his bowling prowess to show in his squad's encounter with Tamil Nadu Cricket Club (TNCC) in this season's GP Gymkhana Shield competition in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NIKHIL PUJARA

The squad's hopes for progression to the knockout stage went up in smokes, given they lost to Lions by eight wickets in the third game.

Young Muslims were skittled for 76 runs in 18.1 overs after they were presented with the opportunity to bat first.

Lions chased a modest target of 77 runs, losing two wickets in nine overs.

Gujrat Lions have already booked a place in the knockout round, which means they will merely be out to battle for an impressive record.

Lions will also take the pitch on Sunday, as they will lock horns with TNCC. Patel Samaj that have also missed out on qualification for the last eight will face Jain Sangh in Group B affair.

Teams, which are participating in this season's GP Gymkhana Shield tournament, have been put in Groups A, B, C and D.

Young Muslims, TNCC, Lions Club and Kanbis make Group A, Group B has been made up of Union Sports Club, Jaat Blasters, Jain Sangh and Tarangini.

Karnataka Kings, Annadil Burhani, Kutchi Leva and Punjabi Kings make Group C, Group D teams include Surat Stars, Sandy Super Strikers, Ismaili Community and Caravans.

The tournament's last eight duel have been slated for September 14 to September 21, teams which will make it to the semi-finals will clash for qualification for the final on September 22.

The tournament's final will be played on September 29.

By Guardian Reporter

THIS season's GP Gymkhana Shield competition's group stage comes to an end this weekend with three games set to take place at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) venue tomorrow.

The event, organized by the DGC Cricket Section, has General Petroleum and Premier Refineries as main sponsors.

ASAR Limited, SBC Tanzania, Mgen Insurance, AFRO Turk, Catridge World, PS Limited, I & M Bank and Jaykey Trading are the event's co-sponsors.

In the day's clash, which is expected to generate much interest from the sport's stakeholders from across city, Young Muslim

## Dludlu back to lead South Africa at COSAFA Women U-17 Championship

PRETORIA

SIMPHEHI Dludlu will resume her role as coach of the South African side at the inaugural COSAFA Under-17 Women's Championship in Mauritius from September 20-29.

Former Banyana Banyana international Dludlu led the team to the FIFA Women's Under-17 World Cup in Uruguay last year, their second appearance at the global showcase event after the first in 2010.

She was elevated to take charge of the national Under-20s at the recent COSAFA Women's Under-20 Championship in Nelson Mandela Bay, where she led the side to the bronze medal after a penalty shoot-out victory over Zimbabwe.

Dludlu has been widely praised for her work with young players and her return to her previous role is a boost for the team. Still only 31, she is a previous captain of Banyana and an excellent defender in her playing days, which included spells with Mamelodi Sundowns Ladies and University of Pretoria.

South Africa have been drawn in Group B at the first ever COSAFA Under-17 Women's Championship, and begin their campaign

against Seychelles on September 21.

They also take on Botswana two days later and end their pool play against Madagascar on September 25.

The top two teams in each pool advance to the

semi-finals.

In another development, Zambia will be led by coach Oswald Mutapa at the COSAFA Men's Under-17 Championships to be staged in Malawi from October 11-20.

The experienced Mutapa

was until recently coach of Lumwana Radiants and will be back in charge of the Zambian side after leading them to the 2016 tournament in Mauritius. The Young Chipolopolo were disqualified from that tournament for field-

ing two over-age players, Nicholas Mulilo and Benjamin Phiri.

Mutapa has a fine pedigree in youth and senior football though and will bring bags of experience to the role as he seeks to plot a path to the gold medal.

Zambia open their Group A campaign against Botswana on October 12, before a clash with South Africa two days later, and then a final pool game versus Malawi on October 16.

Zambia have been regular participants in the COSAFA Under-17 Championships down the years, but for all their power in the region have only lifted the trophy once.

They picked up a bronze in their first appearance in 1994, defeating Namibia (5-0) and Malawi (3-0) in the pool stages to go with draws against South Africa (1-1) and Eswatini (0-0).

They came unstuck in the semifinals though after a 2-1 loss to Mozambique but rallied to beat Zimbabwe 1-0 in the third-place play-off.

They played just a single pool game in 2001, a 3-0 victory over Lesotho, before losing 5-4 to Malawi in the semi-finals. Again, they took home the bronze with

a 2-0 victory over Eswatini.

They did not play in 2002 but returned in 2007 and once more had to settle for bronze. A 1-1 draw with Malawi was followed by an 8-0 success over Botswana to see them top their pool.

Zimbabwe were their semi-final opponents and after a 1-1 draw, it was The Baby Warriors who triumphed 5-4 on penalties. Zambia beat Malawi 1-0 in the third-place play-off.

In 2017 they advanced into the knockout stages with wins over Madagascar (7-1) and South Africa (3-2), and despite a 1-0 loss to Mozambique.

After a 2-0 semifinal win over Malawi, Zambia completed a comprehensive 3-0 victory over hosts Mauritius in the final to take gold.

They could not defend that title in 2018 though as the team surprisingly exited in the first round.

A 0-0 draw with Mozambique was followed by a 1-0 win over Lesotho, but their fate was sealed by a 2-1 loss to South Africa.

Zambia have only appeared at the African Under-17 Championships once before, making their debut in 2015, but bowing out in the first round.



Zethembiso Vilakazi of South Africa (2nd R) is challenged by Valeria Packry of Zimbabwe during the 2019 COSAFA U-20 Women Championship third place playoff match between the two teams at Wolfson Stadium, Port Elizabeth in South Africa on August 10. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SAMUEL SHIVAMBU

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

